

Ingersoll Pipe Band

110 Years



Volume 10 Issue 4

November 2020

Celebrating 110 Years



“Really Cold Weather ahead” ... Very soon! It is inevitable! We will have to stop our Thursday night outdoor practices. As they say “All good

things must eventually come to an end!” ☹️

So far this fall we have been very lucky and we have held weekly practices in the familiar environs of the Band Hall parking lot. But when things become too chilly in December we will be returning to Zoom practices.

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On the plus side - we will work on some new

tunes provided by PM Doug Collins 😊

On the down side - we won't get to see our fellow

IPB members in person. ☹️

Despite the fact that we had no late summer or fall parades, the Ingersoll band kept busy with both group and individual projects.

In this issue you will get a glimpse of what has been happening in and around Ingersoll with our members during late August, through to early November. We had a very important birthday to celebrate; we also had some community efforts to support.

Thanks again to all our contributors who submitted ideas, photos and material for this newsletter. If you have any ideas or submissions for our final 2020 newsletter please send them my way. This issue's contributors include Charlie, Mary Ellen, Doug G, Merilee, Steve S, Bonnie and Lee, and the two Scotts.



– Your Editor - *Veronica*

Hillcrest Legion Performance Sunday August 30th

**L.A. SUNDAY
DINNER**



211 Thames St. N., Ingersoll

Aug. 30th 2020



Bass Drummer Doug Glover posing beside the Legion's promotional sign for its fundraiser

Branch 113 of the Royal Canadian Legion has been involved in many fundraisers since Covid 19 forced the branch to close its doors in late spring. The hardworking Ladies Auxiliary decided in the summer to sell delicious take out dinners once or twice a month. These dinners have been an extremely successful fundraiser and local residents have thoroughly enjoyed supporting the Legion and its members. They have been sell-out events.

The IPB was approached in mid August to come to the Hillcrest Legion grounds for the August 30th dinner to entertain the patrons as they arrived to pick up their dinners. The band was very happy to oblige as we have had a great relationship with the legion over the history of the band.

As you can tell from the photos, it was a lovely Sunday evening and we thoroughly enjoyed playing a few tunes to support our Legion comrades.

The Legion is now open for limited access and hours.



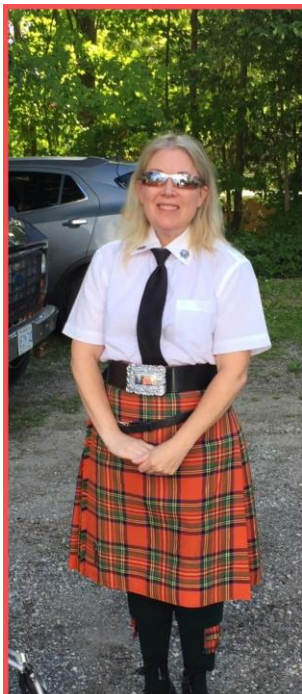
Doing What We Like to do Best! Playing the Pipes and the Drums!



PM Doug C with Legion President Ron Mabey



DM Gail MacKay cheering on the band



Lisa McPherson and Don Gale and Jane Mutterer Pre-Performance at Hillcrest



The Ingersoll Pipe Band is proud to support the Royal Canadian Legion and we thank this organization for its support of the band



The Legion serves all Veterans

The Royal Canadian Legion was founded by Veterans and for Veterans. We advocate for the care and benefits for all who served Canada, regardless of when or where they served. The Legion also provides representation and assistance to Veterans, including currently serving Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP, and their families, and access to our services is available to them at no cost, whether or not they are Legion members. The Legion helps thousands of Veterans each year and makes significant positive changes in their lives.

The Legion exists so that Canada never forgets

The Legion understands the importance of honouring past sacrifices and acknowledging the courage of those who served and still serve today. Through Remembrance Day ceremonies, the Poppy campaign, commemorative activities, youth education programs and more, the Legion helps Canadians to honour and remember.

