

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



#159

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





B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association

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FEBRUARY 1977

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605 - 16th Street  
NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

B.C. Pipers' Newsletter  
6286 Empress Avenue  
Burnaby, B. C.  
V5E 2S5

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in regard to something I find very alarming in the piping profession. A large number of young pipers are getting a bad start in their piping careers. Some teachers do not have enough experience to teach.

OftennI get kids wanting lessons who have had one or more years of instruction, on asking them to play doublings etc., they just fumble through with false fingering, and then when you ask about valuations, the poor kid thinks you are talking a foreign language (perhaps I do).

I feel the B. C. Pipers' Association should have a Registered Teachers Certificate. The names of the Teachers should be published in the magazine for the parents to see.

A teachers certificate should be an easy thing to get organized, as we have in our midst a very noted and well known piper that has carried this Certificate for a number of years.

Yours very truly,

Fred Brodie

The Board of Directors of the B. C. P. A. would like to hear any views on this subject from piping teachers. Send replies to the Newsletter.

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Dear Sir,

On behalf of the pipers from Penticton who attended the Bi-monthly competitions I would like to thank the B. C. Pipers Association and our friends in Vancouver for a very warm welcome extended to us on our four visits. A special thank-you to all the people who billeted us and helped to look after the children so well. In spite of the fun we all had we feel that the Mini Gathering was more to our liking as it meant only two trips down to the coast.

Perhaps most of you already know that myself and family returned to Scotland in August 1976 and had a great holiday. Absolutely unbelievably good weather. We also met or visited many well known piping personalities including Donald MacLeod and Seumas MacNeil, Glasgow; Bob Nicol, Ballater; Donald Morrison, Aberdeen; D. R. MacLennan, North Berwick; and Neil Angus MacDonald, Inverness.

We also attended the Nairn Games and listened to the Professional Piping (No Amateur Classes there) and the 135th Lonach Highland Gathering at Strathdon. This is an old traditional very well attended Games and lots of fun. Pauline entered the under 14yrs. Amateur piping and against 14 competitors placed 1st in the MARCH and 2nd in the Strathspey and Reel. The judges being Dr. W. Fraser and John MacDonald both from Aberdeen. There were two judges for the Piobaireachd, two for the open March, Strathspey and Reel and two for the Amateur events---something to be considered.

My advice to pipers wishing to go over to Scotland and compete would be to read the Piping Times for details of Games, dates etc. and as you have already reported Scotland is in the midst of Grading their competitive pipers so anyone wishing to compete will have to become a member first.

On the whole we were made very welcome in piping circles in Scotland, our main problem was in deciding which Games to attend. There are so many in August and each one has its own special attractions. I would recommend that anyone visiting or competing should try some of the lesser publicized games. They would be pleasantly surprised.

I am enclosing as a news feature from the interior, the History of the McIntosh Pipe Band, Vernon. I will endeavour to submit from time to time histories of other pipe bands.

Yours sincerely,  
Nigel Alakija

## M c I N T O S H   G I R L S   P I P E   B A N D

Vernon, B. C.

The McIntosh Girls Pipe Band was formed in 1947 by Pipe Major Hilma Foote with the able assistance of her father who was then the Drum Major of the Kildonan Pipe Band.

The fruit industry supported the band and for this reason the McIntosh was chosen. The apple was displayed on the bass drum and the shoulder crest. The band carried this until 1967 when the change was made to the McIntosh clan crest.

In the past 28 years the band has performed all over the Pacific North-west and beyond. Trips were made to El Paso, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Salt Lake City, Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Seattle, Yakima and Omak. In Western Canada trips have been made to the Calgary Stampede, New Westminster, the Kootenays and throughout the Okanagan. Locally the pipers and dancers, also the complete band, have entertained at many functions. The highlight of 1974 was the two-day performance at Expo in Spokane.

Throughout the years that the band has been active many Vernon and district homes have been represented and now daughters of original members are carrying on the tradition.



## TO THE MEMORY OF A GREAT LADY

ON Thursday, 4th November 1976, the fairy flag of the clan MacLeod was metaphorically lowered, when, after a short afternoon walk in the grounds of Ythan Lodge, the home of her grandson, Mr. Patrick Wolrige Gordon, Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod D. B. E. sat down and peacefully passed away, thus ending a long life of benevolent activity.

