

Ingersoll Pipe Band Newsletter



Volume 14 Issue 5 December 2024

Celebrating 114 Years

2024 SANTA CLAUS PARADES

FRI NOV 15
CHATHAM - 6:30 PM
GLENCOE - 7 PM
ST. MARY'S - 7 PM

SAT NOV 16
INGERSOLL - 11 AM
WALLACEBURG - 6 PM
EXETER - 6 PM
LONDON - 6 PM
WOODSTOCK - 6 PM
TILLSONBURG - 6 PM
POPLAR HILL & COLDSTREAM - 6 PM
GODERICH 7:35 PM

SAT NOV 23
HYDE PARK - 10 AM
STRATHROY - 1 PM
AYLMER - 2 PM
LISTOWEL - 5 PM
ST. THOMAS - 6 PM
FOREST - 7 PM

SUN NOV 24
PARKHILL - 5:30 PM

FRI NOV 29
PORT STANLEY - 7 PM
TILBURY - 7 PM

SAT NOV 30
WINGHAM - 11 AM
WEST LORNE - 6 PM
OTTERVILLE - 6 PM
GRANDBEND - 6:30 PM
EMBRO - 6:30 PM

SUN DEC 1
FINGAL - 2 PM
BELMONT - 6 PM

FRI DEC 6
SPRINGFIELD - 1 PM
BLENHEIM - 7 PM
CLINTON - 7 PM

SAT DEC 7
ARGYLE (LONDON) - 11 AM
LUCAN - 6 PM
PORT BURWELL - 6 PM
THEDFORD - 6:30 PM

FRI DEC 13
THORNDAL - 7 PM

SAT DEC 14
STRAFFORDVILLE - 10:30 AM
DUTTON - 5:30 PM
INNERKIP - 6 PM

SUN DEC 22
THAMESFORD - 6 PM

TUES DEC 24
DORCHESTER - 6 PM

ho ho ho

ROYAL LIFEGUARD
TRILAND REALTY

Since our last edition was sent out on November 6th, we have seen a lot of activity both at the

band hall as well as on the main streets of many communities in southwestern Ontario! 'Tis the season of Santa Claus parades and bands of all sizes and genres of music are in high demand.

The IPB took part over the last month and a half in eight parades, one event in downtown Ingersoll, a Remembrance Day service and, a band sponsored fundraiser, a Ceilidh, As well, some members supported the Mocha Shrine band that completed two additional parades.

The poster to the left indicates places underlined with yellow that IPB performed at; the other two underlined with green were fundraisers for the Scots O'Mocha Pipe Band to raise funds. (More about that on page 40) At some of these event parades we were provided with reasonably comfortable "weather" conditions to participate under; other events were not quite so pleasant – as one band member stated "it felt like we were frozen entrees"! On a recent web site the question was posed – *"I have a question: In Canada, I have seen Pipe Bands play during the winter for Christmas parades in cold weather and I wonder how do they do it without breaking the most crucial and most expensive parts? Is it luck?"*. There were several responses but the one that was quite plausible was – *"I've seen a few tricks. Chemical hand warmers attached to the stocks, keep air flowing, even when you aren't playing, gloves with the fingers you use cut off, possibly with another set of warmers underneath. If it's extremely cold and windy, black thermal tights under the kilt and hose."* Regardless of how you approach the season, it's part of the pleasure and duty of being an IPB member! Santa Claus hats do keep your ears toasty and warm!

Your Editor - *Veronica*

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Year-end notes from our Pipe Major



To All,

As we finish off the 2024 calendar I would like to thank all members on a fantastic year.

In 2023 we worked our butts off to make 2024 an unforgettable year. Mission accomplished. In early March many of us were able to take in the Phoenix Highland Games and had a blast doing so.

We enjoyed many social events throughout the year.

The band improved widely, both piping and drumming this year.

Our drum corps has never been so big. Eighteen drummers and more soon to join the playing ranks.

The turn out for practices and performances were outstanding.

A busy year and a fun one at that!!!

2025 will also be a big year for the band as we will be celebrating our 115th year of existence.

I would like to thank, our Pipe Sargent Charlie and Piping instructor Jack as well as our Drum Sargent Lisa and our Drum instructor Dave for your dedication and leadership.

The band executive and all members made this the best year ever.

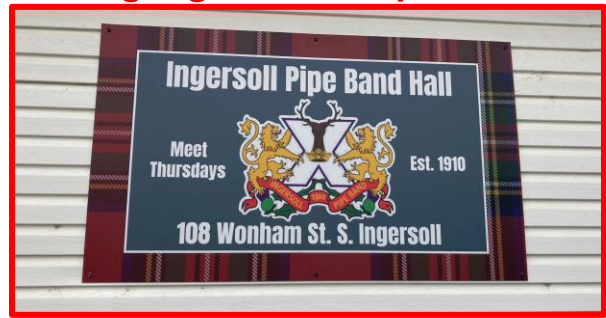
Never underestimate what we can accomplish as a group.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

See you in 2025.

PM Doug

New Signage at The Pipe Band Hall



The Executive felt that it was time that we replaced and added to the signage of the armoury/hall to make the location more visible to the public, especially those folks renting the hall or attending functions and they weren't quite sure where we are located.

We asked ERB Signs in Woodstock to assist us with the new design, to recommend materials, and to install the signs. The project was begun in August and completed in September. We are thrilled with the new signs and in the excellent quality of them.

