

**PRAIRIE PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012
Elmwood Legion #9, 920 Nairn Ave., Winnipeg**

Meeting called to order at 7:28 p.m.

In attendance: Wes Sheppard, Robyn McCombe, Pat Johnston, Kathy Brown, Gale Walker, Heather Wiens, Bill Laird, Theo Torrie, Cathy Giroux, Steve Denby, Rob Chennells, Gary Moyer, Ken Boath, Jeremy Clement, Shandra Bast, Wendy Lynch, Jaime Simpson, Alex Peden, Dave Stewart, Ryan Stewart, Caitlin Wiens, Dave Bowman, Nathan Mitchell, Barb Purvis, Dave Purvis, Kelton Lynch, Melissa Orobko, Kathy Orobko, Ursula Bridgeman, Alan Bridgeman, Karen Bowman, Zachary Woodfield, Diane Kotelko, Danielle Clement, Amber Therrien, Stephen Moyer, Trevor Clement, Donovan Kerv, Kevin Martin, Cathy Martin, Mike Kubasiewicz, Betty Smadella, Henry Smadella

Welcome to Everyone by President Wes Sheppard. Voting Rules were reviewed and voting members were reviewed.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Bill Laird, PPBAM Exec. 2nd by Ken Boath, Prairie Community . Motion Carried

Approval of the AGM Minutes of Nov. 20, 2011 Motion to accept Minutes moved by Ken Boath, Prairie Community; 2nd by Jeremy Clement, Prairie Community - Motion Carried.

Agenda Item 1: President's Report – Wes Sheppard – See attached.

Agenda Item 2: Vice President's Report –Robyn McCombe – See attached

Agenda Item 3: Secretary's Report – Pat Johnston – See attached

Agenda Item 4: Treasurer's Report – Kathy Brown – See attached

Motion to accept Financial Statements as presented by Kathy Brown, 2nd Gale Walker, Carried.

Agenda Item 5: Director of Public Relations report – Bill Laird See Attached.

Agenda Item 6: Director of Grading – Heather Wiens – See Attached

Agenda Item 7: Director of Contests – Gale Walker – see attached.

Agenda Item 8: Band Reports - All Bands in attendance at today's meeting gave verbal reports; copies of emailed or printed versions are attached if submitted. Anavet Unit 303 – Robyn McCombe; Glenaura – via email; Kenora Scottish – Theo Torrie; Lord Selkirk – Steve Denby; Prairie Community – Ken Boath; St. Andrews Gr 2 – Wes Sheppard; St. Andrews Gr 3 – Alex Peden; Transcona – Dave Stewart; Two Rivers – Wes Sheppard.

Agenda Item 9: Contest Reports – Winnipeg Scottish Festival (next year Feb 15-16,2013) – Velma Davis; Selkirk Highland Games (next year Jun 22, 2013)– Wes Sheppard; Brandon Highland Festival (next year April 27, 2013) – report sent by Susan Dunham; Riverwalk Highland Gathering at the Forks, (next year May 25, 2013) – Velma Davis.
See Reports attached.

Agenda Item 10: Old Business -

Constitution Review – Wes Sheppard as mentioned in President's report progress has been slow as member of the Committee are involved in lots of organizations and don't have the time for this project. We need more people involved with the organization to make sure our organization, games and bands survive. No changes to the Constitution are put forward at this time.

Agenda Item 11: New Business -

Open Discussion on Contests - Gale Walker

Discussion began with a letter of concern from Gale Walker, Director of Contests, circulated to participants at the Selkirk Highland Games. Main Concern is the lack of support for local contests of solo competitors and the small no of volunteers who run the contests are slowly burning out. One game did not run during the past year due to lack of volunteers to run it. We already know youth bands are having trouble attracting new students, which in the long run means fewer members for adult bands.

Points discussed - If every player with any competing or non-competing pipe band, took 1 student under their wing as a teacher or mentor, to pay it forward, the impact would be huge.

