



# 100th Anniversary Ingersoll Pipe Band



## Inside the Pipe Band by Mary Ellen Mutterer

Here we are ..... 100 Years Old. A time to celebrate the past and look forward to the future. Plans for our summer anniversary events are being finalized. A letter will soon go out to all past and present members, to let you know more about the details. Please make sure we have your current address so you can receive your letter as soon as possible.

The Reunion is one of our events. We would love to see as many attend as possible. It promises to be a time of friends, fellowship and lots of storytelling. Like all good storytelling the stories have kind of grown and grown over the years.

As children, then teenagers growing up in the band we heard a lot of these stories form more senior members (some stories not always appropriate for our ears). Some of the printable stories will be included in the upcoming history book the band is publishing.

Storytelling often takes place before or after parades. One of the things a pipe band has to be good at is waiting, providing us with lots of prime storytelling time before and after a parade. One of the best storytelling locations occurs after the Victoria Day parade in Thamesford at Dave and Pat's. Another good occasion for storytelling

was when we used to do the church parade in Ingersoll ... the Sunday before Remembrance Day. Some of our more upstanding members would go into church for the services; the rest of us would go into the church basement (we were just young and easily led astray). We would be entertained with stories of parades past and with stories of spat buttons in the collection plate and drums rolling down the church aisle.

Sometimes the most entertaining part of the parade is the before and after ... little do the crowds watching know what goes on before and after.

## Dustin Douglas

Earns 1st

in London Kiwanis Music Festival

Grade 4 Solo Competition



## 2010 Parades & Events

**April 24**  
Band Photo  
11.00am  
Victory Memorial School

**May 24th**  
Woodstock  
Victoria Day Parade

**June 26th**  
Tillsonburg  
Veterans Day

**July 1st**  
Embryo  
Highland Games

**July 2nd**  
St. Marys  
Homecoming

**July 24th**  
Harvard Association  
Wings & Wheel Show

**August 21st**  
Tillsonburg Air Show

**September 18**  
Delhi Harvestfest  
11:00 AM Parade

## 100th Anniversary Events

**July 30**  
Fish Fry and Ceilidh  
Ingersoll Arena

**July 31**  
Tattoo and Pig Roast

**August 1**  
Sunday Morning Brunch

**September 04**  
Reunion Day - Music,  
Pictures,  
Memorabilia, Stories

**September 05**  
Brunch



## Piping give it a Birl by Jim Muterer

**Welcome** to spring in this second week of April 2010. Soon we will be practicing outside, doing marching drills, wheels, forming circles, and many other maneuvers. Everyone needs this practice as well as practice in playing, so we present the best looking and sounding band we can on parade.

**This** year our anniversary year is more important than usual since we

are having many events here in Ingersoll such as the tattoo. We must present our best against the other bands invited. Appearance is 50% or more of a performance, and this means clean neat uniforms, proper marching and deportment, attention to little things. This means no talking in the ranks while on parade. Let's be the best we can be at all times.

Now a word from Gail MacKay

*An Angel bore dear Uncle Joe  
To rest beyond the stars,  
I miss him, oh! I miss him so ....  
He had such good Cigars.*

## Ingersoll Pipe Band Practice

**Ingersoll Pipe Band Armoury**  
**Thursday Evenings**  
**Students 7:30 pm**  
**Members 8:00 pm**



## Loud Drums save Pipes by Gail McKay

### Reminiscing

**My** first parade was the Warriors Day Parade in London. We met at the Ingersoll Legion before departing for London. I was excited and turned up at the Legion in good time and fully dressed. On my arrival Pipe Major Alex Collins very quickly advised me that I had my spats on the wrong feet! I can still hear him say "Laddie your spats are inside out".

**In** around 1957 we were parading in Putnam. The older members had gone to visit for some libation and the drum corps, which was made up of a number of younger members was left to put in

time at the old railway station which had been mothballed and was to be moved. In front of the station stood a rather large bulldozer, which would provide us with some time consuming, play time. We all took turns in the drivers seat pretending to drive. Somehow, I still don't know how the dozer got started. With its blade down and now moving all we could do was watch to see what was going to happen. Just then the older members were returning to see the dozer ploughing up the grass area in front of the station. Luckily the blade dug deep enough to stall the machine. Needless to say Alex was not impressed. He threatened to kick all of

us out of the band, but because we were the whole drum section he recanted and we got off with a very strict warning.

**When** you are younger in the band something always seems to go wrong at a parade. In Port Burwell Bob Collins called a 6/8 tune and I was playing lead. On the command the band started in, unfortunately I began playing a 2/4 beat. Bob turned, and that look caused me to quickly change but unfortunately as I did I put the stick through the head of the drum. How embarrassing, but he forgave me and I'm still around.



## A Quartermaster Request by Jack Habkirk

### Ah Spring!

The beginning of a new parade season. Now is the time to make sure everything is in good shape for the upcoming year.

Just a reminder for everyone, your uniform consists of Black Brogue Shoes, Green Hose, Red Flashes,

Kilt, Tunic, White Sporan, Waist belt, White Dress Shirt, Long Black Tie, Glengarry and Cap Badge with the Royal Stewart Tartan Background.

For the Pipers, you should have a Red Drone Cords and Royal Stewart Bag Cover.

If any part of your uniform is questionable or missing (or reeds, seasoning, hemp, etc is needed) please see me and get it straightened away.

We want to look and sound great for our Centennial Celebrations.



