

PIPERS' and PIPE BAND SOCIETY of ONTARIO, OTTAWA BRANCH

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



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***** Major Archie Cairns Cup Results *****



The seventh annual Major Archie Cairns Cup took place Saturday 05 January 2008 at the Walkley Armouries Officers' Mess. This very special competition is contested each year to give the younger pipers in the Ottawa Branch region an opportunity to play for prizes normally restricted to older players and higher grades. With the competitors in this contest comprising those from Grade 4 and below, the tune requirements are a Slow Air and four parts of a 6/8 March, which allows for a nice variety in the tune selection. The winner of this year's contest (pictured to left) was MacGregor van de Ven of the Rob Roy Pipe Band. Second place went to Graeme Burns (centre) and third place to Dylan Gordon (right).



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*** FEBRUARY MEETING *** ALLAN QUINN MEMORIAL ***

Includes performance by the Air Command Pipes and Drums

Saturday 02 February 2008. 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 *****



Competitor Level: Open Amateur March, Strathspey and Reel (minimum four parted tunes)

Drumming "A" Division.... Hornpipe/Jig

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

(a reminder that a "duty piper" is available for all drumming competitors (if possible, provide music in advance to graeme.ogilvie@sympatico.ca).

January Knock-Out Contests Results The knock-out series continued on 05 January 2008 featuring the “B” Division pipers participating in the Cairns Cup, playing a slow air into a four-parted 6/8 Jig. The “B” Division drummers rounded out the evening with 6/8 Marches. Our thanks go out to P/M Alan Clark, our piping adjudicator for this contest, and to Bob Waugh who again filled in as our drumming adjudicator. Following the Cairns Cup, the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa show band, under the direction of Pipe Major Alan Clark put on another extremely entertaining concert of traditional and not-so traditional music. Using guitar, bass guitar, a drum kit, it was a highly enjoyable thirty minute show. Results for the evening’s contests were as follows:

Piping “B” Division

- 1st MacGregor van de Ven
- 2nd Graeme Burns
- 3rd Dylan Gordon
- 4th Camden Garson
- 5th Michael Ahronson
- 6th James Gendron



Drumming “B” Division

- 1st James Riddick
- 2nd Brendan Vallee
- 3rd Erica Pulling



Future Ottawa Branch Dates

- 01 March 2008** *Ottawa Branch Knock-Out Finals, Walkley Mess*
 Guest performers.... Glengarry Grade 2 Pipe Band
- 05 April 2008** *Ottawa Branch Piping Workshop and Open Solo Piping Contest*
- 26 April 2008** *Smiths Falls Indoor Games*
- 10 May 2008** *Ottawa Branch Indoor Games... Kemptville, Ontario*
- 24 May 2008** *OPG Kingston Celtfest*
- 30 Jun - 04 July 2008** *Kingston School of Scottish Music and Dance – Bob Worrall, Glenn Brown, Scott Bell, Ross Brown, Graham Kirkwood, John Fisher, Tyler Fry*

**** NOTE: Winchester Highland Games move to Kemptville for 2008. Bigger and better!!!**

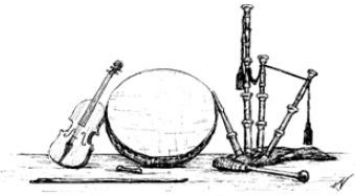
***** PPBSO 2008 MEMBERSHIPS *****

In accordance with the PPBSO web-site, memberships paid on or before 31 January 2008 are \$57.75 (GST included). For memberships paid after 31 Jan 08, a monthly surtax of \$5.00 plus GST will apply (renewing members only). Membership forms are available on the Ottawa Branch web-site. Make sure you get your membership now!!!

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Events

Rob Roy Pipe Band & Highland Dancers are pleased to present



O.P.G. Kingston Celfest 2008

Date: Saturday May 24, 2008

Lake Ontario Park, Kingston Ontario

Web-site: robroypipeband.com

Please join us in our continued efforts to improve and expand this competitor-friendly contest.

Support your branch events and earn **Eastern Ontario Champion Supreme points in the process!**

Highlights

- Amateur solo piping/drumming events
- Pipe Band contests for Grades 2 to 5
- Highland Dancing contest
- Scottish Vendors
- Food
- Post-contest fish-fry

Contact person: Scott Bell

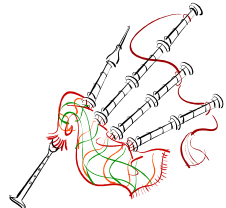
Phone: 613-542-7287
E-mail: swb1@post.queensu.ca



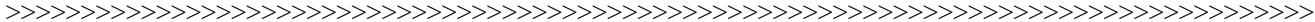
RCMP Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers Robbie Burns Fund-Raiser
Sunday 27 January 2008, 2:30 pm, at Dominion Chalmers United Church



Featuring the RCMP Pipes and Drums (NCR), the RCMP Highland Dancers, Alexis MacIsaac of Riverdance, Garth and Brad Hampson, a special performance of Gaelic singing by world famous Cathy Ann MacPhee, and more.