- Bands have lots of supporters on their email lists, individual bands could send out emails asking for volunteers to help with the games committees
- Help is needed on the organizing committees for the games, Wes commented Selkirk has only 3 executive and needs help, WSF has only a few members to run the largest competition.
- Organizing committees run year round, securing facilities, completing grant applications to help them succeed
- Transcona said they were having their own problems finding instructors and needed help from other bands or the pipe band community
- Would it help for the organizations to approach bands at their meetings to tell them how they run and what they do, they might get more volunteers
- If every band sent 1 volunteer to set on a Contest committee, they could help out several contests

Motion – Send a letter to all pipe bands requesting support by providing one person from each band to serve on a newly formed Contest Committee. Moved Ken Boath, Prairie Community; 2nd Jeremy Clement, Prairie Community.

Other Items - general concern over diminishing number of solo competitors, it doesn't help the players or the bands if they are not competing.

- No professional development last year for adjudicators but in the budget this year. It was too expensive last year to bring in judges for prof. dev. Heather Wiens will be attending judges's PPSO prof. dev. In Milton, On and plan is to share information with our local judges here – getting together and sharing ideas.
- From drumming aspect, some competition levels should be reviewed e.g. novice base playing an MSR, Gr 3 MSR, sometimes hard to adjudicate since players can't get pipers to play, maybe tunes ae too advanced for some levels, there should be an easier transition.

Agenda Item 12: Election of Officers-

A proposed slate of officers was presented to the membership – advising the current Executive (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) and Director of Contests, Director of Grading and Director of Public Relations would allow their names to stand – each position was opened to the floor for additional nominations – none were presented. Motion to accept slate of Officers as presented – Ken Boath, Prairie Community, 2nd Caitlin Wiens, SASPB. CARRIED.

Vacant positions - Member(s) at Large –

Dave Bowman, Wpg. Police was nominated by Nate Mitchell, Wpg. Police;

Alex Peden, SASPB Gr 3, nominated by Dave Bowman.

Both Dave and Alex agreed to let their names stand. Motion to accept Members at Large – vote carried.

The 2012-2013 PPBAM Executive:

President	Wes Sheppard	Director of Contests	Gale Walker
Vice President	Robyn McCombe	Director of Grading	Heather Wiens
Secretary	Pat Johnston	Director of Public Relations	Bill Laird
Treasurer	Kathy Brown	Member(s) at Large	Dave Bowman, Alex Peden

Agenda Item 13: Champion Supreme Award Presentations –

see list of award winners attached

Awards presented by Heather Wiens, Director of Grading.

Motion to Adjourn: Karen Bowman, WSF 2nd Melissa Orobko, SASPB, Carried – 9:00 pm.

Reports follow that were received electronically.

**PPBAM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PRESIDENTS REPORT – Wes Sheppard**

November 16, 2012

I would like to thank everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to be here tonight, your show of support for the organization is appreciated.

I would like to congratulate all the Champion Supreme winners as well as all the competitors in our association. Your participation and spirit of competition is rewarding for all of us.

I would like to express a huge thank you to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to make this all happen. This ranges from contest organizers, parents and parents organizations, instructors, band managers and the list goes on. A special thank you to the members of the executive who work to give us organization and a format to promote the growth of piping and drumming in Manitoba. Your hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated.

This past year was a successful year although we did lose one of our contests (hopefully this is a temporary set back). Our band numbers stayed up although our solo turnout has decreased substantially. We had very few applications for scholarships but for those who took advantage, it was well received. It is a good feeling to see the positive influence a summer school can have on a student.

I would like to add congratulations to Sean Johnston who has met the required criteria and has been upgraded to an A level adjudicator.

Our special project of the constitution is once again delayed. The simple issue is a lack of time . Many of our volunteers wear multiple hats and as a result, time for special projects goes to the back burner. We need to find a different way to approach this.

For this year, I hope to see resurgence in our solo competition participation, our scholarship program and of course growth and development of our bands.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ROBYN MCCOMBE

Good evening.

The band histories for the "Historical Masterpiece" that the Association hopes to compile is slowly taking shape. Thank you to the bands that have provided submissions to me.

If your band has not yet forwarded historical information and/or some pictures to be used in this endeavour, please call or email me so we can finalize this information.

Some of the histories that have been completed have been forwarded to our Webmaster, and should be available on our website in the near future.

