

PIPERS' and PIPE BAND SOCIETY of ONTARIO, OTTAWA BRANCH

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



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Future Ottawa Branch Dates

- 18 June 2005** Veterans Memorial Highland Games, Spencerville, Ontario
See next page of this Newsletter for more details.
- 25 June 2005** Ottawa Police Service Tattoo, 1855-2005
See back page of this Newsletter for more details.
- 04 - 08 July 2005** Kingston School of Scottish Music & Dance
Place: Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
Instructors - Bob Worrall, Ken Eller, Ann Gray, Tyler Fry, Jim Kilpatrick and John Fisher
For more info, contact: (613) 542-7287 or email: swb1@post.queensu.ca
Website: <http://www.macgregordespitethem.com>
- 10 July 2005** TYCO Electronics Scottish Heritage Parade and Band Tattoo, Carleton Place
See page 5 of this Newsletter for more details.
- 11-15 July 2005** Manotick Piobaireachd and Light Music Summer School
See next page of this Newsletter for more details.
- 29-30 July 2005** Glengarry Highland Games
www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
- 31 July 2005** Montreal Highland Games
www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca
- 13 August 2005** 2nd Annual Napanee Celtic Festival
More information is available at (877) 354-6601.
- 20 August 2005** North Lanark (Almonte) Highland Games
www.almontehighlandgames.com
- 08 October 2005** Ottawa Branch knock-out contests begin (piping and drumming)
- 15 October 2005** Ottawa Branch Mess Dinner, RCAF Officers' Mess, Ottawa
Guest Speaker: Bob Allen, PPBSO President, Recitalist: tbd

WINCHESTER IN-DOOR GAMES, 14 MAY 2005 *** RESULTS ***



Judges: Amy Garson, Jack Coghill Jr, Hugh Goldie, Steve Lanning			
Event	1st	2nd	3rd
Grade 2 Pipe Band	<i>Glengarry Gr2</i>		
Grade 4 Pipe Band	<i>Rob Roy Gr4</i>	<i>Arnprior-McNab</i>	<i>Glengarry Gr4</i>
Grade 5 Pipe Band	<i>Rob Roy Gr5</i>	<i>Sam Scott Memorial</i>	<i>Sons of Scotland Gr5</i>
Event	1st	2nd	3rd
Piping Open March	<i>Christian McCartney</i>	<i>Rob McKenzie</i>	<i>Andrew Killick</i>
Piping Open Strathspey/Reel	<i>Rob McKenzie</i>	<i>Andrew Killick</i>	<i>Will Ridley</i>
Piping Open Hornpipe/Jig	<i>James Clark</i>	<i>Michael Griggs</i>	<i>Rob McKenzie</i>
Piping Grade 3 March	<i>James Clark</i>	<i>Grant McDougall</i>	<i>Kerrie McLeod</i>
Piping Grade 3 S/R	<i>James Clark</i>	<i>Jonathan Verrett</i>	<i>Brittany Pinder</i>
Piping Grade 4 March	<i>Adam Campbell</i>	<i>Murray Bleakney</i>	<i>Kevin Harrison</i>
Piping Grade 5 March	<i>Andrew Munro</i>	<i>William MacNeill</i>	<i>Andrew Dalziel</i>
Piping Practice Chanter	<i>Curtis Toupin</i>	<i>Mary Ellen MacDonald</i>	<i>Taylor Williams</i>
Open Amateur Piobaireachd	<i>Matthew Yuen</i>	<i>Rob McKenzie</i>	<i>Will Ridley</i>
Novice Piobaireachd	<i>Kerrie McLeod</i>	<i>Brittany Pinder</i>	<i>William MacNeill</i>
Age 40+ March	<i>Steve Brooke</i>	<i>Dan Cameron</i>	<i>Andrew Shepherd</i>
Drumming Open MSR	<i>Robert MacLeod</i>	<i>John Pakenham</i>	
Drumming Grade 3 March	<i>Daryl Fowlie</i>		
Drumming Grade 4 March	<i>Iain Bell</i>	<i>Jeff Cameron</i>	<i>Kim MacDonald</i>
Drumming Grade 5 March	<i>Troy Hamstra</i>	<i>Dylan Stewart</i>	<i>Eric Turcotte</i>
Drumming Practice Pad	<i>Douglas Crowe</i>	<i>Jordan Duval</i>	<i>Luke Kilpatrick</i>

