

## **Marg Crumb: Grandma Takes Center Stage**

I'd never heard of Westwinds before the summer of 2007, when a call went out to band families (my grandson was in the Calgary Round-Up Band at the time), to open their homes to an Australian band that was touring Western Canada. My daughter forwarded the e-mail to me and we decided it would be fun to host someone. Along with the Australian band members, host families were invited to a lunch at Heritage Park and there I heard Jackie Trowbridge ask the crowd if they'd ever wanted learn to play an instrument and play in a band; it didn't matter if they couldn't read a note of music. She certainly got my attention! I had no music background apart from church choir when I was a kid, but I'd always wanted to learn how to read and play music.

I joined the Green Band in September 2007, tried out a few instruments and decided on the clarinet. Earl Paddock is a great teacher - he's very patient with everyone, has a great sense of humor, and he makes learning music so much fun. I'm having such a good time - what a way to begin retirement! I've also met some wonderful people through my association with the organization. Never did I dream that at 60 I'd learn how to read notes and actually play a piece of music in a band! My grandchildren think it's great that grandma is in a band - they were my biggest fans at the Christmas concert!

Westwinds is great - whenever I get the opportunity, I tell people what the organization is all about and encourage them to join. You can bet I'll be back year after year.