

# Ingersoll Pipe Band Newsletter



Celebrating our 115th Anniversary

1910 - 2025



Volume 15 Issue 4

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Considering that the year ended with several Santa Claus parades, perhaps the clip art above should reflect a more seasonal gift “wrapping” paper. However, I like to think of 2025 more as a film – in fact an award winning documentary! Possible Title – “The Life and Times of the Ingersoll Pipe Band Celebrating 115 Years”! It really was a very historic, fun, and memorable year that all our members and supporters

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working together made possible. Quite an achievement and absolutely worthy of all of the accolades and compliments that the band has received throughout 2025.

This newsletter will cover the months of November and December and I hope you enjoy looking back at the memories made in those two months.

Thank you again to all our contributors to all four newsletters this past year. A special shout out to our in house photographers, Laurence Marson, John Lynes, and Harold Matthews who provided me with some excellent pictures.

A special thanks to all members of the 2025 Executive who kept us all on track and completed many behind the scenes tasks that are so necessary to a band. Much appreciated as well were our members and learners who pitched in whenever and wherever they could and covered off so many tasks involved with our tattoo, ceilidh, reunion event, Burns’ Night, and other 2025 initiatives. You all win Oscars and Golden Globe awards for direction, production, set design and of course musical scores! Now onto 2026 - A sincere wish to one and all -

### ★ Happy New Year Wish ★

“May the coming year be a tapestry of success, laughter, and cherished moments, weaving together the threads of shared experiences and newfound aspirations. Happy New Year Mate.”

Your Editor - *Veronica*

## November 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 Remembrance Day Observances



Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> arrived with a flurry of snow storms across Southern Ontario. The situation in Ingersoll, of marching through slushy streets, was not unique to just our pipe band but to several others across the area. The turnout at the cenotaph may have been a little smaller due to weather conditions. However, both the church service and Town Hall proceedings were very well conducted by members of the Town of Ingersoll Council, the employees of The Town, and the members of Branch 119 of the Canadian Legion (Hillcrest Memorial) and the Legion's padre, The Reverend Marty Keatings. Councillor Kristy VanKooten -Bossence acted as the master of ceremonies for the event.

The IPB's connections to WWI veterans and casualties run deep as our first Pipe Major, Tom Johnston, and, founding members of the band, John (Jock) Johnston, William Collins, John Little, James Little, James Vance Jr., James Candlish, and Gordon Cline were all part of the troops that signed up in Canada and saw action overseas in Europe. Future Pipe Major Alex Collins was also a veteran of the war.

Local historian, Scott Gillies, has over the years researched and written many articles about these soldiers who were also pipers and drummers. He wrote an article for the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo newspaper and it appeared in the June 21, 2024 edition.

# Route to the Past – Ingersoll Resident Marched Into History

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

Quick question. Can you name the oldest, independent, continually performing pipe band in Canada? If you answered the Ingersoll Pipe Band, you would be correct! Much of their storied past is thanks to the organizational efforts of their very first pipe major – Tom Johnston.

The Ingersoll Pipe Band is one of the few bands not associated with any branch of the military service, although its history and its first members were proud servicemen.

As famed Scottish bard Robbie Burns wrote all those years ago, "O why the deuce should I repine, And be an ill foreboder? I'm twenty-three, and five feet nine, I'll go and be a sodger!" Well, Thomas Gordon Johnston was only 18 and five feet six, when he enlisted with the King's Own Scottish Borderers in 1893. Records indicate that Johnston was a member of the KOSB from that date until 1913 however, by the latter date he was living and working in Ingersoll.