I would also like to congratulate our Champion Supreme winners. Well done on your accomplishments!

Thank you. Respectfully, Robyn McCombe

SECRETARY'S REPORT – PAT JOHNSTON

My duties during the past year included items such as - Notices, agenda and minutes for all Executive meetings, and handling correspondence on behalf of the Executive. I have prepared all the notices to members and bands for our AGM today as well as prepared associated documentation, including Agenda, reports, Nomination list and recording attendance, notified winners of Champion Supreme Awards and ordered trophies. Congratulations to all the winners this evening.

-Received and tabled scholarship applications - which were drastically reduced this year. We only received 2 applications. The Executive Awarded 1 - \$200.00 scholarship to Kelton Lynch. This year the Marlene Stephen Memorial Scholarship for \$650.00 (\$350.00 from the PPBAM & \$300.00 from the Marlene Stephen Trust Fund) was awarded to Melissa Orobko. I received a wonderful thank you message from Katherine, Melissa's mom, which emphasizes the importance of our scholarships for students.

To the Members of the PPBAM,

I am writing this letter of thanks along with my daughter Melissa, who this past spring received the Marlene Stephens Scholarship Award. Melissa used the scholarship to attend the Lake Diefenbaker Pipe School in Saskatchewan for a week of in-depth pipe instruction. With that week of instruction I saw my daughter come away with more confidence in herself and her piping. She then asked me if she could compete out of province in Maxwell, Ontario, and in Calgary & Canmore Alberta in their highland festivals. Being a single parent with limited funds I told her she could choose only one competition. She chose Calgary/Canmore in Alberta as we have family there and got a little visit in also. We then drove for the long weekend competition where in Calgary she got 2nd & 3rd in two of the three pieces she competed in. In Canmore amidst the splendour of the mountains she received a 3rd & 4th placing in two of her three pieces, I am truly proud of her

accomplishments! Melissa is continuing her education on the bagpipes with a private instructor. She also has joined the St. Andrew's Grade 3 pipe band on Thursday evenings, and has plans to shadow with the St. Andrew's Grade 2 band on Tuesday evenings. Melissa is a gifted musician (although I am a bit biased as her Mother) and I believe she has utilized the scholarship to its fullest, and will continue to pursue knowledge for the bagpipes which she has a sincere passion. Once again I am truly grateful for the opportunity that Melissa has received as a result of the Marlene Stephens Scholarship Award. THANK YOU once again!!

Sincerely, Katherine Orobko

For our meeting today, Pipe Bands and Competitions, please email me a copy of your reports if you have not already. Note: Nominal Roles and memberships are due Dec 15th. Thank You Pat Johnston

TREASURER'S REPORT – KATHY BROWN

Attached are the reports as of end of year October 31/12.

Financial statement: Receipts to date \$7,076.77 Expenses to date \$4,365.91, Profit for the year will be \$2,710.86. Bank balance as of October 31/12 was \$1534.02 less outstanding cheque of \$665.28 (Champion Supreme Awards) so we will start the new year off with \$868.74 in the Bank account. Total of investments are \$7,908.38.

Budget--Receipts were almost exactly what we had budgeted. As no professional development workshop held our proposed revenue was down however made that shortfall up through additional grading cards, regular members cards, and additional judge's. Did lose 1 association fee however did not have the expense of sponsorship. Hopefully, we will be back up to 4 games during the year. Expenses under budget as well mainly due to savings from mini games being held in a different location, 1 sponsorship not paid and only 1 scholarship requested instead of 5. We were able to move \$2,000.00 to the "rainy day" fund this year due to low expenses.

Mini Games Financial Report-- Our receipts were down \$37.00 however we were able to keep our expenses low due to the fact Gale was able to have the games held at her school and saved on the insurance cost. Facility rental was for the custodian and medals cost was low due to the fact we have leftover medals from previous year. Respectfully submitted Kathy Brown.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS – BILL LAIRD

The biggest responsibility of the PR Director is to maintain the PPBAM website. This has been a much better year for that, as our website has been replaced, and for the most part has been functioning as it should. It is much more "user friendly", so any webmaster changes in the future will be an easier transition.

