

THE BANDSMAN

JANUARY 11, 1971

FELLOW PIPERS AND DRUMMERS:

This is the first edition of the Newsletter which the Prairie Pipe Band Association hopes to publish and distribute to all its members on a bi monthly basis. The objectives of this Newsletter or Journal are really very straightforward - we hope to create stronger ties between all members and bands in the organization by using this Journal as a forum to keep each other better informed of what others are doing in their respective provinces and cities.

Any comments, letters, news releases or publicity of upcoming events which any member should wish to send to the interim editor, would be greatly appreciated. Please send all communications to: The Bandsman,
% C.A. Peterman,
1137 Elgin Avenue, Moose Jaw, Sask.

THE CONVENTION:

The Prairie Pipe Band Association held its 1st Annual Convention on October 3 and 4th, 1970 in Moose Jaw, and the following executive were elected for the 1970-71 year:

President	Mr. Jim McWilliams
Secretary	Mr. Cliff Peterman
Treasurer	Mr. Hugh Scott
1st V/Pres. (Man.)	Mr. Wm. MacLeod
2nd V/Pres. (Alta)	Mr. Brian Collard
3rd V/Pres. (Sask)	Mr. Don McDonald
Man. Executive members	- Mr. James Kidd Mr. Nigel Alakija
Sask. Executive Members	- Mr. Hugh Fraser Mr. Andy McAnsh

FIRST HONORARY MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION NAMED:

The Executive of the Prairie Pipe Band Association takes great pride in announcing to its general membership that Pipe Major Donald MacLeod, Glasgow, Scotland, has consented to being named the first Honorary Member of the Prairie Pipe Band Association.

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS:

Mr. Hugh Scott, Past President of the P.P.B.A. and Mr. Jim McWilliams, present President of the P.P.B. A. jointly composed an open letter to all the members of the Association. It is reproduced here in its entirety:

Dear Members:

At our 1st Annual Convention held on October 3rd and 4th, 1970 in Moose Jaw much was accomplished. Delegates from 15 bands were on hand. The only disappointment was that once again no Alberta bands were represented. This made it difficult to get any idea as to what the Alberta bands are thinking, in what ways can we help, or what new ideas are coming out of that province.

Last year's accomplishments may not seem enormous at first glance, but a considerable amount of work was done to put us on a firm footing for this year. The following is an itemized list of the objectives which were achieved:

- (1) Membership - 26 bands, plus several valuable individual members and associate members joined the P.P.B.A.
- (2) Constitution - The P.P.B.A. is now legally registered under the Saskatchewan Societies Act.
- (3) Competition Rules - A workable set of rules as agreed on by the bands was drawn up.
- (4) Judging Panel - A panel of piping and drumming judges was drawn up from the three provinces. This panel was accepted by the bands and has been used by several Games Committees.
- (5) Judging Sheets - A set of judging sheets were drawn up on the Ontario model, with the addition of an outline of the marking procedures on the front of each.
- (6) Bank Account - A final balance of \$124.64 was turned over to the new executive.
- (7) Band Competitions - Several competition Committees contacted and worked closely with the P.P.B.A. in setting up their competitions.

Several other matters were brought to the Association during the course of the year and these were dealt with as follows:

- (1) Assistance was given to the 17th Sqdn. R.C. Air Cadets in Yorkton to get their band back on its feet. We won't see the results from this until such time as the band gets back on parade again.
- (2) A meeting was held with a group of persons in Regina interested in sponsoring a Highland Games. As it was finally decided not to have a Band Competition as part of the Games, the Association's assistance was no longer required.
- (3) Enquiries were made regarding the possibility of obtaining financial assistance from government agencies including the Canada Council. Results appear to be negative in these regards, but ways may still be found. However, the Saskatchewan Arts Board gave valuable financial assistance in aiding us to give a hand to the 17th Sqdn., Yorkton.

The Executive realizes that the year 1970-71 now is a year for action. Several projects in keeping with our aims were decided upon. These are as follows:

- (1) To set up a means of assisting bands in remote areas to obtain instruction. To do this a 3 point plan will go into operation:
 - (a) Instructors' School - to train the most promising members, or the instructors of such bands to enable them to teach their own bands. This school will be held in the spring of 1971 and will be under the direction of P/M Andy McAnsh in Regina.

- (b) A taped lesson service - which will be in operation by next fall (1971).
- (c) Interim financial assistance to bands in remote areas (FPBA members only) to help in obtaining instruction. This will be available only prior to the first Instructors' School.
- (2) To obtain the co-operation of Competitions in the three provinces. We would like to be able to "recognize and approve" several of the better competitions. This entails use of our rules, judges, etc. This would certainly standardize and clarify the competition situation.
- (3) To set up a Journal or Newsletter to keep in touch with the members of all the bands in the Association.
- (4) To build a financial reserve in order to better carry out the plans for future years. A Ways and Means Committee was set up to deal with this. This committee is under the Chairmanship of Pipe Major Hugh Fraser.

These and several items of a more general nature will be dealt with this year. It is hoped that all of last year's member bands will get behind their new executive and help achieve these aims. We need your membership for many reasons, not the least being the financial aspect and your ideas. But all the ideas in the world will be of no assistance without your WORK.

Good luck in the new season.

Jim McWilliams,
President.

H.O. Scott,
Past President.

REPORT OF THE GRADING COMMITTEE (1971):

The current member bands of the Prairie Pipe Band Association (1970-71) have been graded as follows by the Grading Committee under Jack Kerwin:

FIRST GRADE

2nd North Sask. Regt.
Centennial Pipe Band
The White Hackle
Transcona Youth Pipe Band

SECOND GRADE

Saskatoon Police Pipe Band
10th Field Regt. R.C.A.
Dauphin R.C. Legion Pipe Band
A.N.A.F. Vets Pipe Band
The Fraser Pipe Band *
The Rivers Pipe Band #
Sterling Pipe Band #
Selkirk Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band #

JUNIOR GRADE

The Sprigs O' Heather
Transcona Junior Pipe Band

* - Promoted from Junior Grade though still eligible due to age limit. Will be classed as second grade unless band requests demotion back to Junior Grade.

- Junior Age except for Pipe Major

As other bands renew their current membership in the Association, they will be graded forthwith, and reports sent out.

Protests - Any band wishing to protest its grading is required to submit a written protest stating the reason for the protest. Protests must be in the hands of the Secretary by March 31, 1971.

Dues - Many bands and individual members have not as yet paid their membership dues for the 1970 - 71 season. We hope to hear from you regarding this soon.

Application forms for new members, band, individual or associate are available from:
Secretary,
Prairie Pipe Band Association,
C.A. Peterman,
1137 Elgin Avenue,
Moose Jaw - Ph. 692-5840

TUNE OF THE MONTH:

We hope to be able to present one good tune each month. To do this, we will need the help of all members. If you or your band is a member of the P.P.B.A. and you have a good, unpublished pipe tune which can be printed without an infringement of copyright laws, send it in. It may make the Tune of the Month!

If any of the Drummers out there have a favourite beating down on paper, send it in. We'll see what we can do.

Any submissions must be clearly and correctly written in pencil please. If there is a story behind the tune, let us know. Let's hear from you!

TUNE #1 - Pipe Major Jim McWilliams - by P/M Donald MacLeod

This tune was composed impromptu at Fort Qu'Appelle, on August 17, 1969.
