

Ingersoll Pipe Band Newsletter



Volume 13 Issue 5 December 2023

Celebrating 113 Years



Here I am finishing up all the IPB news for 2023 and getting ready to welcome in 2024 with IPB's participation on New Year's Day at several local levees. Since the last newsletter was sent out in mid November, we were on parade, or, participated at events as reps of the

Page 1 Resolutions

Pages 2 – 5 Remembrance Day Services

Pages 6 – 7 Lighting of the Lights

Pages 7 – 9 Ingersoll Santa Claus Parade

Pages 10 – 12 Tillsonburg Santa Claus Parade

Pages 12 – 13 Woodstock Santa Claus Parade

Pages 14 – 16 Aylmer Santa Claus Parade

Pages 16 – 17 Springfield Santa Claus Parade

Pages 18 – 19 Belmont Santa Claus Parade

Pages 20 – 21 Straffordville Santa Claus Parade

Page 22 – Innerkip Santa Claus Parade

Pages 23 – 30 IPB Christmas Party and Awards Banquet

Pages 31 – 32 – Fundraiser Spaghetti Supper

Pages – 33 – 36 Members' News

Page 36 Update on Phoenix Sponsors

IPB eleven times, celebrated the festive season with the annual IPB Christmas Party, held a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, started arrangements for our annual Burns' Dinner for January 2024, and, carried on with the fine tuning of our plans for Phoenix March 2024! Definitely we packed a lot into the band calendar in the past six weeks. Looking ahead to the pipe band's 114th anniversary, we will need to continue to be on our toes as our calendar has already started to fill up with engagements. So might I suggest that our New Year's resolutions as band members should be "well thought out" and "achievable" like the ones below -

Resolutions for 2024



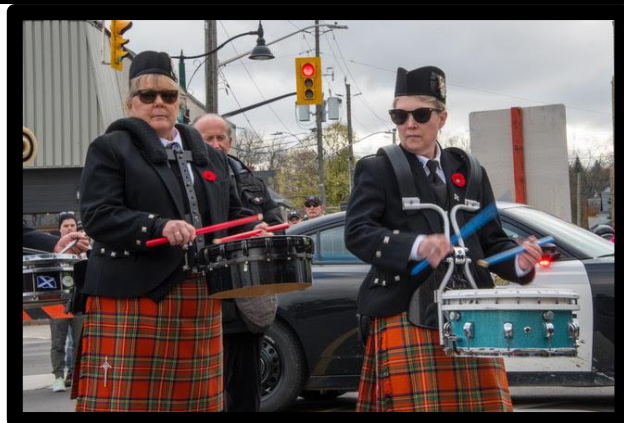
Dave Granlund

And of course for learners and members,
PRACTICE MORE & MEMORIZE TUNES!

Happy New Year's & Best Wishes for 2024

Your Newsletter Editor - *Veronica*

Remembrance Day – Saturday November 11th 2023



Photos from the ceremonies by Town Hall courtesy of Stuart Blower Photography

Outside of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Waiting for The Service to Begin



Mayors Past & Present – Ted Comiskey and Brian Petrie

Standing On Guard



New bench placed at Town Hall Square



Piper Catherine Stark with her father, Larry Perry



Warming Up outside of the church

Some of the many wreaths laid at the Town of Ingersoll's cenotaph



Approaching the Civic Service



Another photo from the pipers' warm up circle



Harvard Fly Over



Additional Remembrance Day Services



Doug Glover and Steve Shepherd both took part at the Remembrance Day service in London ON as part of the London Police Band contingent. Doug G submitted the following information and the link to a short video below -

"I was at the Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph in London with the London Police Pipes and Drums. In the attached video you can see the London Police Pipes and Drums leading the Parade. I am in the last row furthest from the camera."

