

## **Anne Primeau: New Challenges**

In 1994, I took advantage of an early retirement incentive offered by the Catholic School Board. I figured that I could find other interesting ways to fill my life.

In September of that year, I read an article in the 'Neighbours' section of the Calgary Herald. The article was basically an interview with Verna Blanchard, a member of the Green Band in the Westwinds organization. The message that stood out for me was that Verna in her retirement was enjoying a new experience as a flute player. That caught my interest. I had envied my son when he had become a euphonium player and then a percussionist in junior high. I always thought it would be fun to make music with others. As a child growing up, I was fortunate to take piano lessons, but the piano has limitations – portability being one of them. I needed a new challenge, so why not try a new instrument?

I chose the clarinet because I had always liked the warm sound of this instrument. It was portable and would allow me to play with others. I joined the Green Band under the direction of Mike Sakatch. At that time I definitely was 'green'. I didn't even know that you had to assemble a clarinet before you could play it. I also didn't know that an advanced clarinetist was often required to play many runs at breakneck speeds.

So here I am 14 years later, a member of the Wind Orchestra, again under the direction of Mike Sakatch, being challenged with my 'new' instrument and enjoying the ongoing experience of making music with others.