We also got permission from the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll to use the posts of their sign at the corner of Charles and Wonham to affix one of our new signs to it. Thank you, Kiwanians!



Finally, we installed a new sign by our main entry door that included the address and additional contact information.



We think that the tartan border and crest inclusion really make the signs very attractive and highlight our heritage.

Ceilidh Fun 2024

Ingersoll Pipe Band
presents a very special event
Our Second Annual

CEILIDH

with amazing live music, a cash
bar, a light lunch & silent auction

Get yer tartan on!

Saturday November 9th
7-11 pm/Entertainment begins at 7:30pm
Silent Auction

Scottish
Dancing

Pipes & Drums

Celtic Music



Lindsay & Barry
Fiddle & Frets

Pipe Band Hall
108 Wonham St. S
Ingersoll

Tickets \$30.00 Call 519-485-2637 or text FB Messenger

Due to the popularity of our first ceilidh, held in October 2023 as a fundraiser for our trip to Phoenix, we decided to repeat the event again.

We had no difficulty selling out all our tickets, getting superb entertainment lined up, and acquiring some wonderful items for our silent auction. Our kitchen crew provided a delicious lunch buffet, the bar was stocked, and all was set to go.

A couple of weeks prior to the ceilidh, many IPB members took part in a practice session to review three Scottish Country dances. Thanks to our able instructors, Diane and Allan Normand, and caller, Doug Turvey, we were able to master them and were able to incorporate them into the ceilidh entertainment. All attendees were encouraged to get up and exhibit their willingness to be part of the dances! Pipers Steve, Mary Ellen and Jim played for the dancers. Jim also doubled as our travelling troubadour (no singing just piping) and also serving behind the bar along with Adam and Tammi and Steve. Kevin was our "ticket" man and Veronica looked after door sales and ticket collection. Wendy was in charge of minding the silent auction room, and Joanne, Nancy, Jane and Mary Ellen with keeping the buffet topped up. PM Doug was our Master of Ceremonies.

Truly, it was an entire band effort with individuals jumping in to assist with all aspects of the evening in order for it to be such a huge success. Thanks to all IPBers who rallied around.



**Some of the Organizing Committee members
Mary Ellen, Nancy, PM Doug, Veronica**



Sim School of Highland Dance Participants



Fiddle & Frets Duo – Lindsay & Barry

Lots of photos on the next few pages to indicate what a great night that it was!

Ceilidh Fun 2024 – IPB All Hands on Deck



Ceilidh Fun 2024 – Just Hanging Around



Ceilidh Fun 2024



Ceilidh Fun 2024

Ready Steady
Ceilidh!



Ceilidh Fun 2024- Entertainers and Fans



Ceilidh Fun 2024 Round Up



Remembrance Day November 11th 2024 Ingersoll

This year, November 11th fell on a Monday so not all our pipers and drummers were available to take part in the annual event in Ingersoll. Several members were at work, or were busy piping or drumming in other locations. Despite this, we had a good turnout – 8 pipers and 6 drummers. Once the pipes were tuned, we marched the short distance from the Town Hall cenotaph to Trinity United Church where a service was held. Following the service, we marched back to the cenotaph where the outdoor service continued. The weather cooperated and the pipes and drums sounded great.



Thank you to all the town officials and employees, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119, the Ingersoll Interministerial Group, the Army and Air Cadets, the Ingersoll Fire Department members, the OPP officers, and other members of the public who organized this year's November 11th Remembrance Day service both at Trinity United Church and at the Town Square by the cenotaph. The IPB was privileged to lead the parade and lend our support for such an important day across Canada. This year there was a special dedication of a new memorial intended to honour veterans of all races and cultural backgrounds. It was painted on the pavement at the intersection of Oxford and King Streets.



Photos taken by the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo contributor, Ron Yuzark

Ingersoll Rotary Santa Claus Parade



It was time to get the lights and tinsel on the pipes and drums, find our festive headgear, and the woolly gloves to wear to welcome in the first Santa Claus parade of the season!



Just in case Ingersoll residents and visitors to town didn't recognize us, two of our learners, Dave on the left, and Jim on the right, agreed to carry our banner for us. Thanks, guys!



The parade route remained the same for us – from the Fire Hall to the Community Complex on Wellington Street.

The Fire Hall is a great place to meet and tune up! We have lots of time to enjoy the free hot chocolate and coffee (provided by Tim Hortons) and meet all sorts of interesting characters! Everyone from Jack Sparrow to Mr. and Mrs. Claus.



Above - Veronica hanging out with a very famous pirate (Zach Peebles), and it turned out that his great-great-great-grandfather was one of the founding members of the IPB – the first Pipe Major Tom Johnston!



More interesting characters!



More "characters" in the IPB!



Laurie and Carole Marson
(Santa's elves)



Pipe Sergeant Charlie Thomson
(maybe hoping to sub for Santa)



Drummer Graham Carroll of the London Firefighters Pipe Band who frequently hangs out with the IPB when not being a Shriner on parade.

Let's face it ...there are a lot of characters in this band!