It is very meaningful to me to be at the Cenotaph in London on November 11th. Both my Grandfathers were in the first World War. One was in the Royal Artillery. The other lied about his age when he was 14 and jointed at the Armouries in London. My Father and my Uncle, who was killed and I never met, were in the second World War and signed up in London. Catherine's Son and my Step-Son is a serving member in the Armed Forces. "

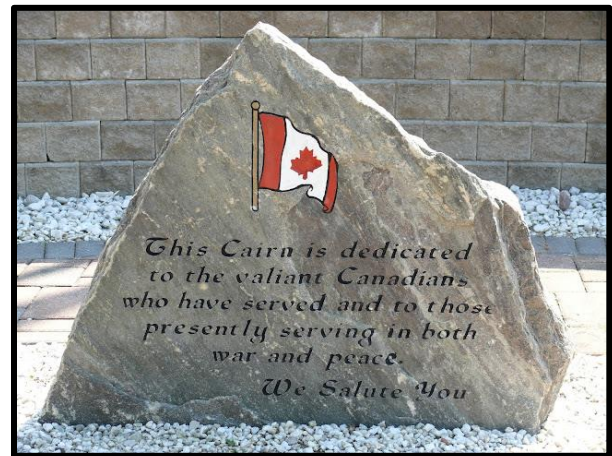
<https://twitter.com/AM980News/status/1723374328551555127/video/1>

CTV London News coverage can also be found at -

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/video/c2805691-london-s-2023-remembrance-day-ceremony>



Other IPB members played at other local Remembrance Day services such as those held in Belmont, Embro, and, the ones held in Woodstock and Ingersoll at retirement residences and long term care homes. Thanks Don Gale, Cheryl McEown, Ron Marshall, Angus Thomson and Veronica Jackson for volunteering to assist other communities and organizations.



Cairn part of the cenotaph in Belmont



Royal Canadian Legion - Br. 318, Embro, Ontario
November 5 • 🌐

Remembrance Day Service

Saturday November 11th

10am at Knox United Church.

Memorial Park Cenotaph Service at 11am.

Chili Luncheon following at Embro Legion.



First Official Santa Gig
"Lighting of the Lights"
Downtown Ingersoll
November 16th



The IPB arriving for the tree lighting



PM Doug waiting to call the tunes



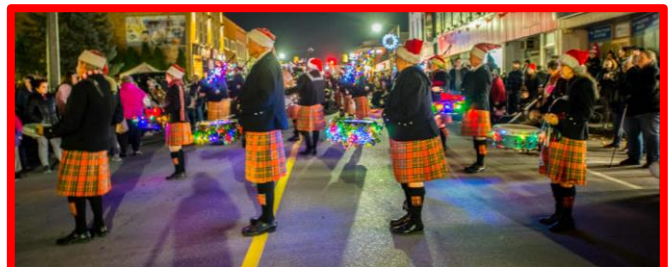
Crowd gathered around for the tree lighting ceremony! Let the festive season begin!



Piper Steve Shepherd



Drummer Jane Watt



Some of Our Intrepid Drummers – All in a Row



Thanks again to Stuart Blower for allowing us to use his photos, and IPB Member Harold Matthews for sending them on

Saturday November the 18th The Three Parade Day

This year Ingersoll stayed with its original Santa Claus parade programming at 11 am on the third Saturday of the month. However, Woodstock and Tillsonburg both decided to go with a 6 pm parade so obviously we had some planning and decisions to make. With a little help from some of our piping and drumming friends from the Lonon Firefighters Pipe Band, we were able to cover off both evening parades and not disappoint anyone.

First up Ingersoll –



Saturday, November 18th - 11:00am
This year's theme: "Magical Holiday Movies"



Nearing the end of the parade on Wellington Street as we cross the bridge over the creek near the Rec Complex. (Photo by John Rimington)

Tune Up Time at the Fire Hall – Pre- Parade



Hanging out with Spiderman

The Team Approach – Jim tuning chanters and PM Doug tuning drones

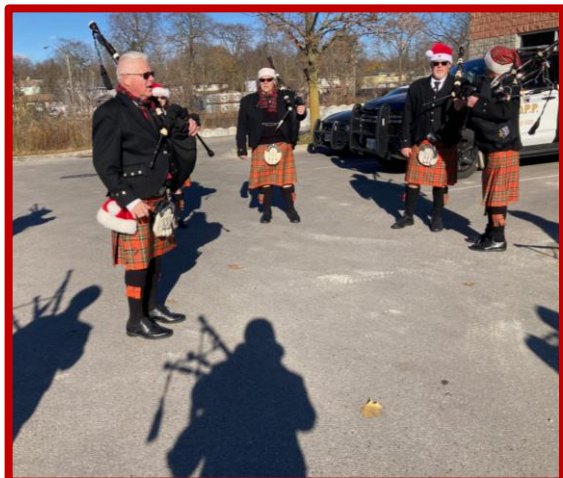


Joanne, Mary Ellen and Jane enjoying the sunshine

Photo from the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo – December 2023 Issue



New bass head on the bass drum on display!



