

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



#160

**The official monthly publication of  
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**



B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia's Pipers' Association

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April 1977

NO 160

Table of Contents

Letter to the Editor  
Piob. History  
Annual Dinner  
Knock Out and P/M Morrison's Recital  
Annual Gathering Results  
White Heather Show  
Coming Events  
Salute to the Thistle  
Vancouver Ladies Festival Results  
Records for Sale



2477 Welcher,  
Coquitlam, B. C.

Dear Sir,

The question of certificates has reared its head again. Whether by S. MacNeil, (I wonder who gave his uncle the "Blind Piper" and Wm. Ross certificates) or by some other school of piping.

I am not against certificates as a goal to reach, but it does not necessarily make the holder of a certificate an outstanding teacher or judge.

I have heard good players who were not outstanding either as teachers or judges. They like to hear piping the way they taught and had a "closed mind" to other styles of playing.

I think a good teacher or judge needs a very keen ear and a great amount of concentration, which a certificate does not give. If he charges money for teaching, he should keep a close watch over his pupil, I have noticed some young competitors with the thumb of the bottom hand in the wrong position for the proper balance.

Also anyone wanting to learn the pipes can accomplish this if he or she seeks out the proper tutor as proven by the many good players in this area turned out in the past.

P. M. Donald MacLeod wrote awhile back in this "News Letter" expressing his thoughts on certificates and from what I read he was not too impressed.

I do not think a good ear or concentration can be brought about by a piece of paper.

Yours truly,

G. K. Allan.

1092 Moyse Crescent  
Nanaimo, B. C.  
V9S 2G6

Dear Sir:

After many requests and several meetings the executive of the Nanaimo Highland Games have decided to go ahead and put on their Gathering July the ninth.

To entice the bands over for the Games we intend to pay fifty dollars appearance money. This is the first time over here, but we thought it a must, first because of the higher Ferry rates and second the lack of band entries the past few years.

I realize that quite a few of the top bands will be in Kimberly for the Tattoo being held there. It is distressing that the Tattoo had to be on the same day as the Nanaimo Games.

It is our hope that many of the bands not going to Kimberly, will go all out and make an extra effort to come to Nanaimo and enjoy the day with us.

Our prize money is on a par with most of the Gatherings in the North West, in some cases better. We will have competent adjudicators for the piping and drumming.

We also belong to the International which in itself gives the competitors a chance to pick up points for the International trophies.

There will be no gate charge at Nanaimo even though we know that it will cost us about fifty five hundred dollars for the day. It is a lot of money, so we really hope all competitors and bands will get behind us and respond to our plea.

I write this wee note to remind all pipers and pipe band leaders that the Nanaimo Highland Games are on once more after a one year absence.

Yours Truly,  
Ian Wallace

\*\*\*\*\*

Send all enquiries regarding entries to above address.

PATRICK OG MACCRIMMON'S LAMENT  
Cumha Phadruig Oig Mhic Craimein

PATRICK Og was the son of Patrick Mor MacCrimmon, and he succeeded his father as hereditary piper at Dunvegan. This Lament was composed while Patrick Og was still living. The composer was John MacKay, better known as "Am Piobaire Dall," or the blind piper, who was also a Gaelic bard of some note. He was born at Gairloch, Ross-shire, in 1666, and lived for the long period of ninety-eight years. He acquired the elements of music from his father, "Ruairidh Dall," or blind Rory, who was a native of Sutherlandshire. John Dall Mackay was sent to be educated at the MacCrimmon College, where he soon outstripped all the other students, a fact which caused them to seek to get rid of him by throwing him over a cliff---known to this day as "The blind Man's Leap"---"Leum an Doill." Leaving the College at Skye he succeeded his father at Gairloch, where he composed many Piobrochs, Reels, and Jigs. Having heard of the demise of his preceptor, Patrick Og MacCrimmon, he composed a Lament for him. Some time afterwards he discovered that the report was unfounded, and decided to visit Skye. Among the tunes he played during his visit was the recently composed Lament. MacCrimmon enquired where he had learned it, and, after some hesitation, John Dall admitted that he had composed it for Patrick Og. "Indeed," said MacCrimmon, "Cumha Phadruig Oig's e fhein beo fhathast" (a Lament for Patrick Og and he still alive), adding, "I must learn to play my own Lament." John Dall MacKay died in 1754.