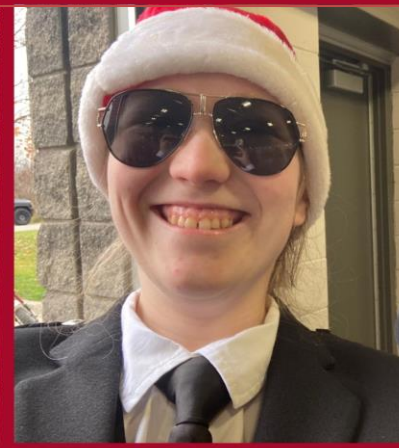
Doug Turvey frequently under police watch! Alec Bish is obviously keeping his eye on him!



Three more suspicious characters – all drummers – Neil, Tammi and Winston



Two other bandmates to keep a close eye on. You never know what kind of trouble two cousins are going to get up to, even if one is the Pipe Major .. Jim & Doug C



Last Minute Photos at The Band Hall and Along the Parade Route
 (Our webmaster, Freya, and her parents, John and Angelique, in the bottom row left and centre)



(Second row on the far right Sammy Gardner Bell, a former piping student, marching with the Air Cadet Squadron from Dorchester; Sam's off to college now!)





These excellent photos were taken for the Rotary Club. They are from the club's Facebook page [27th Annual Ingersoll Rotary Christmas Parade](#) (click on this link to the left)
Thank you to Trish from Custom Concept Photography for the amazing parade photos of all the participants in the Ingersoll parade!

The Rotary Club of Ingersoll Announcement

"Thank you to all the participants of the 27th Ingersoll Christmas Parade! You made it an amazing parade with some truly amazing entries!

A big thank you to our judges from the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre who gave up their time to judge all our entries. The winners are:

Business: McClay's Transportation

Community: Aylmer Shrine Club (Blues Bros/Ghostbusters/Mini Cars)

Youth: St. Jude's Catholic Elementary School

Band/Marching Unit: Ingersoll Pipe Band

Thank you as well to all of Ingersoll and the surrounding community for coming out in record numbers - it's so great to see everyone filled with holiday spirit!

We'll see you next year!!"

Thanks to the Rotary Club for their dedication to the community and for inviting two reps of the IPB to their bi-weekly luncheon to accept the award. We will definitely be participating again next year!

ROGERS TV

Shows Events On now Get involved Contact Woodstock Cable 13

Ingersoll Rotary Club Santa Claus Parade 2024

Celebrate the holiday season with full coverage of the Ingersoll Rotary Club Christmas Parade.

Get in touch >

Tune in

Fri, Dec 20	4:00 PM
Sat, Dec 21	6:00 PM

Watch on Cable 13

If you have Rogers Cable TV Service, the Ingersoll Parade will be broadcast on -

Friday December 20th at 4 pm and on

Saturday December 21st at 6 pm.



OTHER SANTA CLAUS PARADES available to view on Rogers TV or website –

Tillsonburg Santa Claus Parade 2024

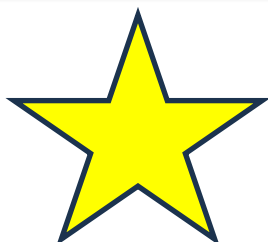
Santa Claus made a special trip to Tillsonburg right before Christmas, so they decided to throw him this special parade. Who knows who else might show up? We heard the Grinch was also in town.

Get in touch >

Sun, Dec 22nd at 4 pm

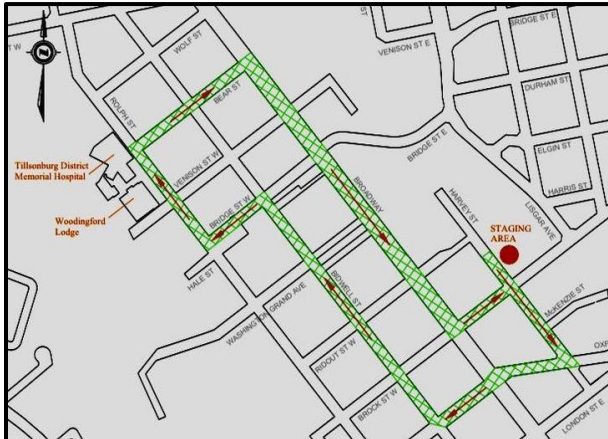


Although both parades were held on the same evening at the same time, miraculously our band was split into two and we were able to have enough musicians to perform at both locations – Tillsonburg and Woodstock!



Right click on the photo above for link to Rogers website to view parade; time slot for cable TV broadcast not yet set.

Tillsonburg Optimist Santa Parade Nov. 16th 6 pm



This year's Tillsonburg parade, pretty much followed the same parade route as last year's only in reverse! We gathered at the main post office to assemble and tune prior to marching off at the command of the parade marshalls and also our PM/DM Doug Collins.



Laurie and Carol ready to parade



PM Doug, Don, Winston & Neil



Lee and Bonnie-Heather



Heidi, Steve, & Christina



Eric and Aly – tinsel time



Pipers included Laurie, Lee, Bonnie, Steve, Christina, Eric, Veronica and Don (acting PSgt)



Drummers included – Aly, Neil, Heidi, Carole, and Winston (acting DSgt)
Out front carrying the mace – PM Doug C



Excellent participants, supporters and fans of Santa Claus at this parade. Lots of food was collected for the local food drive!

