

Ingersoll Pipe Band Newsletter



**Celebrating 116 Years
Of Service and History**



Volume 16 Issue 1 April 2026

**IT'S AMAZING THE
NUMBER OF GREAT
PEOPLE IN MY LIFE
THAT I WOULDN'T
HAVE EVER MET IF
IT WASN'T FOR MY
WEARING A KILT!**

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You don't need to be a piper or a drummer to agree with the poster to the left! Just ask our guests at our annual Robbie Burns' Dinners, or the Scottish music fans who show up at the many highland games spread across the province, or the young highland dancers at our Ceilidhs, or members of a wedding party, or just about anyone who wants to share a love for Celtic culture.

IPB members are busy getting our kilts and other accessories in order to be prepared to head out on the 2026 parade schedule which begins for us in earnest in May.

Pipers, drummers, and learners, regardless of their years of experience, all have been busy this past winter and spring getting those special tunes and beats firmly locked into their memory banks.

Our first four months of this calendar year have been busy reviewing tunes, tuning our pipes and drums, holding events at the pipe band hall and preparing for parades and more special events and occasions. This newsletter will cover just a little bit of this activity.

IPB members do have the privilege of having a huge extended musical family not only within our own membership but our connections with other pipe bands. We definitely have a lot of "great" people in our lives who we met "wearing kilts"!

Your Editor – *Veronica Jackson*

New Year's Levees 2026



Exactly one year had passed when members of the IPB showed up on January 1st for the first New Year's Levee at the Ingersoll Legion – Branch 119. It really did seem like we had just been there a few months ago ushering in the New Year and not an entire year had passed. As usual the Legion members went out of their way to make us feel welcome and after our playing provided us with an excellent lunch buffet and beverages.



D Sgt Lisa, Tammi, Charlie, Larry, Freya and Jerry



Doug T, Harold, Kevin



Lois, Lana, Andrew, and Nancy



Our two "Dougs" – Doug Turvey and P M Doug Collins



Veronica and Legion Member

And then it was time to head to Woodstock to the Legion!



We always have a great time at Legion Branch 55 in Woodstock. The members here are always gracious hosts and welcome us to perform for their members, friends and supporters. A terrific way to welcome the New Year into Woodstock – “The Friendly City” aka “The Dairy Capital of Canada”. Here we were joined by additional IPB members – Catherine and Adam Stark, Freya Rimington, and Christina Breen. New Year’s Day is always fun as we gain and lose performing members along route depending on what commitments band members have.

The Woodstock Legion usually has a terrific band to provide entertainment after we finish our performance. This year it was the very talented group – “Blue Sky Music” who were definitely fan favourites not only with attendees but the IPB as well.



Then after more delicious goodies to eat, we were off around the corner to James Street to the Woodstock Navy Club! Thank you again to this organization for their fabulous hospitality!



Assembled in the back room of the Navy Club



Pipers Catherine and Christina on the left; PM Doug Collins with two of our Navy Club Hosts

Thanks again to all three organizations for continuing to invite the Ingersoll pipe Band back each year to enjoy ushering in the new year.



January 11th, 2026

At the Annual General Meeting, the Election and Appointment of Officers and Directors took place for 2026. The Executive this year is composed of :

President – Wendy Marshall

Past President – Harold Matthews

Vice President - Winston Kooistra

Treasurer – Doug Turvey

Secretary – Mary Ellen Muterer

Pipe Major – Doug Collins

Quarter Master – Lisa McPherson

Canteen – Tammi Minogue

Attendance and Welfare – Nancy Matthews

Communications – Veronica Jackson

A special thank you to Jane Muterer who retired from her position as Band Treasurer. Jane has looked after our financial affairs for many, many years and is now stepping down to concentrate on family business. Jane was recognized for her contributions to the band recently at a band practice in April.

Also we would like to acknowledge, drummer Doug Glover, who retired from the band this year. Doug joined in 2010 and over the years participated as a piper, a snare drummer, and a bass drummer. We will miss seeing Doug at Thursday practices and other parades and events, but he has promised that he and his wife, Catherine will be present at many of our upcoming social events.

Piper John Lynes is also stepping down from his piping duties with the band. John started on parade in 2009, took a brief hiatus, and returned in 2024. He was on parade for a total of 15 years!

