

news

FROM VCMS



September 2012

EVENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

Classes Begin Sept 4th
Annual General Meeting Oct 17
Practice-a-thon from Oct-Dec
Charity Ball - Feb 9th 2013
Full list on pg. 2

SOUND FOUNDATION

Nearly \$180,000 has been raised toward the repair/replacement of the Smith House Foundation. We're aiming to break ground in June 2013 and need your help to make the final fundraising push!

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Faculty / Volunteering

News from the Faculty

Call for volunteers - check the sign-up sheets at the front desk make the final fundraising push!

SPONSORS:

Please support our sponsors. VCMS would not be possible without their generous support

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GLEE donates \$6,700 to the Sound Foundation



Telus Donates \$10,500 to VCMS

Welcome Back to VCMS for 2012-13

We would like to extend a hearty **"WELCOME TO VCMS!"** to all of our New and Returning families!!!

We hope you all had a great summer, and it's going to be another amazing year at VCMS. We have lots going on, and much member support is needed. Be sure to check the [calender](#) for upcoming events, and the volunteer section on how you can participate and help make YOUR VCMS possible.

AGM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OCT 17

October 17, 2012 – 7 PM in the Carriage House Loft.

Please attend and find out what is going on at YOUR school! Get involved and make a difference. VCMS is a not-for-profit organization made possible by member support. The school is always looking for volunteers at any capacity, and all help is appreciated!

EVENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer 2012:

VCMS Glee Club members reunited this summer to formally present their contribution of \$6700 to the Sound Foundation Capital Campaign. The money was raised from the 2011/12 production of The ABBA Music that inspired Mamma Mia, coordinated by faculty member Therese Parent (Far Right). A big **THANK YOU** to all Gleekers!

Interested in joining [Glee](#)?
Call Therese for more information at 250-558-1913
Course Length: September-December & February-May
Ages: Men & Women ages 16 years +
Time: Thursdays 6:00-9:00pm & Sundays 1:00 - 4:00pm
Fee: \$450 per semester



TELUS Funds new Instrument Library Program at VCMS

TELUS Thompson Okanagan Community Foundation representatives Colleen Lutman and Terry Houston present a grant for \$10,500 to VCMS to establish a new String Instrument Library program. The funds will be used to purchase high quality violins, violas and cellos for use by students. It is hoped that the TELUS grant will lead to other donations and instrument bequests in the future.



A Summer of Busking

If you happened to be strolling down Vernon's main street around lunch on any Friday afternoon this hot summer, you might have been lucky enough to catch the jazzy sounds of Neil Fraser "and friends," busking on behalf of VCMS and the Sound Foundation Capital Campaign.

A HUGE THANK YOU to buskers:

Mia Bennison, Neil Fraser, Eli Garlick, Betty Johnson, John Lent, Rod McDonald, Emily Ross and Shelby Wall. A total of \$351.55 was raised and will go directly into the **"Sound Foundation Capital Campaign"**.



EVENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Events: 2012-2013

Practice-A-Thon

This year, our Practice-A-Thon will run from October 1 to December 1 and is open to all students of the Vernon Community Music School. This is a fun, participation approach to fundraising where everyone can get involved as well as improve their music skills! We invite you to encourage your young musician to find sponsors. Please ask friends, relatives and neighbours to sponsor their practicing by making a donation to VCMS. They can either donate in one lump sum or per time unit. Any donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax deductible receipt. We appreciate and thank you for your support. You can pick up your pledge sheets from your teacher.

Leaf Raking Party – Social

Each year VCMS has a Leaf Raking Party! Once the leaves are down, we invite all members of VCMS to a Leaf Raking Party on a Saturday morning, to get the yard cleaned up! This fun event happens the end of October and includes a Pot Luck Lunch! Fun for the whole family, and many hands make for light work! Date to be announced!

VCMS 2nd Annual Charity Ball

This year's Charity Ball will be held on February 9, 2013 at the Prestige Inn. This exciting evening includes entertainment by our students and teachers; dinner, dance, and a Live and Silent Auction. Please start thinking of auction items that you could donate. All proceeds go to our Sound Foundation Capital Campaign. More information to follow.

School Clean-up

With less traffic inside the school during the summer, it's a great time to clean. This summer, in addition to the regular cleaning schedule, all the chairs and carpets at VCMS were steamed cleaned and look great. We ask that care be taken during events with regard to food and drink in these areas of the school.

Garden Work Party

An industrious gathering of Board Members: Sharon Lawrence, Gerry Martselos, Al Szeliga, and Students: Stephanie and Jacqueline Erickson as well as our Gardener, Gordon Wright, took place on Saturday September 22 to remove rocks from around the Carriage House. This burst of energy resulted in job well done by 11:15 am. They were then treated to lemonade and "Rock Cake" (which was aptly named). After this well deserved break, they moved on to Gordon's next project on the lane side of the Carriage House...to be continued and completed at a later date! Many thanks to the volunteers who came out to help!

EVENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

News from the VCMS Board of Directors

The VCMS Board of Directors meets once a month – usually on the 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm in the Smith House Recital Room. Everyone is welcome to attend. This year we are launching a committee system of governance, and we are looking for volunteers. We hope many parents will get involved as volunteer participation is what makes VCMS possible. We are a not-for-profit organization reliant on member support.

Some committees require membership on the board, and this opportunity arises at our Annual General Meeting on October 17, 2012 at 7 pm in the Carriage House Loft. Other committees, such as grounds and building maintenance, or special events such as the Charity Ball, would not necessarily require board membership. We welcome any and all of your efforts, your time commitment can be as much or little as you would like. The following is a list of the Committees:

Executive Committee – includes: President, Past President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary (require board membership).

Finance Committee – Treasurer, President and other board members who have an interest (requires board membership).