2024 Tillsonburg Santa Claus Parade
Tillsonburg & Area Optimist Club presents the 2024 Tillsonburg Santa Claus Parade Please enjoy some of these behind the scenes look at the staging area as well as live action during the parade. We express our gratitude to Sherry Weiler of Rolph Street Studios who volunteered her time and her skills in capturing this event this year! [Right click on the pic to the left to see all the photos.](#)

City of Woodstock Santa Claus Parade – Nov. 16th 6 pm

Once again, the usual parade route left the area of the Woodstock Fairgrounds and travelled west on the main street, Dundas until it arrived at Light Street where it finished. The musicians who represented the IPB on this parade were – **Pipers – Jim, Ron, Mary Ellen, Jane, Joanne, Angus, Lois, Lana, and Pipe Sergeant Charlie** who gave the commands. **Drummers included – Doug T, Tammi, Kory, Wendy and Drum Sergeant Lisa.**



YOU DID IT!
Congratulations

To all IPB pipers and drummers who were able to take part in two parades on the same day! You “rocked”!



Ingersoll Lighting of the Lights – Thursday Nov. 21st 7 pm



INGERSOLL DOWNTOWN BIA

CHRISTMAS MADNESS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 23

Visit our participating businesses for their fantastic specials!
Downtown Ingersoll

LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS

THURSDAY NOV. 21 @ 7 PM

STORES OPEN LATE, SANTA, HOT CHOCOLATE, INGERSOLL PIPE BAND AND MORE....

Visit FB Ingersoll BIA for details

MILLCREEK PRINTING INC.

30 KING STREET EAST, INGERSOLL, ONTARIO N5C 1G4

519-485-2757

Mill Creek Printing Inc.
Mike Bowman
30 King Street East, Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 1G4
519 - 485 - 2757

It was our privilege to support the Ingersoll BIA and their campaign to shop locally! Our town businesses have been very supportive of the IPB over many, many years. This year we would particularly like to thank Mike Bowman of Millcreek Printing for his “extra”ordinary support of the band. Mike donated to our band a spanking brand new banner to use “on parade” when we are not only touring Ontario towns and cities but those in the USA as well. We can’t thank you enough, Mike, for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Small Christmas

verb /smôl krisməs/

1. to buy all of your holiday gifts at small businesses
2. a commitment to shop small for the holidays

Aylmer Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade November 23rd



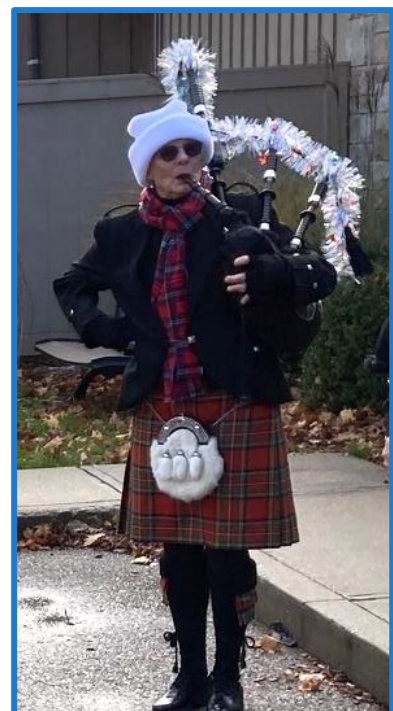
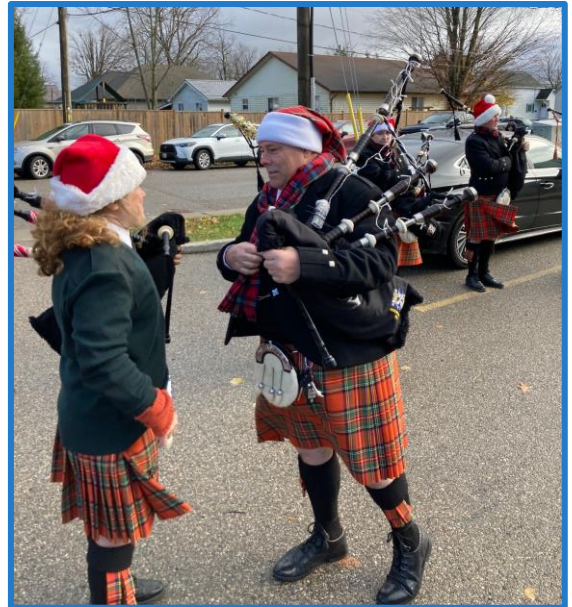
And it's time to hit the parade route again!



Lots of smiles – no rain or snow!



A big band assembled for one of the busiest and well attended parades in southwestern Ontario! Weather was a bit brisk with the expected winds from the west creating some windtunnels on Highway #3 (Talbot Street) in the centre of town. PM Doug was busy as usual getting us all tuned up!



This was the 80th Annual Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade! Well done, organizers!



Embryo Community Events

November 30th

The piping and drumming fun continued the following weekend and this time the location was the village of Embro.

The IPB was booked to play not only in the annual Santa Claus parade but also to provide entertainment at the Zorra Caledonian Society's annual St. Andrew's Night event.



Pipers Ron and Angus who are longtime members of the Zorra Caledonian Society



Lots of giant Santas on the parade route along Commissioner Street.

Our fearless band battled the elements – cold, wind, and more cold – and paraded from the Works Yard at the corner of Zorra's 35th Line and Commissioner St. to Matheson Park in the heart of the village.

Not too many photos as everyone, bandspeople and spectators alike, were trying to stay warm! Once the parade was finished, several pipers and drummers went back to the Embro Zorra Community Centre to join in the festivities at the St. Andrew's Dinner. There they met up with other IPBers who were busy piping in the haggis, and giving the address to the haggis.



