

JANUARY 1984

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



#208

The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

JANUARY 1984

PUBLICATION # 208

THE B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PIPERS' ASSOCIATION AND IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION.

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COMING EVENTS

THE VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THEIR 33RD ANNUAL BURNS DINNER ON JANUARY 21, 1984 IN ST. MARY'S HALL ON JOYCE ROAD. \$35.00 PER COUPLE. FOR TICKETS PHONE 936-7189.

ROBBIE BURNS DINNER AND DANCE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1984
COCKTAILS 6-7 DINNER - 7
DANCING - 9 BAND - HARMONY
TICKETS - \$14. EACH
LOCATION - MAPLE RIDGE LEGION
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ORMA McAFFER
942 - 0980

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD FIRST BURNS SUPPER
JANUARY 28, 1984
TICKETS \$35.00 COUPLE, \$17.50 SINGLE
LOCATION - BRANCH 148 LEGION
FOR TICKETS CALL JIM PENNER 941-4631 OR
JOHN NICHOL 980-1294

ANNUAL GATHERING

IT'LL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

PRELIMINARY INFO.	MAIN JUDGES	IAIN MORRISON DONALD MACPHERSON
	DATES	APRIL 20, 21st
	PLACE	VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SCHOOL

ENTRIES AND MORE INFORMATION IN NEXT MONTHS' EDITION.

VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 17, 1984 and FEBRUARY 18, 1984

LANGARA CAMPUS, 100 WEST 49TH AVE.; VANCOUVER, B.C.

PIPING EVENTS FRIDAY FEB. 17, 1984 - 6:00 P.M.

No. 101	chanter	no. 105	juvenile 2/4 march
no. 102	novice 2/4 march	no. 106	juvenile strathspey and reel
no. 103	novice slow air		

PIPING EVENTS SATURDAY FEB. 18, 1984 - 12:30 P.M.

no. 104	V.C.P.B. 6/8 march	no. 109	senior amateur M.S.P.
NO. 107	junior amateur 2/4 march	no. 110	senior amateur jig/hornpipe
no. 108	junior amateur jig/hornpipe	no. 111	professional M.S.R.
		no. 112	professional jig/hornpipe

DRUMMING EVENTS

no. 113	novice side drumming 2/4 march
no. 114	junior side drumming M.S.R.
no. 115	novice tenor drumming 2/4 march
no. 116	amateur tenor drumming strathspey and reel
no. 117	senior amateur side drumming 3 - 5 min. musical medley
no. 118	professional side drumming 3 - 5 min. jysical medlay

MINIATURE PIPE BAND COMPETITION - 6:00 P.M.

no. 119	Grade 1	no. 120	Grade 2	Both grades 5-7 min. medley
no. 121	Grade 3	no. 122	Juvenile	Both grades 4-6 min. medley

PROFESSIONAL PRIZE MONEY: 1st - \$50., 2nd - \$40., 3rd - \$30.

PIPE BAND PRIZE MONEY:

Grade 1	1st	\$300.	2nd	\$200.	3rd	\$100.
Grade 2		200.		125.		75.
Grade 3		150.		100.		50.
Juvenile		100.		75.		40.

ENTRY FEE: chanter, novice and all amateur piping/drumming events \$3.25 each. Professional events - \$4.25 each. Pipe bands - \$15.00 each. All fees payable by money orders only to Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Association. U.S. competitors please note that U.S. money orders in CANADIAN FUNDS ONLY will be accepted. Entries will NOT be accepted unless accompanied by fee. Double entry fees will be charged for late entries but definitely no entries accepted day of Festival. Closing date: January 23, 1984.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Kim Chisholm, # 107 7349 - 140th St., Surrey, B.C.
V3W 5J6 or PHONE 594-0434. Or phone Angus MacPherson
at 939-9616.

MINI-BAND CONTEST IN EDMONTON

On Saturday, March 24, 1984, the Edmonton Caledonia Pipe Band and the Army, Navy, Airforce Veterans' Club of Edmonton will be sponsoring a Mini-Band Contest in Edmonton.

Prizes will be: 1st \$1,000.00
2nd 500.00
3rd 300.00
4th 200.00 No entry fee is required.

