Ingersoll Pipe Band







Volume 10 Issue 5

December 2020

Celebrating 110 Years





I didn't want 2020, our 110th Anniversary year to pass without a final edition of our IPB newsletter. Obviously, it has been a strange, unique and challenging year for everyone (that's fairly obvious) but along this Covid-19 journey we have made many discoveries about each other and ourselves! In this round up edition, you will get a chance to check in with our members and see what they have to say.

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We also would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, friends and families for their encouragement and support this year.



Moving forward into the New Year let's all join in with a Scottish Celtic toast "Slainte mhath"



Finally, thanks to all our newsletter contributors who submitted photos, messages and ideas to share with our fan base!



Your Editor - Veronica

Out "On The Town"



Catherine, John L, Scott M, and Steve S
A few of our pipers and drummers thought they would do a few mini blitz performances around Paris and Ingersoll at the end of November and beginning of December.

Scott Munro, our Quartermaster wrote: "It was a beautiful day for some freestyle play at Seniors' homes and random spots in downtown Paris with Sparky, John and Shep".



On the banks of the Grand River in Paris ON



Scott in Paris



Spreading some Christmas cheer in downtown Ingersoll by the Gazebo and in front of Chuck's Roadhouse on Thames St. S



The best way to spread Christmas cheer is loud, tuned bagpipes for all to hear!



Obviously the wandering pipeband minstrels pictured above took a page out of Buddy, The Elf's playbook.

All of the Santa Claus parades that we would have taken part in during November and early December were cancelled this year. Many communities like Ingersoll and nearby Belmont brought the parade convoy (Santa, fire trucks, police cars, etc) to the community by following very detailed travel routes and encouraging residents to watch from the safety of their own homes or apartments. Food Drives were conducted at the same time.



Ingersoll's Santa and Mrs. Claus

The Rotary Club of Ingersoll that organizes the annual parade wrote the following on its Facebook page –

"In a year that by design, was meant to keep us apart, as a community we've never been more connected.

We have been overwhelmed with the messages of thanks, Christmas wishes, and joy from so many people. The truth is, this last week meant more to the people in the vehicles than this community will ever realize. Turning each corner and seeing those young and old with pure excitement for our little parade sparked Christmas spirit in us that we haven't felt since we were children. Thank you, Ingersoll, for your warm and heartfelt reception to this event. We covered 86km of road, had over 3000 people track our GPS location, and have had hundreds of mentions, shares, and tags on social media. Thank you to our volunteers for organizing the food drive at the Park. We collected well over \$1500 in donations that are going directly to the programs in need and several hundred pounds of food that will be going to the Salvation Army and to the Ingersoll District Inter-church." (The complete post can be read on Facebook)



Belmont Firefighters picking up food donations along the convoy's route

Don Gale, IPB piper and longtime resident of Belmont, made his way through many of the village's streets and played Christmas tunes on his pipes for two hours! Bravo! The organizers said that it was one of their most successful food drives ever.



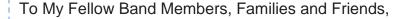
Don standing in front of his trusty "Donnie Scooby Mobile"

Unfortunately, Donny's beloved RV will no longer be used to transport band members as a shuttle bus from Point A to Point B on future parade routes as he has officially retired it. He picked up a new pick-up truck on Friday November 13th! Wish him luck... he has suggested that he could pile us all in the bed of the truck but somehow we're not sure that is such a great idea!

Year End Messages for 2020

Pipe Major Doug Collins





2020 has been a challenging year and far from normal.

Our 110th year couldn't be celebrated as we would have liked but we did manage to keep performing be it outside of hospitals, nursing homes, in parks, practicing outside and online with Zoom. The band will see another consecutive year of operation pass with a strong commitment from our members. I was very pleased with the turnout week after week and it seemed like Mother Nature gave us a lot of comfortable Thursday nights.

Thank you for social distancing during our practices.

It looks like we will have to be diligent into our 111th year until this virus is beaten. But until then we will make the best of it.