Final debriefing



Next Up: Evening Parades – Tillsonburg and Woodstock

Prior to November 18th, our Drum Sergeant Lisa McPherson and Pipe Major Doug Collins sat down to take a look at which pipers and drummers would be available for the parades, and, preferences for location for some of the members. They also took into consideration some of our London recruits and then rosters were prepared and distributed.

It worked out very well with a pretty even distribution of musicians.

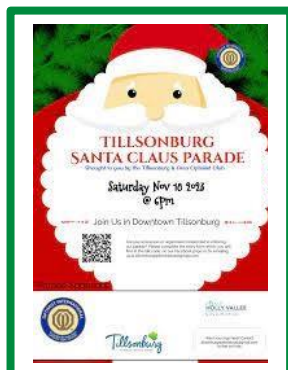
Tillsonburg



Top left - Drummer Lisa Gardner warming up with her Tim's beverage; Top right - Our piping and drumming friends from London — Will, Brian and Laurie; Bottom left – Jane, Mary Ellen, Joanne and Nancy waiting to march off; Bottom Right – Aly, Will, Brian, Laurie and Winston all who reside in London!



Photos taken from video – found at the link below -
<https://www.facebook.com/chris.abbott.12327/videos/879758370428864>



The IPB appears around the
 2 minute 11 second mark on
 the video.





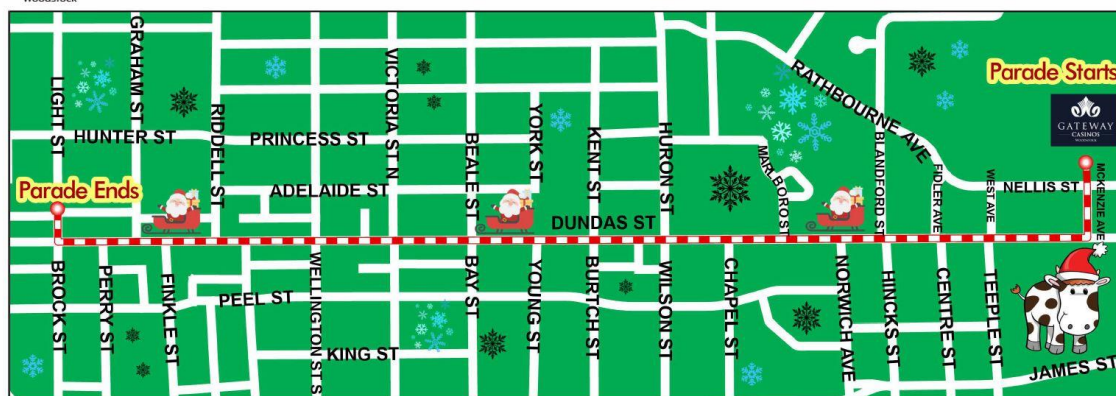
The Tillsonburg Parade Team

Don, Steve, Angus, Claude, Jane, Joanne, Mary Ellen, Veronica, Brian E, Nancy, Harold, Winston, Aly, Lisa G, Laurie, Will



Woodstock

Santa Claus Parade Route



Meanwhile, in Woodstock, that parade team was getting ready to follow the usual route from The Woodstock Fairgrounds west along Dundas Street to Brock Street. The parade was shortened from last year and no one was complaining!





The Woodstock Team was composed of - Jim A, Jim I, Lee, Bonnie, Charlie, Christina, Lois, Ron, Catherine, Lanna, George, Doug C, Lisa H, Tammy, Doug T, Adam. (Special thanks George and Jim I for making the trip from London). Also thanks to John Rimington again for the great parade photos.