Special thanks to Piper Jack Habkirk (former PM) who continues to contribute his expertise to the band by

teaching beginners and intermediates in piping instruction.

Appointments that are renewed for 2026 - Pipe Sergeant – Charlie Thomson and Drum Sergeant – Lisa McPherson Thank you again to both of them for their leadership.

This will be another busy year what with parades and events already booked for 2026 well into November. We are working hard at organizing additional events at the band hall and will be striking committees for many of these.



Our first events in May and June include –

Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration Service at The Woodstock Navy Club on May 3rd at 11am

Victoria Day Parade in Woodstock on May 18th at 10am

Cedarview Retirement Living on June 25th at 7pm

We are still awaiting confirmation on participation in the Calithumpian Parade in Thamesford on May 18th.

We will also be moving into another gear with fundraising for future trips as we have completed preliminary surveys in regards to a trip to the Maritimes in August 2027. More details about that trip later in the newsletter.



PEI and Nova Scotia Here We Come

Of course we are also looking forward to our participation at **The 87th Embro Highland Games** on **Wednesday July 1st** and **The Gathering of the Bands in Kincardine** on **Saturday August 26th**

Robbie Burns' Dinner January 24th

Only a few seats remain for the best night in town!

Last Chance!





Burns Night 2026

Saturday, January 24, 2026
Ingersoll Pipe Band Amnoury
Cocktails & Music at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

\$45.00 ea

Call or text 519-878-4494

"Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start!" * For us it was months before the actual event when planning begins!

First, pick a date (easy – the day before the bard's birthday this year); arrange the entertainment – The Paddy Stones, Sim's School of Dance; arrange publicity – posters, ads, social media announcements; get tickets printed (thanks Mike at Millcreek Printing)

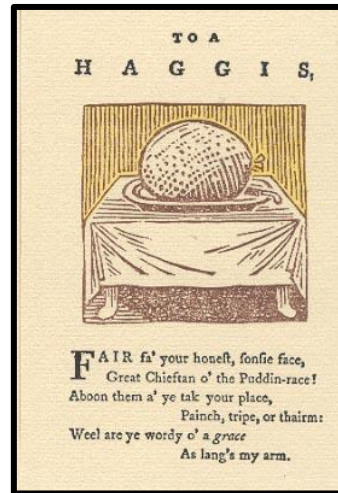
Closer to the date sell the tickets, order the roast beef (thanks PM Doug and Tremblets); buy the groceries, make and order pies (thanks Mary Ellen); obtain the turnips (thanks Doug T); stock the bar (thanks Tammi, Larry and Jim)

And just before the event get the haggis made (see photo for haggis makers); make the scones (thanks, Lois); set up the hall and decorate (too many to mention – lots of band members and learners); prep the vegetables (again under Mary Ellen's supervision, many volunteers); rehearse the mini band (PM Doug).

Finally – Saturday January 24th – SHOW UP and be prepared to assist with any duties assigned to you by committee members (MaryEllen, Doug C, Winston, Tammi and Veronica); these duties include - food prep and serving, clearing tables, acting as gracious hosts to our very large crowd of attendees, taking part in various entertainment ceremonies, taking photos, playing in the mini band, assisting with bar sales, doing dishes, cleaning up "after the party is over", and FINALLY acknowledging what a great job everyone who was involved did!

* The famous line "Let's start at the very beginning, A very good place to start" was written by lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. It is the opening lyric to the song "Do-Re-Mi" from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The Sound of Music*, famously performed by Julie Andrews in the 1965 film adaptation

"The Haggis Makers"



"The Experts"



Jerry

Tammi



Mary Ellen

Don



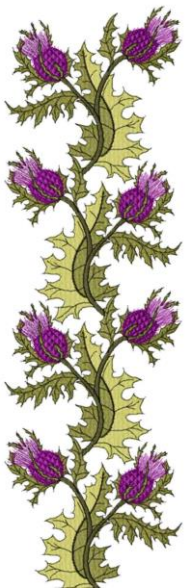
Charlie

Doug T

IPB Members – Some “All Dressed Up” for the Evening and “Some All Dressed Down” for Work



Top to Bottom (L to R) - Don, Winston; Lisa, Adam, Steve, Kevin; Lisa, Heidi, Catherine, Wendy, Lois, Lana; Lana, Joanne, Jane M