As the story is told, a group of Scots-men came to Ingersoll to work primarily for the Noxon Company. They boarded with their cousin, James Vance, who was plant manager for this farm implement manufacturer. They brought their bagpipes and were often heard practicing. Cousin Vance encouraged them to form a band, with the added understanding that Noxons would sponsor it. They agreed to such terms although they recognized that they needed a leader so they wrote to their friend in Dumfries Scotland, which went something like this: "Tom, will ye no pack up your wife and four bairns and come to Canada? Come to Ingersoll and be our Pipe Major. We will find you a place to live; we will find you a job. Nay bother!" And that is precisely what Tom Johnston did. This former Pipe Major of

the Kings Own Scottish Borders, along with his wife Eliza, their sons John and Thomas and three daughters Agnes, Kate and Mary moved to Ingersoll and found living quarters on King Street West. A third son, Gordon, was born after their arrival.

The Noxon Pipe Band was formed in 1910 and soon became ambassadors for the town. Under Tom's guidance the small Ingersoll Pipe Band grew in members and reputation across southwestern Ontario.

Two years after the Great War began, local recruiting officers were looking to fill the ranks of the 168th Battalion Oxford's Own. Every one of the bandmen enlisted including Johnston and his son John; William Collins, brothers John and Jamie Little, James Vance Jr., James Candler and Gordon Cline. When the 168th shipped out in October of 1916, the majority of the troops and the band were sent to the 21st Battalion, an Eastern Ontario based regiment which was continually seeing heavy action on the front lines. Young Cline was himself killed in action within a year of departing Oxford County.

168th Battalion Pipe Major Johnston was not sent to the 21st. Instead, he was taken on strength by different regiments. Perhaps his age was a factor. When he enlisted in 1916, he stated that his birth year was 1879 making him 37 however his gravestone has the year 1875 which would have meant that Tom was actually 41. This was not unheard of. One of his former bandmen in Scotland was 60 when he died from wounds suffered while playing members of the KOSB "over the top".

In the summer of 1918, Sergeant Johnston was appointed Pipe Major of the 42nd Battalion, Royal Highlanders of Canada – members of the famed Black Watch of Canada. A photograph from their regimental history shows Tom posing in the



TOM JOHNSTON, 42ND PM 1918  
(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

centre of group of pipers and drummers, very much the elder statesman amongst the others but the twinkle in his eye hints at the good nature of the man.

On the morning of November 11th, 1918, the 42nd Battalion captured the city of Mons Belgium, location of the first battle of the Great War which had been lost by the Black Watch and other members of the British Expeditionary Force. On this occasion, it was the Canadian Black Watch that had won the battle – the final battle of the war. At 0700 hours, according to regimental history, the band played itself through the streets. In other words, Pipe Major Thomas Gordon Johnston

of Ingersoll, decided that the pipe band should wake up the citizens to let them know that the Canadians were in town and that the war would end in four hours' time. Three different photographs taken that morning show the streets filled with jubilant Belgians welcoming the Canadians. In the front right corner of the ranks can be seen PM Johnston. One hundred years later, Canadian volunteers re-enacted this same scene.

Tom Johnston was demobilized in 1919 and returned to Ingersoll on March 7th. He resumed his profession as a tinsmith and plumber - apt employment for a piper! Occasionally work meant that he and his family had to move to London and Windsor, but most of his remaining years were spent in Ingersoll leading his beloved pipe band until his retirement in 1935.

In 1938 he suffered a stroke which nearly incapacitated him. He was a guest of honour when the King and Queen stopped in Ingersoll on June 7, 1939, and he was able to enjoy his birthday on June 24th, but he succumbed to his illness days later. His funeral was conducted from his home at 178 Frances Street by Rev. Dr. Turner of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church to the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Fellow members of the Black Watch performed their duty as pall bearers while Ingersoll pipers Bill Collins and John Little played the lament. As Johnston's casket was lowered into the grave, servicemen covered it with their poppies in tribute to a life well lived.

A few years ago, a presentation was made to Ingersoll Town Council urging them to consider naming a new set of streets in honour of Pipe Major Johnston, in keeping with the tradition of remembering those who have paid the supreme sacrifice. In this case, 'Tom Johnston Way' would lead into 'Mons Court' so that forever and ever he would be recognized for his heroic actions on that final day of the Great War.