N.B. – This was drummer Adam Stark's first parade with the band! More to come in 2024 when we will profile his journey with the IPB.

Aylmer Santa Claus Parade November 25th



On parade with the wonderful man himself, Santa Claus, in Aylmer at the 79th annual Kinsmen Santa Claus parade. Huge crowds, sunny skies and no wind blowing down the Main Street. Who could ask for anything better at the annual SC parade in Aylmer where we normally deal with high winds and cold weather!



Great photo of the band's pipers tuning up! Thanks, Harold for the pic.

Pre-Parade in Aylmer



Pipers aka Mechanics

PM Doug C is checking under the hood with the able assistance of cousin Jim and bandmate Don! Life is never boring with a pipe band!



Maybe it has the wrong "drones"?



Sounds like the engine needs "tuning"!



The new "reed" just isn't working! It needs more adjustments.

Springfield Santa Claus Parade December 2nd



Hopefully, Jim was still not checking out car problems! It's one week later and we were still in Elgin County but this time in the village of Springfield. His sidekick this week was Charlie (minus his Santa beard for this photo)



Meanwhile, Don was busy entertaining the Muterer sisters!



Nancy and Jane W waiting to march off



Springfield Santa Claus parade synopsis – *"A little foggy on the way there but no rain, no snow, no wind, sleet or hail! Best Springfield Parade weather ever! 12 pipers piping and 6 drummers drumming!"*

The History of Springfield - Malahide is a municipal township in Elgin County in Southwestern Ontario, Canada. Malahide Township was named for Malahide Castle in Malahide, Ireland, birthplace of land grant administrator Colonel Thomas Talbot in 1810. The village of Springfield was incorporated as a separate municipality in 1878. The current municipality was formed in 1998 through an amalgamation of the original Township of Malahide, the former Township of South Dorchester and the former Village of Springfield.

Every year the Springfield parade draws in spectators from around Malahide Township.

Belmont Santa Claus Parade December 3rd



If it's the first Sunday evening in December, it probably means that you will find IPB members in Belmont for the village's annual Santa Claus parade. It also probably means that we will be wearing capes to keep the rain off of our uniforms and pipes. So 2023 was no exception. We managed to stay warm and dry inside the arena prior to stepping outside for a quick tune up. Pipe Sergeant Charlie was in charge of the band.

We managed to round up most of our members for an indoor group photo. Definitely it is always like trying to "herd cats"!

***Editor's Note - Herding cats may refer to: An idiom denoting a futile attempt to control or organize a class of entities which are inherently uncontrollable—as in the difficulty of attempting to command individual cats into a group (herd).**



Some of our stray IPB cats!



Seven Drummers Drumming in Belmont

21ST Annual Belmont

Sunday
December 3, 2023
6:00 pm

Santa Claus Parade

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 6, 2024
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**



From the warmth and dry of the Belmont Arena to the rain and dampness, and cheers of the crowds in Belmont. Both participants and spectators are to be congratulated on making this village's annual evening parade a big success.

Straffordville Claus Parade **December 16th**



In early December we were contacted by the Straffordville Hall Foundation to see if we were available to participate in this village's Santa Claus parade. It was probably ten years ago that we were last there – a lot has happened in between so it was fun to revisit this community and help them celebrate.



The hall had definitely undergone a lot of changes and the foundation has been working hard to make it a vibrant community centre.



Kevin taking his turn playing bass drum



Kevin explaining to fellow Tenor Drummer Wendy that he traded his tenor sticks in for bass ones



