



ATLANTIC CANADA PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

2023 Executive and Area Reports

November 4, 2023

Executive Reports

President's report: Dan Knee

APCBA Presidents Report 2022/2023

This past season of piping and drumming in Atlantic Canada has been another successful one. The Executive has worked hard to make sure its members continue to remain informed and engaged with the events both within the region, nationally and internationally.

All local games were well attended and we also welcomed bands from the PPBSO for the first time in Antigonish where we shared our east coast hospitality with them by providing them with an extremely hot two day event. I would like to thank the organizing committees from all the local highland games as they put in a tremendous amount of work making the events run as smoothly as possible.

Our association was represented very well both by bands and solo competitors. The Cape Breton Pipe Band finished the summer season on a high note when they placed 2nd at North Berwick, 2nd in Perth and placed 3rd in grade 4A at the world championships. The ACPBA was also represented very well by the College of Piping Summerside with a 3rd at Perth, 6th in North Berwick, and 11th at the World Championships.

On the solo front we have been represented very well again on the international stage. Gillian Blaney was invited to the Nichol Brown placing 3rd place overall (2nd in piobaireachd, 4th in the MSR, and 4th in the 6/8 Marches. She also has been invited to the George Sherrif and the Sunbelt Invitational competitions. Andy Rodgers is set to compete this weekend at the at the Scottish Pipers Society of London's competition.

As well a huge congratulations for to Alex and Bruce Gandy. Alex finished 3rd overall in a three way tie that went to Piobaireachd preference. Alex also took first place in the MSR event. Bruce placed 4th I the Piobaireachd event. A huge accomplishment by both Bruce and Alex.

In the year to come the executive will strive to find ways to provide value and engage with the membership. We are committed to timely information, transparency and accountability and will maintain the highest levels of communication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a few thank yous. Firstly to Rick Crawford, you have stepped up to the plate and remained as the Chief Steward until we had found a replacement. Your expertise and years of experience with the ACPBA have been invaluable and have provided this executive with a wealth of knowledge. We will miss you but know you will not be too far off. To Mike Dupis. You have remained as treasurer, a vital position, and completed your duties with the highest degree of professionalism. You have always made yourself available for the many number of questions that needed answering and I cannot thank you enough for remaining for the extra time.

The executive cannot survive without the expertise and experience that it's members provide. I would like to thank all of the executive members for their time dedication to this association.

Danie Knee
President
ACPBA

Chief Stewards Report: Rick Crawford

30 October 2023

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

As Usual the Piobaireachd Challenge was very well run with excellent results.

Moncton with a new crew at the helm was very well organized. The weather in Moncton turned cold and the afternoon's band competition saw the bands and the judges trying to stay warm with the wind and cold weather playing havoc. However, the bands did sound very good even with the cold fingers.

Antigonish was again hot but not like last year and we experienced no problems.

New Brunswick Highland Games was stellar as usual the weather was not too hot and the piping and drumming and the band competition was very good. The Band competition ran very smooth and the music was great.

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

Thank you

Respectfully submitted:

Rick Crawford

Chief Steward

Grading Report 2023

ACPBA Grading Report for 2023

This is the grading report:

Piping

Grade 5 to Grade 4 – Zachary Campbell

Grade 3 to Grade 2 – Andrew Robertson Clan Thompson

Grade 2 to Grade 1 – Reilly Green FSSA

Drumming

Grade 3 to Grade 2 – Nick Highmore Dart & Dist

Grade 2 to Grade 1 Option for Carter Green FSSA

This does not mean that musicians cannot upgrade themselves, of 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

Vice Presidents Report: None

Communications Report: Christina Oliver

ACPBA Communications (Website & Social Media)

The ACPBA has great social media activity and the website was updated quite a bit, with rule changes, mini gathering, knockouts and regular games activity.

This year there have been 3.3K visits with 1314 being direct visits, 1261 google searches, 559 Facebook visits, and 166 others.

I'm hoping to revamp the website this coming year as it's been a while and think we need a new look.

FB has a total of 2101 likes (up 400 from last year) and our posts engage quite a few folks.

