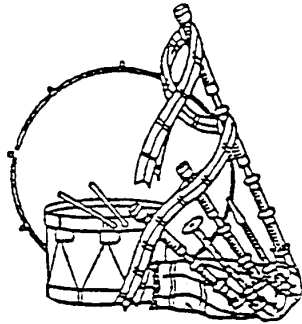


# PIPERS' and PIPE BAND SOCIETY of ONTARIO, OTTAWA BRANCH



\*\*\*\* [www.ppbsso-ottawa.org](http://www.ppbsso-ottawa.org) \*\*\*\*

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## \*\* MARCH 2004 KNOCK-OUT FINALS \*\*

**Judges: Colin Clansey, Mark Passmore**  
**Recital: Glengarry Grade 2 Pipe Band**

Knock-Out Contest Date... **Saturday 06 March 2004**. Time...7:30 pm. The order of play will be "B" Piping, "B" Drumming, "A" Piping, "A" Drumming. Competitors will play in reverse order of their placings (i.e. Allie MacDonald will be first on). 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 \*\*\*.**

**Tune Selections** "A" & "B" Piping, "A" & "B" Drumming.... *Medley of the Competitors' Choice*

### Ottawa Branch Knock-Out Finalists

"A" Division Piping	"A" Division Drumming	"B" Division Piping	"B" Division Drumming
1. Will Ridley	1. Brendan Kelly	1. Christian McCartney	1. Heather Wilson
2. Bobbie Smith	2. Rob MacLeod	2. Jenna Holz	2. Brendan Vallee
3. Rob MacKenzie	3. Trevor Stevens	3. Dave Zarboni	3. Marielle Lesperance
4. Andrew Killick	4. Iain Cleaton	4. Allie MacDonald	4. Devin Roberts

**February 2004 Knock-Out Contests** As has been the norm for the past few years, the February meeting of the Ottawa Branch had a bit of a smaller audience than usual with only 45 coming through the door. However, those who were there were treated to some excellent piping in the "A" Division slow air/hornpipe/jig contest. The winner was Will Ridley (pictured at right). Rob MacLeod won the "A" Division drumming and Heather Wilson took first in the "B" Division drumming. As a very special treat, we were thrilled to have Alexis MacIsaac (left) of Stittsville ON provide the recital on her fiddle following the knock-outs. She had everyone enthralled with her repertoire of Cape Breton and Scottish fiddle tunes. Adding to the ceilidh-type atmosphere was Ross May joining Alexis for the Jig of Slurs on the Dieger pipes (centre-right).





**ALMONTE SPRING FLING**

On Saturday 27 March 2004, the Almonte Spring Fling will be held at the Almonte United Church. The Almonte Spring Fling is sponsored by the MacEoin-Ramsay Pipe Band with the support and assistance of the Ottawa Branch – PPBSO. There is no registration fee. General admission for competitors and spectators is \$5.00. Free admission for spectators under 12. Solos begin at 9:00 a.m. with events 1, 2 & 8. Band competition will be after the lunch break. Late entrants – i.e. at the door – may be required to play first. It is hoped that the solo competitions will be completed by the lunch break at approximately 12:30 p.m. with the result being posted by approximately 2:00 p.m. Final results and awards will be around 4:00 p.m. The MacEoin-Ramsay Pipe Band, the Ottawa Branch – PPBSO, and the Almonte United Church are not responsible for any loss, damage or injury however caused, while any competitor or spectator is on Almonte United Church premises. Anyone requiring further information or clarification, please call David Clyde at 613-256-3023 and leave a message, or email Cindy at [cindymacdiarmid@gtg.igs.net](mailto:cindymacdiarmid@gtg.igs.net).

