

PIPERS' and PIPE BAND SOCIETY of ONTARIO, OTTAWA BRANCH

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



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Ottawa Branch Summer Dates

- 21 June 2008** Veterans Memorial Highland Games (Spencerville)
www.veteransmemorialhg.com
- 13 July 2008** Rally 'Round Our Troops Parade and Band Concert (Carleton Place Legion)
* for more information email ron.barb@xplornet.com
- 31 July 08** B in the Park with Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band, St Patrick's Battalion Pipes and Drums (Mexico), Sons of Scotland Pipe Band www.sospb.com
- 01-02 August 08** Glengarry Highland Games
www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
- 03 August 2008** Montreal Highland Games
www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca
- 23 August 2008** North Lanark (Almonte) Highland Games
www.almontehighlandgames.com

VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHLAND GAMES - Saturday 21 June 2008, Spencerville, Ontario

The Veterans Memorial Highland Games will be back for another year on Saturday 21 June 2008. The Games will have the same format for piping, drumming and pipe bands as in previous years' contests. The 2008 Games will feature PPBSO-equivalent prize/travel money, a full slate of solo amateur piping/drumming events and pipe band contests for Grades 2 through Grade 5. Judges for this year are Brian Williamson, Andrew Hayes, Alan Clark, Amy Garson, and Steve Lanning.

The Veterans Memorial Highland Games were established in March 2004 with a mission to promote public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Scottish and military heritage, highlighting the strong ties between these two important elements of Canadian history in an annual event that honours veterans and those who have fallen in combat. This year's Games will continue to celebrate Scottish events such as piping and drumming solo competitions, pipe band competitions, highland dance competitions, heavy event competitions, Scottish country dancing and other celtic entertainment playing during the afternoon and evening in the Edwardsburgh Community Centre.

For more information, the Games' web-site is available at www.veteransmemorialhg.com, or please feel free to email for more information at sbush@xplornet.com.

Announcements

2nd Annual Kenneth Bush Invitational Piping Competition

For the second year in a row the Veterans Memorial Highland Games (Spencerville) is pleased to announce the running of the Kenneth Bush Memorial Invitational Piping Competition. Mr. Bush attended innumerable highland games, and followed his children to many highland games all over Canada and the United States. Mr. Bush died on October 18, 2006. In his honour, the second edition of this contest will take place on Friday, June 20th, 2008 at the United Church in Spencerville at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 at the door and \$5.00 if you show your advance ticket to the VMHG Games on Saturday June 21st. If you would like more information or if you have any questions or comments, please email the Games secretary-treasurer, Maggie Bush at sbush@xplornet.com.

UNITED WAY OF OTTAWA honours Sons of Scotland Pipe Band

Congratulations to the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa in recognition of the band's hard work and hundreds of volunteer hours dedicated to the local community. The band has been named in the United Way/Centraide Ottawa Nomination Honour Roll for the 2008 Community Builder of the Year Award in the category of Community Capacity Building!! The 2008 Community Builder of the Year Awards Gala took place at the Ottawa Congress Centre on Thursday 29 May 2008.

B in the Park

An evening of Celtic excellence

Featuring: Dowco Triumph Street Pipe Band from Vancouver, St. Patrick's Battalion Pipes and Drums from Mexico City, and the Sons of Scotland Pipe Bands (also the Katharine Robinson School of Dance celebrating their 40th anniversary)

Thursday 31 July 2008

Confederation Park, Ottawa

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Tickets only \$ 10.00

**on sale at O'Shea's Market Ireland on Sparks Street
and the Scottish and Irish Store at 194 Robertson Road, Bells Corners.**

Visit www.sospb.com for more information.

Door prize is Airfare for two to Scotland courtesy of Zoom Airlines

The park's entertainment will continue until 11:00 pm in the new beer tent with entertainment from Duncan Gillis and friends. This is also the launch party of the Rideau Canal Festival, and the park will have lots of interesting information on living green and celebrating the heritage of the Rideau Canal. Visit their site at www.rideaucanalfestival.ca

This is the eighth 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 Jack Yourt, who has just celebrated 20 years as the Treasurer of the PPBSO Ottawa Branch. As well as being the Chair of the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal (Canada) committee, Jack has proven that you don't have to be a gold medalist to have a huge impact on the piping and drumming world.

John (Jack) Cameron Yourt

It's amazing to think that it was all the way back in the 1987/1988 season that Jack Yourt saw fit to join the PPBSO Ottawa Branch Executive as the treasurer. Twenty years later he is still a fixture at all our local Highland Games and at our fall/winter knock-out contest series tending the till as everyone comes through the door. As with all volunteer positions, it is a thankless task but one that Jack has now faithfully carried out for the past twenty years and for that very special dedication we are all extremely grateful.