We have recently paid a 2 year fee for our PPBAM Domain registration, so that has been properly documented and protected. We have also paid the user fees to site server. Our site does require nearly daily administration, as we receive dozens of junk/spam messages every month.

One of the projects we will be launching by the spring is a new section to the site on the "History of Pipe Bands" in our Association. Robyn McCombe has been researching and compiling pictures and information for some time. This has been a time consuming endeavor, that when completed, will be very interesting to all. If anyone has any photos, stories, or just general information, please contact Robyn or myself. The website is our main communication and information tool for our members. We try to be non-partisan, and provide useful, timely, information. If members have suggestions on how we can improve this service, please forward them to myself. Thank you. Respectfully submitted Bill Laird

DIRECTOR OF GRADING – HEATHER WIENS

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending tonight's meeting. 2012 has been an interesting year for the organization. We had a total of 4 contests this year with a number of world-class judges brought in to provide their expert opinion on the standard of playing in Manitoba. It is with great pride that I advise that overall, we continue to provide a high quality of tutelage in the province. Unfortunately for most of our contests this year, the entry was down considerably and significant reductions in numbers of competitors have raised some concern as to the future of the organization. This will be discussed at a later point this evening. It was also more challenging to calculate Champion Supreme points this year because not only was the player with the highest point counts important, participation in 50% or more of the sanctioned contests was a criteria of receiving this award. In having had this position now for the past 2 years, I am now in a place that I can take a step back and advise that a review of grade designation is needed. The Executive concurs and the upcoming 2012-2013 season will see a general review of all players' current competitive grade level with the result that some people will be downgraded or upgraded based on their placings as well as judges' rankings. PPBAM

solo players will receive their grading cards earlier this year so that players are aware of their designated grade in a timely fashion so that entries to our first contest of the year (WSF) are done at the appropriate grade. If there are questions or concerns, please feel free to bring them to the attention of the Director of Grading. I would like to thank my fellow Executive members for another enjoyable year and continue to look forward to each and every competition with musical anticipation. Thank you. Respectfully submitted by Heather Wiens

DIRECTOR OF CONTESTS – GALE WALKER

The Winnipeg Scottish Festival competition was held on Feb. 18. The competition had 14 competing bands which organizers say was the most they could remember. All solo and Band events were completed without any protests or time infractions. The new band tuning and solo tuning times were implemented successfully. A point of concern was the loss of the Brandon Games.

The PPBAM Indoor contest was held at Westgrove School on March 17th. The contest had 52 entries competing in solo pipe, drum and mini-band events. The number of entries was slightly down from last year. The new venue seemed to meet all competitors' needs and was more cost effective. There were no protests or disqualifications.

The Riverwalk Highland Gathering was held at the Forks on May 26th. The number of entries appeared to be down in the solo events. There were 8 bands in the competition. There were 2 bands who were disqualified for events due to the lack of minimum players. There were no protests.

The Selkirk Highland Gathering was held June 16th. No information was available for number of solo contestants and bands. There were no protests or disqualifications reported.

A letter of concern was distributed at The Selkirk Highland Gathering regarding the number of entries at the contests, the loss of a contest this year and inviting participants at this AGM to have a discussion regarding these concerns. I will defer that conversation to when we have new business. Respectfully submitted by Gale Walker

BAND REPORTS

ANAVET #303 – Robyn McCombe

Once again, it was an honour and privilege to be the pipe Major of the ANAVET #303 Pipe Band this past year. We performed for the usual parades and venues such as Gimli, Kleefeld, Stonewall, Brandon, Folklorama, as well as St. Patrick's and Remembrance Day. It was also great to have some band members participate in the Bi-centenary of the Selkirk Settlers. Another special event that we took part in this year was Kelvin School's 100th anniversary celebration in May. They were very appreciative of our presence in the dedication of their Kelvin War Memorial Book. We competed at the Winnipeg Scottish Festival in February. The band put on a good performance and all of the members who wanted to perform had a chance to do so. Due to members' commitments and work schedules, it has not always been easy to find a full complement of players to compete with, or time for extra practices. As a result, after February we put competitions on hold for now. Sadly, we lost another special band member and band family member this year. It was hard to say good-bye to Roy Clarke and Dave Osmond's lovely wife Terry. I am always in debt to our executive and band members who continue to keep things operating well for the band. I truly appreciate the support they provide me whenever I, or the band is in need. Thank you too, to our novice players. You are our future. You are so fortunate too, to have so many people here to help mentor you. It's not always easy to put yourself out there, beyond your comfort level. We all had to do it, and before you know it, you'll feel like you're home! Attendance at events continues to be impressive. I still get positive feedback about the quality of our performances, and this is mainly due to the dedication and commitment of every band member performing to the best of their ability. I can't say too much about how I enjoy the camaraderie of this band, and I look forward to another great year.

