

B. C. PIPERS'  
NEWSLETTER

#219



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



B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| PRESIDENT      | Angus Macpherson |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Duncan Fraser    |
| SECRETARY      | Mary MacKinnon   |
| TREASURER      | Neil Palmer      |

The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 351 Dartmoor Drive, Coquitlam, British Columbia, V3K 5R6 and distributed to all members. Address communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mrs. M. MacKinnon, Secretary, 6959 Halligan Street, Burnaby, British Columbia V5E 1R4

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| EDITOR | Angus Macpherson                  |
| STAFF  | Stella Stephen<br>Judi Macpherson |

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FEBRUARY 1985

NO. 219

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## E D I T O R I A L

In view of the report on the new auditorium contained in this edition I thought it appropriate to start where I left off in the last editorial and discuss further the concept of a joint venture in the presentation of a major highland games for 1986, Expo year.

Rough estimates pit the short fall figure for completion of our new hall at approximately \$600,000.00. Following completion of the sale of the auditorium and the purchase of land for the new building, the United Scottish are sitting with \$400,000.00 in round numbers. My point in the last editorial was that, faced with the prospect of raising \$600,000.00, risking \$30,000.00 of the \$400,000.00 we currently hold to sponsor a highland games seems like a drop in the bucket. I say risking \$30,000.00 because I sincerely believe that, organized correctly, a major event would realize a return of our investment. So for the purposes of this editorial we'll agree to spend between \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 for the purposes of staging a large highland gathering. From that money I would estimate close to \$10,000.00 would be earmarked for advertising. With the present state of the economy I would guess you could strike some lucrative deals with some of the advertising agencies in town. One possibility would be a sliding scale of fees based on attendance. In other words, guarantee us a gate of 10,000 people and we pay you so much. For a gate of 5,000 the fee would be less, of course.

The next largest chunk of the budget would go to bringing in out-of-town competitors. For example, bring in the previous year's top Grade I band along with a top military band, The Scots Guards, Black Watch, Dragoons, etc. This way the level of competition will be high for the Grade I contest and the casual observer or army veteran can identify with the military band. If a tattoo were planned the military band would also add to the attraction. Consideration could also be given to flying in the top eastern band or by making the prize money attractive enough to coax them to come out on their own.

The next item would be heavy events. Fly in one or two top competitors from Scotland along with the American champion and pit them against some local sports personalities. For instance, invite the likes of the B.C. Lions front four and a Tiger Williams in a celebrity caber toss. June/July is usually a slow time for Vancouver professional sports and now with the Whitecaps history the local media will be looking for different angles. Run a five-a-side soccer, seven-a-side rugby, track, etc. etc. Have sheepdog trials as they do in Portland. Invite the Scottish bakeries, butchers, gift shops, piping shops, clan societies and associations as ourselves to set up booths. In other words have an organized three ring circus. The Scottish Country Dancers could give demonstrations, local Scottish/Irish singing groups could perform throughout the day. Have a parade through Gastown the night before the Games to further publicize the event. Invite corporate sponsors. Olympia beer, Bells', Ballantynes and Cutty Sark have all shown a willingness to work with various groups within the organization in the past.

So now I've finished ranting you say, so what? We all have the same ideas, we've all talked about it before, what's different? Two things are different. The two things the games' committees have lacked in the past - money and people! A small portion of the money I mentioned at the start of this article and the members of the associations that constitute the United Scottish Cultural Society. Just imagine if a games committee could rely on one group to organize piping, one for dancing, one for pipe bands, one for special events, one for publicity and advertising, etc. etc. How much easier an event such as this would be to run, and how much more energy and enthusiasm you could devote to your own responsibility.

So we have eliminated the two major difficulties facing the average highland games. A fact that surprised me came out of a recent meeting of the Scottish Cultural Society's last meeting. There are 6,000 members from the various groups making up the United Scottish Cultural. Just think if everyone of those members attended and brought two people with them we would have close to twenty thousand people at the games. And that would be without advertising. At \$4.00 each that adds up to a lot of money.

I mentioned in an earlier edition that the recreation department of Simon Fraser University is planning a major event this year using the same type of format mentioned above. Many of our members feel that we should leave the organization of such games to other people and get on with playing and teaching, etc. I fully endorse the efforts of Simon Fraser University and any other group that will organize good highland games. I wish we could have them every weekend, but I feel to truly preserve the games we must have a big hand in at least one major event. The co-operation amongst the member groups of the United Scottish in their work with the new building is most encouraging and I for one hope that the same co-operation can be extended to another type of building, building a future for our young pipers and drummers and dancers to perpetuate our culture.

Angus Macpherson

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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February 6th, 1985



Dear Mr. Macpherson:

The School of Celtic Studies will hold the fourth week-long immersion programme "Discovering our Gaelic Heritage" June 30th to July 6th next at St. John College, University of Manitoba.

**School of Celtic Studies** Finlay MacNeill, Inverness, Scotland, initiated the return to teach at our Summer Session.

It may be of interest to the B.C. pipers to know that there are two Scholarships open to pipers -- the Alex Reid Memorial Scholarship, and now, the Finlay MacNeill Piping Scholarship, established last year.

Both Scholarships entitle the student to work with MacNeill and to be involved in all the academic and social aspects of our programme, together with board and room.

You may wish to make this information known to the B.C. pipers. If there is interest in applying for either scholarship a simple letter outlining experience and stating interest together with a recommendation for a pipe-major or a teacher fits our criteria.

Certainly the B.C. pipers have great depth and strength in both performance and teaching; piping in B.C. is legend.

Best personal regards.

Joan Cameron Muir  
Director  
SCHOOL OF CELTIC STUDIES

Dear Sir:

Kootenay Kiltie Pipe Band is hosting their Annual Highland Games. This is the 43rd year for the Games, and will be held August 3rd, 1985.

