

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

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



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**Major Archie Cairns Cup**      Saturday 13 January 2007 (see next page for details)

## Allan Quinn Memorial Contest

*The Allan Quinn Memorial Contest (the Ottawa Branch Open Amateur Championship) was contested Saturday 02 December at the Walkley Armouries Mess. With competitors playing a full march, strathspey, and reel set, it showcased the best of our local area amateur pipers. Brian Williamson did the honours as this year's adjudicator. The 2006 contest winner was Allison MacDonald of the Sam Scott Memorial Pipe Band (upper left). Finishing in second was Andrew Killick (upper right), and third place was taken by Karrie McLeod (middle right). Jeremy Keddy, who was the evening's drumming judge, put on an extremely entertaining recital accompanied by Will Ridley. The top six results for "A" Division knock-out points were as follows:*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Allison MacDonald
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Killick
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Karrie McLeod
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Verrett
- 5<sup>th</sup> Christian McCartney
- 6<sup>th</sup> Amos Van Die



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## **MAJOR ARCHIE CAIRNS CUP.... Saturday 13 January 2007**

(For Grade 4 pipers and below. Knock-Out "B" Division points will be awarded)

Start 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 **Walkey 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 Requirements.... One set consisting of a slow air followed by four parts of a 6/8 March (the 6/8 March can be one or two tunes).**

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### **Future Ottawa Branch Dates**

**13 January 2007**

**Major Archie Cairns Cup, Drumming Knock-Out, Walkley Mess**

Piping "B" Division.... see above

Drumming "A" Division.... March/Strathspey/Reel (minimum four parts each)

Drumming "B" Division.... Strathspey/Reel (minimum two parts each)

**10 February 2007**

**Ottawa Branch Knock-Out Contest, Walkley Mess**

Piping "A" Division.... Slow Air, Hornpipe/Jig (minimum four parts each)

Drumming "A" Division.... Hornpipe/Jig (minimum four parts each)

Drumming "B" Division.... four parts 2/4 March (one or two tunes)

Judges: Colin Clansey & Mark Passmore, Recital: Glengarry Pipe Band

**03 March 2007**

**Ottawa Branch Knock-Out Finals, Walkley Mess**

"A"/"B" Piping and "A"/"B" Drumming.... medley of competitor's choice

Judges: Scott Bell & Chris Bell, Recital: Jeremy Keddy (Uilleann Pipes)

**07 April 2007**

**Ottawa Branch Piping Workshop**

**Open Solo Piping Contest**

**14 April 2007**

**Smiths Falls Spring Fling**

**indoor competition for soloists and bands**

**12 May 2007**

**Winchester In-Door Highland Games**

**26 May 2007**

**OPG Kingston Celfest**

**outdoor competition for soloists and bands**

**02-06 July 2007**

**Kingston School of Scottish Music and Dance**

**– Bob Worrall, Ken Eller, Ann Gray, Jim Kilpatrick, John Fisher, Tyler Fry, Craig Colquhoun**



### **\*\*\* PPBSO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS \*\*\***

**AS PASSED AT THIS YEAR'S PPBSO AGM, the due date for membership submissions has been delayed by one month (this year only).... If paid by 31 January 2007, the PPBSO membership is \$58.50 (GST included). The membership fee goes up \$5.00 every month after that, so make sure you pay your membership right away!!!**

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Events

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Robbie Burn's Day Supper Thu 25 January 2007**  
**MONTGOMERY LEGION 330 Kent St, Ottawa**

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**02 - 06 July 2007 Kingston School of Scottish Music & Dance**

Place: Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Instructors - Bob Worrall, Ken Eller, Ann Gray, Tyler Fry, Jim Kilpatrick, John Fisher, and Craig Colquhoun

For more info, contact: (613) 542-7287 or email: [swb1@post.queensu.ca](mailto:swb1@post.queensu.ca)

Website: <http://www.macgregordespitethem.com>

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Announcements

**PPBSO Championship Supreme Winners 2006**



**James Clark**  
*Grade 2*  
*Piping*



**Allison MacDonald**  
*Intermediate*  
*Piobaireachd*



**Glengarry Pipe Band**  
*Grade 2 Pipe Band*



**Theresa Smith**  
*Grade 5*  
*Drumming*



**Sean Donaldson**  
*Professional*  
*Drumming*

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**PPBSO Executive for 2006/2007**

