

Ingersoll Pipe Band Newsletter



Celebrating our 115th Anniversary

1910 - 2025

Volume 15 Issue 1

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Celebrating milestones is something that the Ingersoll Pipe Band is very good at! Given the age of the pipe band, and the impressive number of members from all walks of life that have made up the composition of the band, there have been lots of wonderful examples and stories of celebratory events from the past.

This year, our 115th, will be no exception. Plans are underway for several events to be hosted by the band over the next few months. These include a tattoo at Ingersoll Memorial Park in August, an IPB Reunion in early September, appearances in and around the community on several occasions, and a Ceilidh in October. We already kicked off the celebration in January with another amazing Robbie Burns Dinner.

We want to not only celebrate our past but our present and future as well. We are paying homage to our founders of the band, saluting our present members and supporters, and, looking for new recruits for the future of the IPB.

We hope that everyone will join in the celebrations over the next few months and make this another memorable year for the IPB! Take lots of photos, jot down your favourite memories and please share with me for our final newsletter in December 2025.

Your Newsletter Editor, *Veronica*

New Year's Levees 2025



IPB was on the New Year's Levee circuit on January 1st. It seemed impossible that a whole year had flown by since we checked in at all three locations in 2024! Once again, it was a wonderful reception at all three stops - The Ingersoll Legion Branch 119, The Woodstock Legion Branch 55, and The Woodstock Navy Club. We "grazed" our way along the piping and drumming circuit with lots of tasty goodies to give us sustenance for the day. Thank you so much to all three organizations that helped us usher in a new year of performances as we prepare for our special anniversary year.



Pipe Major Doug Collins
with Pipe Sergeant Charlie Thomson

Ingersoll – Our Home Town

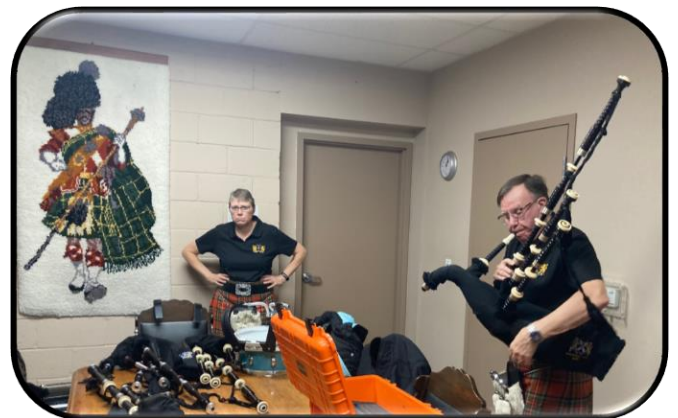


At Hillcrest Legion on Thames St. N - our first stop!
Around the billiards table from left to right, Pipes Lana,
Nancy, Doug C, Veronica & Laurie



Drummers turn! From left to right – Harold, Wendy, Kevin,
Tammi, Doug C, Doug T, Carole, Lisa, & Jerry

And then, off to Woodstock



Piper Lois doing her best impression of giving "the look"
(so not in Lois' personality) to unruly members while
Laurie ignores everyone and gets on with tuning his pipes!



Photos from Our Appearance at Woodstock Legion



We were met by very appreciative and enthusiastic spectators!



Then after more treats to eat, we were off around the corner to James Street to the Woodstock Navy Club!



Pipers top right and Drummers bottom left assembling in the back room prior to performing.

We acquired some additional pipers, drummers and supporters in Woodstock.

Pipers Ron, Christina, Catherine and Drummer Adam joined us as well as Catherine's parents, Larry and Joanne, and Tammi's spouse, Larry. It was great to have extras join us as we lost a piper and a drummer enroute to Woodstock!