For information and entry forms, please contact:

Mrs. D. Jones,  
Games Secretary,  
R.R. #1, Ridgewood Road,  
Nelson, British Columbia. V1L 5P4

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Apologies to Iain MacDonald of Regina for not publishing his letter to the Editor regarding the Piping Times editorial. It's not that it was too controversial (although it probably was) or defamatory or even bordering on libel, it's just that I can't find it. I'm sure we'll find it one of these days tucked away in Neil Angus's crib. Perhaps Iain would be kind enough to re-write it for the next edition of the newsletter.

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LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

The final mini gathering of the 1984/85 season was held on Saturday, February 9, 1985 at the Burnaby North Senior Secondary School. The results of the day were as follows:

| <u>Chanter - Slow Air</u>           | <u>Novice "A" 6/8 March</u>            | <u>Novice "B" 6/8 March</u>   |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Kathryn Savage<br>Glen Jorgensen | 1. Jennifer Ginter                     | 1. Robert Hartle              |
| 2. Jacqueline Blair                 | 2. Shelly Anderson                     | 2. Darren Forrest             |
| 3. Hugh Aspinall                    | 3. Paul Nailen                         | 3. Donnie McInnes             |
| 4. Ann Sharpe                       |  |                               |
| <u>Juv. - Piobaireachd</u>          | <u>Junior - Hornpipe</u>               | <u>Sr. Am. - Piobaireachd</u> |
| 1. John Ginn                        | 1. Richie Hamilton                     | 1. Shaunna Stephen            |
| 2. Lenna Clark                      | 2. Graeme Savage                       | 2. Bruce Woodley              |
| 3. Kathy MacLeod<br>Jeff MacLeod    | 3. Bonnie McKain                       | 3. Cheryl Taylor              |
| <u>Open Adult - March</u>           | <u>Jr. Am. Drumming - Jig/Hornpipe</u> |                               |
| 1. John Macdonald                   | 1. Carol McDonald                      |                               |
| 2. Jimmy Wilson                     | 2. Karen Hinchey                       |                               |
|                                     | 3. Glen Wright                         |                               |

Our thanks to the piping judges of the day - Jack Lee, Ian MacKinnon, Peter MacNeil, Angus Macpherson, Darleen Miharija and also to Linda Aumonier who judged the drumming event.

Once again the kitchen was efficiently staffed by the mothers in the Association. Our new venue this season with four or more platforms presented the problem of a shortage of stewards. This void was ably filled by the fathers in the Association (and one mother) who rallied round to enable four piping competitions to be run smoothly and concurrently.

The mini gathering committee wish to thank all parents who participated in making the 1984/85 season such an unqualified success. We look forward to your continuing support and assistance next season.

The aggregate prize winners of the 1984/85 mini gatherings are:

Chanter Class

1. Kathryn Savage
2. Glen Jorgensen
3. Alan Bevan

Novice Class

1. Robert Hartle
2. Jennifer Ginter
3. Shelly Anderson

Juvenile Class

1. Paul Laporte
2. Heather MacDonald
3. Lenna Clark

Junior Amateur

1. Richie Hamilton
2. Bonnie McKain  
Graeme Savage
3. Tiffany MacNeil

Senior Amateur

1. Shaunna Stephen  
Robert MacLeod
2. Brian Goldie
3. Cheryl Taylor

Open Adult

1. Jimmy Wilson

Jr. Am. Drumming

1. Karen Hinchey

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MARCH 9th MINI GATHERING HAS BEEN CANCELLED . The presentation of prizes to the above winners will be made at the Annual Gathering.

Perfect attendance pins for the 1984/85 mini gatherings will be distributed at the Annual Gathering. Those competitors who competed at all four mini gatherings and who will receive a pin or bar are as follows:

CHANTER CLASS

Hugh Aspinall  
Nicole Braconnier  
Kathryn Savage

Alan Bevan  
Tim Hinchey  
Ann Sharpe

Jacqueline Blair  
Glen Jorgensen  
Tanya Turner

NOVICE CLASS

Shelly Anderson  
Leigh Collins  
Darren Forrest  
Chris Gilbertson  
Jennifer Ginter  
Bruce Gove  
Patricia Hannigan

Robert Hartle  
Lyne Irving  
Harlan Janson  
Patrick Lindsay  
Donnie McInnes  
Carrie Mackintosh  
Ted Mark

Paul Nailen  
Val Mark  
Colin Newlands  
Michelle Stephen  
Kevin Watsyk  
Linda Wright



JUVENILE CLASS

Lenna Clark  
John Ginn  
Heather MacDonald  
Lesley MacKay

Kathy MacLeod  
Kevin Mark  
Glen Mitchell  
Deirdre Ross

Todd Sinclair  
Heather Stephen  
Pat Wright

JUNIOR CLASS

Richie Hamilton  
Bonnie McKain

Julie Main

Graeme Savage

SR. AMATEUR CLASS

Brian Goldie  
Bill McDowell  
Robert MacLeod

Chris Main  
Shaunna Stephen

Cheryl Taylor  
Bruce Woodley

OPEN CLASS

Jimmy Wilson

JR. AMATEUR DRUMMING CLASS

Karen Hinchey

Carol McDonald

Glen Wright

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KNOCK-OUT

The last of the semi final knock-outs was held on February 9th at the Willingdon Heights Community Centre. The snow storm that blanketed the Vancouver area meant a smaller than usual crowd but those hearty souls who braved the elements were rewarded with a fine night of piping. Being one of the competitors I'll excuse myself from commenting on the competition, leaving that to one of the evening's Judges, Ian MacKinnon. I must, however, comment on the performance by Neil Dickie. I think I'm safe in saying that Neil's playing won the respect of an audience that has come to think of Neil as strictly a "kitchen piper". His performance at the knock-out proved that he can be a serious musician and pleasantly surprised everyone.

