

Humberview music students perform at MusicFest Canada

By Derrick Dodgson

It was with great excitement and securely packed instruments that 31 Humberview music students traveled to British Columbia last week. They left May 20 for their seven-day trip which saw them competing in the 35th annual MusicFest Canada Festival.

Upon their arrival in Vancouver, the students were immersed in concerts, clinics, and performances, learning many new musical skills.

Monday, Jazzork, Humberview's instrumental jazz band directed by John Chalmers, performed first, earning a Gold Standing in the contest after performing a diverse selection of jazz songs. Ian Chalmers earned the National Honour Award for the group and also led Humberview's Jazz Combo later that day. Jazz Combo won a Silver Standing performing jazz standards at its first appearance in the festival and the adjudicators again selected Ian Chalmers as the National Honour Award recipient.

The following day, Mkosa, Humberview's vocal jazz ensemble, also directed by John Chalmers, performed their musical selection to a packed crowd and won a Gold Standing. Chloe Creavalle won the National Honour Award and all of the groups enjoyed interactive clinics with talented musi-

cians to make their performances even better.

When they weren't performing, students enjoyed the unique sights of Vancouver and immersed themselves in British Columbia culture. Asian themed malls and Chinese cuisine were the norm, and experienced on a daily basis during a short walk from the hotel. A gondola ride to the top of Grouse Mountain presented a breathtaking view of the city and a walk across the Capilano Suspension Bridge allowed a view of the river 230 feet below.

The students were able to enjoy the aquatic life in North America's third largest aquarium, where they saw dolphins, sea lions, whales, and numerous fish, mammals, and reptiles. Shopping trips in Granville Island and Gastown yielded unique items for purchase from totem poles to banana guards and presented modern art displays in preparation for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Students even got a bonus chance to perform during a dinner at Rossini's restaurant and jazz club. It was open mic night and a number of students chose to showcase their instrumental and vocal talents for the local crowd. Chloe Creavalle impressed fellow musicians with her song *Lifted* and Mkosa ended our set with an

acoustic performance of *Twisted*.

Unfortunately the west coast musical excitement

Film night for African grannies

Wednesday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m., there will be a film night in support of the grandmothers' campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. After finding countless destitute grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa caring for the more than 13 million children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic, Stephen Lewis and his foundation began to connect Canadian grandmothers with their counterparts in Africa.

In Orangeville, the grandmothers campaign group is a part of the Orangeville Chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Grandmothers in Canada have raised more than \$1 million through local community events. The film night May 30 will feature a screening of two films produced by the foundation. *A Generation of Orphans* tells the story of six children, from various African countries, struggling to grow up without parents. *Grandmothers: The Unsung Heroes of Africa* highlights the crucial role that grandmothers play in caring for

could not last forever. The students had the opportunity to enjoy one final concert featuring young musicians

AIDS orphans and in holding families and their communities together. Often without land or resources of their own, elderly women struggle to provide for their orphaned grandchildren.

The film night will be held at the Orangeville Senior Citizens Centre, 26 Bythia Street. Admission is free, however, donations (tax deductible) to the Stephen Lewis Foundation are sincerely appreciated. Seating is limited, so please call Chris Elms at 519-942-5932 to reserve your spot.

from all over the country before packing their belongings and returning home the following day. They brought back memories, photographs, t-shirts, and a greater understanding of the music they had gone there to make.

Derrick Dodgson is a

grade 11 Humberview student who plays trumpet in Jazzork and the Jazz Combo and is the sound engineer for Mkosa. Derrick also sings in the school choir, plays trumpet in Senior Concert Band and is a member of the Music Activity Council Executive.

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Humberview's music students take time out to pose at the Capilano Suspension Bridge.

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