January 12th, 2025

At the Annual General Meeting, the Election and Appointment of Officers and Directors took place for **2025**. The Executive this year is composed of :

President – Harold Matthews

Past President – Winston Kooistra

Vice President – Wendy Marshall

Treasurer – Jane Muterer

Secretary – Mary Ellen Muterer

Pipe Major – Doug Collins

Quarter Master – Doug Turvey

Canteen – Jim Armstrong

Attendance and Welfare – Freya Rimington

Communications – Veronica Jackson

In February at the first 2025 Executive Meeting we also confirmed the following volunteers to head up various committees.

Burns Night 2026 - Mary Ellen Muterer, Winston Kooistra, Tammi Minogue, Doug Collins, Veronica Jackson

Ceilidh – Mary Ellen Muterer, Wendy Marshall, Nancy Matthews, Veronica Jackson

Annual Picnic- Mary Ellen Muterer, Jane Muterer, Joanne Muterer

Christmas Banquet- Harold Matthews

Pot Luck Suppers & Socials- Nancy Matthews, Tammi Minogue, Steve Shepherd, Wendy Marshall, Veronica Jackson, Jim Armstrong

115th Anniversary Year Committee -

Mary Ellen Muterer, Doug Collins, Veronica Jackson

Since our meeting in February, the following band members have agreed to assist with the many events for the Anniversary Year –

Nancy Matthews, Laurie Marson, Winston Kooistra, Jim Armstrong, Kevin MacKay, Jim Hunt, Freya Rimington, Doug Turvey, Tammi Minogue, Andrew Coghill, Catherine Stark, Don Gale, Veronica Jackson, Steve Shepherd

Dates Set for Upcoming Events –

115th Anniversary Tattoo – August 16th

115th Anniversary Reunion – August 30th & 31st

Annual Ceilidh – October 25th

Christmas Banquet & Party – December 6th

Burns Night 2026 – January 24th

A list of other events and parade appearances will be sent out and published on our website and Facebook page once dates have been confirmed.

Our first parades of 2025 will be –

Woodstock Victoria Day Parade – 10 am – Monday May 19th

Thamesford Calithumpian Parade – 1 pm – Monday May 19th

Band Photo – Ingersoll - Noon sharp – in front of the former Victory Memorial School

**IT'S GONNA
BE A GREAT
YEAR!**

Robbie Burns Night January 25th

Back by Popular Demand!



**INGERSOLL
PIPE BAND**

Burns Night 2025

Saturday, January 25, 2025
Ingersoll Pipe Band Armoury
Cocktails & Music at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

SOLD OUT

Notice
Thank you for all the inquiries about this year's Robbie Burns Dinner. We are **SOLD OUT!** We appreciate all the support and interest from Ingersoll residents and those who reside in surrounding communities. "Tapadh leibh"



"Every January 25, Scotland and Scots around the world come together to honor the legacy of Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland. Known affectionately as the Bard of Ayrshire, Burns penned iconic works like Auld Lang Syne and Tam o' Shanter, capturing the heart and soul of Scottish culture. Burns Night is a celebration of his life, his poetry, and the enduring heritage of Scotland." **(The History and Modern Celebration of Burns Night: A Timeless Scottish Tradition)**

Every year, The Ingersoll Pipe Band and all their guests celebrate Robbie Burns' life with a delicious meal, fantastic entertainment, the sounds of pipes and drums, and of course, multiple toasts to Robbie! As in the past couple of years, we sold out and our crew had to make sure that we prepared a feast for 130. Pictured above, some of our kitchen workers on Thursday and Friday – potatoes and turnips to be peeled, haggis to be made, coleslaw prepped ahead of time. Thanks to everyone who was able to devote time to kitchen prep, picking up supplies, stocking the bar, setting up tables and chairs, decorating the hall, working at the event by - clearing tables, restocking buffet dishes, carving roast beef, slicing pies, baking scones, assisting the bar manager, washing dishes, etc. Special thanks to the 2025 Burns Committee – Mary Ellen Muterer, Doug Collins, Jim Armstrong and Veronica Jackson for the behind the scenes coordination.