Jerry, Kevin, Jane W



Top to Bottom
(L to R) -
Jack, Ron,
Wendy; Jim A,
Catherine;
Charlie;
Andrew; Mary
Ellen, Joanne;
Carole and
Laurie



Top to Bottom (L to R) - Jim A, Doug C; Nancy, Harold; Dave M, Angus; Dave M, Pat; Christina, Michaela; Lois

Traditions - Haggis, the Address to the Haggis, Good Food and Drink, Pipes and Drums, and Entertainment



Menu

Roast Beef, Salad, Mashed Potatoes,
Turnips, Vegetables, Haggis, Scones,
Dessert, Tea & Coffee

Program

Master of Ceremonies
Pipe Major Doug Collins
Piper
PM Doug Collins
Address to the Haggis
Pipe Sergeant Charles Thomson
Haggis Bearer
Andrew Coghill

Grace

PSgt Charles Thomson

Toast to the King

PM Doug Collins

O'Canada

Lana Coghill

Entertainers

After Dinner- Sim School of Highland
Dancers; Piping Duo Doug Collins &
Jim Armstrong; The Paddy Stones;
Ingersoll Pipe Band Mini Band

(There will be short breaks between our
entertainers; The Paddy Stones will
perform two separate sets
so please stay around)





We have been so fortunate to have such great talent available for our annual Burns' Dinners – Sherry Sim and her terrific dancers who showcase the many dance styles and skills they have learned at her Sim School of Highland Dance; The Paddy Stones – Rick and Dan, our favourite duo, who are so much fun with their renditions of Celtic music favourites and drinking songs; and, of course, our own talented drummers and pipers.

“Robbie Burns celebrated in Ingersoll”

Local reporter/photojournalist for the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Newspaper, Ron Yuzark wrote the following for the January 30th edition of the newspaper -

The Ingersoll Pipe Band hosted a well-attended Burns Night program on Saturday, January 24, at the IPB Armoury, drawing residents and visitors for an evening dedicated to the legacy of Robert Burns. The event featured a full lineup of musical and cultural performances. Returning favourites The Paddy Stones - Dan and Rick from Tillsonburg - delivered a polished, engaging set that showcased their signature Celtic sound. Their performance once again proved to be a strong anchor for the evening’s entertainment. It also included a series of dance performances by students at the Sim School of Highland Dance, whose precision and traditional choreography added depth to the cultural celebration. A mini band of Ingersoll Pipe Band pipers and drummers provided the unmistakable sound of Scotland, offering both opening and closing selections that framed the event with tradition and ceremony. This year’s Burns Night continued the community’s commitment to celebrating Scottish culture and recognizing the enduring influence of Robert Burns through music, dance, and fellowship. Robbie Burns celebrated in Ingersoll (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



You can see all the photos Ron took on our IPB Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/IngersollPipeBand>

Additional Photos from the Evening
Friends and Newcomers Exchange Stories





More Guests at Our 2026 Dinner





Lots of Smiles after a Great Meal





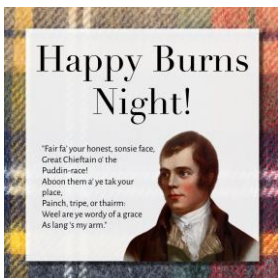
**So until the Robbie Burns Dinner in 2027, Cheers!
Thanks to everyone who contributed photos to your editor.**

More Burns' News

Every year, the Charles' Dickens Pub in Woodstock contacts Piper Nancy Matthews to arrange to bring a mini band to their premises to provide entertainment for its annual Burns Supper. This year the contingent included 4 pipers and 3 drummers. Pictured below from left to right –

Lois Turvey, Doug Turvey, Harold Matthews, Nancy Matthews, Scott Shaw (PM of the London Police Pipes and Drums), Richard May (from the London Police Pipes and Drums) and Charlie Thomson (P Sgt IPB)

The event was postponed due to bad weather on January 25th and was held on February 1st.





The History of Tartan Day in Canada!