**Pipers Call** by Stew and Jane Watt

The Gathering 2009

Last summer was a summer of significance for those of us with Scottish blood or our veins or for those who have an interest in all things Celtic. The year 2009 was the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish poet, Robbie



Burns' birth and Scotland decided to make it a celebration calling it "Homecoming Scotland 2009". Scotland was very anxious for its sons and daughters to return to the land of their forefathers and reconnect with their Scottish heritage. Over one hundred events were held all over Scotland and all throughout the year. Not only did the Scots honour Robbie Burns, they celebrated whisky, golf, clans, highland games, history, music and the richness of Scotland's culture.

A centre piece of this year of celebration was "The Gathering 2009", the largest clan gathering held in Scotland since Sir Walter Scott's Royal Pageant in 1822. The event was held in Holyrood Park where 80 individual clan tents as well as several large stage venues for various performers had been erected. A full weekend was devoted to Highland games, massed pipes and drums, musical performances, dancing, whisky tasting, and a parade of 8000 clan members up the

Royal Mile in Edinburgh watched by an estimated enthusiastic and emotional crowd of about 20,000 onlookers. The parade led everyone to the Esplanade to attend a spectacular Clan Pageant, 'Aisling's Children", celebrating the history of Scotland, and staged against the magnificent backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.

Playing in the massed band for the event's Patron, Prince Charles and his wife (known as the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay when they are in Scotland), and leading a section of the huge parade up the Royal Mile were among the highlights of participation of several of our band members. Pipers Jon Arthur, Jack Habkirk, Charlie Thomson, Stew Watt and side drummer Jane Watt were privileged to have



joined the Canadian Massed Pipes and Drums for an unforgettable 3 week trip to Scotland. Aside from the Gathering they played in several other venues in Scotland. They were entertained by various communities at ceilidhs, and luncheons, and attended the Perth Highland Games pipe band competitions as spectators. They were fortunate to have had several days off for personal exploration. Jon found never-before-met relatives, Charlie visited with his family and took in some football games, and Jack, Barb, Stew and Jane explored the countryside looking for their respective family roots and soaking up the amazing scenery.

Towards the end of their trip, The Canadian Massed Pipes and Drums played in the pre-show at the famed Edinburgh Tattoo and then the band members hurried to their seats to enjoy a full performance of the Tattoo featuring performers from around the world.

The band stayed at the residence of the University of Edinburgh which is centrally located. We had many hours to explore this dynamic and historic city and, of course spent some quality time with new friends and old, in the many local pubs (you have to eat, don't you?). Being able to attend and participate in these historic events was thrilling to say the least.

**Ingersoll Pipe Band**  
**on the Web**  
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 Web Master - Warren Wright  
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# 100th Anniversary Ingersoll Pipe Band



## 2010 Executive

### • Pipe Major

Jim Muterer  
519.485.2188



### • Drum Major

Gail MacKay  
519.485.4702



### • President

Stew Watt  
519.472.4879



### • Vice President

Chris Radford  
519.485.7167



### Treasurer

Jane Muterer  
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### • Secretary

Jim Muterer  
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### • Quarter Master

Jack Habkirk  
519.485.2088



### • Attendance Officer

Jane Watt  
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### • Canteen Manager

Dave Presswell  
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### • Ingersoll Pipe Band

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## My First Time at Camp by Douglas Glover

I was 56 when I went to camp for the first time in my life. Sort of unusual I know, but my family was never into camping, I had never joined the Boy Scouts and had never been interested in going to any specialty camp. But in 2008 while searching bagpipe sites on the web, I found the Ontario School of Piping and Drumming (OSPD) at St. Andrew's College, a piping and drumming instruction camp.

Not knowing what to expect at camp, or if I would be the oldest student, I was nervous about going, but after my wife assured me everything would be fine and that she really didn't need to put my name in all my underwear as I had asked her to, I registered.

St. Andrew's College is beautiful and private. It is located in Aurora, Ontario, a town of about 45,000 located approximately one hour north of Toronto. Accommodation for students is in double or single dorm rooms with communal bathrooms. Meals, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and everyone's favourite, "Morning Muffin Time", are served in the oak-paneled dining hall. OSPD facilities include student lounges and practice rooms, as well as classrooms. St. Andrew's also allows OSPD students to use an indoor pool, tennis courts, playing fields and a beautiful indoor gallery lounge area.

Students have one morning class and one afternoon class. In between, students practice and work on assigned tunes and skills. Evenings feature seminars, lectures, workshops and field trips. Past topics have included:

- Visit to a Grade 1 pipe band practice
- Bagpipe maintenance
- Reed selection
- Introduction to Piobaireachd
- An insider's look at the World Pipe Band championships
- Tune composition
- Rhythmic structure of pipe music

My instructors have included: Scott Williams from Nova Scotia, a pioneer and leader in the field of teaching beginners and intermediates; Ken Eller, one of the best known bagpipe instructors in North America and a long-time member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders and Bruce Gandy, one of the world's top players.

I found OSPD provided world-class instruction in piping and drumming, small classes and programs for all stages, beginner through expert and for all ages, from 8 to 88. I also found out that I didn't have to worry about going to camp. Students and instructors became friends as they worked together and helped each other reach common goals to improve their playing.

2010 will mark the 13th year of OSPD, its 12th year at St. Andrew's College, and my third year of attending. For more information:

Web Site <http://ospd.sac.on.ca/>

Email [ospd@sac.on.ca](mailto:ospd@sac.on.ca)