She was only three months short of her ninety-ninth birthday, but, somehow, the description of "Grand Old Lady" sounds quite wrong. Her tremendous vitality and capacity for enjoying life would suggest that she had discovered the secret of eternal youth.

Dame Flora, as she was affectionately known, was born at No. 10 Downing Street. Her mother, Lady Agnes Northcote, was a Daughter of the Earl of Idlesleigh who, as Sir Stafford Northcote, was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Disraeli Government of 1874. This came about because the Prime Minister preferred to live at Beaconsfield and work from No. 11 Downing Street, leaving the larger No. 10 to the Chancellor's family.

At the age of 23, Dame Flora married Mr. Herbert Walter and when he died in 1933, assumed her maiden name of MacLeod and returned to live at Dunvegan Castle.

Two years later, on the death of her father, Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod, she became 28th Chief of the clan and the first woman to succeed to the hereditary titles and lands of Dunvegan.

As chief, she took her duties seriously. She was of regal appearance and, possibly, when she was convinced that she was right, autocratic in manner. Underneath this autocratic regality, though, lay a heart which was large enough to contain all of her MacLeod clan. This she undoubtedly proved time and time again.

She devoted a great deal of her time to her duties as a county councillor, serving at the same time on a variety of boards; always she worked for the good of the Highlands and Islands. She was largely responsible for the inauguration of Skye Week, now a great tourist attraction and a mecca for MacLeods from all over the world. As an ambassadress, she had few equals, travelling as she did throughout New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the U. S. A.

My own experience of touring New Zealand immediately after her (and consequently meeting clansmen and women I would never otherwise have met) was a demonstration of her ability to knit people together, thus forging ties of goodwill wherever she went. Courage she had in plenty. Some years ago, during a near disastrous fire at Dunvegan Castle, she personally carried the fairy flag of the clan to safety and maintained ever after that, at this particular point in time, the raging flames abated.

Her pride in the MacCrimmon family, hereditary pipers to the clan, was a matter of great satisfaction to those of us who love the bagpipes. One important result of this is the Annual Silver Chanter Competition, held at Dunvegan Castle, when the great music is again heard in the area of its origin.

The new chief, Grandson John, who at the age of fifteen and with the consent of Lyon King of Arms, changed his name to MacLeod, has the difficult task of following in his grandmother's footsteps. I feel sure that her advice to him, as it so often was to us all, would be the clan motto "Hold fast", by which her own tenacious spirit was guided. In our universal sadness, let us spare a thought for the immediate family, who have, to put it at its simplest, lost a loved one.

Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod D. B. E. was buried in the small, roofless, pre-Reformation Church of St. Mary's, in which some ten generations of MacCrimmons lie at rest. She was borne there to the music of "MacLeod's Salute" (The MacLeods Rowing Piobaireachd), played by John MacFadyen and Seumas MacNeill.

O! for a Donald Mor MacCrimmon, who would, no doubt, do justice to the memory of a great lady.

The Chief is dead! Long live the chief!

Donald MacLeod

Many thanks to P. M. Donald MacLeod for his very moving tribute to the late Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod and also to P. M. Ed Esson for making the above letter available to the B. C. Pipers Newsletter.

Ed. Note



## TROPHIES

Would all pipers who are in possession of Trophies for the B. C. Pipers Annual Gathering please return them at the March 4th Knockout, or to Mr. W. Lamont, 2256 East 40th Vancouver, Ph. 327-7569.

It really is important that these Trophies be returned in good time so they can be checked over and cleaned etc. hoping this request meets with a ready response.

I am yours respectfully,  
Alex Young  
President

### 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 come along April 30th. and hear the best, have an excellent meal and a good dance you can't wish for more.

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THE MACCRIMMON MEMORIAL CAIRN is the trophy awarded to the winner of the Professional Piobaireachd competition at the B. C. Pipers' Annual Gathering.

The Association have decided to award the MacCrimmon Memorial medal which was discontinued during the 1940's. These medals are sterling silver and are unique in design, they are a replica of part of the Cairn.

Former winners who did not receive a medal may now apply in writing to the secretary of the Association for their medal. Pipers who won the CAIRN MORE THAN ONCE will receive a medal for the 1st. year and a bar for each additional year.