Tartan Day (Scottish Gaelic: Là an Tartain)^[1] is a celebration of Scottish heritage and the cultural contributions of Scottish and Scottish-diaspora figures of history.^[2] The name refers to tartan, a patterned woollen cloth associated with Scotland. **The event originated in Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1987.** It spread to other communities of the Scottish diaspora, such as Australia, the United States and New Zealand, and to Scotland itself, in the 1990s to 2000s. Tartan Day is held on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. It is celebrated in Canada (since 1987, officially and nationally since 2010), the United States (since 1997, with increasing recognition in 1998, 2005, and 2008 as National Tartan Day), and Argentina (unofficially from 2006).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tartan_Day



Long before tartan became a symbol of clans and heritage, it was simply part of everyday life in the Scottish Highlands — woven from local wool, dyed with plants from the surrounding landscape, and worn for warmth, durability, and identity. A glance at a pattern could reveal where someone came from. The colors echoed the land itself — deep greens, muted browns, and soft blues — tying people not just to family, but to place.

But tartan's story is not only one of tradition — it is also one of survival. In the aftermath of the Jacobite uprising of 1745, the British government sought to suppress Highland culture. Under the Dress Act 1746, the wearing of tartan was prohibited for decades. What had once been everyday dress became an act of defiance.

And yet, tartan endured. When the ban was lifted in 1782, tartan did not simply return — it re-emerged with renewed meaning. No longer just regional or practical, it had become a symbol of resilience, identity, and cultural pride.

Today, tartan is recognized around the world — and continues to evolve. It is estimated that there are now more than 7,000 registered tartans, representing not only clans, but also cities, universities, military regiments, and charitable causes. What began as regional cloth has become a global language of connection and creativity.

Tartan Day, celebrated on April 6, commemorates the Declaration of Arbroath, signed on that day in 1320 — one of the most important documents in Scotland's history. Addressed to the Pope, it affirmed Scotland's status as an independent nation and, remarkably for its time, expressed the idea that kings ruled with the consent of the people. Today, Tartan Day is formally recognized in both the United States and Canada as a celebration of Scottish heritage and the global Scottish diaspora.

In many ways, tartan carries that same spirit — a symbol of identity, resilience, and a nation's enduring right to define itself. Woven in cloth, carried **across generations, and shared across the world, it remains one of Scotland's most enduring and meaningful emblems.**

(Information Courtesy of The Scottish Unicorn Network - <https://scottishunicornnetwork.org/>)

So your editor asked our members to share some of their favourite tartans with our readers. What follows are some of the email replies that I received.



From bass drummer Doug Turvey - *“ Mine is the Witches Blood made in honour of Macbeth from the Stratford Festival”*



Woven in Scotland exclusively for MacLeod’s Scottish Shop, the Witches’ Blood Tartan celebrates its 10th Anniversary in 2026. Inspired by the Stratford Festival’s 2016 production of William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, directed by Antoni Cimolino, this exclusive weave was originally created to honor the playwright’s 400-year legacy. A decade later, the drama of the "Scottish Play" remains stitched into every thread.

From piper Ian McGregor – *“My favourite tartan is the MacGregor Hunting Modern. I have three kilts, none of them in this tartan, no idea why, but my Lindsay kilt is very close and may explain why I like that kilt so much. I do like my MacGregor Ancient kilt as well; it is 43 years old and still fits me.”*



From piper Laurie Marson – *“ I have a Middleton tartan kilt that I had made over twenty years ago it’s mainly red and green. My great grandmother lived in Elgin Murray close to Aberdeen; she was a Middleton”.*



From piper Lana Coghill - *“My favourite tartan is the Malcolm modern. My maiden name was Malcolm. My kilt pin is the Malcolm crest.”*



Design & Colors: The tartan is characterized by a bright green and blue base, crossed with black, red, yellow, and sometimes subtle lilac lines.
Clan Association: The tartan is worn by the Clan Malcolm, which has strong roots in Argyll and Bute and is associated with the motto *"In ardua tendit"* (He aims at difficult things).
Origin: The pattern was first meticulously recorded in 1850 in "The Authenticated Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland".