It was an exceedingly fun night with The Paddy Stones duo (Rick and Dan) headlining our entertainment. These two musicians did a wonderful job of engaging the audience and we had so many lovely comments about their musical talents. As well, The Sim School of Dance provided both endearing and talented displays of Scottish dancing for our audience members to enjoy.

Let's not forget about our IPB mini band who performed a few tunes to get the Scottish-Canadian blood stirring! It is always so much fun to welcome back so many of our "regular" guests as well as new fans to the Burns' Experience. One of the stalwart members of the IPB, who passed away a few years ago, Wilson McBeath, had his granddaughter, Rebecca and husband Curtis present with their adorable son, Wilson, for the evening!



There was lots of opportunity for guests to intermingle and visit (table hopping) and, for those so inclined, to get up and dance to the Scottish and Celtic tunes provided by The Paddy Stones.

“But pleasures are like poppies spread, You seize the flower, its bloom is shed.”

An excerpt from Burns’ poem ‘Tam O’Shanter’, this quotation gives its readers a much-needed reminder that happiness is contagious. When you “seize the flower” of happiness you shed the seeds onto the ground, giving them the opportunity to bloom and grow. If you embrace the happy times when they come, this can be infectious, and spread to those around you. Although no year is perfect, 2025 could be the year in which you welcome the best pleasures in life and offer them generously to your loved ones.



"We'll take a cup o' kindness yet, For auld lang syne."

The most famous work by Robert Burns is of course 'Auld Lang Syne', typically sung as the clock strikes midnight and welcomes in a new year. The Scottish phrase "auld lang syne" directly translates to "old long since", and is used to describe a feeling of nostalgia for the times that have already passed.

This timeless quotation could remind us to keep kindness at the centre of our lives as the years go by. When you encounter hard times in this coming year and beyond, keep a "cup o' kindness" in your heart and you are bound to gain peace of mind on any situation you face.



Robert Burns' shortest poem is titled "The Selkirk Grace". "The Selkirk Grace" is a four-line poem that is now used as a prayer before meals. Specifically, the poem is used as a prayer before meals during the holiday which celebrates Burns' life, known as Burns Supper.

In connection with the poet's visit to the seat of the Earl of Selkirk, it is stated by Cunningham, that at one of the meals there, Burns was asked to say Grace, and he delivered what is usually styled 'The Selkirk Grace'.

***Some Folk hae meat that canna eat, And some can eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat, So let the Lord be Thanket!***



More Celebratory Robbie Burns Dinners January 26th Woodstock



The Charles Dickens
Join us for a traditional
Scottish Celebration!
BURNS
NIGHT
January 26th, 2025

Includes:
3 Course Dinner
Dram of Scotch
Piping in the Haggis
The Address to the Haggis
A Toast to the Lads & Lassies
Highland Dancers
DJ Scott & Lee Brett

\$80
per person

Festivities start at 4:00pm!
Call 519-421-2218 or
visit us to purchase
your tickets now!



Each year, our good friends and owners of The Charles Dickens' Pub in Woodstock, invite Nancy Matthews to bring along her piping and drumming friends to their annual Sunday evening Burns Night. Nancy has been organizing this for a number of years ever since her two sons, Alisitir and Hamish, provided the piping many years ago. Nancy does an excellent job of emceeing the evening and along with the Sim Highland School of Dance members, various pipers and drummers from Ingersoll and London bands performed "the tunes".

This year, Piper Angus Thomson provided The Address to the Haggis. PM Scott Shaw of the London Police Pipes and Drums provided the "call of the tunes". Sherry Sim organized her talented dancers.

The menu served was delicious and the members who participated this year were honoured and privileged to be part of the evening's band, They included Ron and Wendy Marshall, Neil White, Angus Thomson, Scott Shaw, Nancy and Harold Matthews, Winston Kooistra, and Veronica Jackson. Thanks to the new owners, Carolyne and Scott Rooney, for inviting us and continuing this wonderful Burns Night tradition in Woodstock!