PIPING SCHOOL

A piping school is planned to coincide with the visit of P/M. Iain Morrison, 1st. Batt. Queens Own Highlanders, who will be this year's judge at the Annual Gathering. The school will run for 5 days under the auspices of the B. C. Pipers' Association and will be held at the Seaforth Armouries Monday - Friday, 28th. March - 1st. April, 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Fees will be \$40 per pupil, if more than one pupil from the same family they will have a reduction of \$20 per additional pupil. It is to be hoped that a good number of pipers will take advantage of this chance to better their skills under one of the best piper's at the present time. P/M. Morrison has numerous prizes to his credit at all the major Competitions in Scotland and is especially strong in Strathspeys and Reels. Only pupils from Juvenile upwards will be accepted, as the Board feels that pipers of a more advanced stage would gain the most benefit from a weeks tuition.

Send all inquiries or entries to:

James MacDonald,  
6311 Bassett,  
Richmond, B. C.  
V7C 2Y3

Phone # 277-4883

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Please enroll me in the Piping School, 28th. March - 1st. April

Name.....

Address.....

Grade or Class.....

Enclosed fee of \$40 or \$20 as the case may be.



RESULTS OF FEB.4 KNOCKOUT  
SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM 12th & FIR

Victoria was drawn against C. P. Air in the Feb. contest. But unfortunately, Victoria had to go it alone as C. P. Air failed to show, a bit of a disappointment for all of the gathering awaiting the competition, however Victoria played their selections as was necessary for the rules. It could perhaps be because there was no pressure on Victoria, but they really played well and we'll be looking forward to hearing them in there next playoff.

I did not get a chance to talk to Jimmie Troy from Victoria as they had to rush away to catch the Last ferry back to the Island. Anyway thanks Jimmie for bringing your boys over to play, a nice performance indeed.

As usual there was an individual open competition afterwards. Strathspey & Reel this time. And as it has been in the past, it was a good competition with the eventual winner being Harold Senyk with a very steady performance, and played on a good strong pipe.

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TRIO'S FOR THE MARCH 4th KNOCKOUT

Richmond Sen. No. 1

vs.

Victoria No. 1

Tune for solo open competition will be ground of Piobreachd.

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## RESULTS OF THE MINI GATHERING

Held in the Scottish Auditorium February 5, 1977

### Novice 2/4 March

- 1st. Wesley EATON
- 2nd. Darlene MIKARJA
- 3rd. Donald KINCH
- 4th. Laurie YOUNG  
( 10 PLAYED)

### Junior Hornpipe

- 1st. David WINTER
- 2nd. Jack ECKERSLEY
- 3rd. Callum MacLEOD  
( 4 played)

### Juvenile 6/8 March

- 1st. Pauline ALAKIJA
- 2nd. Maureen LEE
- 3rd. Moira WADDELL
- 4th. Gordon REDMOND  
( 11 Played)

### Senior Amateur Jigs

- 1st. Duncan FRASER
- 2nd. Alison PALMER
- 3rd. Grant WILKIE  
( 5 PLAYED)

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The last Mini Gathering of the season and presentation of prizes was held February 5, 1977. The attendance was very encouraging especially in the Novice and Juvenile classes, where as I mentioned last month the numbers are gradually climbing to respectable levels. It would seem that Past President J. MacDonald's remarks in his annual report regards getting out and giving the kids your support has had some effect as there were about thirty or more specators - so keep up the good work when we resume in the fall

Congratulations to all the aggregate winners and the perfect attendance Pipers! among them strange to say were pipers all the way from Penticton.

Again thanks are due to Mr. & Mrs. Swanson for all their hard work during the Mini Gathering, and for looking after the refreshments.

The judges for the day were P/M. Edmund Esson and P/M William Lamont who I am sure enjoyed the days proceedings, our thanks to them for their time so willingly given.

### Aggregate Prize List 1976 - 1977

#### Novice

- 1st. Autumn Oberg -B. C. Pipers
- Tie Wesley Eaton Trophy
- 2nd. Brenda Lowden

#### Juvenile - Nicholson TROPHY

- 1st. Pauline Alakija
- 2nd. Maureen Lee
- 3rd. Ian Putz

#### Junior - MacRae Shield

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

#### Senior Amateur- Walter Douglas Shield

- 1st. Alison Palmer
- 2nd. Christine Waddell Tie
- 2nd. Grant Wilkie



\*\*\*\*\* 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 headlined 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 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.