Angus Macpherson

The evening started out well with all six pipers giving good performances in the 6/8 warm-up event which was won by Steve Geddes.

The first competition featured Andrew Bonar against Peter Aumonier. Both pipers had mistakes in execution in their strathspey and reel. To my liking Peter's pipes had better balance and tone, however, by a split decision (2-1) it was decided that his fingering misstep scuttled him. Andrew is in. The second pairing was Angus Macpherson vs. Jimmie Hardie. Here again Jimmie's pipe was far superior in tone and balance (Angus's high "A" just about cleared out the hall). However, again by a split decision (2-1) Angus got the nod. The final set was Neil Dickie vs. Steve Geddes. Both pipers played well. "Metal-mitts" Geddes came through with an A-1 performance on an A-1 instrument. The decision was unanimous. Steve Geddes. This was probably the best single performance we have heard this season.

It is a pleasure to report that piping in the Association seems to have made a good recovery after our disastrous January knock-out where we had so many breakdowns. February's knock-out had six good solid performances. All in all a good night of piping.

Ian MacKinnon

The formal part of the evening over, the night was topped off with an entertaining piping version of "name that tune". The winning group under Rod Booth were awarded with a bottle of Bells for their efforts. Thanks to our Judges Ian MacKinnon, Terry Lee and Hal Senyk.

See you at the Dinner!

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VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION - PIPING FESTIVAL

The annual Vancouver Ladies' Piping Festival was held on February 23rd at New Westminster Secondary School. The facility, not unlike Vancouver Tech. was ideal for the large turnout of solo competitors. The individual contest was well organized with a good standard in evidence for all classes.

The pipe band event featured 13 bands and was held in the Vincent Massey Theatre. The out-of-town contingent included The Clansmen from Powell River, City of Seattle, City of Penticton, City of Victoria and Washington Scottish. As the prize money at our winter circuit would barely pay ferry fare or gas money these bands are to be commended for their efforts to participate at these contests.

On the negative side it was learned that two of the classrooms allocated to the pipe bands were damaged. A teacher's desk and filing cabinet had been opened, the contents rearranged and some valuable instruments broken. How many times do we have to stress that the classrooms, other than moving the desks around, are NOT TO BE TOUCHED. These facilities are very difficult to obtain and due to the actions of a few non-thinkers (I could use a stronger word) the Vancouver Ladies' may not have the use of this school next year. Also, a reminder to older band members that there is no smoking or beer drinking in the classrooms. Imagine a teacher finding an empty beer bottle tucked in behind some books. PLEASE - some consideration, good judgement, and plain common sense for the person who has signed their name on the dotted line. One day you may find yourself in that position. Remember, we need the schools more than they need us.

R E S U L T S

Chanter Class

1. Kathryn Savage
2. Alan Bevan
3. Anne Sharpe,  
Jacqueline Blair
4. Tim Hinchey  
Angela Ballantyne

Novice "A" - Slow Air

1. Patrick Lindsay
2. Harlon Janson
3. Ted Mark
4. Robert Hartle
5. Shelly Anderson
6. Glen Callender

Novice "A" - 2/4 March

1. Harlan Janson
2. Shelly Anderson
3. Campbell Stafford
4. Bruce Gove  
Patrick Lindsay
5. Linda Wright

Novice "A" Aggregate - Harlan Janson

Novice "B" - Slow Air

1. Donald McInnes
2. Brad Stafford
3. Allison Flack
4. Doug Bird
5. Val Mark
6. Darran Forrest

Novice "B" - 2/4 March

1. Jennifer Ginter
2. Darran Forrest
3. Allison Flack
4. Patricia Hannigan
5. Mike Anderson  
Doug Bird  
Colin Newlands

Novice "B" Aggregate - Jennifer Ginter and Donald McInnes

Juvenile - 2/4 March

1. Kathy MacLeod
2. Heather MacDonald
3. John Ginn
4. Tamara Stafford
5. Todd Sinclair,  
Deirdre Ross
6. Kevin Mark  
Heather Stephen  
Paul Nailen

Juvenile - S. & Reel

1. Kathy MacLeod
2. Lenna Clark
3. John Ginn
4. Todd Sinclair
5. Heather MacDonald  
Keith Culver  
Heather Stephen
6. Tamara Stafford

Junior - Slow Air/Jig

1. Graeme Savage
2. Bonnie McKain
3. Steve Raymer

Junior - 2/4 March

1. Heather McDonald
2. Bonnie McKain
3. Steve Raymer

Juvenile Aggregate - Kathy MacLeod

Junior Amateur Aggregate - Bonnie McKain

Sr. Am. - Jig/Hornpipe

1. Robert MacLeod
2. Bruce Woodley
3. Chuck Zittel
4. Cheryl Taylor

Sr. Am. - M.S.R.

1. Bruce Woodley
2. Chris Main
3. Chuck Zittel
4. Cheryl Taylor

Professional - M.S.R.

1. Steve Geddes
2. Jamie Troy
3. Andrew Bonar

Sr. Amateur Aggregate - Bruce Woodley

Professional - Jigs

1. Steve Geddes
2. Jamie Troy
3. Andrew Bonar
4. Jamie Robb

V.L.P.B. Only - 6/8 March

1. Shaunna Stephen

Novice Side - 2/4 March

1. Graham McKenzie
2. Allan MacInnes
3. Douglas Teather
4. Jennifer Mair

Junior Side - M.S.R.