Christina Oliver
Communications

Games Liaison Report: Kylie MacHattie

As games liaison I sent out a request for games reports for all of our sanctioned highland games. I received reports from all of the games: The Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge, the Greater Moncton Highland Games, the Pugwash Gathering of the Clans, the Antigonish Highland Games and the New Brunswick Highland Games Festival.

All games were happy with how their games went. Antigonish was extremely hot on the Saturday which led to Rick Crawford, ACPBA Chief Steward, to allow bands to not wear vests and ties. Moncton had the feedback that they need more washrooms near the band area.

Everyone is looking forward to next year and the planning has already begun.

Submitted by Kylie MacHattie
October 2023

The Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge

The Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge took place on April 29th at the College of Piping and The Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre in Summerside, PE. Jim McGillivray from Ontario judged the piobaireachd and Doug Boyd from Halifax judged the light music. There were 34 competitors for the piobaireachd and the light music. The day ran smoothly with the help of volunteers and competitors. Thank you to our sponsors the Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association and The Piobaireachd Society. Without the sponsors and volunteers we couldn't hold the event.

The date for the 2024 Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge is April 27th at the College of Piping and The Scott MacAulay Performing Arts Centre in Summeride, PE.

Greater Moncton Scottish Association Report to the ACPBA – 2023

The GMSA's 17th annual Highland Games & Scottish Festival, including its annual piping, drumming, & pipeband competitions, was held June 17, 2023.

This was the largest competition for Moncton in recent years, with 10 pipebands and 45 individuals registered to compete in 13 piping solo events and 7 solo drum events.

Event	# of participants
SOLO PIPING	
25 Practice Chanter	2
50 Grade 5 March	3
55 Grade 5 Piobaireachd (Ground)	2
401 Grade 4 March	5
415 Grade 4 Piobaireachd (Ground and First Two Variations)	4
320 Grade 3 MSR	6
310 Grade 3/4/5 Amateur Jig	14
315 Grade 3 Piobaireachd	5
215 Grade 2 Piobaireachd	8
220 Grade 2 MSR	9
110 Grade 1/2 Senior Amateur Jig	17
115 Grade 1 Senior Piobaireachd	7
120 Grade 1 MSR	9
TOTAL	91
85 Grade 5 March	2
421 Grade 4 March	2
325 Grade 3/4 Junior Amateur Hornpipe/Jig	3
335 Grade 3 MSR	1
221 Grade 2 MSR	1
121 Grade 1 MSR	0
125 Grade 1/2 Senior Amateur Hornpipe/Jig	1
	10

Judges for the event were Sean Morton, Roderick MacLean, Lynda MacKay, James MacHattie, Hugh Goldie, and Rene Cusson, with Stewart Rick Crawford.

Registration and pre-event planning was by Jenna Morton, Event Manager with the Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival. On-site coordination of the competition was by volunteer Alex Morton. This was his first time involved in any capacity with piping & drumming; feedback was that the events ran smoothly & on time.

Prizes were awarded to bands in 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place via cheque:

	<u>1 st</u>	<u>2 nd</u>	<u>3 rd</u>
Grade 3	\$500	\$400	\$300
Grade 4	\$400	\$300	\$200
Grade 5	\$300	\$200	\$100

Travel allowances were paid via cheque to each band who took part in the competition and the closing massed bands (which was all). Travel was calculated based one way distance from the band's home community to Moncton:

- o 0-99 KM = \$200
- o 100-239 KM = \$250
- o 240-319 KM = \$300
- o 320-399 KM = \$350
- o 400 KM = \$400

Concerns were raised over the lack of port-a-potties & wash stations. There were 39 port-a-potties (with sanitizer pumps) & 3 wash stations on site, however, the placement was not ideal for those taking part in the piping/drumming/band competition, with only three next to the field (though several others were nearby). A note has been made with the planning documents to place additional port-a-potties in the area for 2024.

The Greater Moncton Scottish Association is also pursuing perpetual trophies/plaques for the Piper of the Day & Drummer of the Day, as well as additional prizes.

The 18th annual Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival takes place June 11 - 15, 2024. The piping, drumming & pipeband competitions will be **Saturday, June 15, 2024**.