Born in rural Ross Township, near a little hamlet called Cobden nestled in between Renfrew and Pembroke, Jack first started on the pipes at about the age of fifteen with the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Pipe Band. His first teacher was Cecil McGregor but his first serious instruction came from James Shear McHardy IV who was from a well known piping family outside Aberdeen. McHardy's father had been the piper to Queen Victoria from 1877-1882 and had received his tutelage from William Ross. The shields Jack currently has on his tenor drones are medals which were won by McHardy's father back in his youth.



Jack played first with the Lanark and Renfrew Pipe Band from 1955 to 1958. From 1958 to 1962 he played with the Arnprior Legion Pipe Band which was then under the direction of Pipe Major James McHardy. From 1962 to 1969 he played with the Carleton Place Legion Pipe Band under Pipe Major Art Evoy and in about 1966 also rejoined the Lanark and Renfrew playing with both bands until the Lanark and Renfrew disbanded in 1968.

In 1969 Jack moved to Winchester where he joined the Kemptville Legion Pipe Band, but work and travel got in the way of his piping and he had to take a bit of a sabbatical from the pipe band world. In 1978 he found the time to get back at it and rejoined the Kemptville Legion under Pipe Major Reid McKim. He stayed with this band until 1986.

Jack has long been associated with the Ottawa Police Service Pipe Band, and he joined that band in 1985 under well known and respected Pipe Major Pat Hayes. He has been a stalwart member of that band ever since. In the year 2000, Jack also signed on as an original member of the new RCMP Pipes and Drums of the National Capital Region (NCR) under P/M Pat Hayes who with S/Sgt (now A/Comm) Graham Muir started the RCMP pipe band in Ottawa. This band has since come under the direction of Pipe Major Graeme Ogilvie. The RCMP pipe band was formed through a very unique partnership with the Ottawa Police and Jack continues to exemplify that special relationship as he still plays with both bands.

Although work took him away from bands starting in 1969, Jack was still able to find time to take lessons to improve his level of play. He enrolled in the Glengarry School of Piping and Drumming and took tutelage from Pipe Major J.T. MacKenzie for a year and then from Roger Martin for about another year after that. In 1971 he started full time tuition from Pipe Major Jock Stewart and has stayed with him ever since. Jock, a WWII vet and Gordon Highlander, was trained by his father who when with the Army played with Donald MacLean of Lewis and Wee Donald MacLeod (one of his major teachers). When Jack joined the Ottawa Police Service band he also received instruction from Pat Hayes and took lessons from Scott MacAulay for two winters.



As well as joining the Executive of the Ottawa Branch in 1987/1988, Jack also became involved in the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal (Canada) contest thirteen years ago when the contest moved from Cambridge to Maxville for 1995. (This major solo contest, established by Major Archie Cairns with support from Capt John MacLellan, was first held at the City of Ottawa Highland Games in 1973, moved to Cambridge between 1985 to 1994 and then back to Maxville). He started as a steward under the first Chairman Alan McKinnon, and then became the Chief Steward under Chris MacPherson. In 1997 Jack took over the Chair of the committee, became a Director on the Glengarry Highland Games committee and has been in regular contact with the best solo pipers in North America and judges worldwide since.

There is nothing in Jack's life that suggests that it has been boring. For 36 years a power lineman with Ontario Hydro, Jack was also an experienced pilot and an accomplished downhill skier (until he fractured his hip in a skiing accident in 1995). He has an eclectic collection of sporrans (eighteen!!!) and kilts (thirteen!!!) which means he probably is one of the few men around who requires more closet space than his wife!!! His bagpipes are Gillanders and MacLeod, commissioned to be made in 1985 through Colin MacLellan and Captain John MacLellan, who personally hand picked the chanter. He uses



Kinnaird drone reeds and is especially fond of the L&M Scotian pipe bag that he thinks is quite an extraordinary accomplishment. Jack also has in his collection a set of Lawries, a set of Robertsons, a set of Alexander Glens, a set of McCallans, a set of Graingers, and a set of Gibson fireside pipes. Jack has run TLC maintenance for bagpipes and has refurbished over 200 sets of bagpipes in the past fifteen years, and for the past 12-13 years he has used his "spare" time to teach piping to many new aspiring students. The only thing that Jack has not done is become proficient at the computer, but thanks to his lovely wife Linda, who not only has the extraordinary patience to allow Jack to indulge all the time he does in his "hobby" but is the hidden talent behind the scene who maintains all the computer files and monitors all the internet/email traffic on Jack's behalf.