The Legion serves our communities and our country

Legion Branches are the cornerstone of communities across Canada, and provide one of the largest volunteer bases in the country. With 1,350 Branches from coast to coast to coast, our members provide local services and supports to build a stronger Canada. Whether helping local Veterans, supporting seniors, providing youth sports programs, raising funds, volunteering to help those in need, or simply offering a place to gather for fun and celebration, Legionnaires provide essential services in their communities.

<https://www.legion.ca/home>

This Day in History -

6 October 1940



TAKEMEBACKTO



**OH, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN
A BEAUTIFUL BABY
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN
A WONDERFUL CHILD**

Ingersoll Tribune Newspaper

Id 6870
Newspaper Ingersoll Tribune
Newspaper Date Oct 10 1940
Page Number 1
Column Number 4
Surname MacKay
First Name Donald
Mrs
Middle Name Gail
Town/Township Ingersoll
Associated Surname MacKay
Associated First Name Donald
Associated Middle Name



Text of Notice MackKAY--At Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, on Sunday, October 6th, 1940, To Mr. and Mrs.
Donald MacKay, (nee Laura Turner), 179 Carnegie Street, a son -- (Donald Gail)

Note

Type of Notice Birth Notice

Date of Notice 1940-10-06 00:00:00



YEARS AGO :



**An
Outstanding
Drummer and
Drum Major
for the
Ingersoll Pipe
Band was
Born on
October 6,
1940**

Gail's family had a very small 80th Birthday Party for Gail at his home. In order to keep the numbers low, it was primarily a family only event BUT because Gail is such a big part of the IPB and is the "father" figure for us, a few pipers and drummers assembled in his back yard to serenade him and wish him congratulations on his 80th. Here are a few photos taken by your editor and members of his family of this special occasion. As well, Gail's children were instrumental in creating a video for him containing lots of clips from band members and friends. We received this email –

*Hello! It's Gail's 80th birthday on October 6 and since we can't throw him a party, we thought it would be nice to put together a virtual video birthday card for him. We've made it very easy for you to participate as long as you have a smartphone or tablet you can use to record yourself. The instructions are below, but if you have any questions or run into any issues, please text or call Dan at 416-985-2264. The whole thing should only take you a few minutes. Our only ask is that if you are planning to participate, please send us your video by no later than **Sunday, September 27**.*

Thank you in advance for helping us to create this very special birthday gift.

Sincerely,

Dan, Trace, Kim, Robb, and our families

(P.S. Please forward on to anyone else you think would like to include a message in the video, but make sure to keep it quiet as it is meant to be a surprise!)

And guess what? It was a SURPRISE!



**Siblings Kevin, Merilee and Sandy posing with Gail on his back deck
(Unfortunately, sister Valerie was unable to travel from Red Deer, AB and brother Larry John who lives in Peterborough, ON was unable to attend.)**

More Photos of Gail's 80th Birthday – IPB Surprise Visit



Treats for the performers



Gail's Photo from the London Normal School (Teachers' College) 1962



Photo decorating the donut box! Gail wearing the IPB fabled leopard skin.

Meet Our Quartermaster Scott Munro

A few weeks ago, your editor approached our new quartermaster, Scott, about submitting an article for our next newsletter. Scott joined the IPB in 2019 and has been a great asset both as an accomplished snare drummer and as a member of our executive team. Here is Scott's contribution: he shares his history with pipe bands and his enthusiasm for the future.



"I was born in Fergus, Ontario and when I was nearing my 10th birthday, my mum and dad bought me a practice pad and my first pair of Alex Duthart sticks. This is when I joined the Fergus Pipe Band to be a snare drummer. Like the Ingersoll Pipe Band, Fergus also has military roots and was originally formed by veterans of the Seaforth Highlanders. Funnily enough, the first drum I got was an old rope tension drum just like the one we have in our band room. My dress uniform was much like what Pipe Major Gail wears except that my doublet was red."

I played with Fergus for many years at various highland games and parades; usually being the shortest in the massed bands when I was young!

The Orangeman's Day parade I remember vividly as the first parade where people were yelling and throwing tomatoes at me! I think that was in Stratford.