Respectfully submitted by: Robyn McCombe Pipe Major ANAVET # 303 Pipe Band

GLENAURA PIPES & DRUMS – Vice President Rob McLeary

We would like to congratulate all the other bands and soloists on another successful year.

Last year represented a period of substantial growth and change for our band. The biggest change for us was the move up into grade three. We are very pleased with this upgrade and have received many good comments from a variety of judges. As a result of this move to grade three, we are happy to report that we have received a large influx of new members. We are looking forward to having a large presence in the upcoming competitive year. Another change in the band is that Heather Gillis has agreed to be our new lead drummer. We look forward to fresh and exciting ideas to come from our new and larger drum corps. The band competed in 3 events in the 2012 competitive year. We achieved one first place finish as well as a number of second place

finishes. We have also participated in 2 parades, as well as many community events. We plan to continue to compete at the grade three level at local competitions, as well as taking on a few new parades and community engagements.

Our membership has now outgrown our current inventory. As a result, the band will be holding a number of fundraising events in order to purchase more uniforms and new instruments. We have formed committees to spearhead these efforts and look forward to updating the PPBAM on our planned activities.

In closing, we would like to state that we are committed to maintaining a strong and competitive pipe band community in Manitoba. We would also like to wish all other bands continued growth and success into this upcoming year. Best of luck!

KENORA SCOTTISH PIPE BAND – Submitted by Dawn Mitchell – read by Theo Torrie

President's Message: By: Cecil Burns, President

Last year (2011-2012) was a great year and I know this coming year is going to be even better. We will be welcoming new members to the band – some who have played with us before and are returning to the fold and new members – students who have or will be making that leap from chanter or practice pad to pipes or drums. We welcome them with open arms and know that the heritage we cherish will live on. Over the summer months we took it easy, with only a single gig between Canada Day and now – and what a gig – piping in Mike Richards and the Stanley Cup! I'll never forget the roar of the crowd as we paraded into the pavilion. Now is the time to get back to work, practice, learn some new tunes and fill up our dance card with new gigs so we can continue to be the "Best Damned Piped Band in Kenora". Cheers, Cecil Burns, President

Report on Activities:

Mike Richards and the Stanley Cup (August 18, 2012): The Band was very honoured to be asked by the City of Kenora to play for the Stanley Cup coming home on August 18, 2012 at the Whitecaps Pavilion on the Kenora Harbourfront. Mike Richards came into the town docks on board the Grace Anne II and what a welcome it was. Several thousand people crowded the docks, the Pavilion and the Harbourfront to watch him bring the Stanley Cup to town. The Band piped him and the cup from the dock right into the Pavilion. What a great day for Kenora and for the Band!

Canada Day (July 1, 2012):

The Band performed again this year in Keewatin for the Canada Day Festivities. The parade down Ottawa Street started around 1:00 p.m. followed by playing down at the baseball diamond. The Mather-Walls House Tea was another big hit and then Beaty Park in the afternoon for a concert. It was another very busy and exhausting day for the Band. All the performances sounded great and the crowds were very appreciative. The band was joined by our former pipe major Jamie Longe and one of his pipe band friends from Winnipeg. It was great to have Jamie play with the band again even if it was only for the one day.

Harbourfront Concert Series (June 28, 2012):

Again this year, the Band performed for the summer opening ceremonies for the Harbourfront Concert Series on Thursday, June 28, 2012 under the White Cap Pavilion.