Tickets (\$20, children under 12 free) will be available in the new year from Garth Hampson at 613-824-2350 or from any member of the RCMP Pipes and Drums.



DRUM MAJOR WORKSHOP
March 21-23, 2008
Bay St. Armoury, 715 Bay St., Victoria, BC

The Canmore Highland Games and the Pipes and Drums of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Victoria) are pleased to jointly present this valuable training for amateur to professional Drum Majors by Champion Drum Major Norm MacKenzie. This is part of our ongoing effort to create standardized training for Drum Majors in Canada. Areas of instruction will touch on the principles of a Drum Major: Dress, Marching and Department, Flourishing, and Band Drills and Formation. For further info contact Sally Garen at (403) 678-2579 or by email at sgaren@shaw.ca. Registration deadline is 01 March 2008.



26 April 2008

Smiths Falls Spring Fling Indoor Competition

Place: Smiths Falls High School, Smiths Falls, Ontario

Timings – Solos start at 8:30 am, Bands start at 1:00 pm

Band and Solo Grades – Grades 5, 4 and 3 in accordance with PPBSO rules

Other Events – Novice and Junior Piob, Adult Novice (over 40 & never competed at Gr5 or above), Hornpipe/Jig Trio (4 parts each tune, 2 pipes, 1 side), and Drummers Salute (minimum 2 sides plus one other percussion, eg. side, tenor, bass.... 2-5 minutes)

New This Year – cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in band competitions.

For more info, contact: brooke@squarepeg.ca

30 Jun - 04 July 2008

Kingston School of Scottish Music & Dance

Place: Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Piping Instructors – Bob Worrall, Glenn Brown, Scott Bell, Ross Brown

Piping Instructors – John Fisher, Graham Kirkwood

Piping Instructors – Tyler Fry

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

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

Results

MID-WEST HIGHLAND ARTS FUND - WINTER STORM

Kansas City 11 January 2008

Gold Medal Bass Drumming.... 1st Place Kahlil Cappuccino

Gold Medal Piobaireachd.... 2nd Place Andrew Hayes

Gold Medal Ceol Beag.... 3rd Place Andrew Hayes

Passages

Brenda Hayes 1952-2007

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to Brenda Hayes, wife to the late Pipe Major (Superintendent) Pat Hayes of the Ottawa Police Service Pipe Band, and mother to Andrew and Shannon Hayes. She passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Friday 28 December 2007 at the very young age of 55. Brenda was a well known attendee at all PPBSO highland games and in particular at all piping-related activities in Eastern Ontario. Along with Pat and Andrew, an extremely staunch supporter of all our local events, she will be greatly missed by everyone in our pipe band community.



The **Arnprior - McNab Pipe Band** is currently recruiting pipers and drummers. Looking for excitement, challenges and great music, then this is your band. The Grade 3 band is devoted to the development of musicianship and team work in all it's players at a competitive level. Plans are in effect to start up a Grade 5 band to help youths further their playing abilities.

Our team will be led by P/M Bobbie Smith Jr and new L/D Carly Coulson (former RMM Gr.2). For any inquiries please contact Bobbie at 613-432-6272. Keep your eyes open for our new web-site in the works.

Bagpipes an environmental threat?

They were once outlawed for being used as weapons of war. Now, bagpipes have been blasted as an environmental menace. Over-intensive logging means that the African wood used to make Scotland's national instrument faces being wiped out. Conservation groups are letting out skirls of protest, urging musicians and instrument manufacturers to make sure their pipes come from eco-friendly sources. As part of the campaign, Scots are being asked to fund the planting of "bagpipe trees" in a bid to atone for the environmental damage.

Traditionally the chanter on the bottom of Highland pipes, which is used to create the melody, was made from native woods such as bog oak. But Scottish mariners who traveled to Africa in the 18th century returned with supplies of African Blackwood, which proved to be far more resilient and produced a sweeter sound. Since then the species, known as Mpingo in Swahili, has been a staple component of most quality pipes. Conservation group Fauna & Flora International (FFI) said urgent action is needed to prevent the species being lost. "With its beauty, fine grain, durable structure and natural oils no other wood looks - or sounds - the same as African Blackwood," said its campaign co-coordinator Georgina Magin. "But it has been heavily exploited for woodwind instruments like bagpipes and stocks are now seriously depleted. The African tree takes 80 years to reach just 40cm in height. "If woodlands and the valuable timbers they contain are managed unsustainably, species such as African Blackwood will become extinct. "Already in northern Tanzania, where unsustainable logging occurs, Blackwood and other species are threatened with commercial extinction. "This is a pivotal time for Blackwood, and musicians can play a crucial role in ensuring this unique timber remains available long into the future." It is believed that as much as 70% of Blackwood trees in Tanzania have already been felled.