Within the IPB membership and learners, several others were active in World War II, and other Canadian military operations. On November 11<sup>th</sup> we show our gratitude and respect for all who did their part to end wars and conflicts, and promote peace around the world.



Several of our members took part in other ceremonies in London, Belmont, Woodstock, Zorra Township, and even as far afield as Nova Scotia. Pictured on the right, Catherine Stark and her father, Larry Perry, a Canadian veteran. They participated in the ceremony in Sheet Harbour NS where a banner was put up to recognize her grandfather, and Larry's father, Henry Perry, a member of the WWII Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force.



## Santa Claus Parades – Here We Go!



Traditionally, the first of many Santa Claus parades that we participate in is in the band's hometown of Ingersoll. 2025 was no exception. We prepared for two parades on **Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> - 11am in Ingersoll and 6 pm in Woodstock**. This was the first year that we did not march in the Tillsonburg parade as it was decided that perhaps the plan from the past two years of sending half the band to Woodstock and the other half to Tillsonburg was becoming impractical. When on parade, the IPB would prefer to have a larger presence of performers on the street and that was a difficult goal to achieve with a split band! If Tillsonburg ever decides to move its parade back to the afternoon, we would be more than happy to play "Jingle Bells" on the main street – Broadway!

Weather wise we were very fortunate in Ingersoll – no rain, no sleet, no new snow, just appreciative crowds along the parade route.



As per usual, the parade organizers, The Rotary Club of Ingersoll, had bands, floats, and other participants gather by the Ingersoll Fire Station and the OPP Detachment office. It is a distinct advantage to us as we get to gather with friends and acquaintances from other bands and enjoy Tim Horton's refreshments before marching off.

We had an excellent turn out of players for the parade so there were lots of pipes and drums to be tuned!

## More From Inside the Fire Hall

Top Row – London Fire Fighters Pipe Band members

Second Row – IPB Drummers with Aly Banasazak- Brown acting Drum Major

Third Row – IPB Pipers and Drummers



Two canine mascots waiting patiently with their caregivers to march in the parade!



Two additional characters anxious to set off!



## On Parade – Thames St. South



(photo Kelly Jackson)

**Kyrah Smith, Woodstock Ingersoll Echo Correspondent -**

*"The weekend of Nov. 15 proved to be a true kickoff to the holiday season in Ingersoll, offering residents a blend of beloved traditions and fresh new festivities.*

*The celebrations began with the much-loved Ingersoll Rotary Christmas Parade, now in its 28th year. With the theme of Santa's Workshop, the parade set off at 11 a.m. from the corner of Wilson and Mutual Street, making its way to Harrisfield Public School on Caffyn Street. The weather was mild, but the holiday spirit was anything but; onlookers lined the streets in Santa hats and Christmas sweaters, ready to welcome the season.*

*The Ingersoll Pipe Band proudly opened the procession, followed by Mayor Brian Petrie and Member of Parliament Arpan Khanna. A variety of local businesses and community groups joined in with festive floats, performances, and plenty of cheer. Candy canes were handed out to children, and surprise appearances from The Grinch and Cindy Lou brought smiles to the crowd. The parade concluded with the stars of the season themselves, Santa and Mrs. Claus, waving to families as they passed. "*



Click on the photo to the left to access video footage of the IPB on parade in Ingersoll!

And the fans were happy – Facebook Comment -

[Vicki Whiting](#) What a fabulous parade today, one of the best! Thank you to the organizers, participants, and the people lining the streets. It takes a village. A wonderful start to the Christmas season.



Our friends in the London Fire Fighters Pipe Band under PM Jim Scott's direction



Our banner carriers, Dave on the left and Jim on the right "on duty"



More video footage! Click on the photo above for "Good King Wenceslas"!

## Woodstock Santa Claus Parade Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>



During the afternoon, the weather changed from clear skies and dry conditions, to frequent downpours and very cold and damp conditions. Prior to setting off on the Woodstock parade route along Dundas St., band members gathered to tune up and get prepared for a lengthy march. Thankfully, just prior to starting the parade, the rain stopped and we were able to complete the parade in “mostly” dry conditions. Even Santa and Mrs. Claus were able to enjoy the bright lights, the marching bands, the excited kids on the floats, and the huge crowds that lined the street.