**ENTRY FORM****SOLO ENTRIES**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Event #'s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

**BAND ENTRIES**Name of Band: A \_\_\_\_\_ Event #: \_\_\_\_\_  
B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_

To Enter – By Phone – 613-256-3023 – leave information

By Email – [cindymacdiarmid@gtg.igs.net](mailto:cindymacdiarmid@gtg.igs.net)

By Mail - D. Clyde, P.O. Box 1738, Almonte, Ont, K0A 1A0

At the Door

**EVENTS****PIPING**

<i>Event #</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
1	Adult Novice	Slow Air/ 2 part March, any time signature
2	Practice Chanter	1 – 2 part March, any time signature
3	Grade 5	1 – 2 part March, any time signature
4	Grade 4	1 – 4 part 2/4 March
5	Grade 3	1 – 4 part 2/4 March
5a	Grade 3	1 – 4 part Strathspey/ 1 – 4 part Reel

6	Open Amateur Duet	1 – 4 part Hornpipe/ 1 – 4 part Jig
7	Novice Piob	1 – Ground plus 1 variation
7a	Amateur Piob	1 – Complete Tune

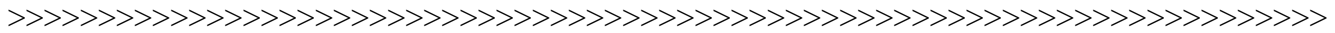
**DRUMMING**

<i>Event #</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
8	Drum Pad	1 – 2 part March, any time signature
9	Grade 5	1 – 2 part March, any time signature (piper optional)
10	Grade 4	1 – 4 part 2/4 March (with piper)
11	Grade 3	1 – 4 part 2/4 March (with piper)
11a	Grade 3	1 – 4 part Strathspey/ 1 – 4 part Reel (with piper)
12	Open Amateur	1 – 3–5 minute own choice Medley (with piper)

**BANDS**

<i>Event #</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
13	Grade 5	Marches – 2 min. 45 sec. – 4 min. 45 sec.
14	Grade 4	Medley – 3-5 min.

NOTE: Multiple band entries – Only the Bass Drummer is allowed to play in more than one mini-band in the same grade. Mini Band comprises of 5 pipers, 2 side drummers and 1 bass drummer.



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To view these postings visit [www.banffsprings.hcareers.ca](http://www.banffsprings.hcareers.ca)

PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE #6020 WHEN APPLYING.

**We thank all applicants for their interest and advise that only those being considered will be contacted.**

*This is the second in what will be an on-going series of profiles of local pipers/drummers who have made a significant contribution to the pipe band world. The following is the biography of Pipe Major Harry Blair of Brockville, Ontario, who over a span of a number of decades touched a lot of bands in the Ottawa Branch area and was instrumental in the teaching of hundreds of piping students.*

## PIPE MAJOR HARRY N. BLAIR

Pipe Major Harry Blair is a true son of Brockville, Ontario. He was born there, educated there, employed there and spent most of his piping career there.

Starting at about the age of fourteen, Harry actually wanted to be a snare drummer, but at the time there wasn't any room in the Brockville Highland Pipe Band for him to learn drumming. The fall-out, or perhaps the happy consequence of that situation, was that he was persuaded by George Beley to take up the other band instrument, the great highland bagpipe. Mr. Beley was also kind enough to take the time to provide some elementary guidance to the young budding piper.

Although this new music seemed a bit of a mystery to Harry, he soldiered on receiving lessons early on from a family friend, Edward O'Donnell. Whenever Mr. O'Donnell and his wife came to visit the Blair family residence, the first thing was a lesson on the practice chanter for young Harry. A little later, Pipe Major Tommy Marshall of the Brockville band taught Harry when he first joined the pipe corps.

Harry Blair first joined the work force with Philips Electric in Brockville making communications cable for the military. Over the ensuing years he was also engaged in food and beverage sales, and was employed as a technical expert for National Cash Register. No slouch in sports, he was also an alpine ski instructor for a number of seasons in Quebec's Eastern Townships and in British Columbia. Most recently, Harry served two stints with the Corp of Commissionaires. He officially retired from the business sector in 1994.