In addition to this, I continued to play the drum kit with my high school concert, stage and jazz bands. In 1978 we toured England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland in the International Stage band Festivals. We met so many great people and played so many huge venues!

As time marched on (and many uniform style/size changes) our lead tip began to practice with the Guelph Pipe Band. At the time they were becoming a very strong Grade 1 outfit under the direction of the Nye brothers.

I was lucky enough to sit in and practice with them and found it exhilarating to learn different scores and styles.



Early Years !

Fast forwarding into my late teens, the time had come when I was heading away for my first big summer job away from home and then onto university in the fall. Staying in the pipe band was something I couldn't balance any longer and had to make the difficult decision to move on.

As luck might have it, the summer job I took at a resort in Muskoka had a staff talent show component to it. I teamed up with young piper from Guelph whom I knew, donned our kilts and played weekly for the guests as the opening act. So much fun!

Once done university, like many of my friends, I headed to Toronto and worked for many years on Bay Street with stints back and forth

to the US. It was years before I picked up a set of sticks.

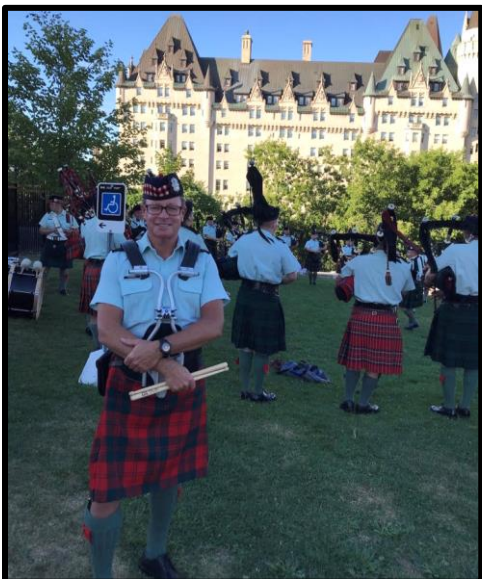
Our oldest son MacGregor was a corporal in the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada (the old Highland Light Infantry) and one day about 4 years ago he came to me with the news that the unit was looking for a snare drummer. He told them I was a shoe in as I was old, retired and knew all the old military tunes! My immediate response was that boot camp will kill me.

What I didn't realize was that he had already committed me to an audition Tuesday night that week.

Lucky for me, it was like getting on a bike again. Playing with such seasoned musicians has been a real pleasure.

One of the biggest highlights has been an annual assembly of military bands from all over the world to play in Fortissimo.

Daily we practice new scores for 5-6 hours and continue onto a full dress, 3 hour evening show for a week on Parliament Hill to thousands of people.



For the last few years, I have also been playing in a Celtic/ Jazz/ Rock fusion band called Skirl. It consists of highland pipes, trombone, accordion and various percussion players. We play a lot of festivals and some highland games.



Janie and I downsized (both boys are now in Alberta) and moved to Innerkip in 2018 and love the area.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band. Everyone has made it so welcoming to being a member of such a great band with such great musicians and a rich history.

I sure with this Covid thing would be done soon so we can get back to playing person!



Meet A “Couple” of Our Intermediate Students

In our last issue we met several of our piping students. Some had just started out on the “learning the pipes” Beginner’s journey, while others were on the Intermediate trail. In this issue we have an introduction to the duo from Strathroy – Bonnie-Heather McCauslan and Lee Merrick.