One tenor drummer is compulsory. There will be two piping judges and one drumming judge.

For details and enquiries contact: David Trew, 59 W. Terrace Place,
Spruce Grove, Alberta. T0E 2C0
Phone: (403) 962-8476

THE HAWAIIAN SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION THIRD ANNUAL HIGHLAND GATHERING
HONOLULU, HAWAII MARCH 25, 1984

AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND AND HIGHLAND DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

ADELAIDE S.A., AUSTRALIA

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY (EASTER), MARCH 29TH, 30TH, AND 31ST,
1986

1986 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the State of South Australia and it has been decided to give the Australian Championships an International Flavour by holding it in the City of Adelaide and extending a welcome to Pipe Bands all over the World. Invitations have already gone forward to the Chief Constable of Strathclyde, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and many other major bands.

As an incentive to participation and competition, prize money totalling Australian \$40,000.00 (That's right - forty thousand Aussie dollars) is being offered, plus trophies.

Further details, including advertising material will be available early in 1984 and will be published in later newsletters. In the meantime, any interested bands should contact: D.M. Robert Currie, 1 Colwood Ave., Fulham, South Australia 5024, Australia.

ANNUAL DINNER

Plans for this year's dinner are currently under way. A repeat of last year's successful format is highly likely with some minor modifications. Date has been tentatively set for March 31st. Stay tuned for details.

RECITALS

This year the Association is fortunate to have the services of two great players from Scotland; Donald MacPherson and Iain Morrison. Both gentlemen have agreed to perform recitals. Probable dates at the moment:

Donald MacPherson	Thursday, April 19
Iain Morrison	Wednesday, April 25

Tickets will be available shortly.

FEBRUARY KNOCK--OUT

The next semi-final round of the knock-out will be held on February 3rd at the Scottish Auditorium. The match-ups will be Jack Lee versus Owen Reid and Rob Menzies versus Jimmie Hardie.

The warm up requirement for February will be 4 parts of polka. The requirement for march will be any legitimate 3 part tune..

Our impromptu feature for February will be the famous pupil-teacher contest. This year it will be trios (teacher plus two students, not student plus two teachers). The tune requirement will be six parts of march time in any signature in any combination. Pupils will be limited to members of novice and juvenile classes. This is planned as a fun event not a serious competition so come on teachers take a couple of kids down to the auditorium and participate. Remember it's your association.

If you plan on entering , please call Angus MacPherson at 939-9641.

In addition to the pupil-teacher a junior band has been invited to put on a presentation. Promises to be a good one - see you there!

Coming in March -- PIPING TRIVIA -- prizes, etc.

THE VANCOUVER LADIES HOST THE OLYMPIA CUP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1984

OPEN PIOBAIREACHD CONTEST LIMITED TO EIGHT ENTRIES

1ST PRIZE	\$250.00
2ND PRIZE	\$100.00
3RD PRIZE	\$ 50.00

THIS IS AN EVENING PLANNED TO EDUCATE THOSE OF US WHO HAVE LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF CEOL MOR. IT SHOULD PROVE TO BE VERY ENLIGHTENING AS OUR COMMENTATOR WILL BE OFFERING SOME BACKGROUND HISTORY ON THE COMPETITOR'S PIECE.

ENTRY FEE IS \$10.00 AND SUBMISSION OF THREE TUNES AT THE TIME OF ENTRY IS REQUIRED. FIRST EIGHT ENTRIES RECEIVED WILL BE ACCEPTED.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: KIM CHISHOLM, 107-7349 140TH STREET,
SURREY, B.C., V3W 5J6.

It is with much sadness that we record the recent passing of Mr. Fred Bokenfohr.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Membership of the B.C. Pipers' Association, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to Jean and her family.

Angus MacPherson
Vice-President

DECEMBER'S KNOCK-OUT

December's knock-out competition was held on Friday the 2nd. There was not a large turnout. This was certainly a disappointment as all previous meetings have been well attended.

The evening musical format got underway with 2 9/8 warm-up marches played by each competitor. This was won by Robbie MacNeil playing his own composition "Dr. George Peterson" and Colin Magee's composition "The Colonel's Bugle".