Winchester 2005 Soloists - Trophy Winners



Matthew Yuen
*SSF Trophy
Open Piobaireachd*



Curtis Toupin
*Donald Killin Memorial Trophy
Practice Chanter*



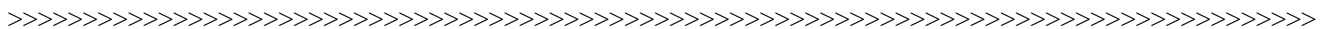
James Clark
*Donnelly Targe
Grade 3 March*



Rob McKenzie
*Cameron Highlanders Trophy
Piper of the Day*



Robert MacLeod
*John D. Wilson Trophy
Drummer of the Day*



GOING HOME

Beth Bisailion



The journey as a piper began for me at age nine and has continued on its path ever since. By age thirteen I was attending the summer school at Timmins run under the auspices of the College of Piping in Glasgow, and its co-founder and principal, Seumas MacNeill. For four summers I attended the school and became friends with its instructors and in my final year working alongside them as a junior teacher. Many years and many students later, I found myself in a position to further my own studies and receive some great advice from that same College. I was off to Glasgow, everything paid by the Canada Arts Council, and with the help of the College principal Robert Wallace I was able to achieve my goal within a very short period of time.

My goal was to study for and sit the Intermediate Certificate for piping; this involved studying thirteen pieces of music and facing my biggest challenge-theory! I had a tutor, Mr. Jimmy Young, who is a master of all music but especially Piobaireachd, and his kind and patient approach made performing easy. I was two hours off the plane and attempting to mach my crunluath, which is no easy feat!! I had two lessons per day with Mr. Young for two days, and then it was exam time. I did the oral test, playing portion, and written exam within two hours and passed - I believe I was the first person ever to earn a mark of 100% on the written portion, and many of the instructors commented on the sound of my pipes (they liked being home again although slightly overworked...)

During my time at the College, which was only three days, there was an Easter School being held with instructors Joe Wilson and James MacLean. They had a full roster of kids of all ages, many of them under twelve and were playing tunes on pipes bigger than they; I quickly made friends with some and helped them with their instruments. The last day for me saw a contest being held at the College, and I went in to assist with tuning and preparing the kids for their events. That evening the staff took me out for drinks and by the third whisky most of them had promised to quit their bands and join The Sons this summer when we go to Scotland!!



I had a fabulous time, and all of the people I met were wonderful. Can't wait to return this August to do more exams!! It was well worth the effort and preparation.

Bethany Bisailion, Pipe Major, Sons of Scotland Pipe Band

This is the fifth in an on-going series of profiles of local pipers/drummers who have made a significant contribution to the Pipe Band world. The following is a biography of Pipe Major William Stirling of Ottawa, Ontario, who having already come to prominence in Scottish piping, immigrated to Canada, becoming an accomplished Pipe Major in the Canadian Army. He had an important part to play in many of the military pipers who followed, and his teachings at the Royal Military College influenced a further generation of pipers and Officers in the Canadian Forces. Now retired, he is still a well known fixture at all the local Scottish pipe band events.

PIPE MAJOR WILLIAM STIRLING

William Stirling was born in Scotland in 1933 and raised in a family with a strong commitment to piping. An uncle of the same name (photo to right, the 1904 Center Bagpipes shown are now being played by Andrew Hayes of the Ottawa Police Service Pipe Band) was an amateur champion and emerging prize winning professional piper, who unfortunately was killed in action in 1916 while serving with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He had been a pupil of John MacDougall Gilles and James Center. His youngest brother (father of young William) was taught by George MacDonald of Dunoon and was a piper with the Muirhead & Sons pipe band under Pipe Major James Wilson.



As a very young boy in April 1945, William went to Pipe Major Wilson for tuition. He competed in the SPA Amateur Solo Piping competition in Glasgow in April 1947 and was second to John D. Burgess in the Piobaireachd event and fifth in the solo march competition.

