



Everyone has a Story to tell.

Frank Hosek grew up in a village at the foot of Crowsnest Mountain. He recalls his time in military service as an experience that shaped him as a person and something that he wouldn't trade for anything. He's 88 years young now and has been a resident at Kamloops Seniors Village for two years. His room has a sunny cheerful view of the Kamloops valley and his walls proudly display framed photos of him in his Canadian army uniform at just 21 years of age.

After all, Frank had a vital role to fill during WW11 as he travelled the world entertaining the troops as a band leader with the famed "Army Show". A musical extravaganza designed to boost the morale of the soldiers. In fact the National Film Board of Canada followed the tour for almost 2 years, he recalls. Frank has written two books; "My violin and I" and "A place called Maple Leaf"

Here is an excerpt from My Violin and I.

"When I was very young, my father decided that I was going to be a musician, that I would earn my living through music and not have to work in the mines as he had to. I had absolutely no say in it, chiefly because I was too young and did not know what would be good for me. At age six, how was I to know anything about the complicated business of earning a living. And even if I did, how could I contradict my father and tell him I wanted to be a butcher or candy-stick maker. As far as he was concerned, I was going to be a musician, and that was that. I was definitely not going to work a lifetime beneath the surface of the earth and probably get killed while doing it. So, with that kind of logic, he stuck a violin under my chin on my sixth birthday and from that time on I had to practice, and practice, three hours every day, regardless of what I thought about it."

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Here is a clipping from 1973:

March 19, 1973 Frank Hosek Day

"Capacity audience says 'thank you' Sunday afternoon was Frank Hosek Day at the Yates Centre. A capacity crowd was on hand to say thank you to Southern Alberta's Mr. Music. Frank Hosek spent 45 years doing what he loved most - teaching music to literally thousands of Southern Alberta youngsters. For many it was a trip down memory lane. For Frank Hosek it was a day he and his family will remember - a day they will cherish. Frank Hosek was a young man when, in 1927, he came to Southern Alberta where he dedicated his life to teaching music. The results of his tireless work bore fruit and all of Southern Alberta benefited. He can be proud of his bands which won the hearts of audiences wherever they played. More importantly, he provided a rich musical legacy to thousands of Southern Alberta's young people under his tutelage."

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Top inset photo: Frank a few years ago. Middle: Frank Hosek Day 1973. Bottom: Wayne and Shuster on the Army Show.