Father's Day Performance – Bethesda Lutheran Church (June 17, 2012):

The Band played this year following the Father's Day service held at Bethesda Lutheran Church to thank the congregation for allowing us the use of their facility.

Relay for Life (June 8, 2012):

On Friday, June 8, 2012, the Band again played for the opening ceremonies for the Kenora Relay for Life held at Lakewood School. The event was very moving especially the survivors walk.

Yard Sale Fundraiser (June 2, 2012):

The second annual Band Yard Sale Fundraiser was held again this year at Bethesda Church. Again this year, the generosity from all our members for donating items was astounding – we filled the gymnasium again and we came away with total sales of \$1,003.63. We beat last year's record – way to go everyone! This year, the Band decided to give a percentage of our profits to Bethesda Lutheran Church as a way of saying Thank You for their ongoing support of the Band over the last few years.

Jayson Morrison Memorial Cystic Fibrosis Walk (May 27, 2012):

This event which is held annually at Anicinabe Park was on May 27, 2012 this year. It supports a great cause and the Band participated again this year, and again this year, the rains poured. The Band was asked to perform under the shelter instead of going on the march. The youngest drummer of the group, Liam Forster, participated and played all numbers with great gusto.

Riverwalk Highland Games (May 26, 2012):

The Riverwalk Highland Games were held at the Forks in Winnipeg again this year on May 26th and the Band participated for the second year. The Band looked sharp in their blue shirts but unfortunately, no awards this year even though they sounded really good.

Mother's Day Run (May 13, 2012)

The Band performed this year at the annual Mother's Day Run. It was a great turnout for the Band and the runners, including our own Bill Forster who ran in the event for the first time and finished it. Congrats Bill!

Kenora Scottish Ceilidh (April 14, 2012):

This event was held at the Lakeside Inn on Saturday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. and included entertainment, cash bar and a light lunch. The event was sold out ahead of time and was a fun evening for all. Entertainment included Jon Giroux (singing & guitar), Hank & Cathy Giroux (Hank on harmonica and Cathy on bodhran), Terri Forster and her dad John George from Fort Frances (jigging demonstration and dancing puppets), Stephen Mitchell (small pipes), Alex Coates (country dancing) and Esme Boone (harps) with fellow harpists including our own Cathy Giroux. A big thank you goes out to Dan Essery for being our Master of Ceremonies, Karen Essery for the decorations, organizing and set up, Cecil Burns for taking care of the music, Terri Forster & Laura Farrell for doing the popcorn and providing the popcorn machine and donating the popcorn, to Joey & Roy Harvie for also donating popcorn, and all the volunteers who came out to give a hand to set up & clean up for the event. Even though this was not specifically a fund-raiser, we did manage to make a profit of \$550.00 on this event. Submitted by Dawn Mitchell, KSPB Coordinator

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY GRADE 2 REPORT - Wes Sheppard, Pipe Major

I would like to start with congratulations to all Champion Supreme winners and all competitors. Being at the games with all the other bands and competitors is really what this is all about. It creates the excitement and energy that gets us through the long winter months of practicing in a windowless hall! Thank you to all the contests and volunteers who make these events possible for us. We appreciate your efforts. This past year was a good year for the band. We played the local contests as well as our annual trek to Maxville. Maxville this year set records as they had the hottest day ever recorded at the contest, 46 Celsius! We had our concert in the spring at a new venue, the Franco Manitoban Cultural Centre, again a big success. The concert will again be in the spring, date to be announced. We were very pleased to be a part of the Selkirk Settlers 200th Anniversary celebration at the Convention Centre. It was a great event, very well attended. This year our plans are again to do Maxville plus another trip yet to be announced. We will of course be doing the local games. As a side note, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the band.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY GRADE 3 REPORT – Alex Peden, Pipe Major

2012 was another successful year for St. Andrew's Grade 3 Pipe Band. We competed throughout the local competition circuit, achieving numerous firsts and the overall champion supreme award. We would like to thank all competitors, judges, and the many volunteers who made all of these excellent events possible. Beyond contests, the band also put on a well-received concert in April along with the Grade 2 and Two Rivers bands, and participated in several parades throughout the province. Finally, we finished the year by traveling to Calgary and Canmore to compete in their highland games. For such a great year, the band would to thank the outstanding leadership from outgoing Pipe Major Mark Jorgenson and Drum Sergeant Dylan Knight, as well as the invaluable instruction from Wes Sheppard and Paul Mundt. Looking ahead to 2013, our band faces many exciting opportunities, with some new bodies and new tunes. Dave Chorney and myself certainly have big shoes to fill, but we are all working diligently to meet any challenges we face and strive towards another successful year with the band.