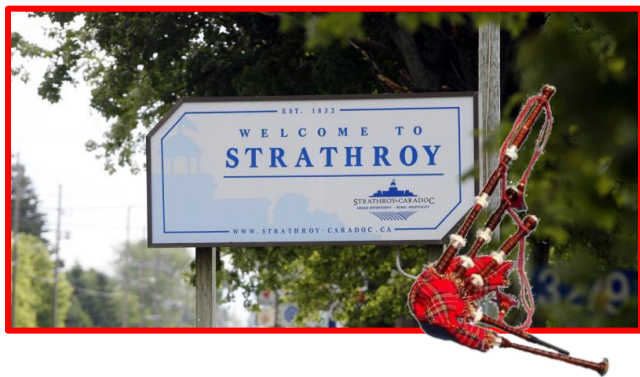
Bonnie explains their fascination with the bagpipes:

“Lee and I have always enjoyed music and the thrill of hearing pipe bands! We are so grateful to be a part of the IPB community. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly and it’s clear that you all enjoy each other’s company! We were so lucky to begin our piping journey by studying with Wilson beginning in July of 2019. His joy and passion for piping made the early stages of learning both challenging and fun.

John continued our lessons and met our fumbling and questions of technique with patience and good humour. We really appreciated John’s willingness to switch between Google Hangouts and Zoom to help us stay connected and learning. Moving to the Intermediate Zoom Table has been so rewarding and so much fun!

We appreciate the time and dedication Doug invests in our musical growth. He hears us all playing to perfection each week! We look forward to our weekly Zoom lessons and hope that we will be ready to join the band on parade in the near future. “

- Bonnie-Heather McCauslan



WHAAAAA???



October Celebrations 2020 Style

So as per usual, I implored members earlier in October to share with us some of their unique fall celebrations (ex. Thanksgiving, Hallowe'en) and how they had to adjust their arrangements and visits with family and friends.

My reliable London reporter, Drummer Doug Glover gladly accommodated my request and here is his report on Thanksgiving.

“Usually on Thanksgiving we would have a family gathering with up to 19 people cozy in our dining room. In this Covid year we had to do things differently.

On the Saturday it was quite warm and we were able to have an out-door, socially distanced Turkey dinner on our patio. Catherine’s Mum Ruby came, along with our Niece Heather. I was taking the picture and Ruby’s Great Granddaughter Maxine decided not to be in the photo.



Ruby, Catherine and Heather enjoying their backyard feast

On the Monday we had a family hike at Valens Conservation Area near Cambridge with family from Hamilton and Toronto. In the hike picture are our daughter Annelise, Grandkids Edmund and Arthur, our Niece Heather, her partner Clayton and Granddaughter Maxine, and Catherine and myself. It was quite cool that day,

so, while we look warm, it is only because we were hiking in the forest. After our hike we had a socially distanced lunch of Turkey on a bun and hot tea as Annelise had brought along a camping stove and kettle. The lunch photo includes Son-in-law Kyle who had taken the hiking picture.



Over the weekend we also had phone calls from our further away daughters Candice, Vanessa and Sarah and our Son Alex. So, our Thanksgiving still included all our Family and we were thankful to share our blessings with all of them. “ – Doug



Meanwhile, Piper Steve Shepherd and his partner Heidi and their kids all went camping at the Pinery on Lake Huron. Great way to “isolate” and keep those kids busy!



Hallowe'en : Scottish Masks



Drummer Freya Rimington

Freya's Mom, Angelique writes – “Freya dressed up as a TIEFLING, a character from Dungeons & Dragons”.



And from Woodstock, Pipe Sergeant Charles Thomson reports in: *"Here is a harsh, no nonsense strict pirate captain. Of course, every captain needs a blood thirsty crew and here they are ... BEWARE!" - Charlie*



Editor's Note: Wow, Pipers and Drummers you had better beware!!!! We don't want to see this side of Charlie even though his grandkids don't seem to be afraid!.