Special shout out of thanks to John Lyons for teaching the beginners online. Pipe Sargent Charlie and Drum Sargent, Lisa thank you to both of you for all you do and Jack for helping out with the Intermediates. I am so glad Gail decided he wasn't done yet. We need his presence and guidance. We all want to get back to normal as soon as possible, but be patient, we need everyone to keep safe.

So keep practicing and look forward to a better 2021.

I want to wish you all a Healthy Happy Holiday Season.

PM Doug

Drum Major Gail MacKay







This has been a very trying year. Our Zoom meetings have helped to keep everyone together and also added to keep our skills sharp. I know that everyone is looking forward to getting together at the band hall. Thanks to Veronica for keeping us informed of what is happening.

Looking forward to a great 2021!

DM Gail

2021 Here we Come











I know these words have been spoken and these thoughts have been thought but what a year 2020 has been. No one could have imagined a virus not only infecting cities, regions, countries and continents but spreading worldwide. That seemed the stuff of science fiction authors.

2020 started off normally with several members meeting in the Ingersoll Legion to play and welcome the New Year, we then went on to Beachville and on to Woodstock playing at the Legion, Moose Lodge and Navy Club and at the end of January we had another successful and enjoyable Burns Dinner.

After January word spread of a virus that was infecting Europe and a few weeks later started showing up in Canada, then came self isolation, lockdowns, wearing face masks, using hand sanitizer and shortages in the grocery stores, things that became the "New Normal"

On the positive side, the Ingersoll Pipe Band tried to keep together with practices on Zoom. These nights let us practice and socialize over the internet. As the warmer months approached and social gatherings were being permitted we got back to practicing outside (with social distancing) on Thursday evenings. During this time various mini bands played for nursing homes, hospitals, retirement homes and other events throughout Oxford county and beyond from Canada Day until Gail's birthday in October.

We had good luck, good weather and good fortune to continue our Thursday practices through until the end of November, but alas, being Canada, the cold weather forced us to return to our Zoom practices in December. I know we missed opportunities to play in such events as the Victoria Day parades, Canada Day parades, Indianapolis 500, the Embro Highland Games, our summer reunion, fall and Christmas parades plus we couldn't have our annual picnic, Christmas banquet or Stag night but here's hoping 2021 will see us back to a normal environment where we can practice, play and socialize once again.

In closing I would like to thank our Pipe Major for his enthusiasm and leadership throughout the year plus giving us some homework for the cold winter nights learning two new tunes. We wish him a speedy recovery from his surgery on December 12th. What a way to spend the "12 Days of Christmas "! Good luck Doug, and I would like to thank everyone for keeping the Ingersoll Pipe Band going this year. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

P/S Charlie.

All Things Trivia RELIVIA Night

In our last newsletter we told you that we would be revealing the results of our 2020 Trivia Nights. To recap we started in mid-May and met up online through the Zoom software 14 times on Friday evenings. Our final trivia night was held on December 4th. As Trivia hosts, your newsletter editor and her organizing partner, husband, Martin had a great time coming up with the questions. We tried to find a balance between making the questions thought provoking but not too easy and not too hard. Thanks to all the participants for their suggestions of ideas to quiz them on!

Some stats to share with you:

- a) We engaged 14 teams in total with the average participation of 12 teams per evening
- b) Our teams were spread out over southern Ontario with everyone having some connection to the band either as a band member, a band student, a relative of a band member, etc
- c) Our eldest participant was 80 plus and our youngest contributor was just entering the teenage years.
- d) Some teams were solo acts while others had "casts of thousands" (well at least six!)
- e) We covered 60 rounds with our questions topics ranging from General Knowledge to the bizarre!
- f) Six different teams finished in first place on an individual night.
- g) Some teams were very vocal (thank heavens we had the controls to "Mute All") while others were much more silent.
- h) Some teams had mascots dogs and cats wandered through the backdrops frequently
- i) Refreshments always seemed to be on hand in most households lots of liquid ones!
- j) If a team had to miss an evening the members were most apologetic and wished their counterparts well in their absence (well at least they pretended to!)