Mary Ellen, Joanne and Ron piping in the haggis



Angus delivering the address to the haggis

Belmont Santa Claus Parade

December 1st





22ND Annual Belmont

Sunday
December 1, 2024
6:00 pm

Parade Route
Starting at 6:00 pm from Belmont Farm Supply proceeding north along Belmont Road and ending at Washburn Street.

Food Collection
Along the parade route, our Volunteer Firemen will be collecting non-perishable goods for an area food banks. *Your support is greatly appreciated.*

Come listen to the music provided by:
Ingersoll Pipe Band, The Mocha Oriental Band, Golden Harp Steel Band, The Tomato Soup Band

Parade Sponsored by:
Belmont Lions Club, Belmont Swans, Belmont Oldtimers, Westminster Mutual, Belmont Farm Supply, Dolmage Design Phil Mauer & Associates, Harkness Printing & Graphics

Bottle Drop Off:
Saturday, January 4, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Parking Lot at Balanced Wellness & Country Pizza

Interested in having your own float? Making a Donation?
If you are an organization, business or family who would like to participate in the parade or make a donation, please contact any of the following committee members:
Peggy Cameron • 519-644-0956
Julie DeSilva • 519-644-2661
Leigh Mauer • 519-319-1198

We wish to thank our community for your continued support of our local parade



Lots of smiles on our faces in Belmont this year. For once, we were not battered by wind, rain, sleet or snow! It was quite a lovely change from the past few years. But still very chilly-..... especially on the hands - but hey – what does one expect? It was the first week of December!



We were anxious to get the parade under way!

THERE ARE SIGNS

EVERYWHERE



Parade route travelled north along Belmont Rd from Borden Ave to Washburn St.

Come listen to the music provided by:

Ingersoll Pipe Band, The Mocha Oriental Band,
Golden Harp Steel Band. The Tomato Soup Band

Parade Sponsored by:

Belmont Lions Club, Belmont Swans, Belmont Oldtimers,
Westminster Mutual, Belmont Farm Supply, Dolmage Design
Phil Mauer & Associates, Harkness Printing & Graphics



Springfield Parade – Malahide Township – Dec. 7th

The Springfield Parade is always a special one for us as it is – a) not too far to travel too; b) definitely a small village experience with lots of fans; and, c) signifies that we are getting towards the end of winter parades! This year, we had lots of snow ... enough for Pipers Catherine Stark and Jane Muterer to build a snowman. Of course they improvised and Frosty had a blowpipe for a nose and drone corks for eyes! Also several of our IPBers (in particular Steve and Heidi) like to indulge and purchase yummy French Fries after the parade is over at the local Malahide Fire Hall!



Thanks to everyone who came out and we were particularly pleased to see Christy Benedict and Jim Hunt carrying that amazing banner for us again!

Another reason why we enjoy this parade is because we know that we get to go home and have a few hours of rest before our annual IPB Christmas Party!



Springfield Santa Claus Parade



**Sat, Dec 7th
1 pm**

Assemble at the east end of Springfield –
follow Pressey Line going east, then north on Catherine Street
You will be directed from there!

Please do NOT attempt to go east on Ron McNeil passed the school

*Kids – meet Santa after the parade at the Fire Hall
Thanks to the Dairy Farmers of Ontario – there will be chocolate milk
there, too!!*

Rain, shine or snow we bring you Santa ...

ALSO:

Swans Bake Sale from noon til 2 pm at St John's

Firefighters selling hot dogs, fries and hot chocolate same time frame

Dairy Farmers are supplying choc milk and cheese strings afterwards at the fire hall.

SANTA and hopefully Mrs Claus will be at the fire hall for the kids to chat with
after the parade ... So come and have some fun!

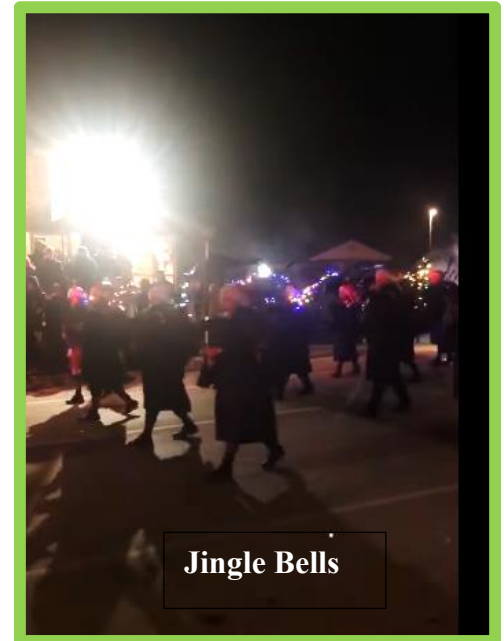
On behalf of the Springfield Santa Claus Parade Committee, THANK YOU to everyone that helped make today such a great Parade! Special thanks to Malahide North Firefighters for decorating and letting us use the fire hall, the Parade participants and spectators, Santa's chauffeur and helpers, Adam & Kelsey McIntyre and especially Santa!! We could not do this without all of you. One final extra special thanks to Mother Nature for the snow!!! We've missed you! ❄️❄️. See you all next year.. first Saturday in December.