From piper Nancy Matthews – *“ Easy pick - the Wallace tartan. Simple - bright red + black boxing with a yellow narrow band. I would be a traitor to my Clan if I did not pick it as my favourite tartan. ‘Freedom’!”*



From piper Eric Hobden - *“My grandfather, Douglas Murray from Aberdeen Scotland, is a member of Clan Murray. I have an ancient Murray of Atholl tartan tie. “*



From piper Angus Thomson – *“Mine is the Modern Grey Thomson. I wear a kilt made from this tartan. My Dad did not have a kilt, but he had a tie with the traditional Thomson dress tartan (blue).”*



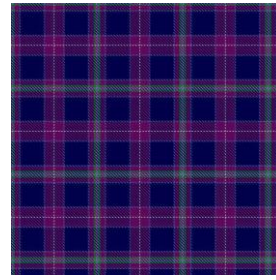
From piper Veronica Jackson – *“Our family surname is Cuthbert; my ancestors came to Upper Canada in 1834. They emigrated from Keith, Scotland and the predominant clan in that area is Gordon. I quite like the Dress Gordon tartan”.*



From piper Lois Turvey – *“I have been looking at tartans online and can't find one I really like, but blues and purples together speak to me. Growing up with German roots in a German community, I don't have a clan tartan. I also don't have an attachment to or fond memories of a specific tartan. When looking them up online, a couple that I like are Kintyre Dusk and Scottish Heather - not a clan tartan.”*

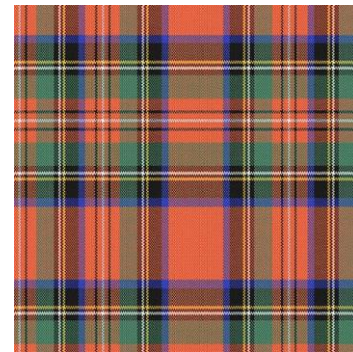


Kintyre Dusk



The Scottish Heather tartan is generally considered a non-clan, fashion, or district tartan rather than one associated with a specific family lineage. It is a universal tartan designed to represent the natural beauty of the Scottish Highland landscape—specifically the purple and pink heather moors.

From The Ingersoll Pipe Band- *“For over 90 years the band has worn the Ancient Royal Stewart tartan! The distinctive scarlet hue is colourful and vibrant on parade and at all events where we proudly wear it.”*



Trivia Night at The Band Hall



Saturday April 11th
7 pm to 10 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall
108 Wonham St S, Ingersoll

\$20 a person – create your own team of 2 to 6 people

PRIZES! REFRESHMENTS! CASH BAR!

Call or text 519-878-4494 or message the IPB Facebook page to reserve your table!
Reserve by April 7th

TRIVIA NIGHT
Hosts Danielle & Ron McMurchy
"Ronyell Trivia"

A Fundraiser for the Ingersoll Pipe Band

As one of our first fundraisers for our East Coast Trip, we decided to hold a Trivia Night and it was a huge success. With over 130 players spread over 22 teams, the event was supported wholeheartedly by Ingersoll and a whole group of communities in Oxford, Middlesex and Elgin counties!

Our Trivia Hosts - Danielle and Ron McMurchy - challenged our teams with some very interesting general knowledge questions and some great music and visual questions as well.



At the end of the night only a few points separated our top 5 teams. (A list of our teams and their points earned is on page 21).

The Winners



First Place - "Our Drinking Team Has A Trivia Problem"



Second Place - "Just Google It"



Third Place - "The Hobnobs"

Thank you to all our local sponsors who provided us with gift cards for our prizes – Louie's Pizza and Pasta, Chuck's Roadhouse, and The Joker's Crown.

TRIVIA NIGHT APRIL 11 - Presented by Ingersoll Pipe Band						
TEAMS Name	ROUNDS					TOTAL
	No.1	No.2	No.3	No.4	No.5	
OUR DRINKING TEAM HAS A TRIVIA PROBLEM	12	14	14	25	16	81
JUST GOOGLE IT	12	15	14	24	13	79 tie breaker
THE HOBNOBS	11	12	15	24	16	78
LET'S GET QUIZZICAL	11	15	15	25	11	77
EMBRO HIGHLANDERS	12	10	13	24	14	73
CRABBY PLATTY'S	8	14	13	22	13	70
TEAM CANADA	8	13	15	19	13	68
LOCH NESS MONSTERS	8	14	12	20	12	66
GUINNESS FOR BRAINS	9	10	14	22	9	64
DAZED AND CONFUSED	5	11	11	23	9	59
"T" BURGERS	9	9	10	15	16	59
YOUNGER'S TARTAN SPECIAL	12	8	10	18	9	57
NOBLE NOBBINS	8	11	11	17	10	57
THE WESTERN FRONT	11	12	11	12	11	57
MIGHTY PEOPLE OF ZORRA	11	11	15	9	10	56
TREBEK'S REJECTS	9	9	11	13	13	55
FOUR FRIENDS	8	12	11	15	7	53
WHOLLYCOWS	9	10	8	13	12	52
THE VINTAGE FINDS	7	5	9	23	7	51
HENS AND COCKS	11	12	12	10	5	50
BUCK STOPS HERE	9	10	10	13	3	45
GRUK'S 4	8	9	8	10	5	40