2023 Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival – Piping & Drumming Results

Merrill Henderson Band of the Day

College of Piping Grade 3

Piper of the Day

Reilly Green

Drummer of the Day

Nick Highmore

Dress & Deportment

College of Piping Grade 3

Band Results

Grade 5 March

1st Place - College of Piping

2nd Place - Fredericton Society of Saint Andrews

3rd Place - Dartmouth & District

Grade 5 Medley

1st Place - College of Piping

2nd Place - Fredericton Society of St. Andrews

3rd Place - Dartmouth & District

Grade 4 March

1st Place - Dartmouth & District

2nd Place - Cape Breton Island Pipes & Drums

3rd Place - 12 Wing Shearwater

Grade 4 Medley

1st Place - Cape Breton Island Pipes & Drums

2nd Place - Dartmouth & District

3rd Place - 12 Wing Shearwater

Grade 3 MSR

1st Place - College of Piping

2nd Place - Fredericton Society of St. Andrews

Grade 3 Medley

1st Place - College of Piping

2nd Place - Fredericton Society of St. Andrews

Pugwash Highland Games

The Gathering of the Clans is planning on our usual date of July 1st. We had three bands compete this year. Cape Breton Island Grade 4 and 5 bands (both winners in their grade) and Corrections Canada (Grade 5).

Rick Crawford has all the individual competitor results.

From my view point, we had a good day, although we would love to see more bands come to Pugwash. Our original volunteers didn't show, but Tom Wallace of the FSCNS stepped in as score keeper/scrutineer. Thanks to all other helpers on the day.

Report to ACPBA on the Antigonish Highland Games

The Antigonish Highland Games were held on one of the hottest weekends of the year, July 8 and 9, 2023. Despite the heat, all went well at the 158th Highland Games. Eleven bands, 78 solo pipers competed and 18 solo drummers competed in sanctioned contests.

Alex Gandy came away with another Open Piper of the Games Award. Gillian Blaney won the Allan Beaton Trophy for top Amateur Piper of the Games. Tom Cumming won the Open Drummer of the Games.

Because of the scorching heat, Chief Steward Rick Crawford gave the eleven competing bands the option of playing without jackets and ties. This decision was appreciated by the bands and was highlighted in an article in pipesdrums:

<https://www.pipesdrums.com/article/as-bands-break-the-ties-that-bind-college-of-piping-on-to-p-at-antigonish/>

Our panel of judges included piping judges Bob Worrall, Ken Eller, Iain Simpson and drumming judge Hugh Cameron who all worked full-time for the weekend. Alex Gandy, Rod MacLean, Andrea Boyd and Scott Williams all assisted with solo or and adjudication. Having so many capable judges on hand, gave us the flexibility to move the competitions along nicely.

Members of one of the two outside-the-Maritimes bands (Alberta Foothills and Ottawa Caledonia) assumed that there would be a solo tenor drumming competition on Saturday. They signed up for snare drumming competitions thinking it covered tenor drumming as well. We decided to pass the word that there would be a non-sanctioned tenor competition and were able to draft Kahlil Cappuccino to judge the contest. Please let us know if there will be sanctioned competition for tenor and bass drummers.

We enjoyed having Rick Crawford with us for what will be his last time as Chief Steward for our Games. He plans to come next year as a tourist and spend three nights in Antigonish. We will give Rick and Norma a warm welcome next July.

Scott Long suggested to me that we might add chalk circles in the band competition arena. This is done in many places, including Fredericton apparently, to show judges and players where they should be located. We would like to start this practice next year. If you can give us any advice on doing this, please let me know.

Thanks for all your help Kylie. If you need more information, please let me know.

Danny Gillis
Chair of Piping and Drumming
Antigonish Highland Games

Sept. 27, 2023

New Brunswick Highland Games

We had a great games this year. Big crowds and the weather finally cooperated, not too hot and no thunderstorms. Well, except for Friday night but Saturday and Sunday were perfect.

This year we had 12 bands competing. We had 50 individual pipers and 17 drummers.

Moving to having one MSR competition for individuals this year instead of separate ones for March and then S/R made for a much better flow. Everything finished on time, we didn't have to bring in extra judges for Saturday morning competitions and the judges had enough time for a break between individuals and band competitions.

Everything seemed to go smoothly, we had no complaints at all this year.

Our dates for next year are 26-28 July 2024, see everybody then.