Zoom Photos from our December 4th Evening of Fun Are we having fun yet?









And the 2020 Trivia IPB Winners are:

Team Marshall (Ron, Wendy & Adult Kids!)

– for the most #1 place finishes

Team Gardner (Sammy, Lisa, Les, and Sonia) – for finishing in the Top 5 the most times with the same team members

Team Thomson (Charlie) - for highest solo score

Team Thomson (Angus) – for the most consistent placement finish each session

Team Rimington (Freya, Clarissa, Angelique and John) – for the only team where every member resides under one roof

Team MacKay (Kevin & Gail) – for the team with "probably" the highest combined ages and experience and the only siblings team!

Team Peter (Merilee and Jack) – for the team with the most invisible partner (occasionally we got a glimpse of Jack)

Team Glover (Doug and Catherine) – for the couple with the best refreshments (tea anyone?)

Team Turvey (Lois and Doug) – for the team that scored the highest on 80's questions

Team Coghill (Lana and Andrew) – for the team that finished in first place in our inaugural contest

Team McAuslan-Merrick (Bonnie & Lee) – for the team that placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th on occasion but is still working towards #1(also they have the best name for a dog – Jupiter!

Team Matthews (Nancy, mom Bernice & sometimes hubby Harold) – for the only parent, daughter and son-in-law team that worked around the craziest schedules

Team Gale (Don, Kelly and Cheryl) – for the team that had the most electronics (computers, tablets, etc) in one house at one time and made our ears ring

Team Turvey Jr. (Danielle and husband Gradon) – for the newest team to join the IPB madness – we hope they come back!



We promised you as Nancy would say, "prizes of unbelievable value) and we have made sure that Canada Post delivers them to your team headquarters. (Don't argue, please as to who gets to display it!)

And finally, some comments from our participants:

Doug & Lois - Hi Veronica. Thanks again for last night. A lot of fun. Some stuff was even Fun-eh! We had some consommé with some pate for our petite dejeuner, while we parleye about last night's soirée. (Is that 5?) Ed. Note: this was in reference to words that end with é

The Rimingtons -



We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to Veronica and Martin for all the work they put into trivia nights over the past several months. We all know how much work you had to put into researching the questions for each event, and truly appreciate your efforts. We always had fun, although sometimes we would finish the quiz questioning our lack of knowledge in various subjects. It gave us something to look forward to during a time of very little schedule and was a lovely way to see other faces outside of our household on a regular basis. Thanks again Veronica and Martin, you guys rock!

Charlie – I want to thank both you and Martin for hosting the trivia nights for the last several months, you both done an excellent job, thanks.

Some News About 3 of our Members from Proud Parents

Harold and Nancy Matthews passed some photos on to the newsletter to let everyone know what their two sons, Alister and Hamish have been up to as of late.



Hamish is Loving Lakeland College, Alberta where he is in his 2nd year of Agricultural studies. This year he's in charge of the Calf Department. On Wednesday nights he is still Bull Riding.



Alister and Vara are still working on Fraser Island on the East Coast of Australia. They're planning on getting back into their van in January and heading North. Alister has been away since June 2018.

Suzanne McCreery wrote:



"When Liam is not practicing or playing with the Band, he should be practicing for his G.7 Piano exam (according to his Mom!). He has chosen, however, to spend a weekend at the Ontario Firearms Safety Academy to study for his Safety Course which he passed with a 97 to obtain his Minor's Licence! We hope his Spring 2021 Piano exam yields the same mark!"

(Can't imagine why Liam was more interested in telling me at practice about hunting and not piano proficiency!)