Two snare drummers – Winston and Harold



P Sgt Charlie, Christina, Jim



Lana, Angus, Ron, Nancy



Seven Fine Pipers Destined to Play in Phoenix



More Tune Ups



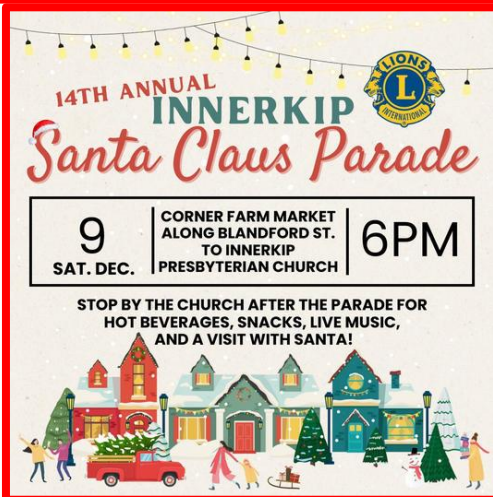
Harold, Winston & Veronica



We were down in numbers for a number of reasons – Covid, colds, other family commitments but we were able to provide a good sized mini band. We were happy to earn a few dollars for our Phoenix Fundraising account as well as help out the parade organizers by providing a “live” band! So all in all it was an excellent morning in Straffordville!

Final Santa Claus Parade December 9th Innerkip

Final IPB Santa Claus parade of the 2023 season! The group photo was taken at the Innerkip Presbyterian Church - a welcome respite at the end of the parade.



The Innerkip Parade is always a popular evening parade in this amazing little community. The local Lions Club and other community members do a great job of organizing all of the participants. The local firefighters collected donations of toys and nonperishable foods for the local food banks. The IPB is always happy to participate in it. After the parade several members went out for some delicious wings and beverages at the local Original Wing House. Thanks to Harold and Bonnie-Heather for the photos.





The IPB Annual Christmas Party

The annual holiday celebration dinner for members, family and friends was held on Saturday December 2nd. Our President Ron Marshall and his wife Wendy organized the dinner and our menu took on an Italian flavour with lasagna, Caesar salad, and garlic bread (plus several other items for the main course and dessert). Our catering company was Louie's Pizza and Pasta here in town. (Our caterer that we had used for several years "Eat Your Heart Out" has gone into retirement). The meal was fabulous and we even had enough leftovers to feed band members the following night after we played in Belmont. So thank you Team Marshall (with the assistance of others in the kitchen) for seeing that we were all treated to a great meal.



President Ron ready to serve up the salad



Team Marshall – Next Venture - Catering Business



Servers Kevin and Jim with Patrons Harold and Winston



Happy Hour
Thank you, Jim for getting all the beverages to serve, and, Kevin for your assistance.

Some Photos of Our Attendees and VIPS!



Tammi & Larry



Mark & Jane



Lois & Doug T



Portia & Freya



Catherine & Doug G



Dorothy & Andy



Don & Esther



Merilee & Jack



Heidi & Steve



Nancy & Harold



Joanne & Mary Ellen



Martin & Veronica

More Attendees and VIPS!



Adam, Catherine, Joanne & Larry



Carole, Doug & Laurie



Jack & Barb



Maureen & Winston



Jeff, Jerry & Jason



Claude, Charlie, & Ron



Angus

During cocktail hour and post dinner, we participated in games to test our “Christmas Songs and Christmas Movies” trivia knowledge. Kevin was kind enough to score the quizzes for us and prizes were given out to the winners.

On the next couple of pages, you will see the traditional ceremony of the head table being piped in; Steve Shepherd performed the honour and this was followed by O’Canada and Grace led by Ron. After dinner, we moved into the Awards part of the evening. Mary Ellen Mutterer, as our awards guru and historian, assisted with many of these presentations; Pipe Major Doug Collins also did his duty presenting awards with the assistance of Pipe Sergeant Lisa McPherson. There were some surprises and fun announcements with these annual presentations. Congratulations to all those who were recognized!



Head Table – DM Doug C, Pres. Ron & Wendy



Piper Steve Shepherd piping in the head table

Band Awards

PM Doug Collins and Band Secretary Mary Ellen Mutterer organized the presentation of special awards to members.



PM Doug Collins presented **Most Improved Piper** award to **Jim Armstrong** (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). Jim was part of the grade 5 London District PB that several IPB ers competed with last summer at several highland games in the region. He also practices diligently every day when he's not fishing.



Jim receiving his award from PM Doug



D Sgt Lisa McPherson presented **Tammi Minogue** with the **Most Improved Drummer** award.