HISTORIC, BIOGRAPHIC AND LEGENDARY NOTES TO THE TUNES by  
"FIONN"

Courtesy of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society.

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LIST OF FORTHCOMING HIGHLAND GAMES

May 21st.	Victoria, MacDonald Park, G. S. Geddes 1651 Mortimer St. Victoria, V8P 3A7
June 4th.	Bellingham, P. O Box 1477 Ph. (206) 734-4337
June 11th.	New Westminster, Ishbell Ross 834 Burnaby St. New Westminster. 526-7905
June 18th.	Legion Games, Chilliwack

1642 Mary Hill  
Port Coquitlam  
Ph. 941-5530

B. C. Pipers' Association

Dear Members,

I would like to inform you of our activities in the City of Port Coquitlam this May in regards to our theme, "A Salute to the Thistle".

We are having a Highland Dancing Competition and also a pipe band Competition. I would like to extend to your organization an invitation to attend these functions.

Here is a program of dates and times of our May Day Celebrations.

If your group would like to take part please join me in the wearing of your kilt.

Sincerely yours,  
Lee Kallen,  
Festival Manager.

MAY DAY PROGRAM

"A SALUTE TO THE THISTLE"

May 24th	EVENING BAND CONCERT 7:30 p. m. George Pearkes Junior Secondary School Production of "MAN IN A BOWLER HAT" Directed by Cindy Shapka
25th	PORT COQUITLAM MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB Front of Rec Centre 2150 Wilson 6 p. m.
26th	PROVINCAL HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION No. 1 Arena 7 p. m.
27th	TEEN DANCE 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. No. 1 Arena
28th	PARADE 12:30 p.m. May Pole Dance Afternoon and Evening No. 1 Arena LANCER DANCE AND CHILDREN DANCE --Evening No. 1 Arena MAY DAY BAZAAR - No 2 Arena SILVER CHORD CHOIR TEA-Afternoon No. 2 Arena
29th	HORSE SHOW 10 a.m. Horse Arena PIPE BAND COMPETITION Noon No. 1 Arena GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT 3 p.m. No. 1 Arena MAY DAY BAZAAR - No. 2 Arena
26th - 29th	M. F. Wagner Shows Carnival - Parking lot area outside of No. 2 Arena



## B. C. Pipers' Annual Dinner and Dance

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held in the SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM, 12th and Fir, Vancouver B. C., April 30, 1977 get your tickets early, price \$9:00 each. There will be a limited number of tickets available as the maximum capacity of the Auditorium is 200 (fire regulations) so if you plan to attend get in touch with any board member for your tickets. Caterers for the dinner will be the same as last year which by all reports was excellent.

The highlight of the evening will be the final of the Trio Competition so don't forget fellow members and bagpipe lovers get your tickets early and come along April 30th, and hear the best, have an excellent meal and a good dance you can't wish for more.

\*\*\*\*\*

Final of the trio competition will be a three way playoff, the Finalists are:

VICTORIA NO.1 - TRIUMPH ST. - VICTORIA NO.2

Anyone who has heard these trio's play will attest to the fact that some of the best piping in Canada or for that matter anywhere in the world, will be heard at the final on the night of the Annual Dinner.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sharon and Bruce Top are pleased to announce the birth of their first child a son, Ryan Peter. He arrived on Easter Sunday, April 10th, complete with chanter, its to be hoped he'll turn out as good a piper as his dad. Congradulations to both happy parents.

\*\*\*\*\*

Amidst all the piping turmoil and meeting old friends at the Annual Gathering one could be forgiven as a piper, to forget a very important part of our meeting, namely the drumming which again was of a very high standard, by some top notch drum corps.

We were very fortunate to secure the services of Mr. R. Annan, lately of Shotts & Dykehead, just recently moved to the Vancouver Area. Ron, as some may know, married Shiela Roane, last year and emigrated here just a few weeks ago, so Scotland's loss is our gain, and I'm sure we will hear lots more of Ron in the drumming circles in the near future. So thanks Ron for a job well done, my best wishes in the future in your new country.

