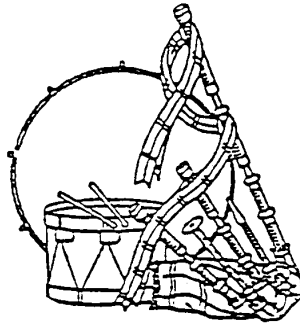


PIPERS' and PIPE BAND SOCIETY of ONTARIO, OTTAWA BRANCH



**** www.ppbsso-ottawa.org ****

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It's hard to believe the summer's gone and that it's time to welcome you all to the start of the 2004/2005 PPBSO Ottawa Branch in-door season. From those of us on the Executive, we hope that you've all had a very pleasant and enjoyable summer. This year is going to be a bit different from previous years for the Ottawa Branch schedule. The most important note is that the Ottawa Branch will be hosting the PPBSO Annual General Meeting and the Highland Ball in Kingston ON on Saturday 06 November 2004. This will be the first time ever that the AGM and Highland Ball will be held east of Toronto so it will be an exciting piece of history. We encourage everyone to come out, be involved and take part in these important events.

Because the November time period will be devoted to the AGM and Highland Ball, the traditional knock-out series held by the Ottawa Branch would have been difficult to schedule this year. Therefore we are going to break a bit from this recent routine and offer a few new activities this coming year. We will still kick the season off on the first Saturday of October (Oct 2nd) with the traditional opening knock-out night. Although there won't be a full knock-out series this year, this contest will determine the "A" and "B" Divisions for the Allan Quinn Memorial contest (December) and the Maj (Ret'd) Archie Cairns Cup (January), so it's still important for all the solo competitors to come out and participate. For the drummers, there will be a shortened knock-out series that will encompass October, December and January.

New this year will be an additional workshop to be held on the 12th of February, which tentatively will feature piping, drumming and tenor instruction. The workshop will be followed that evening by a semi-formal dinner at the RCAF Officer's Mess on Gloucester. This evening is a result of the tremendous response we received following the 30th Anniversary Dinner, and it is expected that the same format will be used, with a dinner followed by recitals from the afternoon's workshop instructors. And one other new event that we'll try for the first time in a number of years will be a mini-band contest to be held the first Saturday of March. Specific requirements for tunes and band sizes will be forthcoming in the next couple of months. In lieu of the Ottawa Branch knock-outs in February and March, there will still be an opportunity for our budding solo pipers and drummers to practice their competition pieces at the Kingston Pipefest (February) and the Almonte Spring Fling (March).

And of course, these events will all be followed by the annual Ottawa Branch Open Contest (and workshop) in April and the Winchester Indoor Highland Games in May.

So a very full year ahead of us. We hope that the schedule of events will add enough substance and variety to satisfy both the players and the audience. We look forward to your continued support and will see you all out again in the fall, at the AGM, the Highland Ball, and all the other planned activities.

If anyone in the Ottawa Branch has motions to be made at the PPBSO Annual General Meeting on 06 November 2004, please make sure they are forwarded ASAP to anyone on the Ottawa Branch executive to ensure that they have time to be circulated and reviewed in time to be discussed at the 02 October 2004 meeting.

2004 PPBSO Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Place: Currie Hall, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.
Date: Saturday 06 November 2004
Time: 11:00 am.

2004 PPBSO Highland Ball

Place: Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 285 King Street East, Kingston, Ontario
Telephone: (1-888-478-4333 for hotel reservations)
Date: Saturday 06 November 2004
Time: 7:30pm.
Tickets: \$25.00*
 * available from anyone on the Ottawa Branch executive or from the PPBSO office Milton.

OPENING KNOCK-OUT CONTESTS..... Saturday 02 October 2004

We will again be running the popular amateur knock-out contest this season, although in an abbreviated fashion this year. We will start with our traditional 4/4 March contest for the pipers (four parts, one or two tunes) to determine the split for the "A" and "B" divisions, and a 6/8 March contest for the drummers (four parts, one or two tunes). Knock-Out Contest Date... **Saturday 02 October 2004. Time... 7:30 pm.** To keep the evening from running too late, all competitors are asked to be registered by 7:15 pm. If you can't make it by 7:15, please contact any of the Ottawa Branch executive in advance to reserve a spot in the draw. Place... the Walkley Road Armouries, 2100 Walkley Road, between St. Laurent Blvd and Conroy Ave (the Armouries are on the south side of Walkley Ave, right beside the Walkley Bowling Centre parking lot). ***** NOTE: do not park in the reserved parking spots, the Armouries are a 24/7 facility ***.**

NEW TO 2004..... all attendees at our Ottawa Branch meetings at the Walkley Mess will now have to pay the \$5.00 cover charge, COMPETITORS INCLUDED. Although it would have been preferred to continue the practice of allowing competitors in for free, the cost of doing business continues to rise. We unfortunately need to try to keep pace.

Future Ottawa Branch Dates

06 November 2004	PPBSO AGM and Highland Ball, Kingston ON
04 December 2004	Allan Quinn Memorial Contest, Drumming Knock-Out, Walkley Mess
08 January 2005	Maj(Ret'd) Archie Cairns Cup, Drumming Knock-Out, Walkley Mess
12 February 2005	Ottawa Branch Work Shop, Semi-Formal Dinner RCAF Officers' Mess
February 2005	Kingston Pipefest Indoor Contests
05 March 2005	Mini-Band Contest, Walkley Mess
March 2005	Almonte Spring Fling Indoor Contests
03 April 2005	Ottawa Branch Piping Workshop, Open Solo Piping Contest
14 May 2005	Winchester In-Door Highland Games