A great photo of the IPB taken by Ron Yuzark, a Woodstock photo journalist. We were just heading out on parade!



Photo above was taken and submitted by Angelique, the mom of one of our members, Freya. The Rimingtons were in attendance at the parade with Freya's niece who was very excited about the lights and music.



## Lighting of the Lights Ingersoll Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup>



This event is always a fun night for our band members. A very short march from the intersection of Charles and Thames Streets up the main street to the Gazebo where lots of excited families are gathered to count down the lighting of the lights. Prior to the tree being lit up, the pipe band performed a few tunes for the spectators. With a flick of a switch, the downtown area was alight with colour. The photos above were taken by Pipe Laurie Marson. Great job, Laurie!

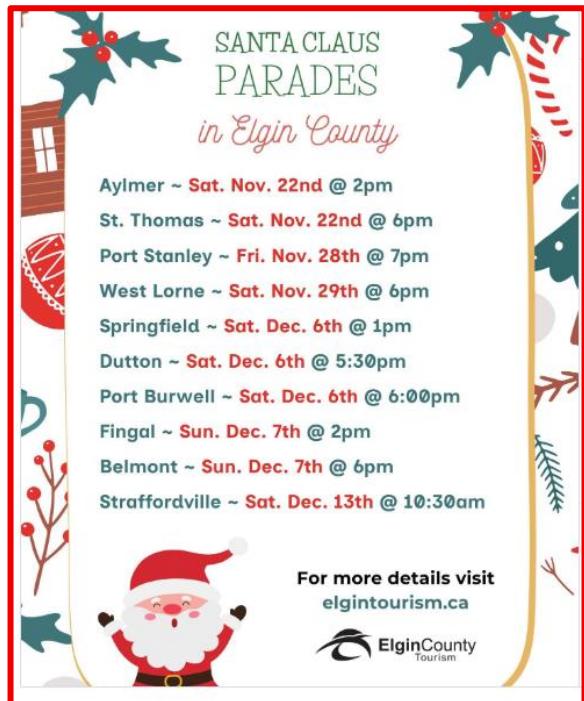




Photo above posted on the Ingersoll BIA Facebook page

***“Lighting of the Lights in Downtown Ingersoll was wonderful tonight! Thank you for supporting our local businesses. Merry Christmas!” Facebook Page – Ingersoll BIA***

## Up Next – The Parades of Elgin County



### SANTA CLAUS PARADES in Elgin County

- Aylmer ~ Sat. Nov. 22nd @ 2pm
- St. Thomas ~ Sat. Nov. 22nd @ 6pm
- Port Stanley ~ Fri. Nov. 28th @ 7pm
- West Lorne ~ Sat. Nov. 29th @ 6pm
- Springfield ~ Sat. Dec. 6th @ 1pm
- Dutton ~ Sat. Dec. 6th @ 5:30pm
- Port Burwell ~ Sat. Dec. 6th @ 6:00pm
- Fingal ~ Sun. Dec. 7th @ 2pm
- Belmont ~ Sun. Dec. 7th @ 6pm
- Straffordville ~ Sat. Dec. 13th @ 10:30am

For more details visit  
[elgintourism.ca](http://elgintourism.ca)



“Normally”, our parade schedule takes us out of Oxford County into Elgin county 3 times. We travel to Aylmer, Springfield, and Belmont. This year we were approached by the organizers of the Port Stanley parade (Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>) so we signed up and were looking forward to this new venue.

Unfortunately, with our crazy weather patterns swirling through SW Ontario, we did not think it was safe to travel to Pt. Stanley that afternoon. So we apologized to the organizers and wished them the best for a great community parade. Sometimes it’s more difficult to get “out of town” and participate in events than what some folks can imagine. Apparently, Pt. Stanley did not receive the snow we did, but in the interest of our members’ safety we had to turn down this parade. Maybe next year!

## Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> Aylmer Santa Claus Parade

The IPB always enjoys its annual visit to Aylmer to take part in the town's annual Santa Claus parade. The parade route is always packed and we seem to be lucky with the local weather conditions. Occasionally windy, but this year had near perfect conditions for a parade.



We had a great turnout of members – Pipers – PM Doug Collins, P Sgt Charlie Thomson, Christina Breen, Jane Muterer, Joanne Muterer, Mary Ellen Muterer, Ron Marshall, Laurie Marson, Nancy Matthews, Angus Thomson, Eric Hobden, Don Gale, Lois Turvey, Catherine Stark, Bonnie Heather McAuslan, Lee Merrick, Lana Coghill, Veronica Jackson; Drummers – DM – Aly Banaszack-Brown, D Sgt – Lisa McPherson, Tammi Minogue, Kevin MacKay, Adam Stark, Harold Matthews, Andrew Coghill, Carole Marson, Winston Kooistra; Banner Carriers – Jim Hont and Dave McKinlay

**Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> Aylmer Parade**



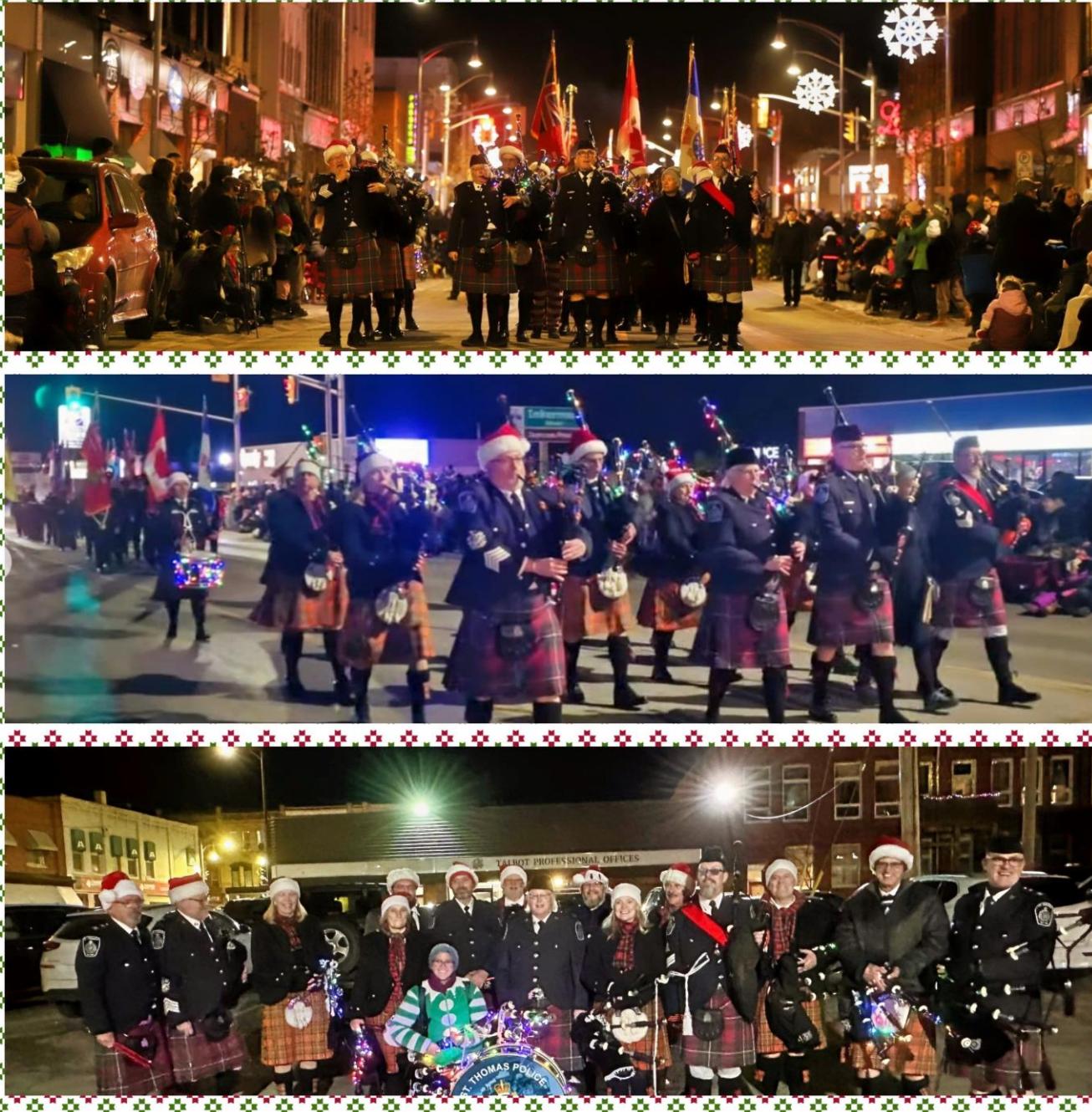
**Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> Aylmer Parade**



## Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Thomas Santa Claus Parade

This is a parade that the band does not “officially” take part in but occasionally our members have travelled from Aylmer to St. Thomas along Hwy. 3 to give a helping hand to the St. Thomas Police Pipes and Drums. This was an evening parade so we had lots of time to enjoy dining / meeting up with family members/ and just “chillin” before a very cold, chilly parade. Once the sun goes down, parades take on a whole new character of their own.

The streets were lined all along Talbot Street with excited spectators and it certainly was a lot of fun assisting the St. Thomas band. Pipe Major Glenn McGregor and band members were very appreciative of our support.



IPB members – Don, Angus, Lana, Andrew, Nancy, Steve, and Veronica pictured above with the St. Thomas Police Pipes and Drums members. Some video footage of the combined band at -

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1391671019410201>

## Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> Springfield Santa Claus Parade

### Santa Claus Parades Continue in Elgin County



Another great turn out of pipers and drummers for the Springfield Annual Santa Claus Parade.

This is definitely a community event organized by a local committee and the Springfield Swans Club, rather than a single corporate sponsor. It is supported by local businesses, service groups, and volunteers. *“The parade is a community-driven effort, often coordinated in conjunction with the Township of Malahide and involving many local participants, such as the fire services and various community members who create floats.”* This explains why we see so many fire trucks in this parade! It’s also one of those parades where we are never quite sure what the weather will be at parade time. This year we were very lucky and conditions were definitely “manageable”!



Our fantastic duo – Jim and Dave – ready to march out front with our banner. Not sure what we will do when these two learners start marching “in the band”. We will be on the lookout for new volunteers!



Eric is a “man of the North country” who ended up moving to Southern Ontario many years ago. Definitely the cold does not affect his top notch piping skills.



Gathering in the school parking lot – Doug C, Winston, Doug T, Tammi, Kevin, Don and John

And then there are those members who prefer to wait in the warmth of a car!



Front Seat - Drummer and DM for the day, Aly  
Back Seat – D Sgt Lisa



A few more drummers – definitely who embrace the outdoors while they patiently wait for pipers to tune up.



Doug T, Tammi and Kevin

## Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> Belmont – Our Final Elgin County Parade

Once again, the band can never be quite sure what kind of conditions that we will be marching in! Pretty much a given that it will be cold (and yes it was) but thankfully we avoided rain/sleet/and snow falling this year. It was however, extremely windy, so driving to Belmont was a bit of an adventure with snow squalls keeping us company on route! Thankfully, we had a large contingent of members and supporters that made sure we had a nice big band for our stroll down Belmont Road – the main street.



**All the usual suspects pictured above!**

Bottom right – Kevin having a visit with one of the spectators who is an acquaintance of his sister, Merilee.

## Belmont Continued



More catching up with friends and band members (Middle left – Angus meeting up with a coworker) and then it was time to march off. Pipe Sergeant Charlie was in charge and determined how many times we would play the seasonal favourite “Jingle Bells”!