The first match up of the evening saw Angus MacPherson against John A. MacLeod. Angus was first to play. His instrument was well tuned and had a good balanced sound. The contest consisted of each player playing a small medley of three two-part marches, three two-part strathspeys, three two-part reels, and jig.

Angus played some lovely tunes and surprised the audience by playing Highland Laddie as one of his marches. He certainly showed why this

tune is as popular today as it ever was. Overall, Angus gave a strong performance. His always lovely expression was great to hear. John A. MacLeod was up next. His pipe, slightly lower in pitch than Angus', was solid. The chanter was well balanced and the drones were terrific. John A. started off with a selection of Old marches and played steady from start to finish. The judges gave Angus the victory as he now advances to round two.

The second battle of the night featured Jim Stewart and Drew Noot. Jim was up first. His music and execution were strong from the start and his drones were steady throughout. Unfortunately, the top hand of his chanter went sharp on him and this hurt his overall good performance. Drew Noot came on strong right from the start with three aggressive marches. His pipe was well tuned and he played strongly. His jig, the Irish Washerwoman was a little fast but he finished nicely. The judges gave Drew the nod over Jim.

The third knockout saw Duncan Fraser face Robby MacNeil. Duncan was up first. He played with his usual strong hands. The music was smooth without any noticeable bumps. Unfortunately his bagpipe was not going to behave as the drones went out of tune. This was unfortunate as his performance, musically and technically, was quite sound. Robbie was the last to play. His marches were 12/8; and he provided some very enlightening music. Robbie, who seems to get stronger every time he plays, gave a very good performance. His bagpipe was well tuned and nicely pitched. The judges awarded Robbie for his fine efforts by giving him the edge over Duncan.

After the knock-out competition the audience was treated to a performance by the Seattle Pipe Band. The band was up for the week-end to compete in the Triumph Street Indoor Contest. It was good to have the band turnout. They gave a well appreciated show.

Peter Aumonier.

JANUARY KNOCK-OUT

The first knock-out of 1984 was held on January 6th at the Auditorium. A disappointing turnout was on hand to hear some of the best playing of the competition so far.

Unfortunately two players, Hal Senyk and D. Wilson, were unable to fulfil their playing obligations, leaving Alison Palmer and Steve Geddes to proceed to the next round. To make the evening a little more interesting Steve and Alison competed unofficially. While both played very well indeed, Alison carried off the bottle of Bell's. The semi-final round saw Jim Troy and Pete Aumonier compete for the chance to play at the Annual Dinner. Both pipers put forward commendable performances but I'm afraid Pete will have to buy his own dinner this year as Jamie got the nod from judges Drew Noot, James Watt and Jim Stewart.

The warm-up event, four parts of 4/4, saw Steve Geddes winning with a fine rendition of a 12/8.

Following the competition, an impromptu 6/8 contest was held attracting seven competitors. Judge Jack Cairney recognized Jim Troys name and

awarded him first place.

Despite the small turnout, an enjoyable time was had by all, as well as Robbie Collins.

BAND CHATTER

Congratulations are extended to Bill and Judy McDowell. They are the proud parents of a baby girl. Mother and daughter, Erin Leigh, are reported in fine condition. However, Bill is still recuperating!

While on the subject of congratulations most people have heard by now that Peter Aumonier and Linda MacPherson are getting married next October. Well, these things have a way of snowballing and congratulations are extended to Bruce Gandy and Bev Rollo. Bruce and Bev are tying the knot in December of '84.

Anyone who attended the Vancouver Ladies annual Christmas party had the dubious honour of witnessing the first performance of the newest pipe band to hit the West Coast. The band is comprised of a group of fathers, whose daughters play in the Ladies, and are under the expert tuition of Angus MacPherson. To say the least, the band has a unique sound. The music is incredible and the execution is unbelievable! (you can interpret this as you wish). Frank Steven assures me that the band will not be competing in the grade one competition at the indoor meet but rumour has it that they intend to.

In last month's newsletter it was reported that George McKillop had retired from Simon Fraser Pipe Band. Well, George had a short retirement and is indeed back in the band.