Harold also sent in the following submission with this comment – FYI – "One of our newest, fresh out of the package Pipers is Lois Turvey. What many of our members may not know about Lois is that she's an accomplished accordion player. So this may raise some questions regarding what Lois may be planning to unleash on our membership on Thursday Nights. Where there's smoke, there's likely fire."



A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

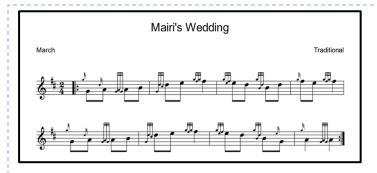
Another history lesson about piping tunes from The Secretary of the Band, John Lynes.

Here are "The Big Two" that we love to play – **Scotland The Brave & Mairi's Wedding**



Scotland the Brave'

Scotland the brave – aka "My Bonnie Lass," "Brave Scotland," "Scotland Forever." Scottish, March (2/4or 4/4 time); Also an English, Morris Dance Tune, a tune used for a polka step in the North -West (England) Morris dance tradition, and a march in Scotland and Shetland. Jack Campin believes it first appeared around the turn of the 20th century, with words set to it in 1950 by Cliff Hanley (which may be tongue-incheek, there is a story that Hanly, a great humorist, tried to put as many clichés about Scotland into the lyric as possible!). Another story told regarding the lyric is told by Harry Burns: "Robert Wilson, who was at the time at the peak of his career, was looking for a new song for his stage show. Hanley was commissioned to write the song. The fee was £25 and Wilson was to get the copyright. Hanley took the completed song to Wilson who read it, gave him the agreed £25 then refused to let Hanley sign away the rights. "Naw, naw son, this is far too good. I'd be cheating you if I took the rights to this," said Wilson." The oldest appearance of the melody Campin has seen was in a Boys' Brigade pipe tune book from about 1911 where the title appeared as "Scotland, the Brave". Charles Gore says the tune appears to date from about 1891-5, when it was published in Keith Norman Macdonald's Gesto Collection of Highland Music under the title, "Brave Scotland" and/or "Scotland for Ever". However the same tune in various arrangements had been passed down as a medley sung to various lyrics in many languages in pubs through Europe in the 19th century.



'Mairi's Wedding'

Mairi's Wedding (also known as Marie's Wedding, the Lewis Bridal Song, or Mairi Bhan) is a Scottish folk song originally written in Gaelic by Johnny Bannerman for Mary McNiven. Written using a traditional Scottish tune, it was first played for McNiven in 1935 at the Old Highlanders Institute in Glasgow's Elmbank Street. Hugh S. Roberton translated the Gaelic version into English in 1936. It is also a Scottish country dance, 40 bar, reel time, devised in 1959 by James B. Cosh.

More Seasonal Humour

(courtesy of Facebook – New York Metro Pipe Band)



After the Little Drummer Boy, Mary decided it was enough. Which is why we never hear about the Little Bagpipe and Accordion boys.



Community Outreach



The Ingersoll Pipe Band executive agreed to lend our hall for food preparations on the weekend of Dec. 12/13th. A huge community effort took part in providing a hot festive take out meal for many Ingersoll residents that are in need of additional food resources. The above poster and following info was posted on Facebook by one of the organizers, Neil Burwell.

"We make our goal!! Today we raised 10, 333 dollars which was divided between Cycles of Life and The lunch bunch (Community Dinner.) We served 240 dinners to the community! I'm so grateful for all those who came out to support our event.

A huge thank you to Sean Pike for cooking the dinner today. Jenn Story was a massive help in organizing and making the day run so smoothly. I would like to extend a special thanks to The Ingersoll Community Foundation for their support as well! A very special 10 year old girl, Rylin Hurley who runs Operation sweets brought in a huge donation of nearly 600\$ mid-day and thank you to the Craig family for their donation. I can't forget to mention, Ingersoll Rent-all for supplying warmth to our event. I don't think I host an event where they don't supply something for us!

Thank you to my gift card winners, they brought in a total of 3470 dollars to help us reach out goal! Thank you to Teri-anne Pate for donating flowers to our event.

