

ACPBA 2017 AGM Minutes

October 28, 2017 – 12 pm – Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada



1. Attendance: Kevin Dugas, Rick Crawford, Michael Sears, Lorna Maclsaac, Mike

Dupuis, Ray Halliday, James MacHattie, Kylie MacHattie

2. Call to Order: President Kevin Dugas called 2017 ACPBA AGM to order at 12:15pm

3. Review of minutes from AGM 2016

Discussed work on new trophies for Atlantic Canada piobaireachd challenge – there is a new company working on developing new medals

Motion to pass minutes submitted by Rick Crawford, seconded by Ray Halliday, motion passed

4. Reports:

President's report: Presented by Kevin Dugas

This marks two years since Kevin has been President – remarked about how the ACPBA had a successful year. The main goal moving forward into the next year is to improve communications (e.g., re-establish some form of newsletter) and to invest in judges seminars and player workshops.

Kevin Dugas moves for the report to be accepted, Rick Crawford seconds, motion passed

Membership Report: Presented by Kevin Dugas on behalf of Jillian Ramsay

-Both band and solo/family memberships were up compared to 2016

-Revisited the idea of all playing members, both in solos and bands, having to pay some sort of membership fee

-Discussed the two Quebec-based pipe bands that registered with the ACPBA this season in order to compete in Maxville

Kevin Dugas moves for the report to be accepted, Mike Dupuis seconded, motion passed

Chief Steward's report: Presented by Rick Crawford

Thanks to games organizers for a great job and acknowledgment to volunteers and sponsors of the various ACPBA games. Mr. Crawford noted that as always, the games were very highly organized.

The Chief Steward noted that with more and more players competing in multiple bands per season, the ACPBA will continue to be diligent with respect to ensuring that memberships are in good standing and eligible to compete based on the rules and regulations.

Rick Crawford moves for the report to be accepted, Ray Halliday seconds, motion passed

Grading Report: Presented by Rick Crawford

Mr. Crawford provided recommendations for upgrades.

Rick Crawford moves for the report to be accepted, seconded by Ray Halliday, motion passed

Communications and Social Media Report: Presented by Kevin Dugas on behalf of Amy MacKenzie

The ACPBA continued to strengthen communications and social media activity. Our website was updated regularly with competition results and updates, and our Facebook page was active with regular updates and information of interest in the piping and drumming community. The ACPBA is currently searching for a second Communications and Social Media Coordinator to assist with various communications initiatives. For instance, there is a large demand to re-establish a newsletter for electronic distribution to members and beyond.

Kevin Dugas moves for the report to be accepted, seconded by James MacHattie, motion passed

Games Liaison Report: Presented by Kylie MacHattie

From those games organizers who submitted reports, the sense is that most were satisfied with how the games ran this season. Of note was a relatively small turnout at the 2017 Atlantic Canada Piobaireachd Challenge. The 2018 event will be held in the new theatre at the College of Piping and organizers are hoping that will help to ensure a better turnout.

Kylie MacHattie moves for the report to be accepted, Rick Crawford seconded, motion passed

Music Committee Report: Presented by Kevin Dugas

Kevin Dugas thanked the Music and Grading Committee for their work and consultation over the past year. The committee worked very collaboratively and effectively on various items, and overall, the members represent a great depth of knowledge and experience. James MacHattie noted that there is still work to be done in order to formalize the ACPBA judging accreditation processes so that more local judges can become accredited.

Kevin Dugas moves for the report to be accepted, Kylie MacHattie seconds, motion passed

5. Regional Rep Reports:

REGIONAL REPORTS

Trevor Kellock – Cape Breton Representative

Piping and drumming in Cape Breton continues to build momentum this fall. The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo continues to support the growth of piping and drumming across the province, sponsoring lessons for youth learners. So far in Cape Breton, mainly in the Sydney and Christmas Island area, there have been 14 pipers and 5 snare drummers taught in previous years. This Fall there are 11 new drumming students, 6 new piping students, and 5 adult learners in a separate class who have started at CBU. It is my understanding that Kenneth MacKenzie continues to teach a number of youth learners in the Mabou area, and as part of the Cape Breton Feis music program.

The Cape Breton University Pipe Band in Sydney is working on further developing our youth players to be more prepared for next contest season, both in band contests and solo events. The band is active in the community, participating in several local parades and festivals, and is working through all the typical challenges new pipe bands encounter with gear, uniforms, etc. My understanding is the Cape Breton Highlanders are still active for special events that require

their services.

Lastly, there was an influx of fantastic piping in the community during the 2017 Celtic Colours festival with Seudan and Nuallan headlining several shows.

Denise Green - New Brunswick North Representative

Update on the 2 competitive bands in the NB Northern region

Fredericton Society of St. Andrew Pipe Band - Celebrating our 90th Anniversary!

Strong summer performances by the Grade 4 band and several individuals playing and placing in solos. Competing in Moncton, Antigonish, Fredericton and culminating with a celebration trip to Scotland to World's in Glasgow. Surpassed our expectations by advancing to the 4B Final and finishing 12 out of the 60 4B bands. (with a 5th place in drumming). Multiple parades across NB and one in Maine. (3 parades on Canada Day alone!) Summer concert series a great success. The Academy started Sept 9th, with a large increase in students of all ages and skill sets, both in piping and drumming.

Looking forward to this 2017-18 year we are looking to see a Grade 3 and hopefully Grade 5 band join the Grade 4 band on the ACPBA circuit!!

