

RCMP “H” Division Pipes & Drums

AGM 2005
Our 1st Year

Our 1st Year in Review

- The RCMP “H” Division Pipes & Drums was formed in May of 2004, joining six (6) other bands already in existence across the country.
- Experienced members of the piping and drumming community were recruited to join the band and in very short order a competent musical unit was ready for parade.
- However, uniforms and instruments were not forthcoming and the band did not appear publicly in 2004.

Our 1st Year (2)

- Over the fall and winter a limited number of kilts (10) were purchased, on credit, from a supplier in Ontario.
- Donations of red serge tunics were sought and the remaining items of uniform (hose, flashes, spats, dress belts, badges, glengarries, pipe cords and bag covers) were obtained to complete outfits for the ten members who were kilted.
- However, an equal number of band members were still not kitted, so a plea for assistance was made to the other pipe bands in the system and a loan of seven (7) kilts from “K” Division P&D and four (4) from Codiac P&D were arranged.

Our 1st Year (3)

- Codiac also provided, on loan, a number of tunics and other items of uniform to help see us through the summer.
- However, as of October 28, the “K” Division kilts have been returned and the Codiac items will need to be returned soon, again leaving us with a deficiency of uniforms, especially kilts, sporrans, belts, badges, etc.
- To further complicate our uniform and equipment issues, the band owns none of the drums currently in use.

Our 1st Year (4)

- All drums are borrowed from other bands in Nova Scotia and will ultimately need to be returned 'on demand'.
- Even the mace used by our Drum Major has been borrowed.
- The major challenge for the band has been acquiring the funding necessary to purchase uniforms and musical instruments.
- Personal loans have been made to the band to purchase some elements of clothing and equipment and credit was obtained from two major uniform suppliers.

Our 1st Year (5)

- One of these suppliers has been paid in full, thanks to a grant from the Mounted Police Foundation and the other supplier will be paid from funds earned over the last six weeks by the band.
- The personal loans are still outstanding.
- Recently, an RCMP ‘band officer’ was appointed and he has been exploring funding options (not large sums).
- He is also attempting to secure us space for uniform and equipment storage in the basement of “H” Division HQ.

1st Year Band Appearances

- May
- • Apple Blossom Parade – Kentville, NS (combined performance with Codiac P&D)
- June
- • RCMP Musical Ride – Halifax, NS (concert before main show)
- July
- • Gathering of the Clans Parade – Pugwash, NS
- • Metro Highland Games – Halifax, NS (duty band)
- • Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies – Halifax, NS
- August
- • Cross Border Festival – Calais, ME / St. Stephen, NB (combined band with Codiac P&D)
- • Canso Causeway Anniversary Parade – Port Hawkesbury, CB
- • Dieppe Anniversary Parade – Waverly, NS
- • Gold Cup and Saucer Parade – Charlottetown, PEI
- September
- • Old Home Days Parade – Berwick, NS
- • National Police Memorial Service – Ottawa, ON
- October
- • Law Enforcement Memorial Service – Halifax, NS
- • Concert at Pier 21 for Port Authority Dinner – Halifax, NS
- • Concerts on board cruise ships at Pier 21 (11 in total) – Halifax, NS

1st Year – Solo Appearances

- May 12 RCMP 'H' Div HQ - Regimental Dinner
- May 18 RCMP Amherst Detachment - Dedication of new building.
- May 27 Dalhousie Medical School - Graduation
- June 22 Sir Charles Tupper School - Grade 6 Graduation
- June 29 TayMac Tours - Pipe Delegates on to bus
- July 1 USMC Reunion Dinner - pipe at reception
- July 13 RNS Yacht Squadron - 100th Anniversary Marblehead Race
- Oct 6 Queen's University - Alumni Reception
- Nov 6 Bedford Baptist Church - Veteran's Day Service
- Nov 11 Faith Tabernacle – Concert for Veterans
- Nov 17 RCMP "H" Division Long Service Award Presentations

Remember all solo performances where RCMP P&D uniform is to be worn must be pre-approved by the Pipe Major.

Our 1st Year (6)

- The band has been a very positive public relations tool for the RCMP during its appearances this summer.
- It appeals to the general public and is attracting continued attention from pipers and drummers in the region and regular queries are received regarding joining the band.
- All band members deserve credit for a job well done!