Committee Annual Reports

Metro and Valley Region: Larry Amirault

None received

Nova Scotia North Region: Ray Halliday

Northern Region activities included competitions in Pugwash and Antigonish, but the Festival of the Tartans in New Glasgow did not take place due to a lack of volunteers.

Clan Thompson concentrated on rebuilding the band and reduced their activities. The band took part in a few events and continue to play at St FX Home Football Games. The band has started classes in Stellarton, and continues to support the Army Cadets in Antigonish. The band is alternating practices between Stellarton and Antigonish.

The Festival of the Tartans in New Glasgow was unable to attract enough volunteers to stage the even in 2023, and it is unknown at this time if an attempt will be made in 2024.

Submitted

Ray Halliday

Cape Breton Region: Trevor Kellock

October 30th, 2023

Piping and drumming continue to grow on Cape Breton Island through a variety of opportunities. The only competitive group on the Island remains the Cape Breton Island Pipe Band, which features 2 bands and a continually growing teaching program. Our grade 5 pipe band competed at all the Maritimes Highland Games this year and were pleased with their progress from 2021. Our grade 4 band were also pleased with their performances in the Maritimes and travelled to Scotland to compete at the World Piping Band Championships where they placed third, along with the North Berwick and Perth highland games, placing second at each in 4a.

The band would like to thank everyone for their support through fundraising, and well wishes from back home on a successful trip.

Elsewhere on the Island the Gaelic College operated another successful summer of classes for both youth and adult learners, and music festivals continue to be very inclusive of piping and pipe bands. The CBIPB performed at Kitchen Fest, and several of our members performed in shows at Celtic Colours International Festival.

I (Trevor Kellock) continue to work to build piping into the school system and have started another year of after school piping programs which this year includes students from India, Nigeria, and China, in addition to several new local youth.

Lastly, this summer saw the inaugural Sydney Mines Highland Games, an independent event that while not sanctioned by the ACPBA had participation from the Clan Thompson pipe band and hopes to grow their event in years to come.

Regards,

Trevor Kellock

Newfoundland Region: Matt Clark

Pipe band activity in the area has slowly begun to pick up pace over the last year. Number of performances for solo pipers seems to be on par for previous years, but events to support the full band have been reduced.

With that, several pipe band events are in the works to build additional community support for the organization. One major step is to restart the training program/school for new pipers and drummers in the province to build membership and promote the art.

The pipe band has no current intentions of travelling to any games in the coming year, but individual members have stated their intentions to continue to compete. At recent Newfoundland Highlanders Pipe Band AGM, it was stated that the band/members would still be interested in virtual workshops if provided at a reasonable cost.

Matt Clark

Prince Edward Island Region: James MacHattie

PEI continues to have three active pipe bands: the two College of Piping Pipe Bands and the Belfast Pipe and Drum Band. There are measures being taken by the RCMP to start a division band on the Island, but this is in the very early stages.

Belfast is celebrating their 50th anniversary with a concert on November 9 in Belfast. Congratulations on the major milestone of half a century of entertaining folks on and off the Island!

The College bands travelled to Scotland in August 2023. At North Berwick, the Grade 5 band (playing up into 4B) placed 3rd, and the day after in Perth the Grade 3 band placed 3rd in 3A. The Grade 5 band played well but did not qualify for the finals at the World Pipe Band

Championships. The Grade 3 band did qualify in their grade, and finished 11th. The bands plan to travel to Maxville in 2024.

Respectfully submitted by James MacHattie

New Brunswick North Region: Kate LeFrance

Nov. 1, 2023 - ACPBA – NB North Report 2023 – Kate LaFrance

Southern Victoria Pipe Band Update:

2023 has been a wonderful year for the SVPB! We played all over locally to celebrate our Gathering of the Scots 20th anniversary! We also were invited in celebrating the Scotch Colony's 150th anniversary! While attending the Fredericton NB Highland Games, our little but mighty band had great scores and good feedback in drumming and piping. Our little village has another great festival- 'Larlee Creek Hullabaloo'. SVPB performed and many members volunteered. We are currently working on our new pieces for 2024 - with excitement to participate in a few more events this upcoming season!