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WHITE HEATHER SHOW

\*\*\*\*\*

This year's first show, jointly sponsored by the B. C. Pipers' Association and the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Friday April 22, 1977 at 8:00 p.m.

This Concert will be headlines by the "VOICE OF SCOTLAND" Kenneth McKellar with Helen MacArthur, soprano, comedian Lou Grant and a full supporting cast.

Remember the show will be for one night only, Friday April 22, 8:00 p.m.

Tickets available at the Vancouver Ticket Centre 683-3255 and all their outlets, use your charge card at Eaton's Department stores.

Tickets: \$7:00 : \$6:00 : \$5:00 - \$1:00 off the \$5:00 seats for Old Age Pensioners, Wheel chair space available.

\*\*\*\*\*

WANTED TO RENT

Formal dress jacket to wear with kilt, size 40 for a wedding on August 27. Please phone Bill Lockie at 266-5250 with details.

\*\*\*\*\*

Found At Annual Gathering small silver clan crest phone Mrs Ishabel Ross 526-7905 or Mr, A. Young 939-0041 for details.

\*\*\*\*\*

## KNOCKOUT AND RECITAL

The Piping recital by P/M Iain Morrison was held at the Scottish Auditorium on 2 April, the same night as the knockout between Richmond sen. No. 2 and Triumph St No. 2 with Triumph st. coming out an easy winner, as Richmond failed to show up. Triumph st. of course played, and sounded very well indeed, but it does get a bit tiresome when a band fails to turn up without even the common decency to notify anyone with a phone call beforehand, after all, these trio competitions were put on for the benefit of the bands. An entry fee was suggested as one alternative with the hope that it might make the trio's keener firstly as a larger pot, and secondly not to forfeit their entry fee. I don't want to dwell on this subject too long so a few words about P/M Iain Morrisons Piping recital, for those of you who were unlucky enough not to hear it, I believe it was one of the best ever played in Vancouver. I must point out that it is not only my opinion, but of countless others who commented on his performance, I could see quite a number of tape recorders going, and I know the recordings made for the B. C. Pipers turned out very well indeed, thanks to John MacDonald, who always does a first class job, so if you happen to read this article P/M Morrison, thank you again on behalf of the B. C. Pipers for a first class recital, and a first class job over two gruelling days of Judging, and also many many thanks to his regiment for making Iain available to us.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the March board meeting the question of the B. C. Pipers tape library was brought up, and it was generally agreed upon, to catalogue and make copies of the better recordings from years back, when some of these are duplicated they will be made available to members of the association for study and learning. I hope some will be ready by the next newsletter for listing, with names such as R. W. Brown, Bob Nicol, Donald McLeod, and Hector McFadyen. Im sure that they will be a benefit to all piping.

\*\*\*\*\*

The morning of the 45th Annual indoor gathering dawned to a steady rain and overcast skies and as I heard one person remark (typical games weather) which was indeed typical of the weather round the games last summer, but of course the magic word was indoor and in that respect we were very fortunate. The gathering being held in North Vancouver Rec. Centre, the location is quite good the tuning rooms are also fair. The acoustics in the main hall are not the best and the kitchen leaves a lot to be desired, but it is the only place we have found so far, with enough on the plus side to make the gathering workable.

It seems the rain did not keep people away as our numbers were up from last year both in participants and audience, the latter I must say were on there very best behavior and gave the pipers the utmost courtesy both when tuning and playing their pipes, a fact verified by the judge P. M. Iain Morrison.

It was very gratifying to see such a large entry from the Professional Pipers which after all is what we are striving for (the finished and polished piper) also the large entry from the miniature Bands, which was a keen competition indeed, and a warm hello to Clan McBain from Calgary, Viscount Park from stony Plain Alberta on their first visit to the B. C. Pipers Annual Gathering, I sincerely hope they will visit us again.

Also at this time I would like to extend all the very best to the rest of the Bands and Individual Pipers who make our gathering a success, one piper even came as far away as Illinois U. S. A.

There was a Caliedh at the windup which I personally thought was a bit of a flop, compared to last year. It might be worth looking into, about hiring some musicians to come and entertain after the games, but all in all, over the two days things went very well, P. M. Morrison has promised to send back his views on the games and on the piping he heard, which I hope to have in the next newsletter.