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FOR SALE

One set of Grainger bagpipes, imitation ivory, four years old, including pipe box and Scots Gaurds Book for \$375.00

Please contact Lori Swales.  
Phone # 584-5174

One ladie's "Dress MacDonald" Kilt Size 14 to 16 \$30.00  
Phone Mrs. A. Sinclair 263-5500

THE B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

P R E S E N T S

PIPE MAJOR IAIN MORRISON.

of the

QUEENS OWN HIGHLANDERS

SCOTLAND

at the

SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM

on

FRIDAY APRIL 1, 1977 at 8:00 p.m.

A RECITAL OF MUSIC  
ON THE HIGHLAND BAGPIPE

REGULAR TRIO K.O. COMPETITION INCLUDED

PRICE ADULTS \$1.50 O.A.P. AND UNDER 18 .75¢

Tickets will be available March 4, 1977 from any  
Board Member.

Bar Facilities.



B. C. PIPERS' 45th. ANNUAL GATHERING

Friday April 8, and Saturday 9, 1977

North Vancouver Recreation Centre  
123 East 23rd Road, North Vancouver, B. C.

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Friday April 8 - 9:00 a.m.

Event #

1. Junior Piobaireachd
2. Junior March
3. Junior Strathspey & Reel
4. Novice March
5. Juvenile March
6. Juvenile Strathspey & Reel
7. Junior Quartettes March Strathspey & Reel
8. Junior Mini Bands 5 - 7 min. Medley
9. Amateur Piobaireachd
10. Amateur March
11. Amateur Strathspey & Reel

Saturday April 9 - 9:00 A.M.

Event #

12. Professional Piobaireachd (Pipers to submit 3 Piobaireachds. Judge decides tune to be played.)
13. Professional March, Strathspey & Reel
14. Professional Jigs (Pipers to submit 3 sets of 2 Jigs. Judge decides set to be played.)
15. Pipers over 65 years of age (Tune of own choice)
16. Pipers over 50 years of age (2/4 March-competitor restricted, May not enter in any other competition.)
17. Senior Quartettes -- March, Strathspey & Reel.
18. Senior Mini Bands -- 5 - 7 min. Medley.

Prizes

Events #8 and 17	1st.	\$100.00	2nd.	\$75.00		
Event #12	1st.	\$ 75.00	2nd.	\$50.00	3rd.	\$25.00
Event #13	1st.	\$ 50.00	2nd.	\$35.00	3rd.	\$25.00
Event #14	1st.	\$ 40.00	2nd.	\$30.00	3rd.	\$20.00
Event #18	1st.	\$125.00	2nd.	\$100.00		

Aggregate winner of Professional Class to receive charter flight to Scotland to compete in one major competition in Scotland. Competitor must compete in all three events to qualify for trip to Scotland.

Aggregate winner of Amateur Class wins Piobaireachd Society Book.

Aggregate winner of Junior Class Wins Angus MacKay Book.

Aggregate winner of Juvenile Class wins Practice Chanter.

B. C. PIPERS' 45th ANNUAL GATHERING

RULES

Individual and Quartette competitions:

Pipers not ready to play when called are LIABLE TO BE DISQUALIFIED

A piper will be allowed to play in one quartette only.

Junior Bands will consist of Pipers & Drummers, 18 years of age and under on January 1st. of the current competition year.

Miniature Bands - 6 pipers; 2 sides; 1 bass drummer; and 1 tenor drummer.

Bands will be penalized one twelfth (1/12) of total points for each player less than the required number.

Each member must be a bona-fide member of this band for at least 14 days prior to the competition.

A piper or drummer will be allowed to play in one band only.

Any band not ready to play five (5) minutes after completion of the previous band will be deducted five (5) points.

There will be no entry fee. Last to enter will be first to play. Order to play will be posted.

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ENTRY FORM

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE #.....

EVENT #.....

Entries to:

Mr. Donald Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B. C.  
V3L 4V9, Phone number 526-7905

ENTRIES CLOSE SATURDAY MARCH 26, 1977

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Any Bands interested in running the concession for the Annual Gathering please contact D. Ross.

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