Kraft Hockeyville is an annual competition sponsored by Kraft Heinz, the National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association in which communities compete to demonstrate their commitment to the sport of ice hockey. The winning community gets a cash prize dedicated to upgrading their local home arena, as well as the opportunity to host an NHL pre-season game. Runners-up also get smaller cash prizes to upgrade their ice rinks. The contest is normally held in the winter and spring during the latter half of the NHL regular season while the winner is announced in late March or April, with the pre-season game usually held in September before the following regular season. The winner receives \$250,000 for arena upgrades and the chance to host an NHL preseason game. Runners-up get \$25,000 and new hockey equipment.

This year the Ingersoll District Minor Hockey Association decided to enter the contest. The organization was looking for lots of community support. It used all of its social media and local contacts to drum up support for its bid.

Tremblett's Independent Grocer, Ingersoll Raila' House of Brews, The Kiwanis Club, Studio 73 Digital Media, and other groups and businesses joined minor hockey parents and families to promote the Ingersoll bid.

There was really quite a complicated formula to earn support for your home town group and arena. The Ingersoll Pipe Band decided to join in by supporting our local hockey organizers.

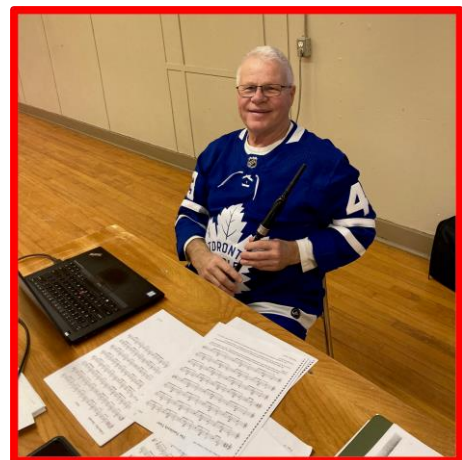
We put out a request to members and learners to wear a hockey jersey/sweater of one's own choice to

practice on Thursday February 27th. If you didn't own a jersey then no problem.

Our bass drummer, Doug Turvey, has a large collection at home and brought several to share. Other members like drummer, Tammi Minogue, has a spouse, Larry, who has several (his favourite being the local London Knights) and she brought in extra to practice. And finally, piper Don Gale, who sponsored multiple hockey teams in Belmont when he was operating a business there, brought in a whole team full of jerseys. So definitely no one was able to avoid donning a sweater/jersey for the photo shoot and the video!



"Hockey captures the essence of Canadian experience in the New World. In a land so inescapably and inhospitably cold, hockey is the chance of life, and an affirmation that despite the deathly chill of winter we are alive." ~Stephen Leacock



PM Doug Ready for practice in his favourite Leafs' Jersey

Here are the results of our hockey initiative to support Ingersoll District Minor Hockey Association's bid!



