



ATLANTIC CANADA PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

2022 Executive Reports

Presidents Report: Dan Knee Vice President Report: Amy MacKenzie

It has been a fantastic year for the members of the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association and after two long seasons of no piping and drumming in the word, we have come roaring back. It has been an amazing season as we have renewed friendships and reconnected with the culture and community we are all so passionate about. The association is very good standing after a successful year where the executive have worked very hard to put together two very well attended workshops which included some world class musicians and included some of our very own home grown talent.

After a successful summer competition season from the rain soaked Hal Betts field to the arid desert heat of the grounds of Government house in Fredericton, where many band uniforms were amended to suit the heat, we had some wonderful moments which despite the challenging conditions our bands and solo plays put forward some amazing performances. We have some individual players who I would like to take a moment to recognize. Gillian Blaney, who will not only be awarded as champion supreme, but who has also been invited to compete in the George Sherriff Invitational competition. As well I'd like to recognize Alex Gandy who has won his second Silver Start in the former winners MSR and earning his second invitation to the Glenfiddich Championship.

To all bands , solo competitors, and those to be named Champion Supreme. We all know the long and countless hours that go into preparing for a competition season and we would like to recognize your continued contribution to the piping and drumming culture and community in the Atlantic provinces. To the membership, we appreciate your continued support and the executives of your association are dedicated to finding ways to engage with you and provide more learning opportunities.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize the efforts of my fellow executive members. As we are all volunteers, I know that your time is precious and thank you for your continued work on behalf of our membership. Specifically I would like to acknowledge

the work that Shelena and Amy have put in when organizing the workshops. It was not easy and without your efforts I dare say we would not have been as successful as we were.

Mike Dupis, thank you for your service to the ACPBA as the treasurer these past few years. The job is not an easy one and you leave big shoes to fill. And speaking of big shoes to fill, Mr. Rick Crawford. You sir, have been involved in the executive of the ACPBA for as long as I can remember and in the role of Chief Steward for just as long. I have leaned on your expertise and experiences since joining the Executive in 2018 and if it were not for you remaining, it would have been hard to accept the position of president. Whomever eventually takes on the role of Chief Steward will undoubtedly benefit from your guidance and training. I'm relieved that you will offer your services to guide and coach our next Chief Steward. Just remember I still have your phone numbers and email address so don't think that you'll escape my phone calls so easily!

In closing, the association is on good footing and I am convinced that moving forward the association will continue to grow and improve. This association belongs to the membership and we still do have some vacant positions, so please do not hesitate to approach any members of the executive about volunteering your time.

Dan Knee

Chief Steward's report: Rick Crawford

30 October 2022

After a two year hiatus, it was good to get back to piping and drumming. The start of the season was the Piobaireachd Challenge, as always was very well organized and we had very good music, an enjoyable event.

All the games were well run with very few problems and any that did arise were easy to handle and the games went on.

The weather was stellar this year and except for the 1 hour thunder-boomer at noon In Moncton there was no rain or even any clouds for the rest of the games. And at times it was almost too hot for piping and drumming.

I would like to thank the games organizers, Judges, stewards runners bands and competitors. You all made it a wonderful summer

Thank you

Respectfully submitted:

Rick Crawford

Chief Steward

Grading Report: Rick Crawford

Piping

Grade 5 to Grade 4 - Ian Kellock CBU

Grade 4 to Grade 3 - Jay Hackney D & D

Option for Joshua Gregory

Grade 3 to Grade 2 – Reilly Green FSSA

Option for Owen MacPherson

Grade 2 to Grade 1 – Cameron MacNeil CBU

Aidan MacNeil CBU

Drumming

Grade 3 Option Carter Green FSSA and Ceana Fleury CofP

This does not mean that musicians cannot upgrade themselves, or if a competitor does not feel they are able to play in the higher grade they should let the ACPBA know as soon as possible.

Respectfully Submitted

Rick Crawford

Chief Steward

ACPBA

Communications and Social Media Report: Christina Oliver

ACPBA Communications (Website & Social Media)

The ACPBA has great social media activity and the website was updated quite a bit, with blog posts, workshop info and information pertinent to members of the association.

Since Sept 2021 there have been 2.1K unique visitors to the website and 2.8K visits, the visits to our website have been up this year. Please see the definition below.

Unique visitors refer to the number of distinct individuals requesting pages from the **website** during a given period, regardless of how often they visit. Visits refer to the number of times a site is visited, no matter how many **visitors** make up those visits

FB has a total of 1700 likes (up 370 from last year) and our posts engage quite a few folks.