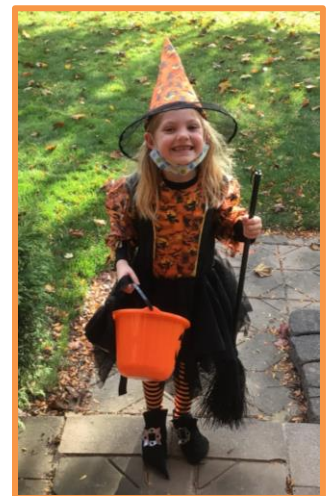


And back to London



Hallowe'en at The Glovers

" This Covid Hallowe'en we were not really sure what to expect. Our Grandkids stayed home and got to dress up, but instead of going out had a Hallowe'en candy hunt. Some of the homes around us decorated and so I wanted to decorate for kids who may see it. I had a cemetery, a skeleton in a chair, pumpkins, a projector with three skeletons who flashed on and off, a projector of spiders crawling down the stairs and google playing Hallowe'en music. Not as much as some years, but I did get compliments from a few kids. We usually have between one hundred and one hundred and fifty kids but this year we had about 40. They were mainly younger kids out with their families and keeping a distance from other groups. We used barbeque tongs to place the candy in kids' bags." - Doug



**Witches at The Jackson Household
Piper Veronica &
Granddaughter Belinda**

Catching Up with More of Our Members

Piper Scott McDonald and his fiancée, Alicia Dow tied the knot on August 22nd at Carnegie Hall in Ingersoll. Their original plans had to be adjusted because of Covid-19 guidelines and bylaws but despite all of that their wedding day turned out perfect! Close friends and family members were able to join in the celebration. The other major step for this couple was purchasing a home together on Ann Street here in town. Congratulations, Scott and Alicia on your 2020 "special events" !



Piper Hamish Matthews is back at college for year two. He attends Lakeland College Canada in Vermillion AB and is majoring in Agricultural Sciences. This year the college entered for the first time The Westerner Dairy Showcase competition in Red Deer AB. (The Westerner Dairy Showcase first began in 1954 and attracts exhibitors from across the Western provinces with over 150 cattle showing each year. Event highlights include the Central Alberta Holstein Club Sale, the Youth Show, the Jersey Show, and the Holstein Show). As well as being super involved in Lakeland's courses and events, Hamish occasionally has time to practise his bagpipes with the Lakeland Pipe and Drum Band located in Vermillion. Have fun and let us know what magazine Cover you are appearing on next?)



A Tribute To Bill Allen



The IPB was deeply saddened to receive the news that band member, Bill Allen, had suffered a fatal heart attack in mid-October. The following information appeared in his obituary on the McBeath Dynes Funeral Home Ltd. website:

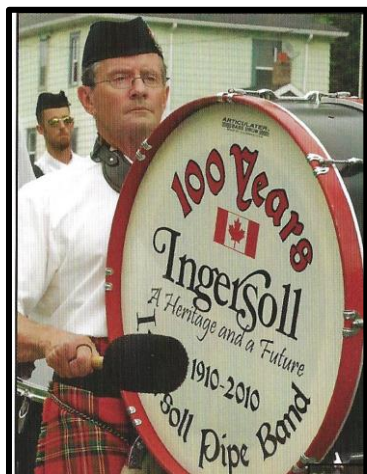
Allen, William Arthur (Bill)

Born February 6, 1946 passed away suddenly October 23, 2020 and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

He was a lifelong resident of Ingersoll. He also continued to be a member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band for over 50 years.

Due to COVID standards he will be interred in a small service at the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery and be laid to rest.

The family asks any donations may be directed to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.



What follows are some thoughts about Bill that have been shared by band members –

Mary Ellen Mutterer writes:

"Bill first joined the band in 1962 and played until 1997. He then took about four years off until rejoining the band in 2001 and playing with us until this year. He had not been able to play with us as often as of late because he found carrying a drum was getting more difficult due to back pain.

Bill could play either tenor or bass drum depending on what the band needed him to play at an event.

Bill was able to play a flourishing bass where he used tenor sticks to put on a show.



The Trivial Pursuit Guys from about 1990. From left to right) Jim Mutterer, Gail MacKay, Dave Kincaid and Bill. In front is Paul Weber. They are wearing hats that Merilee got from Hostess Chips and embroidered with their names.

The 60's and 70's saw some band members staying after band practice (sometimes until 2:00 a.m.) to play euchre, discuss events and order Chinese food.