Final Santa Claus Parade for the IPB for 2024 **Innerkip Ontario December 14th**

Night time parades are not easy to portray easily with photos unless you have a very good camera and are a very good photographer. Also, it is very difficult to concentrate on taking good photos when the weather is just a little nippy! However, if you right click on the photos of the band below, the links will take you to our Facebook page. You will find two videos there. The first one was recorded by our own drumming student, Andrew Coghill; the second video is by Digger Murray. Even if you can't see us, we sounded great! We are playing a couple of our favourites "Scotland the Brave" and of course, "Jingle Bells".



Scotland the Brave



Jingle Bells



Here is a great photo from Breezy Maple Lane of the very large band that we had turn out! Pipe Sergeant Charlie called the tunes on parade while PM Doug cheered from the sideline.

Post Santa Claus Parade Innerkip



It has become a bit of a tradition for band members to head to the famous Innerkip restaurant – The Wing House. This local restaurant offers you more than 100 different flavours of wings, something for everyone. It's a great spot to warm up after the final parade of the season and enjoy bandmates' company. Thanks, Catherine Stark, for organizing this event for us!



Band Christmas Party **December 7th**

This year we had another great turn out for our IPB Christmas Party and Awards Banquet. This is always a great evening as we get to enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, games, musical entertainment by our own members, and dancing!

Unfortunately, not all members can make it out to the party because of other scheduling conflicts but we do our best to try to round the majority of our group up.

Thanks goes out to our haggis making team: Charlie, Harold, Jerry, Tammi, Mary Ellen and Nancy who met the day before to make some traditional haggis to go along with the dinner entrees.

Tina Neiland's Catering from Ingersoll prepared the meal this year and it was delicious!



"The Haggonators" posing above making sure that enough pepper got into the mix!

Set up of the hall took place Thursday night after band practice and tables were put into place and covered. A sound system was set up by Doug C, and over the next couple of days finishing touches were made by The Muterer Team and Jim Armstrong, our canteen supervisor. Thanks to all!



Our President Winston did a great job of making sure that everything was in place and promptly at 6 pm the doors opened and all the guests arrived in their seasonal "duds" or best finery!



Winston "on duty"



Team Muterer – Jane, Mary Ellen, & Joanne



Pipe Major Doug – Sound guy and presenter

Enjoy the photos on the next few pages!

Christmas Party Attendees



Catherine and Doug G



Ian and Annette



Vicki and



Dave McK and Pat



Heidi and Steve



Joanne and



Pat and Dave K



Larry and Tammi



Lynda and Maureen



Laurie, Carol, Blake and Lisa



Dave H Lisa Jane W



Jack and Merilee



Esther and Don



Jack and Barb



Charlie and Freya



Doug T and Lois



Christy and Aly



Eric and Angus



Jane M and Mark



Geoff and Jerry



Christina



Kevin



Catherine S



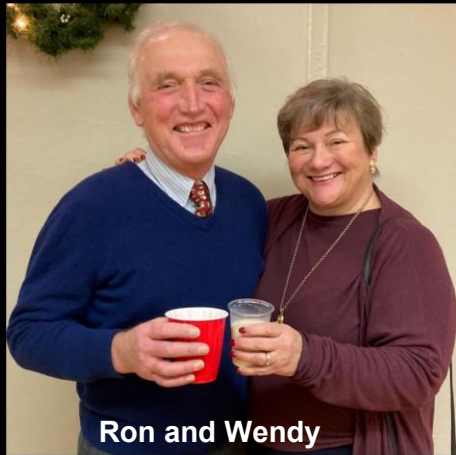
Harold and Nancy



Lana and Andrew



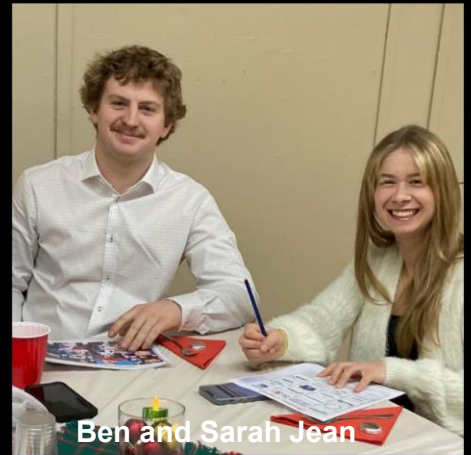
Katherine and Doug C



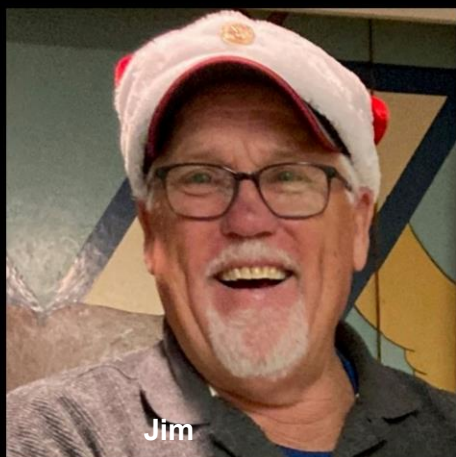
Ron and Wendy



Martin and Veronica



Ben and Sarah Jean



Jim



Winston



Mary Ellen and Joanne



The most difficult folks to track down and get photos of were – Jim (too busy playing refreshment host), Winston with his wife Maureen (again he was too busy ensuring things moved along smoothly), Kevin MacKay (who was here, there and everywhere assisting with scoring quiz games etc. so I never did get a photo of him in his cool Santa shirt)and, Adam with his wife Catherine (he was too busy assisting Jim!)