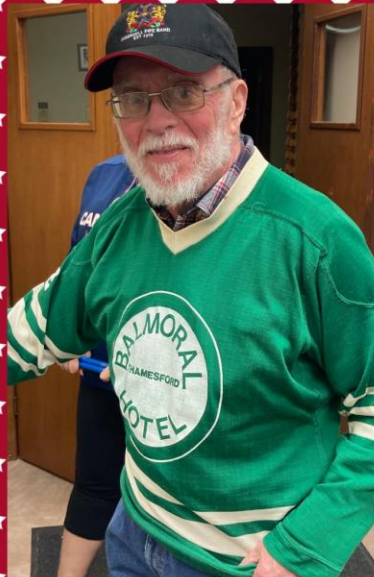
ARENA RALLY PAGE

INGERSOLL & DISTRICT MEMORIAL CENTRE



INGERSOLL & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY

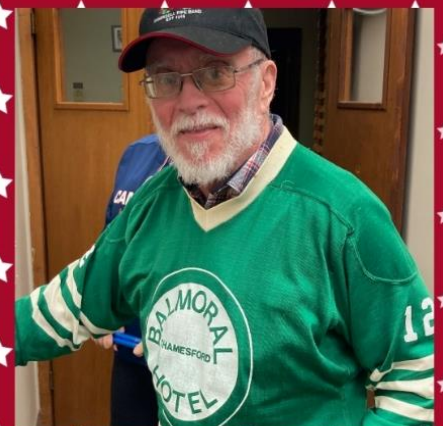
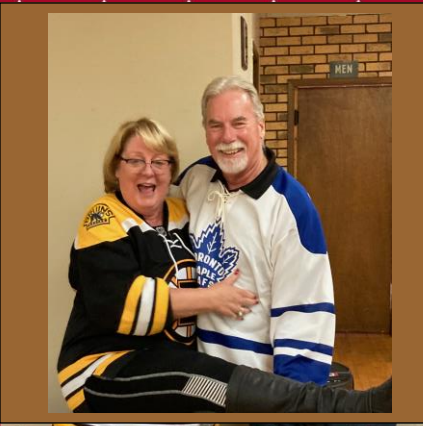
In the 2024-2025 season, the Ingersoll District Community Hockey Association has 32 teams registered, across various age divisions. This includes teams in the U6 (Jr IP), U7 (IP), U9 (Major Novice), U11 (Atom), U13 (PeeWee), U15 (Bantam), U18 (Midget) and Development categories. There are 2 teams in the U6 (Jr IP), U7 (IP), U11 (Atom), U13 (PeeWee), U15 (Bantam), and U18 (Midget) divisions. The U9 (Major Novice) division has 3 teams, and the Development division has 4 teams.





Great Hockey Slogans

- Life is short. Play hockey.
- Score early, score often.
- A sport for the fearless.
- Don't let the heels fool you
- The game of the unexpected.
- Nothing sweeter than hockey
- Play daily, you play weakly.
- The ice is my happy place.
- Eat, sleep, hockey, repeat.
- Bigger rinks, bigger dreams.
- Hockey, hustle, and heart.
- One game, one team, one win





We recorded “Scotland the Brave” and posted it on the Kraft Hockeyville Fan Site and on Facebook to encourage others to support the Ingersoll bid.

Click on the photo to the left to hear our rousing rendition ...

We love our community and surrounding district!

So even though Ingersoll did not make it into the quarterfinals, IPB will support the initiative again in 2026 if the hockey association wants to give it another try.

Pipe Bands and hockey teams are often the same – enjoying parades, enjoying practices and competitions, and, enjoying being part of a bigger family of friends and persons with like interests!

Ingersoll District Minor Hockey Association
March 15 · 🌐

**Kraft Hockeyville update-
Unfortunately Ingersoll didn't make the cut.**



Hot Cross Buns Day March 1, 2025



On March 1st, COBS Bread was celebrating Hot Cross Buns Day, a one-day-only event. You could play “the song” and get a free bun! It was time for folks, young and old, to dig out their recorders (or instruments of choice – pipes and drums - they promised not to ask questions). The idea was to play your own rendition of the "Hot Cross Buns" tune in the bakery, and get a baked-from-scratch, hand-crafted, hot cross bun for free.

So of course IPB members decided to visit the newest location of COBS Bread in Woodstock on Dundas St. E and take up the challenge /invitation!

We assembled outdoors (it was a very cold, brisk and windy day) to tune up to Pipe Sergeant Charlie's expectations and then we made our way into the bakery to perform and earn our yummy take home pay! The buns were delicious – worth the trip to Woodstock! Click on the photo below to see our performance!



Our hot bun cross performers!