With the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) Pipe Band Jack has been to Estes Park, Colorado and Vancouver twice for Grey Cup parades. He's been to Cleveland fourteen times with the band for the US Peace Officers Memorial Parade and Service. Making a trip for which very few will have the opportunity, Jack joined the OPS on stage at Carnegie Hall in NYC in October 2003 to play for a program in remembrance of the 9/11 attacks. Jack is very quick to say that the best band trip he ever experienced was Bermuda in 2006, again with the OPS. He notes that that trip has been absolutely the highlight of his piping life (see photo to left). Surprisingly, Jack has only been to Scotland once in his life and it was not to play pipes.

In the Ottawa area, there is not a person on the who's who list who has not had a chance to meet Jack and experience the "Jack Yourt stride" as he pipes in another dignitary at the exclusive Canadian Club where he's had the opportunity to play for people like the Dalai Lama (below left), former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister Harper, Premier Ralph Klein, all the American Ambassadors for the past eight years, and a particular favourite, General Rick Hillier. With his associations with the OPS and the RCMP, Jack has also been a frequent visitor with Ottawa Police Commissioners Ford, Bevan and White and RCMP Commissioners Zaccardelli, Busson and Elliott. Jack was especially proud (and surprised!!) to find that the current RCMP Commissioner, William Elliott, actually has a photo of Jack prominently on his desk!!! Actually the photo is of the Commissioner's family and Jack happens to be in the foreground, but Jack is definitely there by the Commissioner's side every day at the office!!!



Few people have had the impact on the local piping and drumming community as much as Jack Yourt. With PPBSO membership #44, Jack has been involved a long time both from a playing aspect, on the Ottawa Branch committee and the Gold Medal committee. There can be no question that he is a very unique individual, one of the kindest gentlemen you would want to meet, and the thousands of hours that he has volunteered to our craft and the hundreds of people he has helped cannot be overstated. We've been extraordinarily lucky to have him as a member of the Ottawa Branch.



OTTAWA BRANCH IN-DOOR GAMES, 10 MAY 2008 *** RESULTS ***



Judges: Brian Williamson, Amy Garson, David Clyde, Kahlil Cappuccino, Steve Lanning

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
Grade 2 Pipe Band	<i>Glengarry Gr2</i>		
Grade 3 Pipe Band	<i>Arnprior-McNab</i>		
Grade 4 Pipe Band	<i>Rob Roy</i>	<i>Sons of Scotland Gr4</i>	<i>Glengarry Gr4</i>
Grade 5 Pipe Band	<i>Sam Scott Memorial</i>	<i>Sons of Scotland Gr5</i>	<i>Smiths Falls Gordons</i>
Event	1st	2nd	3rd
Piping Open March	<i>Allison MacDonald</i>	<i>Cameron Baskerville</i>	<i>Andrew Munro</i>
Piping Open Strathspey/Reel	<i>Jonathan Verrett</i>	<i>Allison MacDonald</i>	<i>Ross Davison</i>
Piping Open Hornpipe/Jig	<i>Katie Buckland</i>	<i>Allison MacDonald</i>	<i>Jonathan Verrett</i>
Piping Grade 3 March	<i>Allison Bell</i>	<i>MacGregor van de Ven</i>	<i>Matt Goral</i>
Piping Grade 3 S/R	<i>MacGregor van de Ven</i>	<i>Allison Bell</i>	<i>Eric Kilpatrick</i>
Piping Grade 4 March	<i>Michael Ahronson</i>	<i>Liam Melville</i>	<i>Lindsay Bell</i>
Piping Grade 5 March	<i>Ryan Kavanaugh</i>	<i>Eric Noden</i>	<i>Dan Stewart</i>
Piping Practice Chanter	<i>Samuel Priddle</i>	<i>John Steele</i>	
Open Amateur Piobaireachd	<i>Allison MacDonald</i>	<i>Lyle Davidson</i>	<i>Jonathan Verrett</i>
Junior Piobaireachd	<i>David Campbell</i>	<i>Eric Noden</i>	<i>Allison Bell</i>
Novice Piobaireachd	<i>Camden Garson</i>	<i>Eric Kilpatrick</i>	<i>Taylor Williams</i>
Age 40+ March	<i>Beth Cleaton</i>		
Drumming Open MSR	<i>Iain Bell</i>		
Drumming Grade 3 March	<i>Troy Hamstra</i>		
Drumming Grade 4 March	<i>Dylan Stewart</i>	<i>Cailin Robertson</i>	<i>Erica Pulling</i>
Drumming Grade 5 March	<i>Shaun Melnyk</i>	<i>Catherine Kern</i>	<i>Sheila Cornelisse</i>
Drumming Practice Pad	<i>Andrew Larabie</i>	<i>Liam Morin</i>	<i>Ali Hickman</i>
Drumming Open Bass	<i>Kent Stewart</i>	<i>Derek Willis</i>	<i>Lee Taylor</i>
Drumming Flourishing Tenor	<i>Dylan Stewart</i>	<i>Dawn Gordon</i>	<i>Melissa Branco</i>