In the 80's and 90's that changed into some bandmembers staying after band practice (again sometimes until 2:00 a.m.) to play Trivial Pursuit, discuss events and support the canteen. Each Thursday would see different members stay to engage in a battle of knowledge but a core group could be found there every week in the hunt. Bill was one of these members who stayed after practice most Thursdays whether a game was being played or just to talk.



Bill playing the Bass Drum at Jim Mutterer's 80th birthday party at the Band Hall.

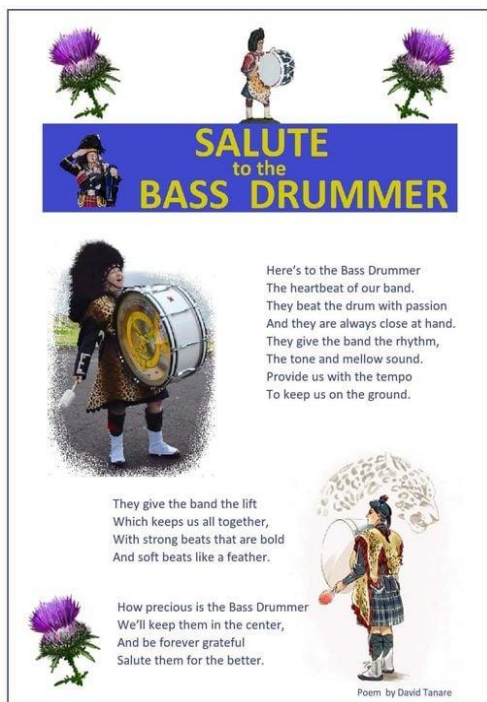
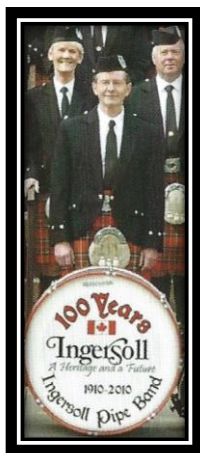
On a personal note Bill was a great help to the Mutterer family. He was a hired hand during hay season for many a year (as was Jack Habkirk). He was also there to lend a hand during silo filling time. More recently Bill would come and sit and visit with Dad, something Dad really enjoyed and we appreciated. All in all, Bill was an important and valuable member of our band for about 55 years. This is something for which the band is very grateful".

Pipe Major Doug Collins writes:

"We are saddened with the loss of Bill. He was an all-round nice guy always willing to help where he could. His 50 plus years as a valued member of the Ingersoll Pipe Band speaks volumes of his dedication to the band. Bill was a Tenor and Bass drummer with the band and we will miss him dearly. Memories as a young boy to a mature gentleman are scattered amongst the pictures on the walls of our Hall and will allow us to keep him in our memories as a long- time dedicated member. We played a tune in his honor at last night's practice. Rest in Peace Bill."



Ingersoll Pipe Band 2010

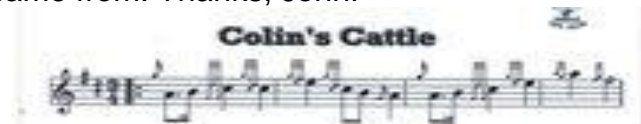


Former pipe band member Duff Lantz wrote on our Facebook page:

"Rest in sweet paradise Bill you were one the good ones . Great guy"

A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON

The Secretary of the Band, John Lynes, recently forwarded a PDF to me. It contains the history of several of the tunes that the IPB plays in our repertoire. In each newsletter, I will feature a couple of these notes about where our music came from. Thanks, John!



'Collin's Cattle'

Crodh Chailein (Colin's Cattle). Scottish, Slow Air (3/4 time). The melody is thought to have been composed by Isabel Cameron of Mull. It tells the story of Colin's beautiful bride who was enchanted by fairies on her wedding day. Her fate was to disappear from her home for a year, during which time she was allowed to return home once a day to milk the cows, invisible to her husband who had to content himself with hearing her sing. The spell was broken at the end of the year and the couple could live together at last.