St. Patrick's Day Festivities at

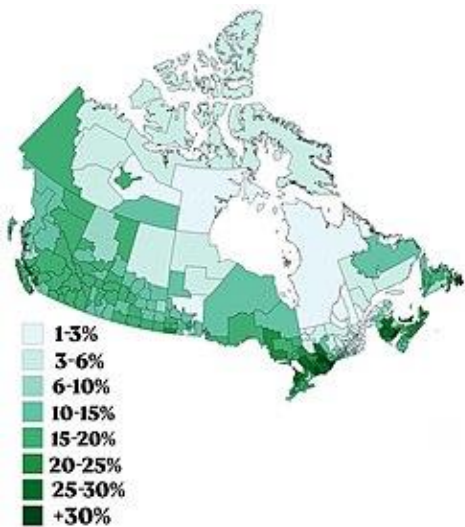
The Band Hall – March 16th

Why celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

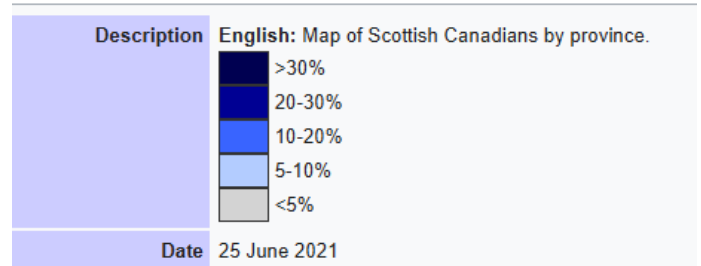
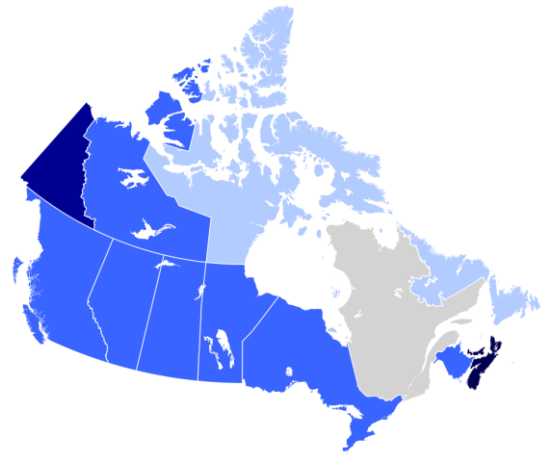
While there isn't a specific statistic available for the exact number of Canadians with both Scottish and Irish heritage, it's estimated that approximately 4.7 million Canadians claim Scottish heritage and 4.6 million claim Irish heritage. Since many Canadians may have multiple ethnic origins, including Scottish and Irish, the number of individuals with both heritages is likely a significant portion of those who identify with these groups.

And your editor is one of these individuals! My mother's side of the family was of Irish descent, The Baileys, and, my father's side of the family was of Scottish descent, The Cuthberts.

I am sure that many of you can relate to this background check!



Population distribution of Irish Canadians by census division, 2021 census



Regardless of our members' deep family roots, we will always find a reason to have a pot luck and a "wee bit" of a celebration!

And then ... when Steve Shepherd volunteers to bring kilograms of chicken wings to deep fry for us, of course anybody around on St. Paddy's Day is going to say "I'm in!".

Thank you, Chef Steve, for looking after the wings with your assistants Jim Armstrong, Jack Peter, and Doug Collins. **Thank you** to the Pot Luck committee – this time around – Tammi Minogue and Veronica Jackson - for decorating, games, prizes, etc. **Thank you** to Lana Coghill for bringing her guitar along so we could have a sing-along of our favourite Irish songs. **Thank you** to Jim A for looking after our canteen. **Thank you** to Laurie for taking and sharing photos of the event, and finally, **thank you** to all who came out and contributed to the terrific Irish themed pot luck meal.