1. Greg Thomson
2. Carol McDonald
3. Glen Wright

Sr. Side - 3-5 Min. Medley

1. Stephen Rooklidge

Prof. Side - 3-5 Min Medley

1. Mary Higgins

Novice Tenor - 2/4

1. Jamie Wright

PIPE BAND RESULTS

Juvenile Bands

1. B.C. Junior #1
2. B.C. Junior #2

Grade 3

1. White Spot Pipe Band
2. Abbotsford Legion
3. Clansmen Pipe Band
4. City of Penticton

Grade 2

1. Sir John A. MacDonald
2. Richmond Pipe Band
3. City of Seattle
4. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band

Grade I

1. Triumph Street Pipe Band    2. S.F.U. Pipe Band    3. City of Victoria Pipe Band

Judges for Solo - Angus Macpherson, Jack Lee and Ian Whitelaw

Judges for Bands - Hal Senyk, Ian Whitelaw and Willy McErlean

The Vancouver Ladies' would like to extend a special thank you to the Judges for the day who did a superb job. An extra special thank you and a pat on the back to Jim Watt who filled in and judged one class and Willy McErlean who filled in for Ron Annan who was down with the flu.

OLYMPIA CUP PIOBAIREACHD COMPETITION

This year's invitational piobaireachd competition was held Friday, February 22nd, at St. Stephen's Hall. The setting was pleasant and quite intimate and accommodated the crowd adequately; this contest has all the makings of a good annual event, and perhaps with a larger audience next time, should qualify as one of the premier solo events of the year.

Jack Lee got the evening off to a good start, with a solid rendition of "Lament for the Children", spoiled by pipes that didn't settle down properly. Jack's fingers certainly lacked nothing for being the "off-season", and the tune flowed quite well throughout. James Watt, likewise, had a few problems with his pipes, with a sharp "D" and "E" marring a spirited performance of the "Bells of Perth". James' execution let him down a bit in the crunluath a mach, crushing a lot of the movements and giving the "off" timing a bit of awkwardness.

Darleen Miharija came on with a clean sounding pipe, but had her problems blowing, with a noticeable waver on "D" especially -- not helpful in MacIntosh's Lament. Her tune, I thought, solid, although a bit mechanical at times. John A. MacLeod, the "cleanup hitter", gave a rousing version of "Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon" - perhaps too much so at times, but a noticeably sharp "E" and a mistake detracted from a solid tune and excellent execution.

Andrew Bonar never quite seemed to get on track with "In Praise of Morag", seeming to lack a sense of direction with the tune - his pipes were good, and his execution, as always, very clean, but he ultimately broke down after a bad mistake. Ian Whitelaw, up from sunny (and warm) California, blew up a well balanced pipe, although a bit "reedy" on the top hand. The effect of the pipe was to detract from the clarity of his execution, and resulted in some annoying small "chirps" - however, he played "MacDougall's Gathering" with a smooth, musical style that was to win him first prize.

Peter Aumonier had sweet-sounding drones, and a chanter that lacked substance on the top hand. At times he seemed impatient to get the "Viscount of Dundee" over with, and the overall effect was very rushed. Alison Palmer-Stewart blew up probably the best sounding pipes of the night, but the effort to keep the sound going through the "Park" resulted in some very flat "D's" and "G's" and a struggling sound for an otherwise solid tune. Jamie Troy blew up his distinctive solid and well balanced sound, and got off to a good smooth start to "McSwan of Roig". Unfortunately he ran into some problems and broke down after the ground.

The prize list: Ian Whitelaw first, Jack Lee second, and Darleen Miharija third. The Judges were Jim MacMillan and William Barrie - good to see them both out, and in good health and spirits. Kudos to Olympia for their support, and to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen for a well organized evening.

Submitted by: Hal Senyk

NEXT MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

REMINDER - There will NOT be a Mini Gathering on March 9, 1985. Instead the presentation of prizes and the distribution of perfect attendance pins will be made at the Annual Gathering.

ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The 1985 Dinner and Knock-Out final will be held on Saturday March 9th at the Gizeh Temple, Wayburne and Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C.

The five finalists will be Duncan Fraser, Rob McNeil, Andrew Bonar, Angus Macpherson and Steve Geddes. Each competitor will be playing an 8-10 minute selection.

Following the competition, music for dancing will be provided, catering to all ages. Pipers will also be playing for dances.

This year there will be no half price admissions after the dinner. The last day for purchasing tickets is Sunday, March 3rd. There are some tickets left. Reserve yours now by calling:

Donald Ross - 526-7905  
Jim MacDonald - 941-8057

Cocktails - 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner - 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets - \$15.00 per person



ANNUAL GATHERING

Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th are the dates for the 53rd Annual Gathering of the Association. Vancouver Technical School, 2600 East Broadway will again host the Indoor. Our Judges this year include P/M Ian McLellan and Mr. John McDougall. All amateur events as well as the open piobaireachd will be held on Friday, while solo drumming, open M.S.R.'s and Jigs and pipe bands will take place on Saturday.

A reminder that the closing date for entries is March 23rd. Senior amateur and professional pipers must include their list of tunes with their entry.

Another entry form is included in this issue of the newsletter.

RECITAL

A Recital given by John McDougall will be held on Monday, April 8th at the Carpenter's Hall, 12th Street (Kingsway) and Hamilton Street, New Westminster, B.C. John has provided Vancouver audiences with a taste of his talents on two previous occasions and on that basis should promise a treat for us on his third time round. John has been and still is a major prize winner in Scotland exhibiting a style second to none.

Tickets may be obtained from any Board member or at the Secretary's table at the Annual Gathering.

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DRUMMING WORKSHOP

The Simon Fraser University Pipe Band is sponsoring a drumming seminar featuring the 1985 world solo drumming champion, Jim Kilpatrick. Group sessions are available for beginner, intermediate and professional drummers. Dates are March 16th and 17th.

For further information please contact:

Mary Higgins - 421-0153

Editor's Note:

It is indeed unfortunate that the services of Mr. Kilpatrick could not have been used in conjunction with the Annual Gathering. I would be remiss if I did not comment especially after our efforts to promote drumming both at the Annual Gathering and Mini Gatherings. I commend S.F.U. for what I think a very positive move, especially with the obvious expense involved, but believe a joint effort would have been more beneficial to both groups.

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I N M E M O R I U M

MACKENZIE, Donald - Pipe Major Donald MacKenzie, Powell River passed away February, 1985. Donald played with the Seaforths in the early 1930's before moving to Powell River. He became Pipe Major of the Powell River Pipe Band and was instrumental in recruiting and building the powerful Powell River Championship Band of the 1950's and 1960's. As with so many of our members in the Powell River area Donald's door was always open. He will be missed.

Our condolences and sympathy are extended to his family from all his friends in the Association.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LEARNER'S TRIALS

You have got your sticks and chanter, and you're very, very keen,  
But the expert you would like to be, would seem to be a dream,  
For on exercises and theory, every learner has to start,  
And when you cannot manage these you can't help but lose heart.

Time passes by and finally you've managed it at last,  
You're playing on the the pipes or drums, and the exercises are past,  
You think you'll soon be in the band, although hard to believe,  
But the troubles that are coming up, you just could not conceive.

For now it's time for marching, you find you have two left feet,  
That with your hands won't coincide, regardless of the beat,  
You cannot seem to keep in line and you're in deep despair,  
You're never out of trouble, and the Tutor's tearing out his hair.

But at last you have your uniform and feeling very smart,  
Because you're playing with the band of which you're now a part,  
And even now there's problems, for the comps are getting near,  
You have to play your very best for the Judges you fear.

Practicing in all weathers, marching up and down,  
And on the day if you should lose, you're not supposed to frown,  
You wonder if it's worth it, for at times it drives you mad,  
But if there were no pipe bands it would be rather sad.

To never see the swinging kilts, or hear the pipers play,  
With the tenors and the sides, that make up the band's display,  
Or watch the Drum-Major swing the mace, the signal for the start,  
For when a band goes on parade, it brightens up your heart.

So learners, try to perservere, although the going's rough,  
Because there are also pleasures, even when it seems too tough,  
So meet each challenge as it comes, put your best in what you do,  
And don't become discouraged, pipe band's future rests with you.

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DUES

For those consciencious members who have already mailed their annual dues to Neil Palmer, you've probably received them back from the post office. No, we didn't decide, in a soft moment, to cancel dues for '85. The address was wrong in the last newsletter.

The correct address is:           Mr. Neil Palmer,  
  4694 West 7th Avenue,  
  Vancouver, B.C. V6R 1X5

P.S. Dues not paid by April 30th will result in cancellation of your newsletter.

President: Wm. Mossie

Treasurer: W. Fells

Secretary: J. Low  
155 Beechwood Ave.  
Victoria, B.C.  
V8S 3W4  
Telephone: 592-0153



VANCOUVER ISLAND  
Victoria, British Col.

At the January meeting pipers from the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band supplied the music. The Island pipers, none of whom belonged to the Island, opened the evening. Andrew Bonar set the tenor of his presentation with his first tune "Bonny Ann". He played with the poise and confidence of a champion, he is a young piper who has a brilliant piping career ahead of him. Robert MacLeod showed a great deal of musical ability. He changed the pace set by Andrew starting with a slow air and then into a lively selection of 6/8 marches.

Robert MacNeil changed the idiom again playing a selection of two parted strathspey and reels and jigs that are not too often heard. Robert, a composer of some note, some of his tunes are played on the Simon Fraser record, ended his presentation playing his new tune, "Jimmy's Hero". Jimmy is Jim Stewart of the Simon Fraser Band and his hero is Peter Beardsley, late of the White Caps Soccer Team.

Darleen Miharija put a splendid finishing touch to the evening with an excellent rendition of the piobaireachd "Corrienessan's Salute".

The guest speaker of the evening was Ian Walker from Squamish who is presently gathering information of pipers and piping in B.C. prior to 1950 that he hopes to have published in the not too distant future. His research goes back to the 1850's. He told us of the Sir William Wallace Society of early Victoria and of highland games held at the Caledonian Grounds in Vancouver in 1891. Ian has sent out a large number of form letters to people who were active in piping circles prior to 1950 or who have information about someone who was. Although the response to date has not been as enthusiastic as anticipated it is hoped that the publicity generated through meetings such as ours will enhance the response. A lively and interesting discussion took place between Ian and members of the audience, notably P/M Lillian Davis; Adeline Duncan and P/M Frank Knight re piping history in Victoria.

The Vancouver Island Pipers' Club most heartily endorsed Ian's project. Should any members have any information that fits into the category by all means pass it on to Ian Walker at P.O. Box 381, Squamish, B.C. V0N 3G0 or give it to any member of your executive who will most assuredly forward it on.

Jock Low,  
S E C R E T A R Y





# United Scottish Cultural Society



## UPDATE ON SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM

Dear Members:

31st January 1985

In 1984 a subcommittee comprising Dr. John A. Smith, Mr. Duncan MacKenzie, and Mr. Duncan Fraser, was set up by the Board of Directors to investigate fully, the future of the Auditorium.

As you all know, the Auditorium was condemned by the Fire Marshall in the autumn of 1979. The subcommittee recommended the following:

- A. Obtain a professional appraisal of the property at 12th Avenue and Fir Street;
- B. Sell the property for the best terms that they can negotiate;
- C. Proceed with top speed to develop plans to secure a replacement building;
- D. Authorize expenditure of necessary funds to prepare preliminary drawings;
- E. Ensure that all shareholding societies be kept fully informed about all significant developments as they occur.
- F. Establish an enlarged committee dedicated to raising funds in a co-ordinated manner;
- G. Address the question of dissolving the Company and replacing it with an all-encompassing society (Scottish).