Once again the City of Victoria Pipe Band did not compete at the Triumph Street Contest. Some of the band members were caught in a snowstorm in Portland and thus the band was unable to attend! If you remember, last year several band members were ill and the band did not attend. In fact over the last 11 years the band has missed the contest 3 or 4 times due to unfortunate circumstances. However, the band expresses its regret at not having attended as they do recognize the hard work that the organizers put into running the competition.

We wish to extend our congratulations to Jim Stewart and Alison Palmer on the announcement of their recent engagement. Jim and Alison are trying to fit the wedding in between band turnouts and competitions. Good Luck!

OVERHEARD AT THE KNOCK-OUT

After looking at the size of our "one" ounce drink. "The B.C. Pipers" were the first organization to operate their bar in metric".

Robbie Collins

~~"The crowd is so small tonight, Alf Millers back dues may be the biggest take of the night."~~

Neil Palmer

JANUARY MINI GATHERING

Once again there was a good turn-out at the Mini Gathering held on January 7, 1984. The judges for the day were Alison Palmer, Jim Stewart and James Watt. The results were as follows:

CHANTER MARCH

1. Lyne Irving
2. Harlan Janson
3. Michiko Kariya and Shonna Rankin
4. Colin Newlands and Val Mark

NOVICE "A" STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. Glen Mitchell
2. Norma MacLeod
3. Sophia Thomson

NOVICE "B" STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. Cathy MacLeod
2. Robbyn Bell
3. Heather MacDonald and Todd Sinclair

JUVENILE JIG

1. Graeme Savage
2. Michelle Langston
3. Lesley MacKay

JUNIOR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Karen Mark

AMATEUR MARCH STRATHSPEY & REEL

1. Darleen Miharija
2. Shaunna Stephen
3. Robert MacLeod

We would ask that the trophy winners from the 1982/83 Mini Gatherings please return their trophies at the next Mini Gathering to be held on Saturday, February 4, 1984.

The February 4th Mini Gathering will commence at 10:00 a.m. The time schedule is as follows:

CHANTER SLOW AIR	10:00
NOVICE 6/8 MARCH	10:00
JUVENILE PIOBAIREACHD (ground and a variation)	
JUNIOR HORNPIPE	Not before 11:00
AMATEUR PIOBAIREACHD (submit 2)	Not before 11:00
	Not before 11:30

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The recent move by the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band to run a professional piobaireachd competition in conjunction with their annual festival, is a move that deserves praise. The B.C. Pipers' Association has done much to promote light music throughout the years but, with the exception of the indoor meet, has done little to promote piobaireachd playing. The obvious reason for this is that the association is committed to providing entertainment for an audience largely composed of non-piobair-eachd playing spectators. I think this is a poor excuse for avoiding the issue. For a purist (and I admit I fall into this category) piobaireachd is the highest form of bagpipe music and it should not be cast aside. The Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band is a tempting to promote interest in this musical subject by giving background information on tunes played by each competitor. A commentator will introduce each player and give a brief history behind the tune, hopefully covering such topics as origin, composer, construction, and any other interesting information. For this reason the competition will take on the form of more of a musical concert. I urge anyone associated with piping to attend. Most people who give you the line "I hate piobaireachd, it's boring" have never listened to more than 10 minutes of a piobaireachd competition. Anyone who studies piobaireachd can tell you that the more they learn the more they enjoy the music. So give it a chance, support the contest and you may learn something. We are successful in promoting light music and this is certainly important; but let's not lose sight of this other avenue of bagpipe music.

Peter Aumonier

Aberdeen, Scotland

Since my visit to your lovely city several years ago as piping judge to your very renowned Annual Piping competition, a number of years ago, you have privileged me with regular delivery of your newsletter.

I have always meant to make some contributions to your articles but being typically Highland, I keep putting things off.

Although I haven't engaged myself in the competitive field recently I am still actively involved in piping. I have found myself a job as security manager with a super-store in this area since my retirement from the Police.

Convey my warmest wishes and success to your society.

Yours aye,
Donald Morrison

Glasgow, Scotland

I enjoyed Doug Grant's article on his travels in foreign countries, especially the bit about the pipe band in Singapore which started from scratch and was playing on the street after six months. I don't claim a world record, but I did the same trick in three and a half weeks.