From our "ad lib" photo booth – Top Row – Ian and Annette, Pat and Kevin, Lisa and Dave, Vicky and Jim H

Second Row – Doug and Lois T, Verna and Veronica Third Row – Lana and Andrew, Don and Esther

Fourth Row – Jack and Barb, Winston and Maureen, Jack and Merilee, Jerry and Angus



*"Did your mother come from Ireland 'cause there's something in you Irish
Will you tell me where you get those Irish eyes
And before she left Killarney did your mother kiss the Blarney
'Cause your little touch of brogue you can't disguise.*

*Oh, I wouldn't be romancin' I can almost see you dancin'
While the Kerry pipers play
Sure and maybe we'll be sharin' in the shamrock you'll be wearin'"
On the next St. Patrick's Day.
Did your mother come from Ireland 'cause there's something in you Ir
And that bit of Irish steals my heart away.*





From our “ad lib” photo booth – Top Row – Jim A and an invisible leprechaun, Steve and Heidi, Carole and Laurie, Christina, Dani and Bob

Second Row – Larry and Tammi, Martin and Veronica Third Row – Laurie, Pat and Steve

Fourth Row – Dani and Christina, Chef Steve, Sous Chef Jim A, Steve and Heidi



Two Brits celebrating S. Paddy's Day

*When Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure, 'tis like the morn in Spring.
In the lilt of Irish laughter
You can hear the angels sing.
When Irish hearts are happy,
All the world seems bright and gay.
And when Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure, they steal your heart away.*



Andrew celebrating his birthday
at our pot luck!





Prior to the pot luck ,several members of the band gathered to get instruments cleaned and prepped for the 2025 parade season. That meant pulling pipes apart, checking drone and chanter reeds, cleaning pipe drones with brushes and oil, and, of course, making sure pipe bags were in good condition with no leaks. Our PM Doug Collins guided us through the process and gave pipers new Platinum reeds!

Drummers checked over their three H's – heads, hoops and hardware. Then we got together and played through a few tunes to make sure that we had a solid sound!

Others, of course, were busy imbibing the green brew and cooking up and testing those delicious chicken wings.



Some Member Activities/ Trips in the First Quarter of 2025



The Glovers (Doug, Catherine, and Doug's sister on their annual January holiday in Cuba

Doug wrote – “ I had a great time in Cuba for my birthday with Catherine and my sister. The resort decorated our table on my birthday and made me a special cake.

But it wasn't all fun and games. I did practice for the London Police Pipes and Drums performance at the Chief's Gala on Jan 29th. My practice was outdoors, but I'm sure the rest of the Band was not practicing outside.” Such dedication!



Piping Intermediate Student, Christy Benedict, pictured above in concert on Saturday January 25th at the Stratford Avondale United Church Performing Centre. Christy plays second violin with the Stratford Symphony Orchestra. They featured a Celtic Celebration of Music to usher in their 2025 Season. (Thanks, Harold for the photos).



The IPB Sailors January Vacation and Voyage



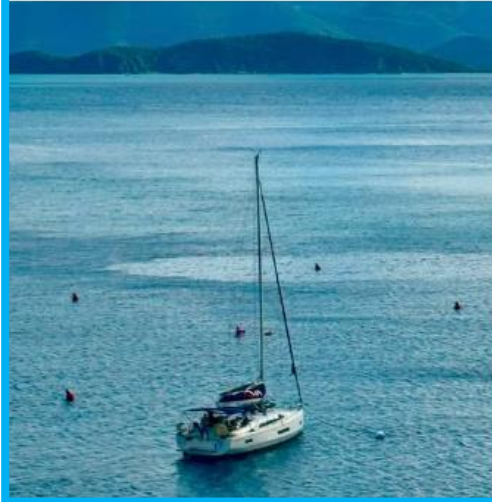
What a trip!



Harold Matthews

January 24 · 🌐

Jan 5-19 Nancy, Hamish, myself, Captain Charlie Thompson and Co-Captain Jane Watt set sail on a French designed yacht, a Beneteau 42 in the British Virgin Islands. The winds were good. 10 foot swells on one occasion. We travelled island to island during the days and moored in protected bays during the nights. This voyage would not have been possible without our beloved pipe band mates Charlie and Jane who's past experience on these waters made for smooth sailing ❤️ I dedicate this post and experience to our dear and late friend Stew Watt who I know was smiling along with us the entire time ❤️



Sap's Running



Drummer Adam stark checking his Maple Syrup sap pails with his best buddy "Birdie"

Fishing Season???