Kevin MacKay did a fabulous job with his team of assistants in getting all the refreshments ready for the evening. Kevin coordinated all the treats coming out of the kitchen throughout the evening – munchies, veggie trays, and cheese trays. Our members and their families generously donated the majority of the food being consumed so that helped us to keep our costs low. Tammi and her crew did a great job on stocking the beverage bar and keeping the customers happy with their selections! And of course a great job on set up and clean up by our fundraising team.

The silent auction additionally organized by Kevin brought in some extra dollars. The Trivia Co-Chairs, Kevin and Veronica would like to thank the following companies - Ingersoll Rails' House of Brews, Coyle's Country Store, the Village Cheese Mill (Salford), OLG Woodstock Casino, Ingersoll Pharmasave, Thamesford Pizza, Gino's Pizza, S&H Designworks, The Peters, and of course all our members who contributed items to the Silent Auction Table or purchased items.

The IPB is so fortunate to have so many fans and supporters for all our events!

We hope everyone who attended had as much fun as we did hosting.

Many who attended have asked us to consider making this a twice a year event. Some want to defend their winning titles while others just want to test their grey cells again!

The photos on the following page will show just how intense (or not intense) some of our teams were.





We could probably light up the band hall with all that Neuroenergetics “ being exuded!



Project Maritimes August 2027



Members Catherine and Adam Stark have friends and family in Nova Scotia so when Catherine proposed a trip “Down East”, there was a lot of interest from the first pitch to our band members and learners.

A committee was formed – Wendy Marshall (our in house travel guru and guide), Nancy Matthews, PM Doug Collins, Veronica Jackson and of course, Catherine Stark.

Here is an “overview” of what we are working on for our next band excursion out-of-province.

- a **12 day trip** is being planned that will run from Wednesday **August 18, 2027 – Sunday August 29, 2027** ; participants will have an opportunity to travel by coach bus (booked by the band); book their own air flights; or, travel by driving their own vehicles, and then everyone will meet up at our performance locations.

Performance events include:

- **Gold Cup Parade, Charlottetown, PEI** - Friday August 20th

- **Cup and Saucer Race, Charlottetown, PEI** - Saturday August 21st (spotlight playing opportunity at the opening ceremonies of this signature harness racing event at Red Shores)

- **Lunenburg/Peggy's Cove Day Excursion** - Tuesday August 24th – performing at the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg

- Halifax Kitchen Party (an evening with Catherine's musical relatives) - Sheet

Harbour Celebration Day - Friday August 27th , (parade - playing event + tours, lobster bake dinner and Ceilidh)

The planning has just begun so stay tuned!

Our PM Doug Collins' 2026 Message



Welcome to spring and parade season once more.

I am looking forward to a fun year ahead. The band is sounding better all the time and your hard work (practice) is about to pay off, “literally” as a large part of our income comes from such events. I encourage everyone to participate in as many events as possible. A large band is always impressive to our adoring spectators. We have lost a couple players sadly Doug Glover and John Lyons who won't be marching with us but we encourage them to take part socially with the band and we thank them for their many years of service.

We will also miss Andy Longridge and we extend our gratitude and sympathy to his family for such a wonderful long standing member and human being, We are all blessed for knowing him. We look forward to the addition of new players that are working hard to be out on parade with us in the near future.

The band's success and long history will continue because of everyone's dedication and participation.

Thank you all and see you at practice.

PM Doug

The Collins History as Pipe Majors

As many of you are aware, PM Doug Collins comes from a family with a rich history of holding that leadership position in the piping world. These photos were from a publication from the "1960 Band Jamboree Souvenir Programme" celebrating the band's 50th Anniversary on a Friday evening – May 13th at the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre.