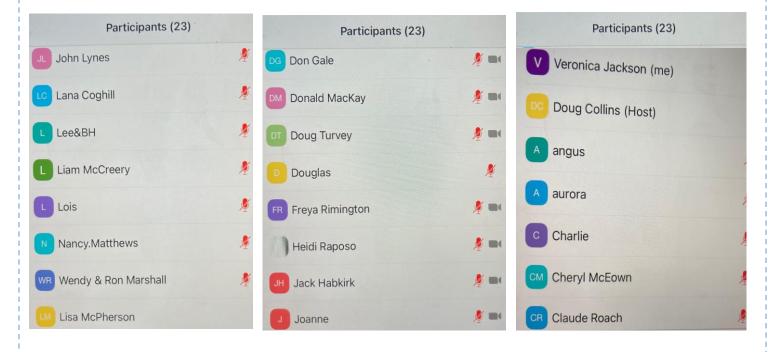
Lastly I want to thank all my volunteers who always show up and give at every event!! We had friends come as far as Ottawa, Smithville and Lucan."

Final Zoom Practice of 2020 - Thursday Dec. 10th

Amazingly we had 25 pipers and drummers show up for online practice led by PM Doug. The assembled motley crew were thrilled to hear that Doug thought we played our two new tunes "Dovecote Park" and "McKay's 89th Salute" really rather well. (Obviously he had us all muted out and could only hear himself on the pipe chanter). Our participants record shows 23 but there really was 25.



Angus occasionally "froze up" on us ... and had to "leave" the meeting and then "come back" and we couldn't see a couple of folks because of video problems, but overall it was a great final practice for the year. Our last instruction by the PM was to keep practising over the holidays and DM Gail told us to "stay safe ". (And yes, Steve S. was using Heidi's system; going incognito!).



More Zoom Participants



SURPRISE! A Lovely One Indeed!

Two days ago your Newsletter Editor received this piece of information by email from Bass Drummer Doug Turvey, one of our Executive Members ...

Submission for Newsletter > Inbox x

Doug & Lois Turvey to me ▼

This year has been a unique year for the Ingersoll Pipe Band. With no engagements, parades, Highland Games and Indy, our 110th celebrations were non-existent. However, due to one person in the band, we were still able to be active, through Victoria Day mini band performances, July 1st performances, hospital and nursing home visits. This person also, along with her husband Martin, provided Trivia nights to keep us entertained and connected throughout the summer and into the fall.

Earlier this year, the band executive received an email from one of the band members suggesting that Veronica Jackson should be nominated for Band Person of the Year. And so, because it is a different type of year, the executive made the decision to name Veronica as the 2020 Band Person of the Year.

At this time, we would like to thank and congratulate Veronica for her outstanding work that she has done this year for the betterment of the band in these trying times.



And my response was as follows: "Hi, Doug What a lovely surprise to hear from you and receive this pleasant surprise! I was really caught off guard. I thought you were going to send me pics from your Woodstock gig this weekend or did you get rained out? I will put this in just the way you wrote it."



Veronica

Season's' Greetings from IPB Members & Associates



Many of our members and friends of IPB have answered the call to send our readers Holiday wishes. Hope you enjoy their messages and accompanying photos.

Our first message comes from Santa himself!



"I would like to thank everyone for keeping the Ingersoll Pipe Band going this year, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to each and every one of you". ~ Charlie Thomson