The Haggis' Arrival

After everyone was assembled and we had opening remarks, and the singing of O'Canada, the haggis was piped in by Christina. Ian acted as the bearer of the haggis and Charlie gave the address to the haggis. Grace was delivered by Angus and then everyone had a chance to make his/her way to the buffet table!



All table members seemd to be enjoying the food, the awards and the entertainment!



Award Winners & Presentations

Most Improved Piper - presented by Pipe Major Doug Collins to **Christina Breen**. (The Most Improved Trophy is also presented in memory of a past bandmember who passed away in a traffic accident - The Donald McLeod Memorial trophy).



Christina is a busy piper and has recently joined the Hamilton Police Pipe Band Gr. 3 and is looking forward to competing with them this coming Highland Games season.

Most Improved Drummer - presented by P Sgt Charlie Thomson to **Heidi Shepherd**



Heidi is our newest tenor drummer and her first parade season began in July 2024. She has made significant progress in the “twirling” and “flourishing” departments.

Bandsperson Of The Year - presented by last year's co-winners Mary Ellen Mutterer and Veronica Jackson to **Nancy Matthews**. The winner is voted in by the band members in attendance.



Nancy is a great organizer and communicator. She is also our Attendance & Welfare Director.

Nancy is always very faithful at providing treats for special occasions and being on hand to carry the workload. We appreciate all her efforts and generous, caring spirit

Cruiser Trophy - presented by last year's winner, Jim Armstrong, to **Wendy Marshall**.



Wendy earned this unwanted distinction on our March Trip to Phoenix. As Jim “pointed” out, there were several candidates for the award but she made her mark on him and he never forgot it. He showed a video to the partygoers to back up his choice!

Croquet Tournament Trophy –

presented by Harold Matthews to **Carole Marson.**



The coveted trophy is awarded for “Making the Best Shot” at the croquet tournament organized by Harold at the August IPB Picnic. According to Harold – “There is only one winner of this coveted grace of mercy. The trophy is awarded to the player that has the bestest shot ! One single shot. The shot that demonstrates the most calculated work of physics resulting in an intended placement of the ball. The winner of this award is determined by an experienced group of professional judges. Carole deserves this award more than any other player this year!”

Horseshoe Tournament Trophy –

presented by Dave Kincaid to **Joanne and Mary Ellen Mutterer**



Membership Pin Presentations

The pins were presented to three individuals this year, by Band Secretary Mary Ellen Mutterer.



Harold Matthews – 10 years



Doug Collins - 20 years



Charlie Thomson – 30 years

Congratulations to all the award winners and the pin recipients! Kudos as well to President Winston Kooistra and Pipe Major Doug Collins who thanked the band members for their efforts for the 2024 parade season.

The Fun Continued

We had some great musical entertainment with Lana Coghill (on guitar) and Christy Benedict (on violin) leading the attendees in a number of Christmas carols and songs. Each musician also played a solo piece and then, Lana accompanied Larry Perry on his fiddle. Doug Turvey got many dancers up to take part in two standard Scottish Country dances – The Gay Gordons, and Strip The Willow. Veronica awarded prizes to our best puzzle and trivia duos and trios, and we played a fun “pass the present” game with Mark Ellah being the lucky winner.



As the evening wore on, some of our members who live farther afield departed while others stayed behind and did some karaoke songs and enjoyed some more refreshments. Then it was time to put things away and return the hall to its natural order as we did have a rental the next day!

Thank you again from the Christmas Party committee for organizing such a fun night and to everyone who participated!

Some Final News To Share

Barbara Scott Habkirk



Barb Scott Habkirk had a display of her fibre art work at the Tillsonburg Station Art Centre in November.



Congrats, Barb on another unique exhibit.

Installation art on display at Station Arts Centre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

That was followed three years later by a display she called Purple, which had steel supports for the crocheting.

"It was like walking through banyan trees," Scott said of the display. "It was kind of magical."

She is already working on her next project, which she estimates will take three years to finish.

"This is portable," she said. "I can sit in the car and work on it. It becomes part of my life."

Scott recently visited the McMichael Canadian Collection gallery in Kleinberg and realized that a facility like that with beams is ideal for her work. She plans on approaching them about that possibility.



Barb Scott stands amongst her display, Cascades of Pink and Papaya, which is currently on display at the Station Arts Centre. GARY HILSON/PHOTOS

https://issuu.com/granthaven/docs/11-28-24_-_tpost_-_online

(Check out page 17)

Bill Stark Takes to The Skies



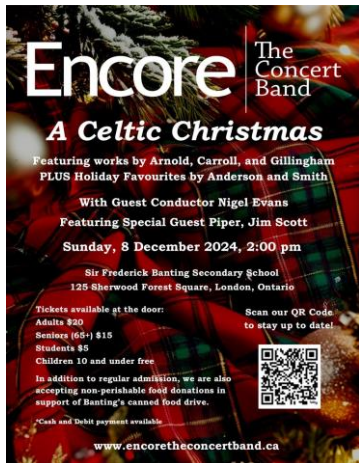
As some of you are aware, Bill(y) attends Sault College and is studying in the Aviation Technology – Flight program. It is one of the best flight schools in Canada and where adventure seekers like Bill go to learn how to become a pilot. Bill was a fantastic drummer in the IPB but the lure of planes, college, and The Near North spirited him away! It looks like you are having a great time, Billy!