Pipe Major congratulating our President, **Ron Marshall**, on his leadership over the past year; he also congratulated Ron for retaining the Clint Legacy trophy for his competition efforts as a piper at the Embro Highland Games



Pipe Major Doug presented The **Bandsperson of the Year** to two deserving members who tied when the vote count was tallied. Congrats, to **Veronica Jackson** and **Mary Ellen Mutterer**.



Pictured above is Harold Matthews presenting **Doug Turvey** with the coveted trophy 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. Doug Turvey took the win on the final leg of the race this year”.*



Freya Rimington and **Wendy Marshall** were presented their **5 Year Membership pins** by Mary Ellen.

Mary Ellen presented **Catherine Stark** with her **5 Year Membership pin** in Belmont the following night.



Kevin MacKay and **Don Gale** were presented their **25 year pins** by Mary Ellen. Quite a feat!





Jane Muterer and **Mary Ellen Muterer** received their **40 Year Membership** pins. Amazing!



Dave Haycock received his pin from Mary Ellen recognizing his **60 years** with the band. Outstanding!



Uniform adjustment gift (suspenders) awarded to **PM Doug** to keep his kilt in place on parade. From the rank & file behind Doug.



The much esteemed **Cruiser Trophy** was awarded this year by Harold Matthews who won it a couple of years ago. This year's award went to the cousin duo, **Jim Armstrong** and **Doug Collins** because of "pipes confusion". (It's a long story so if you are interested in the unvarnished facts, speak to either one of them but not both at the same time. They will only blame each other!)



Mary Ellen, Joanne and Jane Muterer were presented with horseshoes that came from Gail MacKay's estate. They will be used next year for the horseshoe tournament at the annual picnic at their farm. This year's winners, Al McKeown and Dave Kincaid, of the horseshoe tournament were absent from the banquet to receive their trophy recognition.



Well done everyone on their personal achievements and thanks again, Mary Ellen for looking after the Awards part of our evening's entertainment. Below, **Nancy Matthews** thanking everyone for making the evening such a success.



Entertainment

Our Christmas Party then continued into the entertainment section of the evening – **Claude Roach** started it off with a couple of lovely selections on his acoustic guitar. Thank you, Claude for sharing your talent!



Carole Marson and Veronica Jackson led the crowd in a “Choir-Choir-Choir” version of “Silver Bells”, the holiday standard - Bing Crosby and Carole Richards version – two part duet/harmony.

We actually have some very good singers in the group (a few not so good but hey it was a party so everyone was encouraged to sing).

Then “the pipes” came out and **Catherine Stark** and **Steve Shepherd** played a couple of tunes. **Christina Breen** also played a solo.



Steve & Catherine



Then it was time to move onto the square dancing. Some of our members square dance every Monday evening in Woodstock, so they volunteered to guide our party goers in some square dancing. **Doug Turvey** took control of the microphone and did the calling after a review of some basic steps and moves.



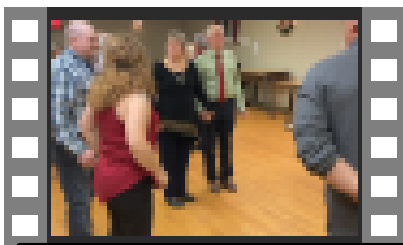


Some folks definitely were more experienced than others; regardless they all had fun!



Video Links for Square Dancing

If you weren't there to see these dancers "live" you may enjoy watching the following two short videos -



Video 1

Click on the YouTube link below-

<https://youtu.be/YmLNS8waxZ8>



Video 2

<https://youtu.be/4K1UYEpNDCE>



Ghillies and running shoes were turned in for heels for "the party"!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER FUNDRAISER November 19th

Spaghetti Supper Round Up

First of all - thanks to everyone who came out and bought tickets for the spaghetti dinner. We served 121 hungry folks and sold 127 tickets (a few absences due to foreseen circumstances). We had a couple of nice monetary donations as well! A pat on the back to all of you for participating by setting up the hall (after the Lighting of the Lights ceremony in town), serving, cooking, cleaning up and eating.

Secondly - thanks to all our team who coordinated and ran the kitchen and beverage bar and bought the supplies and made the food!