The African-based Mpingo Conservation Project (MCP) is working with Tanzanian residents to create, own and manage sustainable supplies of the timber. When managed in this way communities, who previously received a pittance, can earn one hundred times more per log of Blackwood harvested from the forest," said spokesman Andrew Gordon-Maclean. "In this way, Blackwood, which is one of the most valuable hardwoods in the world, could provide an economic incentive to local people to protect and sustainably manage their neighbouring forests. The increased revenue will make a significant difference to rural livelihoods and help alleviate extreme poverty in some of the poorest communities in East Africa." The MCP and FFI are hopeful that by 2009 sustainably certified Blackwood will be on the market. "This will mean that musicians will be in no doubt that the wood in the instrument they are buying has been legally felled and a fair price has been paid to its local custodians," said Gordon-Maclean. "We would urge concerned pipers to demand their suppliers explain where they source their Blackwood so it is not at the expense of poor African farmers and the global environment."

In the meantime, people have been flocking to help reforest parts of Tanzania. Ethical present firm Good Gifts is urging people to plant bagpipe trees. It is pledging to plant 21 Blackwood saplings for £15, 50 for £35 and 60 for £42. Spokeswoman Kirsty Thomson said: "The response so far - particularly from Scotland - has been incredible. "The gift of bagpipe trees is becoming an unlikely best-seller this Christmas. "It is helping to rebuild forests, conserve water, reduce soil erosion, generate income and keep musicians skirling."

But pipe major and manufacturer David MacMurchie, who uses Blackwood, was less than impressed by the campaign. "I for one am not going to be made to feel guilty by a bunch of misguided environmental do-gooders," he said. "I am sure that the communities in Africa use a hell of a lot more Blackwood than bagpipe manufacturers. "It is unfair and misleading to try to blame it all on us." MacMurchie, a former member of the band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, said he was happy to make pipes from plastic, but said the overwhelming public demand was for traditional wooden instruments. Other alternative woods, such as ebony, are vulnerable to splitting and, in some areas, are themselves under threat. Most pipe manufacturers believe that no other wood has the same durability and resonance as the Blackwood.

The full article appeared in Scotland On Sunday newspaper.

Source: <http://heritage.scotsman.com/scotland/Bagpipes-a-threat-to-the.3586303.jp>

*** **Famous Quotes** (from *Scottish Quotations* by Hazel Mills) ***

- * "There are few more impressive sights in the world than a Scotsman on the make". J.M. Barrie (1860-1937)
- * "A Scot is a man who keeps the Sabbath, and everything else he can lay his hands on". Chic Murray (1919-1985)
- * In describing Lord Lovat.... "The handsomest man ever to cut a throat". Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1960)
- * Referring to Edinburgh.... "Enchanting ... it shall make a delightful summer capital when we invade Britain". Joseph Goebbels (1897-1945)


*** **And for the Rest of the Story - Mairi's Wedding** ***

Another song that everyone assumes to be "traditional", but is not. The tune to which this song is sung does in fact go back at least to an untitled version found in the Marjorie Kennedy-Fraser collection of music of the Hebrides, published in 1909. However, one of the best known Scottish songs, also known as the Lewis Bridal Song, was written for Mary McNiven of Islay who was born in 1908. The song was originally written in Gaelic as Màiri Bhàn for the Mod of 1935 - that's why she was "Mairi" instead of "Mary" (she'd won a gold medal for singing at the Mod of 1934). Her friend Johnny Bannerman composed it and it was first sung to her at the Old Highlanders Institute in Glasgow's Elmbank Street. It was translated into English a year later, by Sir Hugh Robertson. Although Mary herself was real, the wedding wasn't. She actually got married to someone different, Skye-born sea captain John Campbell, six years later.

*** **Bagpipes For Sale** ***

- * One set ivory mounted 1800's cocus wood David Glen pipes nickel ferrules, flat cocus wood ring caps. Excellent condition. No warps or damage. Original blowpipe.
- * One set Glen pipes (early 1900's?) – cocus wood, nickel ferrules, flat cocus wood ring cap. Celluloid mounts, original blowpipe. No warps, or damage. Excellent condition.

Serious inquiries only, please. Contact Rob McCarthy at 842-3288 or at office@mccarthyhighland.com.



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