Ottawa Branch Indoors 2008 Soloists - Trophy Winners



Samuel Priddle
*Donald Killin Memorial
Practice Chanter*



Allison Bell
*Donnelly Targe
Grade 3 March*



Allison MacDonald
*Special Services Force Trophy Cameron Highlanders Trophy
Open Piobaireachd Piper of the Day*

Eastern Ontario Championship Awards

See the current standings on the Ottawa Branch web-site at www.ppbso-ottawa.org. Results to date include those from the Smiths Falls Indoors, the Ottawa Branch Indoors and the Kingston Celtfest.

Kingston Celtfest *Saturday 24 May 2008*
Lake Ontario Park, Kingston, Ontario

Lake Ontario Park was the site of the 4th annual OPG Kingston Celtfest. We were once again blessed with good weather and all who were in attendance witnessed the growth of the event into a mini Highland Games. Judges for the day included Bob Worrall, Michael Grey, Michael Hunter and Hugh Goldie.

This year's event included: a Highland Dancing competition featuring over 115 competitors, a full slate of amateur solo piping and drumming events (featuring over 70 competitors), 12 pipe bands competing in four different grades, including our first ever Grade 2 competition, many Scottish vendors, a BBQ which sold hamburgers, sausages, drinks all day, a Beer Tent which remained busy well into the evening, and a new Fish Fry which received rave reviews.

Admission to the event was free. This resulted in a very large crowd in attendance to support all participants. Thank you to Ontario Power Generation, First Canada Inns and the Ottawa branch of the PPBSO for their support of this event. Thank you also to all in the area who supported this event. Given our distance from other contests, it is important that we all work together to support the great events that are happening in our own region. Hopefully this event (and all others in the Ottawa region) will continue to grow. See you again next year at Celtfest!!

O.P.G Kingston Celfest – Saturday 24 May 2008.... Results



BANDS

Grade 2	1 st Niagara Police	2 nd Glengarry	
Grade 3	1 st Arnprior-McNab		
Grade 4	1 st Rob Roy	2 nd Niagara Police	3 rd Ottawa Police Service
Grade 5	1 st Sam Scott Memorial	2 nd Sons of Scotland	3 rd Smiths Falls Gordons

PIPING

Open MSR	1 st Allison MacDonald	2 nd Jonathan Verrett	3 rd Michael Griggs
Open Jig	1 st Jonathan Verrett	2 nd Allison MacDonald	3 rd Cameron Baskerville
Gr 3 March	1 st Eric Kilpatrick	2 nd Allison Bell	3 rd Michael McDonald
Gr 3 S/R	1 st MacGregor van de Ven	2 nd Allison Bell	3 rd Robert Fournier
Gr 4 March	1 st Liam Melville	2 nd Michael Ahronson	3 rd Lindsay Bell
Gr 5 March	1 st Ian Noble	2 nd Eric Noden	3 rd Robert Bryer
Practice Chanter	1 st Branna McDougall	2 nd Isaac Kilpatrick	3 rd Anna Parks
Interm Piobaireachd	1 st Lyle Davidson	2 nd Ross Davison	
Junior Piobaireachd	1 st MacGregor van de Ven	2 nd Dave Campbell	3 rd Lindsay Bell
Novice Piobaireachd	1 st Anna Savage	2 nd Eric Kilpatrick	3 rd Graeme Burns

DRUMMING

Open MSR	1 st Iain Bell		
Grade 3 MSR	1 st James Riddick	2 nd Troy Hamstra	
Gr 4 March	1 st Erica Pulling	2 nd Cailin Robertson	3 rd Tomm MacKenzie
Gr 5 March	1 st Billy Creber	2 nd Gabriel Grove	3 rd Shaun Melnyk
Practice Pad	1 st Andrew Larabie	2 nd Liam Moran	3 rd Kelsey Bailey