Sincerly A. Young

Edit.  
Pres.

B. C. PIPERS, ASSOCIATION  
45th ANNUAL GATHERING  
RESULTS

NOVICE MARCHES

1. Autumn Oberg
2. Wesley Eaton
3. Glen Robertson
4. Liz Clark

JUVENILE STRATHSPEY & REEL

1. Pauline Alakija
2. Kim Smith
3. Maureen Lee
4. Shelley Mutch

JUNIOR MARCHES

1. David Winter
2. Peter Aumonier
3. Terri Smith

AMATEUR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Bruce Gandy
2. Duncan Fraser
3. Grant Wilkie
4. Christine Waddell

AMATEUR STRATHSPEY & REEL

1. Alison Palmer
2. Bruce Gandy
3. Alan Wilson
4. Grant Wilkie

JUNIOR QUARTETTES

1. Richmond Jr.
2. City of Penticton

PROFESSIONAL PIOBAIREACHD

1. Jack Lee
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Hal Senyk
4. Ian Whitelaw

Juvenile Marches

1. Pauline Alakija
2. Maureen Lee
3. Moira Waddell
4. Geordie Mck. Young

JUNIOR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Peter Aumonier
2. Alison Duncan
3. Jack Eckersley

JUNIOR STRATHSPEY & REEL

1. Owen Reid
2. Peter Aumonier
3. David Winter Tie  
Alison Duncan

AMATEUR MARCHES

1. Bruce Gandy
2. Alan Wilson
3. Jim Stewart
4. Alison Palmer

JUNIOR MINIATURE BANDS

1. Richmond Jr.
2. Vancouver Ladies

DRUMMING

1. Richmond Jr.
2. Vancouver Ladies

PROFESSIONAL MARCHES  
STRATHSPEY & REEL

1. John A. MacLeod
2. Alan Walters
3. Steve Geddes

con't

PROFESSIONAL JIGS

1. Jack Lee
2. Alan Walters
3. Jill Laurie

SENIOR QUARTETTES

1. City of Victoria
2. Triumph Street Tie

SENIOR MINIATURE BANDS

1. Triumph Street
2. City of Victoria

DRUMMING

City of Victoria

TROPHIES

GLASGOW & DISTRICT ASSOC. TROPHY

also a chanter from the Duncan  
Watson Fund.

NICHOLSON TROPHY

also chanter from B. C. Pipers

GORDON SINCLAIR MEMORIAL TROPHY

RODERICK F. MCRAE TROPHY

also Kilberry Book from B. C. Pipers

CABER FEIDH TROPHY

DUNCAN WATSON MEMORIAL TROPHY

SERVICE CLEANERS TROPHY

ALSO THE BOUND EDITION OF THE  
PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY BOOK FROM  
B. C. PIPERS.

Winner of the Ross Collection presented by P/M. Fred Brodie  
for the highest points in Juvenile, Junior, & Amateur piping  
excluding piobaireachd - PAULINE ALAKIJA

MRS. WALTER DOUGLAS TROPHY

JOHN T. MCHARDY TROPHY

JOHN MACKENZIE MEMORIAL TROPHY

NOVICE PIPING

Autumn Oberg

JUVENILE AGGREGATE

Pauline Alakija

JUNIOR PIOBAIREACHD

Peter Aumonier

JUNIOR AGGREGATE

Peter Aumonier

AMATEUR PIOBAIREACHD

Bruce Gandy

AMATEUR MARCH

Bruce Gandy

AMATEUR AGGREGATE

Bruce Gandy

JUNIOR QUARTETTES

Richmond Junior P/B

MINIATURE BANDS\*DRUMMING

Richmond Junior P/B.

MINI BANDS

Richmond Junior P/B

The winner of the most promising piper in amateur classes is TERRI SMITH and wins the Roderick MacLeod Memorial Trophy. She will also receive a weeks scholarship from the Western Canada Summer School of Highland Dancing and piping and drumming. The organizers of the school are Heather Jolley and Terry Lee, and the scholarship being awarded is worth \$120.00. Bob Hardie from Scotland has been invited as the piping instructor and John Fisher from Victoria will teach the drumming. Students will receive a minimum of four hours of individual and class instruction per day.

