

The Parade Line Up #62

From KTLA radio/television internet site at www.ktla.com
January 1, 1998 Rose Bowl Parade

Yorkton Regional High School "Marching 100"

Representing
Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada

Uniform

Red waistcoat with cream overlay, black pants with white stripe, red shako with white plume, black shoes. Drum majors have dark green tunic with white busby hat. Colorguard has royal blue dresses.

Band Description

211 members: 182 musicians, 18 colorguard, 3 flag bearers, 2 Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officers, 3 banner carriers, 3 drum majors. The Marching 100 tag is not an indication of the number of band members marching today, but was so named for the Canadian Centennial in 1967. The group is proud to have the Right Honorable Ramon Hnystyshyn, former Governor General of Canada as its honorary fundraising chairman, helping pave the way to Pasadena. The band's unique solution to unexpected delays in parade processions is known as the "scramble," which promotes audience participation.

Personnel

Larry Pearen, director; Gail Jensen, colorguard supervisor; Jason Anuik, Brittany Baron, Nicole Guenette, drum majors.

They Shot For The Stars And Hit The Big One

YORKTON - It was a Christmas unlike any other. On Boxing Day, six touring buses, crammed with 198 students, 22 chaperones, and six staff members from Yorkton Regional High School (YRHS), set out to make the trek to Pasadena, California, to perform as the only Canadian representative at the 109th annual Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day.

"If you don't shoot for the stars, you'll never hit one," says YRHS music teacher and band director Larry Pearen, about applying to be in the Rose Bowl parade.

The world's most popular parade sees one million people lining the five and one half miles of parade route, and another 450 million television viewers in 90 countries.

Starting in 1995, Pearen and a group of enthusiastic volunteers put together an impressive application kit that included a videotape of The Marching 100 performing in field shows and parades, including the Regina Grey Cup, 65 enlarged, captioned photos of the band, and 35 letters of reference from adjudicators, politicians and other band directors.

The Yorkton school band already had international experience under their belt, having performed five years ago at festivals in Minneapolis and at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

When Pearen heard, in November 1996, that their school was invited to the 1998 Rose Bowl parade, a secret conference call was set up between parade officials in Pasadena and a speaker-phone in the Yorkton high school gym.

All of the band members, as well as invited guests and officials gathered, and the call was piped through the school's PA system.

"The kids went wild," Pearen says, especially when they realized they were only one of two non-American bands in the world to be given the honor.

In 1996, 65 bands applied to take part in the parade, with 13 being selected. Only two were from outside the United States — Yorkton's Marching 100 and a school band from Thailand. Another nine positions are held for annual participants.

Of course, having your band perform in the Rose Bowl parade is a dream come true for a band director.

"It's something you see on television New Year's Day, and you always dream of having a band in it because it's so widely televised," says Pearen.

The band usually consists of about 120 Grade 10-12 students, but for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, Pearen expanded the band to include another 100 Grade 9 band members.

The band received its name during Canada's Centennial, and rehearses on Century Field.

Both fundraising and practicing went into full gear in 1997, with government funding, corporate grants, and lots of local fundraising activities pursued by the

entire community of Yorkton to get their band to the Rose Bowl.

It cost about \$1,400 per student to get the band to California — about \$300,000 all told, says Pearen. With the bulk of the money raised through more than 30 projects, the cost to each student was only \$400.

The YRHS Marching 100 involved students from Bredenburg School, Saltcoats School, Yorkdale Central, C.J. Houston School, Sacred Heart High School and the Yorkton Regional High School.

While Pearen has been offered positions in other parts of Canada, he says he has no aspirations of moving to something bigger. "Yorkton is a wonderful community. Bigger is not always better."

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About the Saskatchewan Bulletin

The Saskatchewan Bulletin is the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation's regular tabloid newspaper devoted to topics of interest to teachers in their professional lives. It provides timely news stories, features and photo coverage about important activities in Saskatchewan's K-12 education sector.

Subject: Go for it!
Date: Fri, 03 Apr 1998 15:39:27 -0600
From: Bernadette Richards <richardb@stf.sk.ca>
To: gpearen@telus.net

Hi Graig.

We'd be delighted if you wanted to reprint "*They Shoot For The Stars, And Hit The Big One*" in either/or your family newsletter and family history. We really appreciate if you credit where it came from, but that's all we ask.

All best wishes,
Bernadette Richards, Assistant Editor

<http://www.stf.sk.ca/admin/com/bulletin/98-02-11/features.htm>