*President: Ron Rollo*

*Vice-President: Colin Clansey*

*Secretary: Barb MacRae*

*Treasurer: John Allen*

## Drumming School with Rob MacLeod

The Ottawa Branch will host a drumming school in 2007 with the lead instructor being Rob MacLeod of the Glengarry Pipe Band. Details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter and will be provided on the Ottawa Branch web-site, but classes will tentatively be held the last Saturdays in January, February and March. Timings likely from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Place will be the Mess at the Canadian Police College (north end of St Laurent Blvd, same location as the piping workshops held each April and the tenor/bass workshop that was held in September). But for all the side drummers in our region, you can put this on your calendar and we'll get the details out as soon as we can. For any advance information, please contact either Rob MacLeod at [Robert\\_theman\\_mac@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert_theman_mac@yahoo.com) or Graeme Ogilvie at [graeme.ogilvie@sympatico.ca](mailto:graeme.ogilvie@sympatico.ca).

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## Highland Mist Busy with Remembrance Performances

Sometimes it was a wee bit damp, but that's when the bagpipes sound their best!

The busy Remembrance Week started out when the Highland Mist Pipe Band performed for the Legion Branch in Quyon, QC on November 4th. At noon on Friday November 10th the band played at Ottawa's VIA Rail station to welcome the veterans' train as it arrived (see below right) with the Maritimes vets' delegation. The vets travelled overnight for the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the downtown Canadian War Memorial. Same as last year, the band was fronted by the sharply turned out 638 Branch Colour Party, commanded by Comrade Dan Knighton.

On an overcast and sometimes rainy Saturday, November 11th, the band performed for Remembrance day observances in the morning for Kanata activities, and in Stittsville in the afternoon. In addition, individual members of the band turned up for solo appearances in various schools and churches in the area. In recent weeks the band has added three new pipers and two new drummers to the ranks. They arrived just in time for the off-season work-up of challenging new music for the upcoming 2007 performance season.



*PM Bob Tracy*

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### Pipers of the Ceremonial Guard Cornemuseurs de la Musique de la Garde de la cérémonie

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- Transport, uniformes, repas et quartiers fournis
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**For information and applications visit our website:**

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## ***KEN THORNTON*** **On Becoming a Mountie Piper - At 84 Years Young!!**

**The Destination.** It's a brisk fall morning, late September, 2002. Days of planning, months of practice and decades of anticipation have finally given way to this moment. Ken Thornton, 84 years young, is sporting an irrepressible grin as he prepares to march off for the first time with the RCMP Pipes and Drums. He cuts a fine figure - that of a much younger man - with a properly tailored tunic and kilt. "I am so happy to be here today, I'm walking on air!" he says. "I can't even begin to describe what a thrill it is to be part of this. I haven't been this excited since my wedding day!"

The parade is forming up in front of the Supreme Court of Canada and is about to move off to Parliament Hill for the annual National Police Memorial Service. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parade. The RCMP have the honour of being the first contingent onto the Hill, with Ken and the RCMP Pipe Band part of the first wave of a 'massed band' of several hundred police pipers and drummers. There will be more than 5,000 police officers and veterans 'marching to the skirl of the pipes' on this day.

Thornton adjusts his kit, shoulders the bagpipe and marches on as though he's been at it for years. To the unwitting bystander, he may be just another piper in a Mountie uniform. But to the many family and friends who have gathered to bear witness, he is the absolute picture of pride in accomplishment, that of a man realizing a life-long dream.

**The Journey.** Ken Thornton is bright, trim and 'wiry fit' with a ready smile and a twinkle in his eye. He is a quiet and understated man with a gentle and disarming manner. He grew up a farm boy in St. Stevens, New Brunswick. All he ever wanted to be was a Mountie. On his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday he mustered the courage to present himself to the local RCMP Detachment. But World War II interfered with best laid plans.