Applause for - Mary Ellen, Jane, Joanne, Wendy, Nancy, Harold, Jim - chief cooks and suppliers!

Thirdly - Our terrific volunteers - who served, cleared tables, washed and dried dishes, topped up various things, ran out to get extra supplies, cleaned up after the supper etc -

Applause for - Jerry, Ron, Don, Esther, Adam, Catherine, Tammi, Heidi, Steve, Jack, Mark, Lois, Angus, Andrew, Harold, Doug T. Doug C



The cooks and clean-up crew – end of the night ! Not a lot of photos taken of all the action at the actual dinner as we were too busy! A profit of over \$2000 was raised!

Fourthly - Our entertainers - Larry Perry on fiddle and harmonica, and Doug C on pipes - you both made a lot of our guests very happy to hear some Celtic music.



Larry on his fiddle providing some tunes; hungry diners in the background

Fifthly - A big thank you to Veronica for decorating the hall (all by herself!), creating and printing off posters/tickets, advertising everywhere!, coordinating tickets sales, picking up last minute items, selling books/pins/pepperettes (and more dinner tickets) and setting the 'Italian mood' with her great music picks + themed red/green/white remote control lighting!



We went with the Italian flag colours for the decorating scheme

At Tremblett's Independent Grocery Store



Some of the IPB Members that Played at Tremblett's store earlier in October as part of its Customer Appreciation Day BBQ

Final December Thursday Night Practice Pics Submitted by Harold



Relaxation



Decoration

On The Road with the Royal Scots O'Mocha Pipe Band



This Santa Claus parade season several of our band members participated in additional parades in Parkhill and West Lorne. IPB Members who are also Shriners include – Don Gale (Pipe Major for the Scots), Winston Kooistra (Secretary), Steve Shepherd, Harold Matthews, Jerry Chevrier, Dave Kincaid, Jack Habkirk and Graham Carroll. IPB Members who came out to assist were – Nancy Matthews, Adam Stark, Catherine Stark, Aly Banasazak- Brown, and Lisa McPherson. IPB's assistance helps The Royal Scots raise funds for the Shriners' Hospital for Children in Montreal. The photo above was from the end of the parade in West Lorne – delicious treats at the end for all participants. We took over Santa's stage and chairs until he showed up for our photo shoot!

The Parkhill gig was very rainy but here's what one spectator wrote – "Once again another fantastic parade!!! Rain, snow, sleet, wind etc....you can't keep us down. Streets were full of happy cheering people!! Way to go Parkhill!!!!"

Those small towns and villages really know how to get into the festive spirit!



Parade theme:
"Christmas in Hockeyville"

- Come visit Santa outside at West Elgin Community Health Centre after parade!
- WL Optimist Foodtruck will be serving hot dogs, chilli, and hot drinks
- Food bank donations will be collected along the parade route
- To register:
<https://forms.gle/nMatixt7rEb9FFyy9>
- For more info, email
wlsantaclausparade@gmail.com



Members' News

A Submission from Piper Lana Coghill



"Veronica has asked in the past for new members to provide a little background write up on themselves for the newsletter. I decided as 2023 winds down, I would write a little summary of my activities during the year. I work full time as the Office Manager at A & A Environmental Consultants Inc. in Woodstock. Some of you will remember my former and retired boss, and retired IPB member, Dr. George Duncan. In my free time...lol, I make music my hobby. I am a member of four bands.

*The longest ongoing membership has been with **The Gee Gees** (for The Guitar Girls) that I joined in 2011. The band is comprised of three ladies singing and playing old-time folk, country, and occasionally, some sacred music. I currently play the acoustic guitar in The Gee Gees and provide lead vocals. Our performance circuit has become mainly Long Term and Retirement Homes in Woodstock, Ingersoll, St. Marys, Sebringville, and Seaforth where we performed 17 one hour shows on Wednesday evenings in 2023. The Gee Gees also performed at four special church services, one charity event, and one funeral for a total of 23 performances in this year.*



The Gee Gees at the Avonbank Church special Christmas service December 10, 2023

The Sociables is a long-time family friend band that play once a year on the Saturday of the August long weekend at a cottage on Conestoga Lake. We play rock music from the seventies to today. I play bass guitar and vocals in the band and have sporadically performed with The Sociables from 1995 to the present.