Pipe Major Alexander P. Collins



Pipe Major Alex. P. Collins
—(S.R. Photo)

Born at Castle Douglas, Kirkcubright, Scotland, where he was educated, Alex. Collins learned the pipes at an early age. On the outbreak of the First War, he joined the 5th King's Own Scottish Borderers as a piper. After service in the British Isles, posted to France in 1917, transferring to the 17th Royal Scots. Part of this time he was personal piper to the general commanding the 35th Division, and saw action on the Somme.

Returning to Scotland and to civil life in 1919, Alex played as Pipe Corporal with the Ardrossan Shipyard Pipe Band, while employed as a railwayman. In 1921 he came to Canada to join his family in Ingersoll, and on his arrival was instrumental in the reorganization of the Pipe Band, and was appointed Pipe Sergeant.

Following the retirement of Pipe Major Johnston in 1935, Alex. was made Pipe Major, the position he is still filling with distinction, after 25 years. In his 39 years in Ingersoll, Alex. has led, instructed and inspired his band.

Pipe Major Robert A. Collins

The second generation of Collins' leadership is assured, as Pipe Major Robt. A. Collins, only son of Alex. and Mary Collins, is now taking his place as unquestioned deputy to his father. Bob began playing drums with the band at 8 years of age, learning side, tenor and bass drums, later learning pipes, as a piper of great talent. He has progressed through the ranks, first as Pipe Sergeant and recently, following his father's illness, as Acting Pipe Major. This unique situation gives the Ingersoll Pipe Band the distinction of having co-Pipe Majors, both of whom the band is extremely proud.

Alex. has 39 years – Bob has 21 years – between them SIXTY YEARS of service in the Ingersoll Pipe Band. A truly wonderful record!



Pipe Major Robt. A. Collins
—(S.R. Photo)

Andy Longridge



Andrew Graham Longridge “ANDY” January 27, 1948 – April 23, 2026

As referenced by PM Doug, the IPB membership lost a dear friend and member of the band, when Andy passed away suddenly earlier this month.

His obituary describes perfectly the kind of person Andy was –

*Beloved husband of 58 years to Dorothy (nee Bell).
Loving father to Al and his wife Sue, Robert and his wife Kate, Scott and his wife Karen. Papa to Corey, Matthew, Kyle, Nevin and his wife Amie, and Derek. Great Papa to Ainsleigh and Oliver.*

Andy Longridge lived a life marked by dedication, fellowship, and a steady commitment to the many communities and organizations he served. He was a man who believed in showing up, contributing with sincerity, and leaving every place better than he found it. His presence was felt not only through his long-standing involvement in fraternal and musical organizations, but also through the example he set for others by carrying himself with dignity, purpose, and a generous spirit.

Andy was a member of the Shriners, Dereham Lodge #624, Order of the Eastern Star-McDonald Chapter #167, and numerous masonic bodies. He also served as a District Deputy of Wilson District, and was a member of the Tillsonburg Legion.

Andy was a member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band and the Royal Scots of Mocha which reflected his deep connection to his Scottish heritage, and his appreciation of the Scottish music and traditions. He willingly shared his musical talent with others when asked.

In his younger years Andy participated in the sport of Judo, earning his Black Belt. He taught many to enjoy the sport through the Woodstock YMCA.

<https://www.ostranderfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Andy-Longridge?obId=48203764>

The Memorial Service for Andy was held on April 30th and the Interment was held at the Ebenezer Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to the Shriner’s Hospital Montreal-London Clinic or VON-Sakura House.



“Each member of the band is a better person for having known you, my friend. Rest in peace, Andy”. Our sincere condolences go out to his family.

What's New at The Band Hall

It was out with the old and in with the new! The IPB Executive approved the purchase of a new cooler for our bar area of the hall. The old one had run its course and was not exactly energy efficient. Winston Kooistra managed to locate a newer, quieter cooler and it was installed prior to our Burns' Dinner, Thanks to our heavy lifters for assisting the company we purchased it from to install it and move the old one onto a different location.



New Appointments

Congratulations to Steve Shepherd, who has been appointed to the position of Pipe Corporal, and to Winston Kooistra, who has been appointed Drum Corporal. It is always great to have members step up and fill in positions of leadership.



Steve on the left and Winston on the right

BREAKING NEWS! More new appointments -



Zorra Highland Society is considering a new addition to their animal display at the upcoming Embro Games! Here are two fine specimens who are being considered for this display.