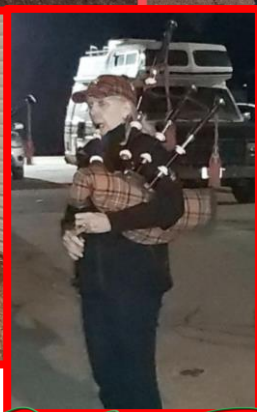
Amazing Grace



'Amazing Grace'

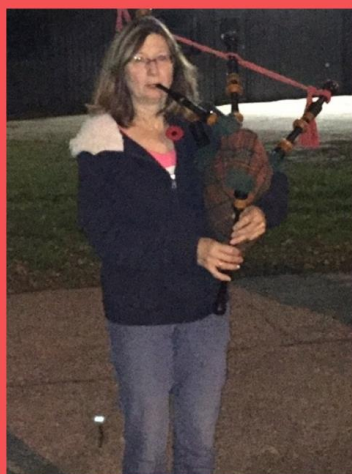
The words to "Amazing Grace" were written in the 18th century by John Newton. He was born in London and after a life, which included being press-ganged into the navy, flogged and becoming a skipper of a boat plying the slave trade, was converted to religion and became a minister. He wrote many hymns and this one was propelled into the pop charts when a pipe band recorded the tune. The now familiar and traditional melody of the hymn was not composed by Newton, and the words were sung to a number of tunes before the now inseparable melody was chanced upon. They first appear united in a hymnal from 1831 called "Virginia Harmony," where the tune is called "New Britain." Any original words sung to the tune are now lost. The melody is believed to be Scottish or Irish in origin; it is pentatonic and suggests a bagpipe tune.

**Outdoor Practices Continue – “ But It’s Dark Out Here ! ”
Photos from Thursday Night Practice November 5th**



Members & Learners from Top Left to Bottom Right –
Claude Roach, Doug Collins,
Charlie Thomson, Jack Habkirk,
Doug Turvey, Don Gale, Gail MacKay,
Harold Matthews, Doug Glover,
Duncan Wade, Catherine Perry Stark,
Blake St.Denis, Veronica Jackson

Good thing we have to memorize bagpipe music! No need for spotlights!



Members & Learners from Top Left to Bottom Right –

Freya Rimington, Liam McCreery, Mary Ellen Mutterer, Steve Shepherd, Cheryl McEwon, Ron Marshall, Angus Thomson, Joanne Mutterer, Jane Mutterer, Nancy Matthews, The Matthews, Gail (selling his Shriners' Xmas Cakes).

More History – International This Time!



So the Ingersoll Pipe Band often refers to itself as “the oldest continually performing non-military pipe band in North America”! And yes, in fact we are celebrating our 110th Anniversary. But hey, we’re just youngsters compared to some of the UK bands. Piper Laurie Marson of the London Police Pipes and Drums, and who originally came to Canada from the UK, sent along this article from **The Bagpipe News** website. A very interesting read about all the claims to fame and longevity on the other side of the pond!



Breadalbane Pipe Band – possibly the oldest known civilian pipe band.

Click on the photo above to open the link to read the entire article by Jeannie Campbell.

“A small number of civilian pipe bands claim to be the oldest – or, at least, among the oldest. Wallacestone, Inveraray, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch, are among the small list and all four date to the mid-1880s. We think the latter two are in abeyance these days but Wallacestone is still competing (currently in Grade 2 under the leadership of its able Pipe Major, Neil Henderson) and Inveraray was reformed in 2005 and is doing rather well ... Then there’s Lonach Pipe Band, which is mentioned in a Scottish newspaper report from 1868 although only one drummer is mentioned and it would be 1895 when another report states that a local parade “was headed by six pipers and four drummers”. Other ‘bands’ of this period were comprised solely of a handful of pipers and no drummers.” - In this article, piping historian Jeannie Campbell suggests the oldest proper civilian pipe band may actually have been founded in Perthshire in the late-Victorian period.