Christina Oliver

Communications Chair

Games Liaison Report: Kylie MacHattie

Highland Games Report 2022

I think this year the feeling for the Atlantic Canada Highland Games circuit was relief and gratitude that the Highland Games could take place after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic. Competitors, volunteers, organizers and adjudicators were happy to be back at it. The weather cooperated for most of the games and numbers seemed to be steady.

From a competitor's perspective, it would be helpful for the different games to talk to each other about what judges are being asked to come to the various games so that competitors don't get too much overlap. Also to change up some of the judging from year to year.

Submitted by Kylie MacHattie

Membership Report: Mike Dupuis

See attached

Financial Report: Mike Dupuis

See attached

ATLANTIC CANADA PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

2022 Area Reports

NB South: Tom McGrath

ACPBA NB SOUTH REPRESENTATIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Prepared by Tom McGrath for the ACPBA AGM

October 25, 2022

Another year has come and gone. Covid related restrictions have relaxed and all but disappeared in many respects. Luckily, for many Bands, that meant a return to almost normal. I reached out to the NB-South Bands for some comments as to what they have been up to this past year.

Ray Wallace, from the Moncton District Band, explained that it was a slow start to the season and were able to start full practices in the Spring. Their only playing commitment was for a Canada Day parade. Ray noted they were able to recruit some new members as the summer went on. As Covid restrictions lessened, they started received more and more requests for Pipers and full Band engagements. Ray was happy to report that August and September turned out to be pretty busy for the Band. The Band is looking forward to participating in November 11th ceremonies after a year or two of not having any services of remembrance. Ray finished with stating they were heading into the off season with a healthy number of members. They have plans to add to their tune repertoire but unfortunately will be using this as a year to rebuild and will unlikely be competing in the 2023 season.

Craig Wight forwarded a note summarizing what the RCMP Pipes and Drums – J Division (Moncton) have been up to. The Band does not compete. They are somewhat of a “garrison” Band. They showcase their talents at community events. Craig reported the Band stayed reasonably active through the pandemic with regular Zoom meetings. They were able to keep in touch with each other and learn new material. Craig happily reported they added members and now total 18, plus Dancers from the Dunnett School of Dancing from Riverview. They were busy with joint practices and events with the Halifax RCMP Band and performing in at least 5 communities in New Brunswick. Craig added that the Dancers added to their performance and participated in a number of their engagements. Craig included with his note a picture of the band showing their new uniforms and Dancers.



Finally, Dave Galbraith, from the Simonds Lions Caledonian, sent information regarding their activities. Unfortunately, due to practice venue pandemic restrictions, the band has only just recently been able to restart practices at an alternate location. The Band has also suffered loss of players for various reasons, including myself for health reasons. The Caledonian did perform at a limited number of engagements, but with a fraction of the normal complement of players. The goal this next season is to rebuild the Drum and Mid sections, add to the bands tune list, and recruit, recruit, recruit.

In closing, the NB South Bands have indeed survived the pandemic and have all initiated plans to rebuild. They were all able to maintain a level of contact that I'm sure meant a lot to each and every member. We are not just members of a band, we are part of a family. As noted earlier, I have had to retire my bass drum sticks and step back from the band Executive. I'm still around but only as a "Band Rat" with some timing skills. I will also not be re-offering as NB South Representative. However, I have it on good authority, a member of one of the NB South bands will be stepping forward. I thank you all for this opportunity and God bless.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGrath

NB South: Kate LeFrance

**Report from the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew Pipe Bands (Gr.3 and Gr. 5)
For the 2022 ACPBA AGM
October 29, 2022**

It was great to be back on the field for the 2022 season! For the past couple of years, we all missed the competitions, the comradery, and even the practices. Last Fall and Winter, the members of the FSSAPB Grade 3 and 5 bands made the decision to practice, prepare, and rebuild in order to be competitive at the highland games in the Maritime Region. The band members worked hard, and their efforts paid off. There were lots of individual and collective successes and significant improvements were made throughout the season within the bands and among the players.

We have returned to regular practices, and everyone is keen on the new music and excited for the 2023 season. The bands have also begun discussions on a one-year plan and a five-year plan which will identify the goals of the Organization. One goal we are hoping to achieve, is to have the Organization represented by at least one band in Scotland in 2024.

