

## Blair Borden: In Memoriam



“Some funds became available and I couldn’t think of a better use for them,” said retired music teacher Blair Borden commenting on her \$10,000 donation to the Shuswap District Arts Council Scholarship Endowment Fund. *(The fund is held by Shuswap Community Foundation.)*

She added, “I’d like to see the focus on music and not necessarily on youth. I think learning goes on all your life.”

Blair died at age 71, October 31, 2006.

Active in the local music scene for many years, Blair played string bass in the Salmon Arm Community Band. “I was one of the seven originals,” she recalled, “and at that time played the E-flat tuba.” She instructed an Adult Beginner Band class through Okanagan College for a couple of years and several of her students now play in the band.

Born in Toronto, Blair grew up in Montreal and attended McGill University. After graduation, she spent two years travelling and working in recreation in both London and South Africa.

She arrived in Salmon Arm in 1968 to teach school and was encouraged by then principal Tom Brighthouse to move into music teaching. When she first lived in Salmon Arm she played with the Okanagan Symphony for 10 years and later, after a move to Sorrento, played for another 10 years in the Kamloops Symphony. Blair also joined the Shuswap Singers. During these years with the symphonies she played the string bass and brass instruments. “I consider myself a specialist in low brass instruments,” she commented.

*(Read a full interview with Blair Borden in our Memory Book on our website at [www.shuswapfoundation.ca](http://www.shuswapfoundation.ca))*