Late Fall Clean-Up at the Hall Saturday November 7th

This year we certainly got lucky with the weather conditions for our annual fall cleanup. It was bright, sunny and warm for our crew. The members who dropped by to assist with clean-up we’re done in no time! Many thanks from the Exexecutive of the IPB to all who came to the hall and helped out. The list of chores never varies too much from year to year – eavestroughs to clean, leaves to blow and rake up, air conditioning units to cover up for winter, etc. Here’s a few photos of our 2020 work crew – Doug C, Charlie, Angus, John L, Don, Claude, Mary Ellen, Joanne, Scott Munro, Gail, and Veronica



Charlie showing off his handiwork



Team Lynes (John) and Thomson (Angus)



Joanne part of the Eavestrough Cleaning Crew



Scott M and Don also on duty



Doug C sweeping the leaves up



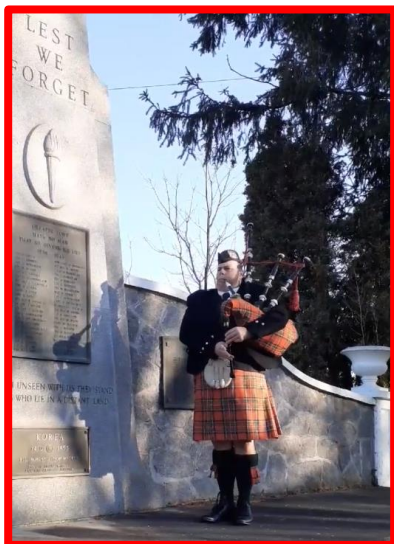
**Claude, Gail and Mary Ellen Pitching
In on the Clean-Up**



Remembrance Day November 11th 2020



Remembrance Day services across Canada were much different this year. Rogers TV taped a service for The Town of Ingersoll. It was held on Sunday Nov. 1st and then made available to the public on cable TV, and the internet on Nov. 11th. Our Pipe Major Doug Collins did double duty playing both the drums and the pipes to keep the number of participants to a minimum. If you click on the photo above it will take you to the broadcast taping. Other pipers played "The Lament" in various locations across the area on Nov. 11th. Don Gale played at the park where the cenotaph is located in Belmont; Veronica Jackson played for the services for residents at Secord Trails in Ingersoll; Jack Habbkirk played in Tillsonburg; and, Steve Shepherd and Lisa McPherson (on the drums) played for a special Legion service outside the Hillcrest building. All pipers were outdoors so were quite thankful that the weather was beautiful – sunny and warm.

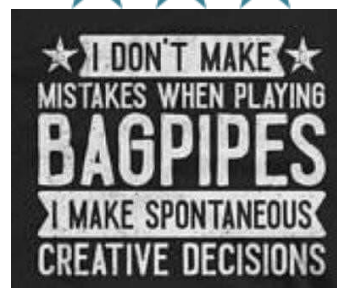


Steve Shepherd playing at the Cenotaph at Victoria Park in Woodstock earlier in November



Our first IPB trivia night of 2020 began on May 1st. We have varied the schedule over the past seven months – sometimes we played twice a month; other months we met up only once on Zoom. Our topics have varied from sports, geography, board games, car insignias, famous landmarks, mythological creatures, food, famous persons and so on. Sometimes our participants were very "smart" and scored quite high on each round. Other evenings, well let's just say.... we needed to stroke a few egos to reassure our teams that they weren't really that "uneducated"!

We have one more Trivia Nite for this year – it will occur on **Friday December 4th at 7:30 pm**. After this final challenge night, the Champs and special award winners will be announced in our final 2020 Newsletter. If you would like to join in on the final evening, send an email to your hosts, Veronica and Martin Jackson. We will be very happy to send you a Zoom invitation. Contact us at: vjacksoningersoll@gmail.com



This appeared on Steve Shepherd's Facebook page. Is that why he says that he's playing "Seconds"?



Our final issue of the IPB Newsletter for 2020 will be sent out mid-December. If you have photos, "Greeting Messages" for the Holiday season, newsworthy (or not) items to share with our members and supporters please send them to me by December 14th!

Thanks, *Veronica*