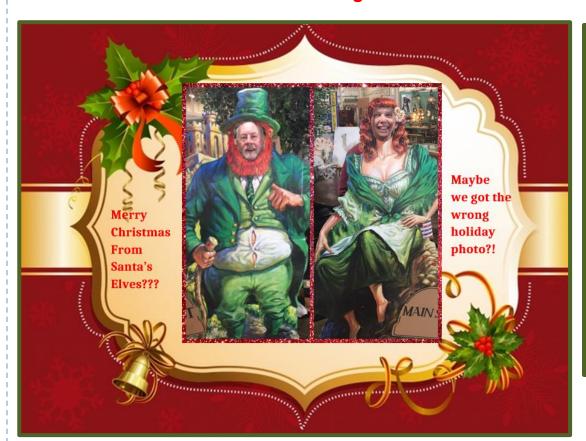
"Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a much better 2021! To all my fellow tenor drummers past and present, keep on swinging. Here is a picture from Christmas 1952. Gail was 12 and I was 10 months. Merilee wasn't around yet. We have always had a cedar tree which, more often than not, was a Charlie Brown replica. Add some decorations and a few lights and it was great. Christmas was always in the front room, the smallest room in the house so it looked like there were lots of presents. It was a magical time!" - Kevún MacKay



"Saying "Hi" to our band family. We miss you and wish you Merry Christmas and a better 2021! Keep calm and follow the Drum Major".

- Jane and Stew Watt

Season's' Greetings Continue from the IPB



"We would like to wish every one a Happy Holiday season even if it is different in so many ways. We plan to complete all the jigsaw puzzles we have stored up. Not too many little ones or teens around to misplace pieces! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

~ Martín & Veronica Jackson



"Christmas is a season filled with warmth and friendships and I appreciate that I have been allowed to be a Member of this Band. This particular season is one in which we should enjoy the simpler and quieter things in life. Catherine and I wish you peace, joy and good health and we hope you are able to enjoy the comfort of your friendships and loved ones as we celebrate Christmas". - **Doug Glover**

Season's' Greetings Continue from the IPB



Harold, Nancy, Alister and Hamish would like to Wish our Entire Band-Family a Very Safe and Merry Christmas. May 2021 be a year of Reunion, Happiness, Good Health and Prosperity for The Ingersoll Pipe Band.

- The Matthews



"I would like to wish everybody a Covid free Merry Christmas and may 2021 be better". - Angus Thomson



"The Starks are doing a Hawaiian
Christmas. I broke in my Hawaiian look
yesterday at work on Dec. 11th. I will
have a super mele kalikimaka picture on
Christmas Day with everyone in their Hawaiian
shirts!" - Catherine Perry Stark

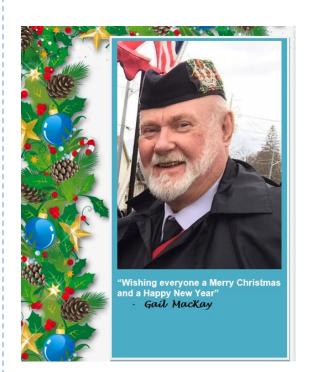


Season's' Greetings Continue from the IPB



"Best of Holiday Wishes to you all! Thank you for the gift of fellowship and music! May 2021 be filled with health and joy and may you find great pleasures in small blessings".

Lee Merrick, Bonnie-Heather McAuslan, and Jupiter





"Doug and Lois want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a better New Year. Cheers to 2021". - Doug and Lois Turvey



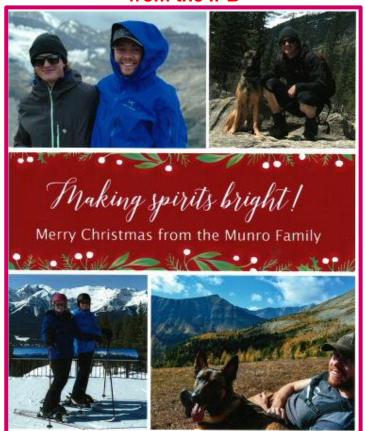
"Team Santa – Merry Christmas Everyone"
- Jack and Barb Habkirk

"It's nice to know that there are friends out there who are thinking of Terry and I. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year".

Brian Hutchison



Final Season's' Greetings Continue from the IPB





"Thank you to everyone for being there for us this year. Wishing everyone a New Year filled with Smiles!