All recommendations were accepted and completed with the exception of "F".

None of the delegates feel that they can take on the Chairmanship of fund raising at this time. Temporarily I will act as chairman, Mr. John Paterson as co-chairman and Mrs. Marion MacAulay as secretary.

The Auditorium sold on August 1st, 1984 for \$640,000.00. Land was purchased on December 28th, 1984 for \$232,840.07. Amount of money required in 1985 will be approximately \$1,000,000.00.

Negotiations and planning with the City Hall have been favourable. A development permit has been issued and hopefully construction of our new cultural centre will begin in early spring. For almost a year, the subcommittee have worked long and tedious hours on our behalf, they deserve our deepest appreciation and thanks.

It is up to each and every one of us now to support them and make all their hard work a reality! I am quite sure there isn't a Scot or anyone interested in our culture and heritage who will not enjoy the sight of a lovely new Scottish Cultural Centre at 73rd Avenue and Hudson Street. A picture will be enclosed in the next letter.

We will be approaching all levels of Government for funding. I would like to suggest that all members and possibly all Scots and Canadian Scots and friends in Vancouver and surrounding areas donate at least \$100.00 each in 1985. A plaque with names of all contributors will find a prominent place in the new centre.

Once the centre is established and functioning - rentals should ease the financial burden.

Please do not hesitate to telephone me with fund raising concepts you may wish to impart. I am open to all suggestions and appreciate your guidance and support.

Cheques may be made out to:

UNITED SCOTTISH CULTURAL SOCIETY  
c/o Mr. Bill Hurst, Treasurer,  
649 West 23rd Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2A5

In closing, let us stay together, fund raise together and make an all out effort to reach our goal.

Slainte Mhath (Good Health)  
Yours Sincerely,  
Mary MacIver, President

Fund Raising Committee:

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Mary MacIver, Chairman     | - 224-4173 |
| John Paterson, Co-Chairman | - 274-0316 |
| Bill Hurst, Treasurer      | - 872-2754 |
| Marion MacAulay            | - 874-1778 |

*Hardie's*  
SCOTTISH  
SUPPLIES



JANUARY SALE

JAMES W. HARDIE  
1301 DUNSTERVILLE AVENUE  
VICTORIA, B.C. V8Z 2X2  
PHONE 479-5227

|                                |              |                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| R.G. Hardie Airtight Seasoning | Reg. \$6.50  | Sale \$6.00 plus tax |
| Turner Pipe Chanter Reeds      | - Reg \$3.00 | Sale \$2.50 plus tax |

NEW FOR 1985

Available February 1st - Iain MacCrimmon's - Book Three

Retain Price \$8.50 plus tax

Sole Agent - Hardie's Scottish Supplies

PUZZLE CORNER

Due to the earlier than usual publication of this month's newsletter you have one more month to try your hand at last month's word puzzle, meanwhile a stray entry in our soap opera.

There once was a young lad named Jack Wilson who was on a 3 week leave from the army. He was going home to see his girlfriend in Lunga. Jack's Welcome Home wasn't a big one, but his girlfriend, Pretty Marion, his two brothers Jock and Troy and his mother, an old Irish Washerwoman were all happy to see him.

For the next couple of weeks Marion seemed a bit touchy. When Jack finally asked her why, she accused him of being a Clumsy Lover and said she's had better than him.

Well, at this point Jack was fuming and demanded to know who was better than him. When he found out it was his best friend, Jimmy Findlater, he ran outside and kicked Jock Wilson's Ball and it went flying through Marion's kitchen window shattering it. The noise sounded like someone had let loose a mad Devil in the Kitchen.

At this time Jack decided it was the best time to be Leaving Lunga. The lad bid farewell to his family, except for Marion who was still mad at him and headed back for King George V's Army.

About one month later, thinking Marion had calmed down, he decided he would go back and straighten things out. Just then a letter arrived from one of his brothers. After reading it, to his horror, he discovered it was an invitation to Troy's Wedding, who was marrying Jack's now ex-girlfriend, Marion.

Submitted by: Lesley MacKay

We thank Lesley for her entry but two tickets to the Annual Dinner go to Iain Walker of Squamish for his entry "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home or Don't Sit Under the Rowan Tree with Anyone Else But Me".

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The picture on the opposite page shows the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band following their successful trip to Scotland in 1970 Can you name Them? Better yet can you name the site where the picture was taken?

