

alone on Christmas Day are told of the plans they need not come to the centre.

their presents, both to their mother and to the recipients of their kindness. "It's I'm cert it."

# Lethbridge will get new community band

It's time to dust off that trumpet, pull that clarinet out of hiding, and dig those drums out of the attic: Lethbridge is starting a new community band.

"To pick up an instrument and play it by yourself can be enjoyable, but the real thrill comes when you play it with other people, in a group," says Bob Lewis.

Principal of Gilbert Paterson Community School, Lewis happens to be a one-time trumpet regular himself. He'll be among those re-polishing his skills in the community band, holding its organizational meeting at the school Jan. 22.

It's been about 15 years since Lewis' prime trumpet days — lately he's been playing about once a year.

"It's a community band and anyone can be a part of it," says Lewis. Practices will probably be held Thursday evenings, for an hour and a half or two hours, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The place: Paterson's newly-completed bandshell, with capacity of about 100.

The director: Bob Cook, director of fine arts at the University of Lethbridge.

Asked how many are expected at the organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22, Lewis said "It would be wonderful if we had standing room only." Many people have already expressed interest in the band, and the excitement, it seems, is mounting.

Registrations will be accepted at Gilbert Paterson in the new year, preferably before Jan. 22. There is a \$10 registration fee, and participants are expected to have their own instruments. Exceptions may be made for the larger instruments, says Lewis: "We'll beg, borrow, and steal whatever we can find."

Though familiarity with the instrument is required, you needn't have your skills at peak performance level.

In fact, you shouldn't be afraid to come out even if your skills are downright rusty.

"We are not of the symphony calibre," says Lewis. "We're going to be very much a group of people who are going to have fun with this."

"It's not intended to be a very trying or difficult experience."

Practices will probably begin with sectionals, where various instruments or groups of instruments will be worked separately.

In the future, possibly, there may be beginner sections where prospective instrumentalists could learn their skills from the ground up.

"The potential of this thing is I guess unlimited," says Lewis, excited the community school concept dovetails so perfectly with that of a community band.

One day, there might even be a number of community bands at different levels of performance, like is already the case in Edmonton.

The community band promises to be a winner for a number of reasons.

For one, "It provides the missing link in our program — the opportunity for students to continue playing after they've left the formal program in the schools."

It also gives performance opportunities to students who are musically inclined, but haven't, for one reason or another, enrolled in the school band program.

Then, since there's no age limit, there's the happy possibility of young



and old alike being part of the same group activity. "What a wonderful thing to have all members of the family pick up their instruments Thursday nights and head over to the community school for band practice," says Lewis.

"Music is such an important aspect of our lives, and I think the opportunity to continue playing a musical instrument can only be a rewarding experience" and an asset to the community.

Lewis is pleased — "tickled pink," in fact — that so many accomplished musicians are excited about the idea of launching the band.

Bob Cook, for one, is "tremendously excited" about the possibilities. "I just think it's magnificent we have a man of his calibre and with his enthusiasm — he's really a fine gentleman."

Other music educators who have expressed interest include Tanya Arnold, Bob Brunelle, Jerry Pokarney, and Doug Scales — band directors at Winston Churchill High School, Hamilton Junior High School, the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, and Gilbert Paterson, respectively.

Barb Walker, fine arts consultant for the Lethbridge Public School District, has also been in on things.

"When you get that kind of support, it really bodes well for the future prospects of the band," says Lewis, adding a community band has been a dream he's had for many years.

Several years ago, the community band concept was "dabbled with" here, but there were problems with finding a facility and a director willing to commit the time.

To help offset costs, the band will be looking for sponsoring corporations and/or service clubs.

## Still searching

FORT MACLEOD — Town council here is continuing its search for someone to demolish and clear the site of the community's former hospital.

Mayor Wes Olmstead said town administrators were instructed by council at its regular meeting to pursue the project.

He said council is still "very flexible" on what it will spend for the demolition project. Bids so far have ranged from \$25,000 to \$250,000.

When the hospital was closed, the local hospital board sold contents by public auction. Later, fixtures, doors, window and other parts of the building were salvaged by the town and community groups, said Olmstead.

The town has already sold a portion of the site to the RCMP for future construction of a new detachment office.

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## Happy Gin

Gina Tailfeathers of Lethbridge picked up a Town Toyota Tuesday, thanks to her \$5,000 \$5,000 Contest. Herald advertising representative, and Mid Town's sales manager Bill Sath enthusiasm.

## Warner book f

About 70 per cent of the Warner and district history book Wagons to Wings have been sold and the local historical committee hopes proceeds will eventually generate enough revenue to help out community organizations.

Spokesman Bernice Thomson says bank loans taken during the past two years for publication costs have now been paid, but total revenues won't be known until the entire stock of 2,000 books is sold and final expenses paid.

The committee began compiling family histories from the district in late 1982 and has raised approximately \$100,000 to meet publishing expenses.

Almost \$15,000 was borrowed to help finance the project and early this year, the Warner and District Recreation Board received a \$5,620 grant from the provincial government which, together with book sales was used to pay off the loan.

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