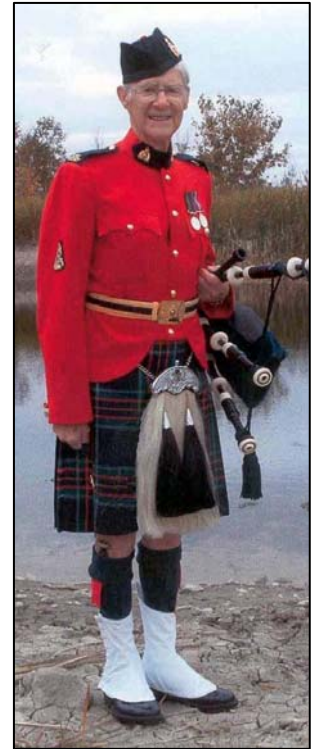
Ken served throughout the war as a "fitter" with the Royal Canadian Air Force (those maintainers who keep aircraft in the air). On his discharge he joined Imperial Oil in Toronto where he married and started raising a fine family. He transferred to Oakville as a fuel oil distributor and was employed there for twenty years. He then joined an import company where he remained in the sales division for nearly another twenty six years. This provided a unique opportunity to see much of the world including sites throughout England, Hawaii, the United States and Canada.

He never realized his goal of joining the Mounties. But he has been ever-so steadfast in the setting of and accomplishment of so many other goals along the road of life. This is a man who started riding a motorcycle at age 65! And well along the way, although no one else in his family had ever pursued the instrument, he resolved that it was high time to tackle another of his life's desires: learning to play 'the Great Highland Bagpipe'.

In 1998, he read an article that (then) Staff Sergeant Graham Muir, and RCMP Pipe Band Drum Major (pictured with Ken below), wrote for the RCMP *Quarterly*, chronicling the creation of the RCMP tartan and the formation of RCMP Pipe Bands comprised of citizen volunteers. As 1999 turned to 2000, thinking he might kill two birds with one stone, Ken began to make discreet inquiries. He called on Major Archie Cairns, currently with the London Police and elder statesman of the instrument. Ken asked whether it might be possible for one so advanced in years to learn the pipes. Major Cairn's response was clear and to the point: "yes", with proper tuition and tenacity.



Then came the phone call to Graham Muir's office in Ottawa. The question was simple enough. "If I can learn to play the bagpipes, is it possible I might wear the red serge - just for a day - and play with your Mountie Pipe Band?" Muir's reply was equally forthright: "why not!?" If Ken mastered the basics of the music and the bagpipe, the RCMP would make the rest of his dream come true. Thus began Ken's journey to become a piper and to wear the red serge.



# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

December 2006

In the summer of 2001, Ken presented himself for immersion training at the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts in Summerside, PEI. There, he announced to the College's Director, Scott MacAulay, that he had come to learn the rudiments of piping and that if the Mounties would have him, he was going to play with their Band in Ottawa.

As fall turned to winter, Ken was on the phone again. As he made good on his end of the bargain, he gently explored the prospects of making his debut with the RCMP Pipe Band. Admittedly, he still had some distance to go to demonstrate that he was able to 'take off a few tunes'. Allowing for continued progress, it was agreed that Ken would suit up with the Mounties and make his first appearance as a journeyman piper at the National Police Memorial Service in Ottawa.



It wasn't long before Ken called on Margaret Struth, Proprietor of Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia in Barrie, Ontario, to be fitted for a kilt. While there he recounted the finer points his new adventure. Margaret (pictured at right with Ken on her wedding day), in turn, explained that she was well acquainted with Ottawa's Mountie Pipe Band, having been instrumental in striking the RCMP's new tartan, making the Force's first kilt and outfitting the ever-increasing numbers of band members from across the country.



As coincidence would have it, that very day Graham Muir also visited Marg's shop to pick up kit for the band. Ken and Graham finally met face-to-face. First impression was in 'the measure of the man' and there was absolutely no doubt that he would do the uniform proud. The "deal" was sealed with a handshake. Margaret graciously offered to donate an RCMP kilt and to tailor the tunic that was offered up to the cause. In no time, Ken was signing up for lessons at the St. Andrews Piping College in Aurora. There, he was coached and mentored by some of the best in the business including Jim McGillivray, John Cairns and Rob Crabtree. Struck by Ken's unwavering determination, Rob Crabtree provided a series of lessons to Ken on the run-up to the Memorial Service.