- Santa Merílee and her trusty Elf Jack Peter



"Sammy, Lisa and Isla would like to wish everyone in IPB and our friends a safe and happy Christmas, and we hope everyone has a healthy 2021. We look forward to being able to spend time with you all again soon."

- The Gardner/Bell Duo



"We want to wish you all a Healthy Happy Holiday Season".

Doug and
Katherine
Collins

Some Final Pics to Share for 2020



Gail and Hamish chopping back the jungle from around the flagpole. December 15th, 2020

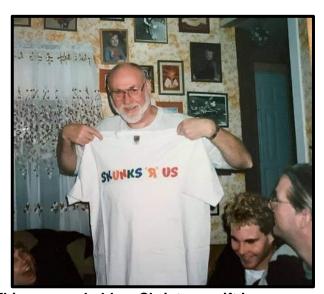
The Band Hall got a new paint job on its roof this fall and new eavestroughs were installed on two sides of the building. Thanks to Mary Ellen Muterer, our property manager, for looking after the contracts and completion of this work!



These photos of Gail are circa 1990's – submitted by his dear sis, Merilee Christmas Past



"Gail always was given an apron from mother to protect his clothes". Notice Gail is always roasting the meat!



This was probably a Christmas gift in recognition of Gail's outstanding trapping skills!



Jupiter and Saturn Will Be the Closest They've Been in 800 Years — How to See the 'Christmas Star' This Dec.

And this noteworthy event is being reported here in salute to our IPB Secretary John Lynes, who is our resident stargazer and all things space expert!



Jupiter and Saturn are heading for their great conjunction on Dec. 21st BY STEFANIE WALDEK

(TRAVEL + LEISURE MAGAZINE)

"Long before we had Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime Video to keep us occupied at night, humans used to delight in another form of relaxing entertainment: stargazing. And in just a few days, you'll be able to catch a celestial show that humanity hasn't seen in nearly 800 years.

On Dec. 21, Jupiter and Saturn will align in a position known as the great conjunction, which is the point at which they're closest to each other in the night sky as seen from Earth. This phenomenon is often also referred to as the "Christmas star." While this meeting happens every 20 years or so, in 2020, the planets will be closer together than they have been since 1623. But that year, the alignment was too close to the sun to view from Earth. The last time humans were able to see a great conjunction this close was in 1226, well before telescopes were invented.

This year, Jupiter and Saturn will be just a tenth of a degree apart at their closest. To help you visualize that distance, that's about the width of a dime if you hold one out at arm's length. (It's worth noting that despite their apparent closeness from our vantage point, Jupiter and Saturn are actually 400 million miles apart.) As such, anyone with a pair of strong binoculars or a telescope will be able to see both planets within a single field of view. You'll even be able to witness them with the naked eye, though the show is much more impressive at closer range.

To spot the great conjunction, look to the southwest sky just after sunset on Dec. 21. The two bright planets, which will appear consistently bright and not twinkling like stars, will be pretty low in the sky. The good news is that they'll be viewable everywhere on the planet, so as long as the skies are clear, you'll be good to go. If you don't have your own binoculars or telescope, many local astronomy clubs and observatories are hosting socially distanced viewing events. You definitely won't want to miss the show this time around; after Dec. 21, Jupiter and Saturn won't be this close in the night sky until March 15, 2080."



This photo was taken of John piping on Nov. 21st by Teah Carlson who is a marketing consultant at the Woodstonian Marketing Agency.

Notices for 2021

Annual General Meeting 2021 – will be held by Zoom on Sunday January 10th. Email invitations will be sent out by John Lynes.

Robbie Burns' Dinner – 2021 - is cancelled because of Covid 19. Looking forward to celebrating Robbie's birthday together in 2022.

Best Wishes for Speedy Recoveries

Several band members or members of their families have and are experiencing major health concerns as this year ends. We hope that everyone feels the support of all band members in these anxious times. "We are

Family"!



Stay safe!