NANAIMO HIGHLAND GAMES - JULY 8, 1972

Amateur Marches

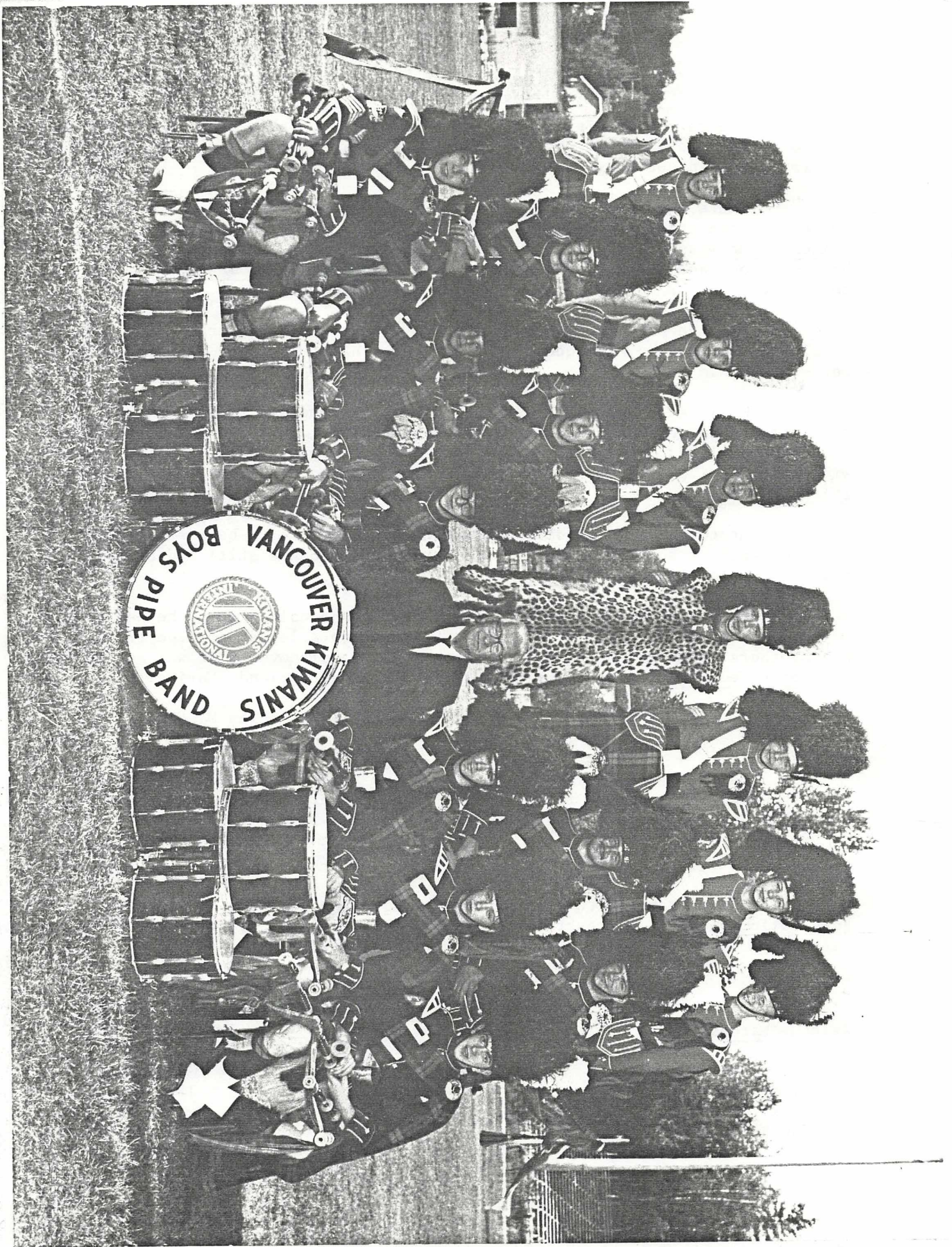
1. Terry Lee
2. Cindy Chambers
3. Jack Lee  
Ian Keith

Junior Marches

1. Alison Palmer
2. Brian Carse
3. Stewart Reid

Juvenile Marches

1. Gail Dawson
2. Jill Laurie
3. Gordon Lyle  
Blake Keen



VANCOUVER KWANTLEN  
BOYS PIPE BAND



BAND CHATTER

Now that the money's long gone it is safe to announce that the winner of the \$1,000 first prize from the B.C. Junior Pipe Band raffle was Judi Macpherson. Judi had a choice of the cash prize or 3 minutes in a liquor store! Oh well, it would have been fun.

Michelle Langston, piper with the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band and a competitor in the Junior Amateur Class, has just returned from a modelling assignment in Japan. Michelle, a trained model, spent about 10 days in Tokyo.

Get well wishes to P/M Archie McAffer. Archie found himself in the Royal Columbian following a fairly serious heart attack. In addition to his duties as P/M of the Maple Ridge Legion Pipe Band, Archie is a highly respected teacher and has served the Association as a Director for a number of years. Hope to see you up and about soon, Archie.

Another member under the weather is Norma McLeod. Norma, a piper with the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band and player in the Juvenile Class is trying to shake a persistent 'bout of pneumonia. Get well soon, Norma.

Congratulations to Corey Tillyer and Terry Dalzell on the announcement of their engagement. Corey is a former member of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band and is currently a piper for Triumph Street. Terry, a side drummer, has come through the Richmond organization and is presently a member of S.F.U.

A speedy recovery to our own "bionic woman". Kay Taylor, former convenor of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band and staff member of the newsletter is currently recuperating in the Vancouver General following a plastic hip replacement. Hope to see you back in action for the Annual Dinner.

Although the Juvenile Grade has lost three bands from a year ago, the sole survivor, B.C. Junior, appears to be doing very well. The band entered two mini bands at the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival and has more members in the wings. Band master Donald MacMillan is being assisted by Graham Davidson and Christine Waddell, both pipers with Triumph Street. While Chris Curr, also of Triumph Street, is instructing the bass section, Steve Rixton, formerly of S.F.U., is in charge of the side drummers.

Congratulations to the White Spot and Richmond Pipe Bands. Both bands acquitted themselves well after promoting themselves to a higher grade. White Spot captured first place in Grade III at the Ladies' while Richmond placed second in Grade II.

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S T O L E N

A set of silver and ivory Sinclairs was stolen from the Gaelic Shop in Port Coquitlam, at the beginning of February. If anyone has any information regarding these pipes please call the Gaelic Shop at 941-2622.

L O S T

One Dunbar practice chanter at February Mini Gathering belonging to Rich Hamilton. Rich's initials are on the bottom. Please call Irene Hamilton at 888-1598.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPERS' ASSOCIATION 53RD ANNUAL GATHERING



VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
2600 EAST BROADWAY  
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Events Friday, April 5th, 1985 - 9:00 A.M.