The occasion was at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton some years ago when the City Fathers of Campbellton, New Brunswick, decided that they would like to have a pipe band, so they sent about fifteen teenagers to attend the four-week summer school. A few days after they arrived I heard the Reverend A.W.R. MacKenzie (our director) being quoted on the radio to the effect that the band would play on the first day of the Mod. Naturally I thought the whole idea was crazy but A.W.R. had proved many people wrong in the past, the boys were prepared to accept the challenge so why not me?

There were over fifty piping students and I was the only instructor so most of the work they had to do themselves, far off in the woods for the sake of the health of everybody else in the school. Even at that, after two weeks James L. MacKenzie, with tears in his eyes, begged me to teach them a second tune, which reluctantly I did.

Came the big day and the band marched down and on to the Mod stage playing "the Brown-Haired Maiden" to thunderous applause, especially from the other students. After a few moments, they gave a very creditable rendering of "Scots Wha Hae" and following a further pause to give the audience a chance to forget the first tune, they marched off to the "Brown-Haired Maiden" once again.

Of course the boys were at it every day and half the night. They came back again for a number of years and then stopped, but whether this was because they needed no more instruction or had disbanded, I never found out.

The world record, however, is not mine. I discovered later that early in the war Willie Ross had produced a band for the Polish Army in exactly three weeks. I doubt if anyone will ever beat that.

Yours sincerely,
Seumas MacNeill

POACHING

Webster's New World Dictionary describes poaching as follows: "to take anything by unfair or illegal means; steal". Certainly amongst pipe bands poaching is not illegal, although it is unfair and selfish. Over the years prairie pipe bands have been brought to their knees by the loss of their most experienced players to bands that do not develop their own.

The most noted poachers are those who produce nothing themselves and consequently are forced to exist by lifting the work of the more productive bands. Persuading fifteen-year-olds to the bands that have trained them, equipped them, and provided them with a family of friends - all in exchange for pie-in-the-sky promises - is not the action of gentlemen. Many bands have invested considerable hard-earned dollars to train their members and even pay their way to summer schools. Why? Hardly to fatten some other less industrious organizations.

Now all of this is not to say that a player should not be able to

change sides, for there are ethical ways to do so. In sports it is the rule that teams do not even approach players who are playing with another team. If a club wishes to obtain a player it approaches the other team and attempts to initiate a fair trade. On the other hand, a player who wishes to change teams first becomes a free agent, independent of any team; only then does he entertain offers from rival organizations. Certainly these practises help preserve the integrity of both the teams and the individuals involved.

Amongst pipe bands, however, there are no such rules. We are all in it for the pleasure and inner satisfaction that music and comradeship provide. Gentlemen do not need rules to govern their relationships with their friends. Poaching, however, is a practise which causes lasting disharmony and distrust amongst people who should be sharing the rewards and pleasures of a common love -- pipe bands. After all, what is really at stake here is integrity.

Webster's New World Dictionary has on other interesting definition of poaching, one that the last few years has shown also pertains to pipe bands. Webster concludes that to poach is to "turn to mud; become soggy and full of holes when trampled."

Excerpt from the Prairie Pipe Band Association Newsletter, submitted by J.L. McWilliams, pipe major of the Moose Jaw White Hackle Optimist Pipe Band.

CASH CASINO NIGHT AND DANCE

MARCH 10, 1984 7P.M. - 1 A.M.

SPONSORED BY THE SIMON FRASER PIPE BAND

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

1984 MEMBERSHIP DUES

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES. DUE TO INCREASED POSTAGE AND MATERIALS, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO RAISE THE DUES THIS YEAR. IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR NEWSLETTER COMING REGULARLY, KEEP YOUR DUES PAID UP. ACTIVE AND ASSOCIATE \$12.00 PENSIONERS AND JUNIORS (UNDER 18YEARS OF AGE) \$6.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ACTIVE _____ ASSOCIATE _____ O.A.P. _____ JUNIOR _____

MAIL TO: NEIL PALMER, 4694 W. 7TH AVE., VANCOUVER, B.C. V6R 1X5

On the 1st day of June 1914
I have received from the
City of New York the sum of
\$100.00 for the purpose of
the purchase of the land
on such date. My name is
John Doe.

John Doe
123 Street
New York City