Ever wonder how these small communities, villages and towns can raise funds to support their local parades? Well in Belmont the volunteers hold a bottle drive right after New Year's Day and use all the funds derived from it for the following year's parade. ***”A huge thank you to everyone who supported our bottle drive today! Your generosity of bottle and cash donations will help fund next year's Santa Claus Parade. 🎅...and thank you Mother Nature for co-operating 😊”*** – FB Page Belmont Santa Claus Parade

## Innerkip – Our Final Santa Claus Parade – December 13<sup>th</sup>

The Innerkip Santa Claus Parade is similar in nature to Belmont's. Lots of community enthusiasm, many spectators along the parade route, lots of bright lights decorating floats, tractors, trucks, etc., and always a "hope and a prayer" by parade organizers and participants taking part that it won't be too cold or wet or windy. It was quite weather for sure to block the wind, but overall a great parade.

Many of our members met afterwards to have celebratory wings and refreshments at the local "Original Wing House" in Innerkip. Thanks to Steve Shepherd for snapping these photos inside the restaurant so we can see how happy everyone was to celebrate our final 2025 parade! Time to go home, wrap gifts, decorate and prep for family dinners!



## Party Time! Our Annual Christmas Banquet & Awards Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

The annual holiday celebratory dinner for members, family and friends was held on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Our President Harold Matthews organized the dinner and did an excellent job in booking a local bakery and catering company – The Rose and Daffodil Bakery.



The meal was fabulous - turkey with ALL the trimmings, and I do mean ALL, and of course haggis on the side (made by our inhouse "hagginators") and, for dessert - several flavours of pie!



Team Haggis who met earlier in the week to make our specialty – from Left to Right – Mary Ellen, Charlie, Christina, Tammi, Doug T, Jerry and Nancy (who was unavailable for the photo) Thanks, Hagginators!



Our terrific catering crew

It's always a great evening for everyone to unwind and connect not only with band members on a social level but also their family members. It's also a time to thank everyone connected to the band for all their support over the past year, in particular our 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, as there was so much going on!

The photos that you will see on the next couple of pages will reiterate that "the band" is not just a casual hobby but it is definitely a "huge extended family".

Pipe Band is not just bagpipes and drums.

Pipe Band is **personal growth**.

Pipe Band is **mental health**.

Pipe Band is **therapy**.

Pipe Band is **transformation**.

Pipe Band is **accountability**.

Pipe Band is **confidence**.

Pipe Band is **strength**.

Pipe Band is **peace**.

Pipe Band is so much more than just bagpipes and drums.

With that being said, our annual banquet is a time for fun, a time to appreciate what every member and learner has invested and brought to the band over the year, and to say thanks to our Pipe Major, Pipe Sergeant, Drum Sergeant, Piping and Drumming Teachers, and Executive Members who put in long hours and lots of energy to make sure that "Life is Better in the Circle".



Thanks to all our players who made sacrifices to be sure that the Ingersoll Pipe Band always put it's best foot forward this past year.

THANK  
YOU! ☺

## Social Hour





Steve Shepherd piped in the haggis; Tammi was the bearer of the haggis; and, Charlie gave the "Address to the Haggis"!

President Harold kept the program moving along so we were able to sing O'Canada, toast King Charles and say Grace. Then it was time to eat!



After dinner there was time to work on trivia puzzles, and Lana and Larry entertained us with some tunes on the guitar and fiddle.



## Award Winners & Presentations

**Most Improved Piper** - presented by Pipe Major Doug Collins to a very deserving **Lois Turvey** (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).



**Most Improved Drummer** - presented by Drummer Winston Kooistra, on behalf of PSgt Lisa McPerson, to **Adam Stark** (virtually). Because Adam was unable to attend, his spouse Catherine, accepted the award on behalf of Adam.



Catherine was able to dial in Adam so we heard his acceptance speech! You deserve it, Adam!