Fredericton Society of St. Andrew Grade 5 Update:

The band had a successful 2022-23 season with 25 active members participating in parade, concert and competition venues throughout the Maritimes. Competitively, it saw success on the local circuit at Moncton, Antigonish and NB Highland Games. The highlight of the season was the bands attendance at the Glengarry Highland Games to participate in the North American Pipe Band Championships where it placed 5th overall in a field of 16 bands.

Returning and new members are presently hard at work preparing for the upcoming 2023-24 season. We are excited to get back on the field.

Fredericton Society of St. Andrew Grade 3 Update:

The grade three band had a great rebuilding year and is currently undertaking a recruiting initiative, with many new and returning members coming out to both bands. We enjoyed our time in the Maritimes' competitive circuit and were very happy with a 3rd place finish at Maxville this year! We are lucky to have very valuable mentorship and leadership in the organization. Lots of exciting things in the works for the FSSAPB!

New Brunswick South Region: Hugh Goldie

ACPBA NB SOUTH REPRESENTATIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2022 2023

Prepared by Hugh Goldie for the ACPBA AGM.

October 25, 2023

This year 2023 has brought back some semblance of normality after over 2 years of Covid restrictions. One of the positive events is the start up of the 560 Moncton Army Cadets Pipe Band teaching program. The program was cancelled due to covid and sadly the students I was teaching aged out of the programme and moved on to greater things. Hopefully we will see some future pipers and drummers come out of the programme.

In April the New Brunswick Piobaireachd Club met at the Holy Whale Beer Hall and Garden in Moncton for a day of recitals. This event was very well supported by local piping enthusiasts and was also supported by MacLeod's Highland Outfitters and The Holy Whale. We are looking forward to future recitals.

Both bands in the Moncton area report a positive year with challenges after the Covid pandemic Ray Wallace of Moncton and District and Craig Wright of J Division RCMP sent the following reports.

Moncton District Pipe Band - 2023 Report

The 2023 Season has for the most part come and gone and the band had a great summer performing for some different venues. This was another challenging year with our band membership but those who were available certainly made an effort to ensure our key performances had good showings.

The Band played in Miramichi for their Canada Day celebrations. The band also supplied pipers to the MacDonald Farm and Wilsons Point in Miramichi for their Sunday afternoon performances.

The band performed at MacDonald Farm in Miramichi for their Scottish Festival in August and also played at the St Andrews Church for their Kirking of the Tartan prior to the Festival in the afternoon.

We will be performing at the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Sunny Brae Cenotaph and as well a few solo pipers will be performing at other services within Greater Moncton.

The band continues to meet on a regular basis and will be starting new tunes for the 2024 season. At this point in time there are no plans on returning to the competition field for the 2024 season, but will focus on performances for our continuing supportive community.

Ray Wallace

President

Moncton District Pipe Band

RCMP Pipes and Drums New Brunswick

The band completed a busy and successful year under the musical direction of PM Hugh Goldie. Hugh recently retired from the band, and we wish to thank him for his years of service to our group.

This year was the 150th Anniversary of the RCMP. In August, four members of the band travelled to Maxville, Ontario and the Glengarry Highland Games to participate in a composite band and special performance to commemorate the Anniversary.

The Band and Dancer (Dunnet School of Highland Dance) performed at the 50th celebration of the Town of Riverview.

In September, members were in Regina with musicians from the other RCMP Pipes and Drums bands across the country. They were there to take part in the National Memorial Service of the RCMP and the presentation of the Force's third Guidon.

Other memorable events from this past season included the PRIDE Parade in Moncton, the Musical Ride in Elsipogtog First Nation and the Kent County Agricultural Fair in Ste. Marie de Kent.

Four of our members joined 39 musicians from other RCMP bands across Canada to represent Canada and perform in the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland.

One of our pipers had the great honour to play for Anne, the Princess Royal at the RCMP Monument at Riverfront Park during her visit this past summer.

A huge honour was awarded to each member of the band this past summer when we were presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (New Brunswick) for exemplary service to others. We proudly wear the medal on our uniform.

Our last main event for the year will be Remembrance Day. We are busy welcoming new members and learning new music. It will be a challenge to “top” such a busy and rewarding year, but we are looking forward to another successful year.

Pipe Major
Craig Wight.