TRANSCONA & DISTRICT PIPE BAND – Dave Stewart, President

The Transcona and District Pipe Band continues to do well, despite our small numbers. The band had a successful year at competitions and parades with the highlight being a trip to the Regina and Moose Jaw Highland Games last May. At present we have enough players to field a good parade band, but short one piper to compete in local band competitions. Our instructors have already started working with our band members to compete in solos this year and our goal is to be able to compete as a band in the New Year. I'd like to introduce our new Pipe Major, Ryan Stewart, who took over the band in January of this year. Ryan's been a member of this band for over 12 years, first receiving instruction from Pipe Major George Lawrence and progressed through the ranks becoming Pipe Sergeant in 2008. Ryan is a grade one player and most recently competed with the City of Regina Pipe Band at the Worlds this past summer. We congratulate Ryan on his

new post and know that with the help of our mid-section instructor, Stephanie Aastrom and the senior members of the band or organization will continue to offer quality instruction to the youth of Winnipeg. The community of Transcona has recently rallied with the band during the Transcona Centennial Celebrations and we've enjoyed playing at various events. With the recent exposure to a wider audience in the community, the band stands to do well in the future as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2015. Reduced enrolment and retention of members is a pressing issue that's been plaguing many organizations including most pipe bands here in Manitoba over the past few years. The writing has been on the wall for several years now and as a result some familiar competitions like the Brandon Highland Festival are starting to be cancelled. Transcona competed in the Halifax games in 2009 only to see it cancelled the year after. While each band is suffering from one degree to the other, the solution to the problem could be resolved as a group. We hope that after tonight, the pipe band community can come together to identify and resolve the issues that could have a significant impact to local competitions and indeed our own pipe bands, some of which that have many years of history in Manitoba. It's only through the dedicated efforts of those who can think outside the box that we can return to more comfortable numbers in all bands of the Prairie Pipe Band organization. The Transcona and District Pipe Band congratulate all Champion Supreme winners on their accomplishments tonight and wish all bands a successful competition year. Respectfully submitted, Dave Stewart

TWO RIVERS PIPE BAND – Wes Sheppard, Pipe Major

This year was a very exciting year for the band. After 2 seasons of practice chanters, drum pads and a lot of squawking and squeaking, the band finally hit the floor at the Winnipeg Scottish Festival! It was a great day to see your efforts finally realized into something. The kids were terrified but they pulled it together and did well. Thanks to all those who lent us kilts, the St. Andrews organization is not flush with kilts that tiny. A few we could have worn as sporrans. The rest of the year went well, playing improved and the kids had a lot of fun. They even perfected the Conga Line counter march. This year are numbers are up a bit but we are always looking for new recruits. We practice at General Byng School every Monday evening. This year our plan is to attend the Minnesota Scottish Games as well as the local contests.

CONTEST REPORTS

WINNPEG SCOTTISH FESTIVAL – VELMA DAVIS

The 19th Annual Winnipeg Scottish Festival was held on February 18, 2012 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The Festival offered pipers, drummers and pipe bands the opportunity to compete and receive adjudications from world-renowned judges and instructors to improve their knowledge, technique and skills in Scottish pipe band music. The adjudicators, Terry Lee, Andrew Lee, Ken Eller, Dave Hicks, Doug Stronach, Richard Wilson and Blair Brown provided written critiques to 83 solo participants who competed in 148 sessions and 13 bands who competed in 34 sessions. Representatives from 21 pipe bands attended from across Canada and the Northwestern United States. This year had the largest number of bands registered which indicates that this Festival is an important one for the community and it continues to be the largest Winter indoor games in Western Canada. Cultural Displays included Scottish Organizations, as well as several Scottish vendors exhibiting Celtic goods and jewelry. Many positive comments were noted with the expectation that the Cultural Display area will increase next year. The Winnipeg Scottish Festival Committee is appreciative of the support from the Prairie Pipe Association of Manitoba as well as from all of our other sponsors and donors. The 20th Annual Festival will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on the weekend of February 15-16, 2013. This year a Recital will be held on Friday evening featuring the judges Bob Worrall, Colin Clansey, James Troy, James MacHattie and Dave Bowman. Matt MacIsaac will also perform. Admission will be \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Youth (18 and under). The Festival Committee has decided to hold a Ceilidh immediately following Massed Bands on Saturday featuring the Dust Rhinos. Tickets will be \$5.00 each. We are hoping that everyone attending the Festival will come to the Recital and enjoy themselves at the Ceilidh. Entry forms are available this evening or check out our web site.

