

**Date:** 2022-07-19

**Subject:** **Appendix B: Bandstand Plaque Content**

**Contact:** **Natalie Majda, Assistant Heritage Planner**

**Report Number:** Planning, Bld & Ec Dev-2022-744

The following is the Bandstand plaque content:

### **Gage Park Bandstand**

The Gage Park bandstand was built as a dedicated musical performance space for the Brampton Mechanics Band (now, Brampton Concert Band) and was one of Gage Park's earliest community amenities.

Beginning in 1902, the Town of Brampton set out to create its first municipal park and community space, leading to the construction of the bandstand. In 1902, the town purchased 2.4 acres from the Chisholm Estate. In 1903, the adjoining 1.7 acres was donated by Sir William James Gage to the town upon the condition that this land would be used as a public community space.

The bandstand was one the newly-created Gage Park's earliest amenities. Its construction in 1903 provided the Brampton Mechanics Band (now, Brampton Concert Band) with a dedicated space to publicly perform during civic, municipal, and community events or festivities. During the 1950s, the original wooden bandstand was moved to Rosalea Park and replaced by the current larger bandstand to accommodate the Brampton Concert Band's growing membership.

The Brampton Concert Band was established circa 1884 and is one of the oldest continuously operating concert bands in Canada. It was founded and volunteer-run by mechanics from the local Haggerty Foundry and called the Brampton Mechanics Band. Since its creation, the band has performed at several community, civic, and municipal events across Brampton and Peel. Once the bandstand was built, the Brampton Mechanics Band became the official Town of Brampton concert band, funded by the municipality, and renamed itself the "Brampton Citizen's Band". During World War II, the band became part of the Peel and Dufferin Regiment, renaming itself the "Peel and Dufferin Regimental Band" and performing at events across Peel. In the late 1970s, the band was renamed as the "Brampton Concert Band" and grew to include a sister organization called the Jazz Mechanics. Since the 1920s, the Brampton Concert Band has competed and won several regional and nations awards at competitions including the Canadian National Exhibition band competitions, MusicFest Canada and the Kiwanis Music Festival.

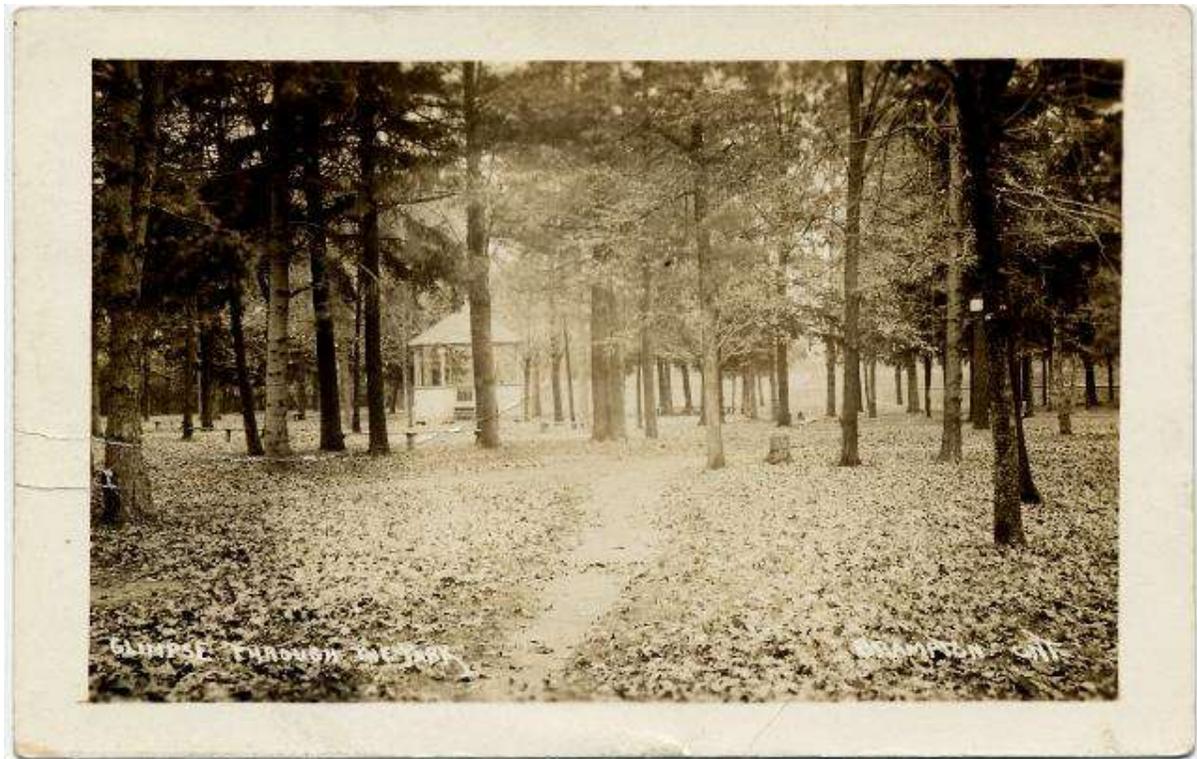
The Gage Park bandstand also functioned as the focal point of honorary guest visits. In 1973, the bandstand was selected and decorated as the dais for Queen Elizabeth to speak to the crowd when she and Prince Phillip visited to celebrate the Town of Brampton's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The bandstand's musical uses are complimented by its historic value as a community landmark, as the starting point for various civic processions over time, and as the anchor point in Brampton's Gage Park – wrapped by the pedestrian promenade, historic trees, picnic spaces, and more. The bandstand's use and importance is ultimately drawn from its communal value: it was created from, and for, community values.

***Did you know?*** A bandstand is different than a gazebo because of its interior roof construction. Whereas gazebos have peaked interior roofs, bandstands are characterized by having flat ceilings which reflect sound outwards for musical performances. Take a look inside and see for yourself!



*Postcard showing original bandstand, Gage Park, unknown date (Source: PAMA)*



*Photograph of the original bandstand in Gage Park circa 1910 (Source: PAMA)*



Photograph of Brampton Mechanics Band Rehearsing in Heggie Block, circa 1884 (Source: Brampton Concert Band Archives)



*Photographs of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip in decorated bandstand for Brampton Centennial celebration, 1973 (Sources: Town of Brampton's 100th Anniversary; PAMA*