## **Cruiser Trophy** - presented by last year's winner,

Wendy Marshall to **Don Gale**. There was quite a lengthy back story about Don forgetting his pipes one night in Memorial Park after a trial practice run for our July Tattoo. Since last year's winner always gets to select the individual for this very coveted award, Wendy chose Don as the 2025 recipient!



Here's Don's reaction –



And Presentation Time –



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



**Membership Pin Presentations** - The pins were presented to eight individuals this year, by Band Secretary Mary Ellen Muterer.



Angus Thomson and Carole Marson – 5 Years



Aly Banaszack-Brown – 10 Years



John Lynes – 15 years



Doug Glover – 15 Years



Steve Shepherd – 15 Years



**Joanne Muterer – 40 Years**

**Cheryl McEwan** also received her 5 year pin but was unable to attend the banquet.

**Well done to all our award winners!**

There were no presentations this year for the winners of the annual Horseshoe Tournament or the Best Croquet Shot since we did not have a Band Picnic this year. There was too much on our schedules with the Band Tattoo and The Reunion. So we look forward to seeing who might win these coveted awards in 2026!

Thanks to Mary Ellen for organizing all the awards and presentations!

Once the awards were completed, we played more trivia, announced the winners of the various contests – Participants of the Table #2 Team seemed to be on their toes and were the overall winners.

We had our December Draw and Linda, a band supporter, was the lucky winner!



**Veronica presenting Linda with her prize**

The rest of the evening we enjoyed playing board games and singing along with Lana who played several Christmas and other seasonal songs on her guitar.



**Don and Lana leading us in song**



**A serious game of Dice Poker – Barb, Christina, Jack and Andrew**



**Participants in the Horse Race Game and additional Card Games**

Thanks to all the committee members who organized the evening and made sure that everyone had a good time!

## More Christmas Celebrations!



Father Christmas came by Drummer Tammi's house where band members gathered for a very relaxing practice on Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the weather was not very co-operative so several members were not able to make it. Those of us closer to Tammi and Larry's house were able to enjoy all of the hospitality that was provided – lots of yummy food to graze on all evening. Fortunately, the bad weather did not keep Father Christmas away and he was able to hand out treats to all of us and have a chat with Jim Armstrong about his Christmas Wish List. No doubt Jim asked for more fishing gear!

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

The Royal Scots took part in three parades this year to raise funds for the Shriners Children Hospitals. Many of our members helped to support the Shriners at these parade events, so once again it was a busy time in late November and early December. The parades were held in West Lorne, Parkhill and Straffordville. Not all the parades had ideal travelling and/or road conditions to march on but thankfully everyone who attended escaped any mishaps. Photograph below was taken in the community arena in Parkhill.



## And Finally....

### The Story Behind Angus Thomson's "Ugly Christmas" Sweater



Piper Angus loves his Pink Floyd Christmas Sweater and as soon as the first Santa Claus Parade arrives, he dons his sweater. It was a gift to him from his son and he wears it proudly! Angus has quite eclectic tastes when he listens to his music whether he is working in the shop or driving in his car! And Pink Floyd just happens to be one of his favourite progressive rock bands.

- The story behind the sweater - ***Dark Side of the Moon Prism***: The most common design, incorporating the famous light prism with snowflakes, festive colors, or other holiday elements.
- Celebrate the season in rock-and-roll style with this officially licensed Pink Floyd "The Dark Side of the Moon" ugly Christmas sweater. Featuring the iconic prism and rainbow design, this pullover is the perfect holiday tribute to one of the most legendary albums in music history.

So keep on rockin' Angus and enjoy that sweater! You too can order one from E Bay or Amazon!

## Town of Ingersoll Grant



In early November, Mayor Brian Petrie presented the IPB with a cheque for \$1500. Our Treasurer, Jane Muterer submitted the paperwork and the band was one of four groups that received funding from the Town's Community Development Grant Program. It recognizes groups "that continue to see incredible projects come to life that enrich, support, and connect our community throughout the year". Thank you to The Town for their continued support over many years and for their efforts to make our 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tattoo this year a huge success.