Building and Yard Maintenance

Scholarship Committee

Performance/Events

Fundraising / Grant writing

Our office administrator, Corinne Rainsforth can answer any questions you may have. We look forward to your participation.

This year, our Board Meetings will be held as follows:

September 27	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
October 17	6 pm – Smith House Recital Room
	7 pm - Annual General Meeting – Carriage House Loft
November 21	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
December 19	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
January 16	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
February 20	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
March 27	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
April 17	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
May 15	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room
June 19	7 pm – Smith House Recital Room

SOUND FOUNDATION

Update for the “*Sound Foundation Capital Campaign*”

The Finish Line may be in sight for our Sound Foundation Capital Campaign.

As you likely well know, we are currently fundraising for the Sound Foundation to repair the Smith House's aging foundation. The Sound Foundation Capital Campaign, launched in fall 2010, continues into the 2012-13 school year, and to date, just over \$178,000 has been raised. After much needed painting of the Smith House, a structural engineering report, and fundraising expenses, a balance of \$146,653 is currently available for construction.

These repairs are critical to the future of both the Smith House and the school, and are a requirement, not an option. The structural engineering firm has recommended lifting the house, excavating the existing foundation and the clay layer beneath it to non-active soil, and completely replacing the foundation. Porches, decks and balconies need to be repaired or replaced, and the perimeter retaining wall also needs to be repaired. Estimates obtained from two contractors in 2012 put the cost for these repairs at \$345-400,000 at least. The Board is also exploring the alternative possibility of stabilizing the existing foundation and pouring a new foundation wall inside it to avoid lifting the building. Once the foundation and other repairs have been completed, the basement can be finished as usable space to expand the school's services and potential revenues.

Contributions towards the Sound Foundation Capital Campaign have been received from individuals, local government (City of Vernon, District of Coldstream), community groups and service clubs (Community Foundation of the North Okanagan, Kalamalka Rotary Club, Vernon Community Singers, Okanagan Historical Society), businesses (Kal Tire, Nature's Fare, Parnell Appliances, Ford, Bank of Nova Scotia, KISS107.5), foundations, as well as from many individuals. Last year, the school received an anonymous donation of \$60,000. VCMS faculty, students, families and Board members have organized fundraising events and raised awareness.

We would like to do a last, huge push this year to complete fundraising and begin construction. The second Gala Charity Ball and Silent Auction is planned for February 9, 2013. The Board continues to actively seek grant funding. The Foundation Fee is a payment of \$50 per family per year. With a membership of approximately 600 families, this single action

When you register at the Vernon Community Music School, you become a member of VCMS, a non-profit society that can only exist with your support. One of the music school's goals is to provide the best services to its members, at the least cost. This approach has allowed VCMS to keep its rates as low as possible: our Music school boasts some of the lowest costs for all of BC for Registration Fees and Tuition, while providing the most benefits to our faculty and students. We're working hard to keep it that way.

If you have any thoughts, please join us to discuss at the AGM, 7PM on Oct 17th in the Carriage house loft.

FACULTY / VOLUNTEERING

From the Studio of Caroline MacKay – Harp

The Harp Studio will be picking up the tempo this Fall! We have four new and returning students coming in to the Carriage House on Thursdays, and they will be part of a growing network of Harp players across the province. Youth and children will be featured in a first annual workshop in Duncan in April; the Okanagan Harp Orchestra continues its tradition with Fall and Spring Concerts!

Volunteers Wanted

As a not-for-profit organization, VCMS is always in need of volunteers of all sorts. We're looking for motivated people to help lead and organize our volunteer efforts, and many others to help support them.

Be sure to check our Volunteer Sign-up book at the VCMS front desk and put your name down to help make VCMS a great success in 2012-13!

Here are a few of the events we need help with:

Fundraising Committee - We need a few good people to take the lead

Leaf Raking - One Saturday afternoon in November (Date and time still TBD)

Gala - Saturday February 9th

Specific Tasks include:

- Obtaining Silent Auction Items
- Set up
- Silent Auction volunteers
- Greeters, ticket takers
- Clean up

Scholarship recital - Sunday May 5th (TBC)

Specific Tasks include:

- Greeters / Flower sales
- MC's

Country Fair

Specific Tasks include:

- Set up
- Pie tent / Coffee booth
- Pizza / Drinks booth
- Tear-down / Clean up

Office Help

Specific Tasks include:

- Folding invoices and putting them into envelopes
- Filing, writing receipts

SPONSORS of VCMS

Hundreds of individuals; local government (City of Vernon, District of Coldstream); community groups and service clubs (Community Foundation of the North Okanagan, Kalamalka Rotary Club, Vernon Community Singers, Okanagan Historical Society); businesses (Kal Tire, Nature's Fare, Parnell Appliances, 107.5 KissFM, Ford, Bank of Nova Scotia); and foundations have donated and continue to do so.

These are a few sponsors that have really gone the extra mile for VCMS!



Wayside does it all, and they do it very well with nearly a century of experience. From print materials on any scale, to vinyl graphics, to signage and multimedia marketing, Wayside Press is a hub of activity. VCMS has received generous support in the form of donations of materials and services from Wayside on many occasions. Banners, posters and brochures were donated for the 2012 Charity Ball, as well as a \$1,000.00 Voucher for the Live Auction.



Telus states "The Future is friendly", and they've been friendly with VCMS. Their Thompson Okanagan Community Foundation has given VCMS a \$10,500 grant to begin the VCMS Instrument Library Program, assuring that all students will have the ability to practice and perform on quality instruments.

Telus was the [most philanthropic corporation of 2010](#), giving \$200 million back to the communities that support them. Bravo Telus!!

VCMS is a user of Telus services, and we encourage our members to support this generous organization as well.