Harry Blair's stint with the military started with the Second Battalion, Canadian Guards as a piper under Pipe Major Archie Cairns, stationed at Petawawa, Ontario where his main duties at the time were restricted to piping. It was under P/M Cairns's tutelage that Harry made his greatest progress in piping. He served with the Guards for six years including a two-year tour in Germany. Once during a military exercise he was laying communication cable when he noticed that the cable bore his code – *he had wound it when he worked for Philips Electric in Brockville!*

Harry left the Guards in 1961 and was posted to the Brockville Rifles as an instructor. This provided him an opportunity to rejoin the Brockville Highland Pipe Band where he was made Pipe Sergeant. It was only two months later that he became

Pipe Major. It was during his ten years as Pipe Major that he was instrumental in having the band renamed the City of Brockville Pipe Band. The band was not competing when he took it over, but he made good progress, eventually taking the band onto the competition field in Grade 4. They won the Grade 4 contest in Cobourg, the first time the Grade 4 contest had been held. The band continued to rise in ability and began to compete in Grade 3. The band competed at a number of games including Renfrew and Syracuse; and came third in Grade 3 at Maxville.

After ten years, Harry left the Brockville band to form his own pipe band, the Clan Graham. This band existed only for a couple of years and at that point Harry decided to take a sabbatical from playing the pipes. At the time he was working for Labatts and spending a fair bit of time on the road. His time away from the pipes eventually lasted close to twenty years.

After all these years of not playing, he was approached by a former student, Pipe Major Brian Lawless of the Spencerville Pipe Band, to join that band, which he did. He was also invited as a guest player with the Special Service

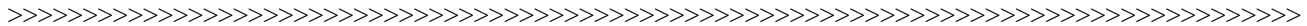


Force (SSF) pipe band in Petawawa where the Pipe Major was Mike Durant, another of Harry's students. The SSF band is now the Second Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group (2 CMBG) Pipe Band. Highlights for Harry of playing with the SSF band were the Change of Command ceremonies for US forces in Georgia and South Carolina.

In 1996, Harry took over the reins of the Almonte Pipe Band from Andrew Blair. As the Pipe Major in 1996 and 1997 he took the pipe band to Grade 4 competitions at Loon Mountain, Almonte and Maxville. Alas, there were no wins during this period, but he continued to mark his influence in the local pipe band scene.

Over his piping career, Harry Blair has played for many civilian bands. In addition to the City of Brockville, Almonte and Spencerville, he has also played and competed with the Highland Mist, played with the Sons of Scotland, Arnprior, and the Grade 3 Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Pipe Band. And as expected, has taught hundreds of students on the instrument over his many years in the piping community.

Pipe Major Harry Blair has now retired from active piping and continues to live in Brockville.



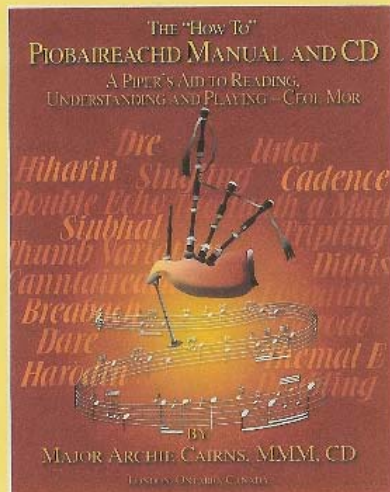
*Ceol Mor*      *Piobaireachd*      *The "Big Music"*

With the popularity and success of his "How To" Manual for light music, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> printing, and as suggested by his many piping students, Major Archie Cairns has written and produced his latest book entitled:

**"The "How To" Piobaireachd Manual"**

This is a Piper's Aid to reading, understanding and playing Ceol Mor, using many of the original methods of instruction devised by Major Cairns during the 60 years he has studied, played and taught piobaireachd. His teachers were his father Pipe Major John K. Cairns, Pipe Major John Wilson, and Captain John A. MacLellan.

The Manual is intended for those who already play the Great Highland Bagpipe, whether they play piobaireachd or not. In addition to 90 Pages of easy-to-follow instructions, there are written examples/excerpts from 19 different tunes, and a CD on which Major Cairns has recorded 60 Audio Examples of movements, correct/incorrect sounds, exercises, rhythms, etc.



Available 1 February 2004.

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