MacCRIMMON MEMORIAL TROPHY

Presented with the MacCrimmon Medal

PROFESSIONAL PIOBAIREACHD

Jack Lee

DONALD MACDONALD MEMORIAL TROPHY

PROFESSIONAL JIGS

Jack Lee

MARY MACLEOD MEMORIAL TROPHY

Trip to Scotland to compete in one major competition there.

PROFESSIONAL AGGREGATE

Jack Lee

MACIVER MEMORIAL TROPHY

HIGHEST POINTS IN ALL EVENTS

Bruce Gandy

WALTER DOUGLAS TROPHY

Tie

SENIOR QUARTETTES

City of Victoria  
Triumph Street

TRIUMPH STREET PIPE BAND TROPHY

SENIOR MINI BANDS-DRUMMING

City of Victoria 22.5%

CITY OF PORT MOODY PIPE BAND TROPHY

SENIOR MINI BANDS

1. Triumph Street 94.1%
2. City of Victoria 92.85%

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VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND  
50th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL  
RESULTS

Friday February 25th 9:00 A. M.  
Event: CHANTER CLASS MARCH

- 1st. Cathy Bradshaw
- 2nd. Robert Zimich
- 3rd. Jeffry Harris

NOVICE-- MARCH

- 1st. Allan Bain
- 2nd. David Moore
- 3rd. Glenn Campbell

NOVICE SLOW AIR

- 1st. Brenda Lowen
- 2nd. Glenn Campbell
- 3rd. Wesley Eaton

AGGREGATE WINNER

Brenda Lowden Tied  
Allan Bain

JUVENILE MARCH

- 1st. Gordon Redmond
- 2nd. Maureen Lee
- 3rd. Selia Miller

JUVENILE STRATHSPEY & REEL

- 1st. Kim Smith
- 2nd. Geordie McKay Young
- 3rd. Moira Waddell

AGGREGATE WINNER

Kim Smith

JUNIOR PIPING MARCH

- 1st. Owen Reid
- 2nd. Cal MacLeod
- 3rd. David Winter

JUNIOR PIPING JIG

- 1st. Jack Eckersley
- 2nd. David Winter
- 3rd. Owen Reid

AGGREGATE WINNER

Owen Reid

Saturday February 26th

AMATEUR HORNPIPE

- 1st. Duncan Fraser
- 2nd. Allison Palmer
- 3rd. Jim Stewart & Christine Waddell

AMATEUR STRATHSPEY & REEL

- 1st. Allison Palmer
- 2nd. Judy Carl
- 3rd. Grant Wilkie

AGGREGATE WINNER

Allison Palmer

DRUMMING

NOVICE SIDE DRUM

1st. Maureen Murphy  
2nd. Sharon Barker  
3rd. Paul Smedman

SENIOR AMATEUR SIDE

1st. Kenned Cranswick

PIPE QUARTET JUNIOR

1st. Kiwanis Pipe Band  
2nd. Richmond Novice Pipe Band  
3rd. Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band

MINI BAND GR. 2

1st. C. P. Air Pipe Band  
2nd. Vancouver Ladies pipe Band  
3rd. Richmond Pipe Band

OPEN BAND

1st. City of Victoria Pipe Band  
2nd. C. P. Air Pipe Band  
3rd. Northwest Pipes & Drums

JUNIOR BASS DRUM

C. P. Air Pipe Band

JUNIOR SIDE DRUM

1st. Adam Bell  
2nd. Steven Rickson  
3rd. Alan Tait

AMATEUR TENOR

1st. Carol Robson  
2nd. Vali Winter  
3rd. Bruce Beattie

PIPE QUARTET SENIOR

1st. Vancouver Ladies  
Pipe Band (no. 2)

MINI BAND GR. 1

1st. City of Victoria P/B  
2nd. Triumph Street P/B  
3rd. Northwest Pipes &  
Drums

JUVENILE OPEN

1st. Vancouver Ladies Pipe  
Band

SENIOR BASS DRUM

Triumph Street Pipe Band