The Fredericton Pipe Band Academy is now in full swing and so far, we have nine new players learning with instructors from the FSSAPB. This is a good start, and we are hoping to add more learning members in the months to come. If you know of anyone in the Fredericton area interested in learning pipes or drums you can direct them to one of our players or have the interested person(s) send us a note at inquiries@fssapb.ca. We will make sure to do the same for bands in other parts of the Maritimes.

The FSSAPB is one of the oldest civilian pipe bands in Canada and we will be celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2027 and we are looking to make it a big event. There are several former players that are still playing and / or living within the Region. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page to learn how you can register as an 'Alumni' member and share some photos and stories. These will be helpful in our planning, and we would love to hear from all of you.

One of the best parts of this season – and every season - includes meeting up with old friends we haven't seen in a couple of years and making new friends from bands across the Atlantic Region. It was great seeing you all this past summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all on the field in 2023.

Northern NS: Ray Halliday

Northern Region activities returned to normal in 2022 with competitions in Pugwash and Antigonish, and the Festival of the Tartans in New Glasgow. There were fewer participants and spectators than pre-pandemic, but numbers should return in the coming years.

Clan Thompson had an active summer, returning to their usual parades and concerts. Aaron Dunsinger has taken over as Pipe Major, while Luke Henderson is the Lead Drummer. Like most areas, there is a lack of drummers in the area.

The Festival of the Tartans was a successful event in New Glasgow which included band concerts but no competitions. The Committee is looking to grow the event in the years ahead and pipers, drummers and bands are encouraged to make contact through the association if you wish to participate.

Ray Halliday

PEI : James MacHattie

There were two active pipe bands on PEI this past year, the grade 5 and 3 College of Piping Pipe Bands. After years of disrupted practice, both bands were thrilled to be able to participate in Highland games, parades and community engagements once again.

The only competition on the Island was the Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge, this year judged by Peter Aumonier and Doug Boyd. The numbers of participants was high, which was welcome after years of uncertainty.

The College of Piping pipe bands are making plans to attend *Piping Live!* and the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
James MacHattie
PEI Representative

NFLD: Matt Clark

Pipe band activity in the area has only restarted in August of 2022. Practice space was re-opened during the summer and with limited availability of personnel, start-up was delayed until this time.

Solo piping activities have continued within the province for various events throughout the year.

Provincial membership to the ACPBA is also limited as the Newfoundland Highlanders Pipe Band (the provinces only pipe band) very seldomly travels to compete or take part in many activities. The majority of ACPBA members are from individuals. The band membership has stated that continued virtual workshops would go a long way in making membership more beneficial to them.

Matt Clark

CB : Trevor Kellock

Things remain positive for growth of piping and drumming in Cape Breton. The CBU Pipe Band had a busy fall preparing for a Celtic Colours concert and has now shifted gears to focus on their year of preparations for the 2023 contest season which is set to include a trip to the World Pipe Band Championships for the grade 4 band. Both the grade 4 and 5 bands have grown in size, and the teaching program has a new crop of learners excited about classes starting up.

Elsewhere on the Island there was fantastic piping heard throughout Celtic Colours including concerts by Daimh, Beolach, and CBU Pipe Band's own Aidan and Cameron MacNeil to name a few.

The Gaelic College continues to offer piping instruction online, as well as during their March Break and Summer sessions.

We are all hoping for a winter of good health and hard work!

Trevor Kellock

HRA/Valley : Larry Amirault

I reached out this week to the bands in my area to see how everyone's summer went, and I heard back from Roderick at The 78th Highlanders and P/M Chris from 36 Halifax.

The 78th Highlanders had a pretty active season. As a band they took part in four competitions. They placed 2nd at both Georgetown Highland games and Maxville, and took first in Fredericton and Antigonish. The band also had many of its members compete in solo competitions, the highlight for them being P/M Alex Gandy winning the Silver Star event at the Northern Meeting at Inverness for the second time.

Chris had this to say about the 36. The 36 Halifax Pipes & Drums were happy to get back to in person practices in the summer of 2021. We've had to move out to Enfield, which is going well. Our numbers are down, so we are keen to recruit new pipers and especially drummers. Because of a lack of drummers we weren't able to compete in 2022. We are proud of our piper Elina Richards, who was Grade 4 piper of the day at Antigonish. We're keen to be back on the competition field in 2023.

I look forward to seeing what 2022 has to offer for everyone, and can't wait to see everyone on the field next year.

Submitted by Larry Amirault
ACPBA Metro/Valley area rep