He received tuition as a teenager from Iain MacPherson, Glasgow, father and teacher of the renowned Donald MacPherson. Again, he placed second to John D. Burgess in the amateur piobaireachd at Cowal Games and placed fourth in the same competition at Cowal in 1949. The very impressive prize list for the 1949 competition was:

- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| 1st | William Connell |
| 2nd | John D. Burgess |
| 3rd | John Graham |
| 4th | William Stirling |



William then joined the British Army and served under Pipe Major John A. MacLellan, 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, and in 1952 won the open piping at the Regimental Highland Gathering in Germany.

He was also incredibly fortunate to have played with his Regiment at three major historical events of the time:

- * the Royal Guard for King George VI at Balmoral Castle in 1951;
- * the King's funeral parade at Windsor Castle in 1952; and
- * the Coronation Parade in London for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

After completing his British Army service in Germany and the Middle East, he played with Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band under Pipe Major Jackie Smith.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1955 and served in the 2nd Battalion Canadian Guards under Pipe Major A.M.Cairns. He spent nine years with Pipe Major Cairns who was a major influence on his musical development.

During the early 1960s he competed along with other members of the pipes and drums in the solo professional piping competitions. His most memorable success was being placed second to Pipe Major Cairns in the 1964 Open Piobaireachd at Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville. The same year the Guards won the North American Miniature Band Championship in Hamilton, Ontario. Pipe Sergeant Stirling placed third in the Invitational Professional MSR competition at this event. To crown this day of achievement for the Canadian Guards competitors, Pipe Major Cairns and Pipe Corporal Angus Fleming placed first and second in the Invitational Professional Piobaireachd competition.

On Pipe Major Cairns' recommendation Sergeant Stirling was accepted for the renowned eight month long British Army's Pipe Major's course taught at the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh Castle by RSM (later Captain) John A. MacLellan.

After successful graduation, he returned to Canada and took over as the Pipe Major of the 2nd Battalion Canadian Guards (photograph previous page), replacing Pipe Major Cairns who had been posted to Ottawa (followed by more senior appointments which led to an eventual commission and the rank of Major).

As a salute to their outgoing Pipe Major - the man who started with an empty band room and in ten years had built a Grade 1 prize winning pipe band - his band under their new pipe major competed in 1965 and won the Grade 1 competition at the Renfrew Highland Games. The same year they placed second to the Worcester Kiltie in the North American Pipe Band Championship at Maxville, Ontario; and again second to the Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band in the Grade 1 Competition in Ashbury Park, New Jersey, USA.

Pipe Major Stirling served for another sixteen years, during which time the Canadian Regular Army underwent massive changes to its regimental structure. The Canadian Guards along with the Black Watch of Canada were disbanded. Pipe Major Stirling became a Pipe Major in the Royal Canadian Regiment (photograph below) and later with the Special Service Force.

On the 27th of June 1973, during the visit of the Royal Yacht Britannia to Kingston, Ontario, he played at a Dinner in honour of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Pipe Major Stirling was finishing a three-year posting to the Royal Military College Kingston at this time. He had been supervising the Officer Cadet staffed Pipes and Drums, which at the time had some very talented players.

He was one of the judges for the Inter-Provincial Piping and Pipe Band Championships held at the Ottawa Highland Games (1974 through 1976). He also judged at some other Games and contests in the early 1970s in Eastern Ontario. However, a tour of duty in Cyprus with the 3rd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment beginning in October 1976 ended his availability for further involvement in the competition circuit.

He retired from the Army in 1980, a precipitating factor in this decision being a periodical neurological problem (focal dystonia) which unfortunately affected his left hand's playing ability.

Pipe Major William Stirling now lives in retirement in Ottawa and still maintains regular contact with his principal mentor, Major Archie Cairns. He enjoys listening to the best of piping wherever he can find it, and can usually be found in the audience each year at Oban and Inverness.





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JOHN M-DERMOTT



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**SATURDAY, JUNE 25th - 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
SAMEDI, JUIN 25 - 1400h ET 1900h
OTTAWA CIVIC CENTRE, LANSDOWNE PARK**