

The Escanaba City Band was organized around 1924 when funds were allocated for a municipal band by a voter referendum. The Band's first Director was a British musician, Joseph Greenfield. The push for money to fund the Escanaba City Band came through the efforts of R. B. Stack.

A professional bandsman, Greenfield came to Escanaba, via Illinois, to seek an escape from hay fever. Joseph Greenfield was employed by the City at the Farmers Market. He soon molded a solid musical organization.

The band's first concerts were played in Ludington Park in a small circular building; later, concerts were moved to a platform located where today's Veterans Memorial stands.

The Karas Bandshell, named for Frank Karas who succeeded Greenfield, was the dream of a City employee, Roy Pearson, who worked diligently for construction of the structure where the City Band plays the majority of its concerts.

Band directors who followed Karas were Charles Johnson, Albert Shomento, Paul Cowen, Cecil Collins, Chet Marrier, Jean-Paul Cote, Pat Henderson, and today Bruce Cassell.

Even before the City Band was created, its foundation was laid April 4, 1914, with the charter issued to the Musicians Protective Union, Local 663.

Charter members of that group included Ewald Beck, William Lang, Edwin Freeze, Walter Lippold, Antone Leduc, Roy Halgren, H.O. Brotherton and Lester Brotherton.

Some of the area's earliest bands included the Boys Band, the Escanaba Military Band, the Gladstone City Band, the Kiwanis Band, and many others.



Early Boys Band



Escanaba Marine Band 1890's







Escanaba City Band 1910's



SECOND U.P. STATE FAIR
1929
ESCANABA, MICH.



Escanaba City Band

Taken at Rose Park, North town Escanaba

Second player in from left – Bob Schmidt

Back row – trumpet – first chair – Chet Merrier

Back – Bass Drum – Culty Johnson

Director – Charlie Johnson

Stand on right (next to Chet Merrier) is Bill Clark



Escanaba City Band (Main Street)

Johnny DeChantle – Bass Drum

Bill Dupont – Sax

Charlie Johnson – Snare Drum

Bob Ham – Front row – Trombone



Escanaba WPA Band at Club 314

(Charlie Johnson 3rd one in on Saxophone)



City Band – Bay de Noc Community College Graduation

(Jean Cote – Director)

Back Row 1st on left, future Band Director Pat Henderson



City Band – 1978

1st Row L to R: Director Jean Cote, Pat Rudden, Amy Chown, Dolores Illig, Andrea Sullivan, Pete Ladoucer, Debbie LeDec, Carlton Johnson

2nd Row L to R: John Edick, Mary Busick, Jeane Vaneffen, Evelyn Walker, Bob Schmit, Ed Thompson, Harlan Lippold, Mickey Couchorah, Laurie McClinchey

3rd Row L to R: Roxanne Jordan, Paul OpperKuch, Chriss Henderson, Pat Henderson, Bob Lundquist, Glen Bengry, Anders Nyberg, Paul Simpson, Todd Slapp

4th Row L to R: Rene Labre, Ray Richards, Rick Nelson, Eric Vitsky, Dave Hemes, Bruce Thorsen, Jim Jordan, Steve Wood, David Cowen



ESCANABA CITY BAND
JUNE 20TH, 1990