I joined the band Harmony of Friends from St. Marys in June of 2022. The band has eight members and play seventies and eighties classic rock and pop, modern country, and perform an annual special Christmas presentation called "No Room at the Inn". I play bass guitar and provide some vocals in the band. Harmony of Friends had five performances in 2023 in St. Marys and Stratford.



Harmony of Friends at the Baptist Church in St. Marys, on November 25, 2023

I performed a solo gig at the Sim School of Highland Dance Christmas show on December 2, 2023 at the Embro Town Hall and encouraged audience participation in the Christmas sing along.



Finally, I became a marching member of the IPB in May 2023 and participated in 16 marching events between May and December and two performance events on stage at the band hall.

I am excited to have my husband Andrew participating as a learner drummer and cannot wait until he can join officially as an IPB member so we can march together. - *Lana*



Andrew having a drumming lesson with instructor Dave Haycock

A Submission from Drummer Doug Glover -



"At the end of November Catherine and I were going to go to California to visit two of our Grandkids. It is the American Thanksgiving and the kids are off school for the week.

Unfortunately Catherine could not go due to her fall and broken arm, so I went on my own as everything had been booked. I did not have any problems on my flights as I just told all the staff at the airports that I was an unaccompanied Husband and they were very kind to me.

The Grandkids took me to see their schools. The difference between our schools and theirs is that California schools have no internal hallways or cafeterias. Everything is outside because even in November it is 18 degrees and sunny each and every day.

I also saw our daughter Candice's school. She is attending de Anaz College. Candice is taking 2 years at this Junior University and then hopes to transfer and finish at one of California's 4 year Universities.

While in California we all went to the Grandkids favourite restaurant. It is a sushi restaurant that uses conveyor belts and robots to deliver the food. I have never see the Grandkids eat so much food so fast. They do love it. Not being a sushi fan, I told Candice I wanted to eat something that walked. She ordered me chicken dumplings that I loved.



Candice and Alex and the Grandkids also watched the Grey Cup on a streaming service, CFL+, that broadcasts in the US. Glad the East won, go Montreal! They also took me to a football game at Stanford University. Stanford was playing the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame is in South Bend Indiana where I lived for two years.

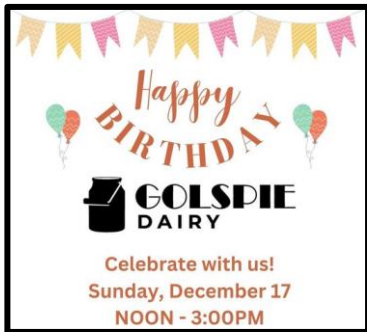


I had a great time. The California family are planning to come to Ontario next summer. I, and especially Catherine, are looking forward to that visit." - *Doug*



Golspie Dairy News

What a year it has been for The Marshall Family
They held an open house at the dairy on
Sunday December 17th giving away free
product samples and of course birthday cake!



MP for Oxford, Arpan Khanna, dropped by on
Dec. 21st to congratulate the business.



Ron & MP Khanna

*Picked up some fresh 4% whole milk for Arvin
(his son) this afternoon [Golspie Dairy](#) 🐄 on their
one year anniversary!
Congratulations on this milestone — wishing
Wendy and Ron many more years of success!*



Ron and Cheesemaker Marja

Catherine Stark



Catherine dressed up in her "Where's Waldo"
costume for a Hallowe'en holiday parade in
Dundas ON with her other pipe band The
Dundas Pipes & Drums

Phoenix Trip Fundraising Update

Since our last issue we are pleased to
announce that the following sponsors for our
Phoenix Project 2024 have generously
donated to our trip.

Bronze - \$250 and below



ICM Insurance Agency
Cedarview Retirement
Ingersoll Lions Club
The Graham Family
The Murray Family
Norma Gale
Mary Hubert
Randal Szarek
Carol Nanckivell

Platinum - Over \$1000



The Town of Ingersoll

Thank you one and all!