The Southern Victoria Pipe Band - At the beginning of the season, The Gathering of the Scots in Perth-Andover. Over the summer we played in parades in New Denmark (145th anniversary of the settlement), Grand Falls, Nackawic and Meductic. a concert in the July 1st celebration in Perth-Andover, and competed both days in grade 5 at the N.B. Highland Games in Fredericton. Several individual band members played at weddings, funerals, July 1st celebrations, and memorial church services during the summer. On Sept. 27th we will be performing in a music night at the Burns Hall, Kincardine,, which is to be filmed by a media crew from Scotland. On Nov. 11th we try to spread our band members as far as we can for area Remembrance Day ceremonies. The band always performs at the annual Robbie Burns Night concert in the Burns Hall, Kincardine, in late January. Our regular lessons/band practices will begin next Mon. Sept. 18th, at the Saint Mary of the Angels Catholic church hall in Perth-Andover. We are always looking for new members, and new students ages eight to adult are welcome!

Charlie O'Keefe – Newfoundland Regional Representative

There is little activity provincially (known to myself) other than the City of St. John's Pipe Band. The band did not compete this summer however they did support membership who competed with the Dartmouth and District Pipe Bands at various grade levels for both solo and band events.

The band continues to participate in local parades and functions and is gearing up to compete as a grade 4 band for one event this coming summer. The event/location has not been confirmed to date.

Tina Oliver – Metro and Valley Regional Representative

It's been another great year in piping and drumming for the bands in Halifax and the Valley. It seemed like a growing and re-establishing year for many bands this last year. 78th Highlanders Halifax Citadel had a great competition year travelling to Highland games in the Maritimes.

Dartmouth and District grade 2 band had a great summer competing in the games in the Maritimes as well as Maxville, this being their first year in grade 2, they were happy with their showing. The Grade 4 band also did well in the competitions in the maritime and in Maxville, ON. This also being their first year in this grade level, they were very happy with the results. This year they also were able to put together a Grade 5 band, were many of the pipers and drummers had only been playing for a year or two. The competitions that they completed it, they were happy with and they are so excited for what is to come this coming season.

The 36 Halifax Pipes and Drums as always are busy with parades around the province as well as competing at the Highland games throughout the Maritimes. They did a few concerts downtown Halifax as well.

Clan Farquharson was seen at many parades around the province.

RCMP "H" Division as always is out front in parades all around the Maritime provinces and other parts of the country, partaking in Canada 150 celebrations

Ray Halliday – NS North Regional Representative

First of all, congratulations to Claire Henderson and Brady Webb our Grade 2 Solo Piping Champions Supreme. Claire was First in Light Music, Second in Piobaireachd, Amateur Piper of the Day at Fredericton, Brady was First in Piobaireachd, Second in Light Music and Amateur Piper of the Day at Antigonish.

Corrections Canada Community Pipe Band competed at Pugwash, and Clan Thompson Pipe Band competed at Moncton and Antigonish.. Besides competing, both bands took part in community parades and events. Clan Thompson playing in Concert in New Glasgow in May and Antigonish in July to large audiences.

Gathering of the Clans was staged in Pugwash on July 1st, and Antigonish Highland games were July 8th and 9th. New Glasgow held their Festival of the Tartans, but did not hold piping, drumming or band competitions.

Colchester Highland Games and Gathering took place for the first time on September 9th 2017 in Bible Hill (Truro). The games were well attended and very well organized. They had a number of displays including a re-enactment camp and the NS Highlanders staged a mock assault. Colchester Legion, Nova Scotia Highlanders and Clan Farquharson Pipe Bands played. Shuttles were provided by Truro Nissan, taking people from the Exhibition parking lot, to the games site. From all reports the system worked very well. Although there was no Beer Tent, Roadhouse Willies Smokehouse & Bar is right at the main entrance. Plans are being made for a second Highland Games and Gathering, scheduled for September 9th, 2018. I'm hopeful there will be amateur Solo Piping and Drumming, and Bands Grades 5 through 3. Information will be released when complete.

Congratulatuons to Zach Smith from Datmouth & District on his Pipebanddrummer.com website. Zach has created a very useful and interesting web site and is a great resource to to all drummers. Well done Zach!

James MacHattie – PEI Regional Representative

2017 was a strong year for piping on PEI. The number of pipe bands on the island remained the same at four: three College of Piping bands and the Belfast Pipe and Drum Band.

While the Belfast Pipe and Drum Band did not actively compete in 2017, they were active in cultural events across the island, participating in parades, community functions, and are annually a featured performer at the PEI Highland Games in Eldon, held each year in August.

The College of Piping pipe band system had a competitive season which surpassed the instructors' expectations. The grade 5 band competed in both the marches and medley competitions and met with a great deal of success. The grade 2 band saw a number of new faces in both corps, and also had a successful venture on the competition circuit. The grade 4 band had a banner year, culminating in a win at the World Pipe Band Championships in 4B. All three bands would like to recognize the impact that John Walsh has had as a workshop facilitator and mentor to all three competitive groups. The grade 4 band plans to compete in grade 3 in 2018, and all three bands will go to Maxville for the North American Pipe Band Championships. The bands remain very active in community functions and parades around PEI.

6. Financial Report: Presented by Kevin Dugas on behalf of Jillian Ramsay

Kevin Dugas moves for the report and 2017-2018 be accepted, James MacHattie seconds, motion passed

7. New Business:

Lorna MacIsaac noted that the ACPBA executive should review strategic plans made in 2010 as much of it is still relevant today.

8. Elections:

Michael Sears was nominated by Kevin Dugas for the Vice President role. By acclamation Mr. Sears was accepted into the position.

Colten Patterson was voted in as the new Regional Representative for NB North

There were no nominations for Treasurer at the AGM

Kevin Dugas calls meeting to close at 1:30pm