- |       |   |        |   |
|-------|---|--------|---|
| No. 1 | Chanter Class - choice of any March   | No. 8  | Jr. Am. - Piobaireachd  |
| No. 2 | Novice - March (4 part 2/4)   | No. 9  | Jr. Am. - Jig   |
| No. 3 | Novice - Slow Air   | No. 10 | Sr. Am. - Piobaireachd (submit 2)sets)                              |
| No. 4 | Juvenile - March  | No. 11 | Sr. Am. - M.S.R. (submit 2 sets)                                    |
| No. 5 | Juvenile - Strathspey & Reel  | No. 12 | Sr. Am. - Jig (submit 2)  |
| No. 6 | Juvenile - Piobaireachd (Ground<br>and one variation - not necessary<br>to repeat Ground) | No. 13 | Open Adult - 2/4 March (for pipers<br>who do not regularly compete) |
| No. 7 | Jr. Am. - M.S.R.  | No. 14 | Open - Piobaireachd (submit 4)                                      |

Events Saturday, April 6th, 1985 - 10:30 A.M.

- |        |                               |        |                                  |
|--------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| No. 15 | Open - M.S.R. (submit 3 sets) | No. 16 | Open - Jigs (submit 3 sets of 2) |
|--------|-------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|

Events Saturday Afternoon, April 6th, 1985 - Drumming

- |        |  |        |  |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| No. 17 | Novice Drumming - 2/4 March (may<br>be two parts played twice) | No. 20 | Sr. Am. Drumming - Medley<br>(5 - 7 minutes) |
| No. 18 | Jr. Drumming - M.S.R.  | No. 21 | Open Drumming - M.S.R.                       |
| No. 19 | Sr. Am. Drumming - M.S.R.                                      | No. 22 | Open Drumming - Medley<br>(5 - 7 minutes)    |

Events Saturday Evening, April 6th, 1985

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| No. 23 | Grade IV Mini Bands (4 - 6 minute medley)  |
| No. 24 | Juvenile Mini Bands (4 - 6 minute medley)  |
| No. 25 | Grade III Mini Bands (5 - 7 minute medley) |
| No. 26 | Grade II Mini Bands (5 - 7 minute medley)  |
| No. 27 | Grade I Mini Bands (5 - 7 minute medley)   |

Entry Fees

|                    |   |         |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| All Amateur Events | - | \$ 3.00 |
| All Open Events    | - | \$ 5.00 |
| Junior Bands       | - | \$10.00 |
| All Other Bands    | - | \$15.00 |

Prizes

| <u>Event</u>              | <u>1st</u> | <u>2nd</u> | <u>3rd</u> | <u>4th</u> | <u>5th</u> |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Professional Piobaireachd | \$200      | \$100      | \$75       | \$60       | \$40       |
| Professional M.S.R.       | 100        | 75         | 60         | 50         | 40         |
| Professional Jigs         | 75         | 60         | 50         | 40         | 30         |
| Jr. Miniature Bands       | 150        | 125        | 100        |            |            |
| Grade III Miniature Bands | 175        | 150        | 125        |            |            |
| Grade II Miniature Bands  | 200        | 175        | 150        |            |            |
| Grade I Miniature Bands   | 400        | 300        | 250        |            |            |
| Professional Drumming     | 100        | 75         | 60         |            |            |

GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

1. Solo piping is governed by the B.C. Pipers' Association.
2. Pipe Bands and Drumming are governed by the Western Pipe Band Association.
3. Tuning time will be limited to five (5) minutes in Open Piping.
4. Pipers not ready to play at their posted time will be disqualified.
5. The Chanter Class is open to anyone who has not competed on the Pipes.
6. Aggregate winner of the Professional Class is to receive a Charter Flight to Scotland. The winner must compete in all three events to qualify. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the Piobaireachd.
7. Amateur and Professional Pipers must submit their list of tunes with their entry forms. Entries submitted without the list of tunes will not be accepted.
8. Pipe bands - Please submit your medley with the entry form.
9. Closing date of entries - March 23rd, 1985. All entries must be in the hands of Secretary by March 23rd, 1985.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM OF THE B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

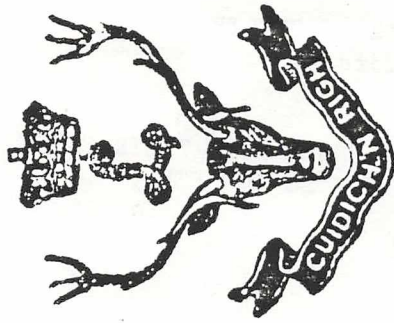
NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FEE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PROV/ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EVENT NUMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF TARTAN \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Mrs. Mary MacKinnon  
 6959 Halligan Street  
 Burnaby, B.C. V5E 1R4

CLOSING DATE OF ENTRIES:  
 March 23rd, 1985

AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL PIPERS MUST SUBMIT THEIR LIST OF TUNES WITH THEIR ENTRY FORMS. ENTRIES SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE LIST OF TUNES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PIPE BANDS PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR MEDLEY WITH THE ENTRY FORM.



*Seaforth Association  
Pipes and Drums*

# 1st ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

Saturday, May 25th, 1985, 6:00 p.m.

The Seaforth Armoury

1650 Burrard Street

DANCE TO THE "GUNNERS"

(A 16 Piece Band of the 15th Field Regiment, RCA)

No Host Bar 6:00    Buffet Dinner 7:00    Dancing 9:00 til ?

Door Prizes and Spot Dances

**\$20.00 per Person**

Contact:

- Hugh Aird - 921-8506
- Mel Parsons - 526-7228
- Jack Mellis - 591-7538

SEMI-FORMAL -- UNIFORM,  
HIGHLAND DRESS