BRANDON HIGHLAND FESTIVAL – SUSAN DUNHAM

The Brandon Highland Festival has been confirmed for our 2012-13 season, to take place Sat. April 27th, 2013 at Crocus Plains School, 1930 1st Ave. Brandon. Contacts are Susan Dunham and Brent Lowrie See website for more information www.brandonhighlandfestival.ca

SELKIRK HIGHLAND GATHERING – WES SHEPPARD

We would like to thank all those who came out to participate at the Gathering this year. Things went fairly well all things considered, the weather sucked. Rain in the morning and rain and lightning in the afternoon! We had to make a fast move to our indoor facility at the rec centre. It took a bit of co-ordination but with some patience and extra help, we got the contest on schedule and finished the day on time. We would like to extend our thanks to the many volunteers and especially the parents and members of the Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band and the St. Andrews Society Pipe Band who pitched in and helped us get set up in the morning.

Our band and solo entries were light, especially solos. There were no out of town bands participating.

Our date is set for next year on June 22-2013, location will be the Selkirk park.

RIVERWALK HIGHLAND GATHERING – VELMA DAVIS

The 2nd Annual Riverwalk Highland Gathering was held at The Forks National Historic Site on Saturday, May 26, 2012. The judges were Terry Lee, Andrew Lee, Derek Milloy, Doug Stronach and David Bowman. Although the number of solo competitors was less than last year – 48 solo competitors entered 80 sessions – there was great participation in the band events - 10 bands competed in 20 separate sessions. Feedback from all of the judges and competitors was very positive. The Committee is very appreciative of the support from the Prairie Pipe Association of Manitoba as well as from all of our other sponsors, donors, bands and individuals.

The 3rd Annual Riverwalk Highland Gathering will be held again at The Forks National Historic Site on Saturday, May 25, 2012.

Champion Supreme Awards 2012

PIPING

Chanter	Delaney Martin	Transcona & District Pipe Band
Novice	Ciaran Scanlon	Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band
Grade 4	Melissa Orobko	
Grade 3	Kelton Lynch	Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band
Grade 2	Adam Tingskou	Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band
Grade 1	Jamie Kubasiewicz	St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Gr 2

DRUMMING

Drum Pad	Donovin Kerr	Prairie Community Youth School of Pipes & Drums
Novice	William Maibaum	Two Rivers Pipe Band
Grade 4	Caitlin Wiens	Two Rivers Pipe Band
Grade 3	Shane Kirkpatrick	St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Gr 2
Grade 2	No Award	
Grade 1	Cameron Fidler	St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Gr 2
Novice Tenor	Trevor Clement	Prairie Community Youth School of Pipes & Drums
Int. Tenor	Alan Bridgeman	Prairie Community Youth School of Pipes & Drums
Novice Bass	Trevor Clement	Prairie Community Youth School of Pipes & Drums

PIOBAIREACHD

Grade 4	Stephen Moyer	Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band
Grade 3	Ross McMahon	
Grade 2	No Award	
Grade 1	Jamie Kubasiewicz	St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Gr 2

BANDS

Grade 5	Two Rivers Pipe Band	-
Grade 4	Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band	
Grade 3	St. Andrew's Society of Wpg	Grade 3
Grade 2	St. Andrew's Society of Wpg	Grade 2

Champion Supreme Winners must have competed in more than 50% of the contest events offered for their grade.