His very proud parents are Drummer Adam and Piper Catherine, and grandparents IPB Supporters Larry and Joanne Perry.



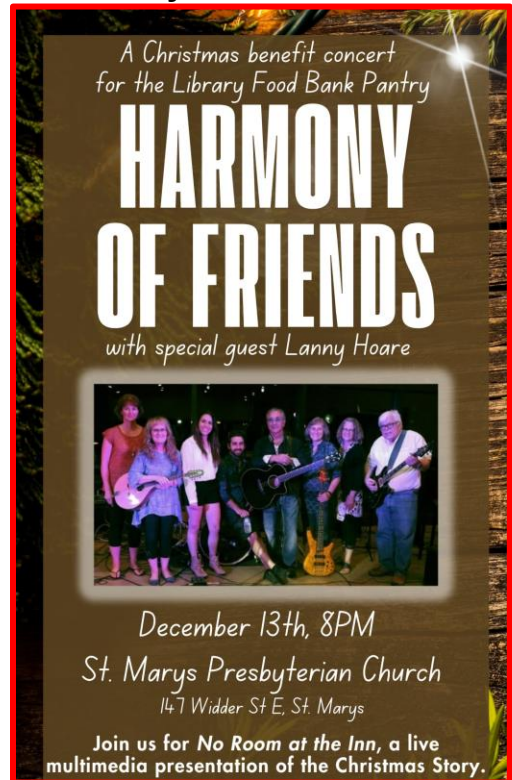
Bonnie-Heather McAuslan and Encore The Concert Band



Piper Bonnie-Heather has played a few years with this wind ensemble band that is based in London. Recently, the band had a Celtic Christmas concert that also featured pipe band music played on the solo pipes by none other than friend of our band, Jim Scott, from Scott's Highland Services. Here's a couple of photos from the concert that The Matthews were able to take and pass on.



Lana Coghill performs in St. Marys Harmony of Friends Concert



Lana joined other members of The Gee Gees, one of the music groups she plays with, and participated in the fundraiser for the St. Marys Library Food Bank Pantry. They had a wonderful turnout for the concert and Lana had a great time performing some of her favourite Christmas songs.



They also performed on December 15th at Avonbank Church just outside of St. Marys. It was three busy nights for Lana – concert, parade, concert!

The Royal Scots O'Mocha Shriners Pipe Band Santa Claus Parades



Straffordville Santa Claus Parade December 14, 2024

Many smaller communities across southwestern Ontario love to have live bands take part in their Santa Claus parades. Unfortunately, many of these communities do not have very deep pockets to be to afford to hire the larger and more expensive bands and other entertainment resources. Hence, they turn to The Shriners organizations to assist with not only getting music for their parades, but also some other very unique acts like the following – The Mocha Oriental Band, The Desert Rats, The Road Runners, The Lambton Clown Unit, The Aylmer Ghostbusters, The Mocha Wheelstander Mini Kars, and the list goes on and on - <https://www.mochashriners.org/clubs-units>

As reported before, many of our IPB members are Shriners who play in the Royal Scots Pipe Band and obligingly take bookings for these smaller events and parades. It is an excellent opportunity for their pipe band to raise funds for **The Shriners Hospital for Children – Canada**. It is the Canadian branch of the Shriners Hospitals for Children network. It is located in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Montreal, Quebec. When called upon and invited “to tag along”, several IPB pipers and drummers readily agree to help support this very worthwhile cause. Ho, ho, ho – Merry Christmas!



Parkhill Santa Claus Parade November 24, 2024



Official Pipe Band Photo 2024



First Row: PM Doug Collins, Carole Marson, Mary Ellen Mutterer, Joanne Mutterer, Doug Turvey, DS Lisa McPherson, Lana Coghill, Nancy Matthews, PS Charles Thomson

Second Row: Don Gale, Freya Rimington, Aly Banaszak, Jane Mutterer, Wendy Marshall, Heidi Shepherd

Third Row : Harold Matthews, Dave Haycock, Jerry Chevrier, Tammi Minogue, Neil White, Lois Turvey, Christina Breen, Laurence Marson, Eric Hobden

Fourth Row: Winston Kooistra, Jim Armstrong, Jack Habkirk, Ron Marshall, Kevin MacKay, Doug Glover, Steve Shepherd, Veronica Jackson, Angus Thomson

Absent: Lisa Gardner, Dave Kincaid, Andy Longridge, Bonnie-Heather McAuslan, Cheryl McEwon, Lee Merrick, Pat Potter, Adam Stark, Catherine Stark, Kory Stephens, Jane Watt

The photo was taken in the traditional location in front of the building on Thames St. S that was the former Victory Memorial Public School. Our band photographer, Norman French, arranged to meet us at this location shortly after the completion of the Ingersoll Santa Claus Parade on November 16th.

Unfortunately, several of our members were unable to attend the parade or the photo shoot that day. As our band becomes larger and membership covers an extensive area, it is not easy to arrange the timing of the "official" photo. Over the past few months we considered various dates but life tends to get in the way – vacations, work schedules, illness, and family commitments to mention just a few of the scheduling difficulties.

Perhaps in 2025, we will be able to persuade Norm to do another photo shoot with us and we will be able to have everyone on board! Thank you, Norm for being such a reliable and talented photographer. What an amazing looking group!