**Still Going Strong.** That Police Memorial Service has long since come and gone. After the Parade, Ken and many of his new-found friends found their way back to the Ottawa Police Association for 'a wee dram'. One such meeting resulted in a heart-felt and sincere invitation from Sergeant Major Roger Tardif and (then) Inspector Dale Sheehan of Depot Division to join them and their newly-formed Pipe Band on the Academy parade square for an RCMP Memorial Service at the "Depot". That occurred in September 2004. Pictured below is Piper Thornton on the steps of the Regina "Depot" parade square with the RCMP Commissioner, the Corps Sergeant Major and all the other Sergeants Major in the Force gathered on that day. And he has since returned, at the invitation of the Commissioner, to address a graduating troop of the Academy. Last October. Ken did exactly that, and as well as being allowed to sit and participate in classes he was even made an honorary member of Troop 5, 2005. The honour of addressing the graduating troop of RCMP officers and reviewing them on parade was one of the distinct highlights of his life.



*With contributions from Chief Superintendent Graham Muir.*

Long since retired, Ken now resides in the small town of Creemore, north of Toronto, pursuing his myriad projects and shepherding after his fourteen grandchildren. The author of two books, he still plays his McLeod bagpipes that he purchased from the Ben Bhraggie House of Hanover, Ontario and he has found a new teacher in John Roy (now retired), who once played for the infamous Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band.

Ken's new goals? Marching on Parliament Hill at the age of 90!!! His philosophy in life is very simple... "age is merely a number, it is perseverance and attitude that separate the indolent from the doer". So watch for the snow-white hair under the RCMP glengarry. It's the only trait that belies the age of Piper Thornton – **now "only" 88 years young!!!**

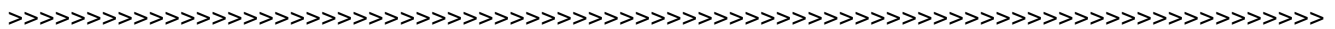
## Passages

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### John Allen Cameron 1938- 2006

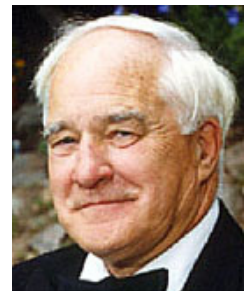


John Allan Cameron, often referred to as the “Godfather of Celtic Music” in Canada, passed away of bone cancer in Toronto 22 November 2006 following a year long battle with leukemia. Born in Glencoe Station, Cape Breton, he was especially noted for performing traditional celtic music on his twelve-string guitar. The first of his ten albums was released in 1968 and he had his own show for a while on CBC. He is the recipient of the East Coast Music Award’s Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2003 he received the Order of Canada. Essentially the first Canadian artist to reach national and international success performing the traditional east coast/celtic style of music, he was recognized as a trailblazer for the Cape Breton musicians who followed, such as the Barra MacNeils, the Rankin Family, Natalie MacMaster and Ashley MacIsaac. John Allen had been the Chieftain of the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games for the past twenty years.



### Paul Fleming 1937- 2006

On 16 September 2006, Paul stopped at a grocery store on the way to play his pipes at the Middleville Fair 65 km west of Ottawa when he suddenly died of a massive heart failure. No warning for him or for any of us. We lost a fellow piper, a good friend, an educator, a crazy ass skier, a throw caution to the wind sailor, and a tireless community supporter. Paul had two speeds through life- running- and running faster. As a result his only complaints were his knees- that in spite of surgery to both knees, they would still sometimes hold him back. But they never slowed his enthusiasm for life.



Paul learned to play the pipes in the 1950’s from the iconic P/M J.T MacKenzie, one of the founders of Maxville’s Glengarry Highland Games, and was very proud of his long and close friendship with J.T. He was a member of Scarborough’s Highland Creek Pipe Band for some 28 years. For the past several years, Paul recruited a couple of the pipers from the band to come with him to the Kingston Piping School, every other year. During those years, Paul always left his indelible trade mark with all of us- enthusiasm- enthusiasm- enthusiasm.

After he retired from teaching in Scarborough, he returned to Perth, his birth place, and re-engaged himself into the piping community. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Perth Band, the Gordons from Smiths Falls, and the Lanark Highlanders all ‘enjoyed’ Paul’s insistence that they play ‘those wonderful old tunes’. He was never without his pipes, and played at any and all gatherings, weddings, funerals, birthdays, and for himself - just for the fun of it. He called himself the Perth Piper.

Paul died as he lived – going flat out. You can bet that he’s still piping those wonderful old tunes to an appreciative audience. J.T must be so very glad to have him as company.



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