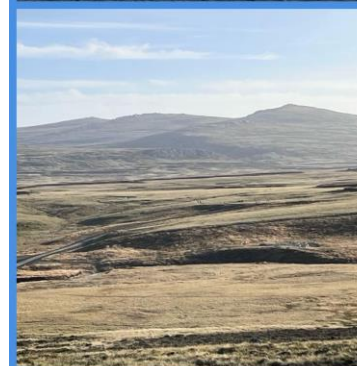
Hosting the event were Jack Peter Jamie Wingrove, Laurie Marson, Steve Shepard and John Needham of Mason King Hiram #37 Ingersoll.

Several of our members are also in the King Hiram Masonic Lodge in Ingersoll. One of their fundraisers this year was the - **INGERSOLL ONTARIO FISHING SHOW** on March 1st from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. The event featured fishing lures, rods, rubber, and other fishing gear. It was a huge success.

Pictured above – Masons Jack, Jamie, John, Laurie and Steve

Antarctic Pics

Piper Pat Potter and his wife enjoyed a cruise this past winter. They headed south from Brazil and took in the beauty of The Antarctic region. On the voyage they passed the Falkland Islands.



Pat wrote – *"It's cold even at 42° latitude, which is the equivalent of London and it is just finishing summer here. The Antarctic has a significant effect on temperature in the lower part of South America. But I am practising Ingersoll Pipe Band tunes every day."*

I am sure Pat was also playing the tune "Craggs of Tumbledown Mountain". This tune was written during the Falklands War. It was composed by Pipe Major James Riddell during the famous battle on the June 13, 1982. He wrote the piece on the back of a ration packet and after the battle was won and the mountain retaken from the Argentines, he famously played the first rendition of his new composition from the top of Mount Tumbledown.

Bottom Photo – Mount Tumbledown

Again - What a trip!

London Police Pipes and Drums Events January to April

Pipers Nancy Matthews, Charlie Thomson, Pat Potter, Laurie Marson, Steve Shepherd, Veronica Jackson and Drummers Jane Watt, Neil White, Carole Marson, Heidi Shepherd, Doug Glover and Harold Matthews travel to the LPPD practice every Wednesday night. Some folks travel from within London while others make the trip from Ingersoll or Woodstock.



Top Photo - On January 29, 30 members of the London Police Pipes & Drums performed to a sold-out crowd at the London Police Service Inaugural Chief's Gala Appreciation Dinner and Awards Night.

Bottom Photo – LPPD made a donation to Special Olympics London while performing for veterans and other rehab patients at the Parkwood Institute.

Other events that we performed at included a concert on April 7th for the residents of Marian Villa / Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care; and, on April 18th we piped and drummed in the London Police Service Colour Party at the opening of The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Minor Hockey Championships in London at the Sports Centre at Western Fairgrounds.

Ontario Massed Pipe Band Preparing for Trip To The Netherlands

Five members of the IPB will be part of the contingent of the Ontario Massed Band heading to The Netherlands and Belgium on the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland. There is lots of support for the five of us travelling - Harold, Nancy, Carole, Laurence, and Veronica - from our Ingersoll bandmates. We depart on May 2nd and return on May 10th.



Photos above - We met up and paraded in Chatham on Saturday April 5th. Great friendships are being built with pipers, drummers, colour party members, drum majors and supporters from Stratford, Clinton, Forest, Sarnia, Windsor, Midland, Leamington, Beaver Valley and Chatham bands.



The band will play May 4 at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery. That night, members will take part in the Resistance march in Markelo. The following day features the national parade in Wageningen, where the Germans surrendered. Other stops will include Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele.