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Western Tire Store

The Ingersoll Pipe Band gratefully acknowledges the active support and generosity freely given to the Band by the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club, extending over many years past. Without the Kiwanis Club, this book could not have been produced.

1910



1960

CELEBRATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INGERSOLL PIPE BAND



—(S.R. Photo)

THE INGERSOLL PIPE BAND - 1960

Front—Left to Right—P/M. A. Collins, J. Little, J. Fairbanks, D. Maitland, S. Thurtell, J. McGachie, D. Ritchie, P/M. R. Collins.
Rear—J. McRobbie, J. Muterer, D. Sivyer, G. MacKay, C. Johnston, G. Johnston, D. McLeod.
Absent—M. Hominick, T. Ellis, N. Edmonds, T. Bennett.

1960 Band Jamboree Souvenir Programme
Friday Evening, May 13th, 1960
Ingersoll District Memorial Centre 35¢

Pipe Major Alexander P. Collins



Pipe Major Alex. P. Collins
—(S.R. Photo)

Born at Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, Scotland, where he was educated, Alex. Collins learned the pipes at an early age. On the outbreak of the First War, he joined the 5th King's Own Scottish Borderers as a piper. After service in the British Isles, posted to France in 1917, transferring to the 17th Royal Scots. Part of this time he was personal piper to the general commanding the 35th Division, and saw action on the Somme.

Returning to Scotland and to civil life in 1919, Alex played as Pipe Corporal with the Ardrossan Shipyard Pipe Band, while employed as a railwayman. In 1921 he came to Canada to join his family in Ingersoll, and on his arrival was instrumental in the reorganization of the Pipe Band, and was appointed Pipe Sergeant.

Following the retirement of Pipe Major Johnston in 1935, Alex. was made Pipe Major, the position he is still filling with distinction, after 25 years. In his 39 years in Ingersoll, Alex. has led, instructed and inspired his band.

Pipe Major Robert A. Collins

The second generation of Collins' leadership is assured, as Pipe Major Robt. A. Collins, only son of Alex. and Mary Collins, is now taking his place as unquestioned deputy to his father. Bob began playing drums with the band at 8 years of age, learning side, tenor and bass drums, later learning pipes, as a piper of great talent. He has progressed through the ranks, first as Pipe Sergeant and recently, following his father's illness, as Acting Pipe Major. This unique situation gives the Ingersoll Pipe Band the distinction of having co-Pipe Majors, both of whom the band is extremely proud.

Alex. has 39 years — Bob has 21 years — between them SIXTY YEARS of service in the Ingersoll Pipe Band. A truly wonderful record!



Pipe Major Robt. A. Collins
—(S.R. Photo)

The Mayor's Message

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of Council and the Citizens of Ingersoll, to extend "Best Wishes and Congratulations" on the celebrating of your Fiftieth Anniversary.

The name of our town has been carried to many neighbouring municipalities by the Ingersoll Pipe Band, of which we are justly proud.

Best wishes for continued success.

ROSS FEWSTER Mayor,
Town of Ingersoll.



The Original Band of 1910

Photographed at C.N.R. Station, 1912, enroute to
Exhibition at Toronto

Standing—Left to right: P/M. T. Johnston, Wm. Collins, Geo. Mac-Queen, J. Little, R. Pearson.
Front—Wm. Wood, Jas. Vance, Pat Weeks.

The Ingersoll Pipe Band *1910 - Fifty Years of Service - 1960*

In 1909 James and John Little and their cousin, William Collins, came to Ingersoll from Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, and secured jobs with the Noxon Company. Scots were popular with the manager, himself a Scot, so the pipers wrote their old Pipe Major, the late Thomas Johnston. The arrival of Tom Johnston, as their leader and teacher, was the start of the band in 1910. The Noxon Company took the little band in hand, and helped and encouraged them, giving employment to suitable players and also helping with funds. From this time, no event of local importance was without the band. Also from this date is the association of the band with the Militia, now the Third R.C.R.

The First World War saw most of the Band in the 168th Battalion C.E.F., led by Pipe Major Johnston. As the 168th was a reinforcement unit, many were sent to join various units, one being the

21st, with which four Ingersoll men played their unit across the Rhine Bridge at Bonn, November 11, 1918.

The Band reformed after the war, teaching new pipers and drummers, as before. In 1921, Pipe Sgt. Alex. Collins came from Scotland to join his family here, adding new strength to the Band. During this period, the Band again travelled widely, and won many competitions. The older members and their pupils swelled the Band to greater numbers, and wider fame. Soon the Band was well known and in demand throughout Western Ontario and nearby U.S. points.

Pipe Major Johnston served as leader and teacher until resigning in 1935, his duties taken by Pipe Major Collins. From 1935 to 1939, the Ingersoll Band was training a new Band, also, at Embro, but the war finished this plan. Most of the lads joined the Forces, leaving the older members to struggle on through the war years. The Drum Section joined the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, Galt, as part of that regiment's Band, with more than one being wounded in action. Some also served in the other Services, leaving off piping for the duration.

Reorganized after the War, many new faces appeared at practises. Many members had left town, and so teaching again became of major importance. In 1948 new uniforms were bought, and for



The Noxon Pipe Band 1914

Standing—P/M. T. Johnston, Jock Johnston, Jas. Little, J. Fleischer, Jack Little, Wm. Collins.
Seated—Jas. Candlish, Gord Cline, Pat Weeks, Lorne Lee.



VICTORY, NOV. 11th, 1918 AT BONN, GERMANY

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie takes Salute as 21st Battalion Crosses Rhine
Left File of Pipe Band—Jas. Little, Jas. Candlish, Wm. Collins, Stan Strowbridge. All from the Ingersoll Pipe Band.

even some of the oldest members these were the first brand new uniforms they had ever had. The constant need of teaching for replacement of those leaving the area has been at times a burden, but it has also meant that there has always been a pool of trained men on which to draw. To-day, 1960 has 70% different personnel than even 10 years before.

Looking back at Fifty Years, and the many fine men who have built the traditions that now endure, the Band reflects gratefully on those who built sounder than they knew. The Band looks forward to continuing in their footsteps, to bring pleasure and distinction to the future.

Personalities from the Band of the Past

JOHN J. C. LITTLE—One of the founding members of the Band, still hale and hearty, still playing pipes after Fifty Years in Ingersoll. Even though he officially retired a few years ago, Jack Little still turns out to play on occasion, really is now an Honourary Member, a distinguished citizen and friend of all.



The Post War Band 1922

Standing—Left to right: P/M. T. Johnston, Robt. Burnside, Cal Sutherland, Jas. Copeland, Jack Little, J. Candlish, P/Sgt. A. Collins.
Seated—Jock Johnston, Joe Wade, Norm Gall, Wm. Collins.

PERSONALITIES—(Continued)

ROBERT JOHNSTON—Over twenty years with the Band, Pipe Sergeant for many years, Bob retired two years ago. Bob has been a talented teacher and with the patience of a Saint, has worked with some unpromising material to produce good pipers. Bob has always been noted for his keen wit, and many a brash upstart has been reprovved without malice. Gales of laughter always attended Bob Johnston's presence, and many a solemn occasion has been brightened by his humour. A good teacher, a fine fellow and a wonderful friend.

JOE BALFOUR—Many years Bass Drummer, trained in the Scots Guards, served in Two Wars. Joe was probably the most spectacular Bass Drummer in Canada. His flawless performance was always a highlight of the band, and when he was forced to retire a few years ago, his position has been impossible to fill.



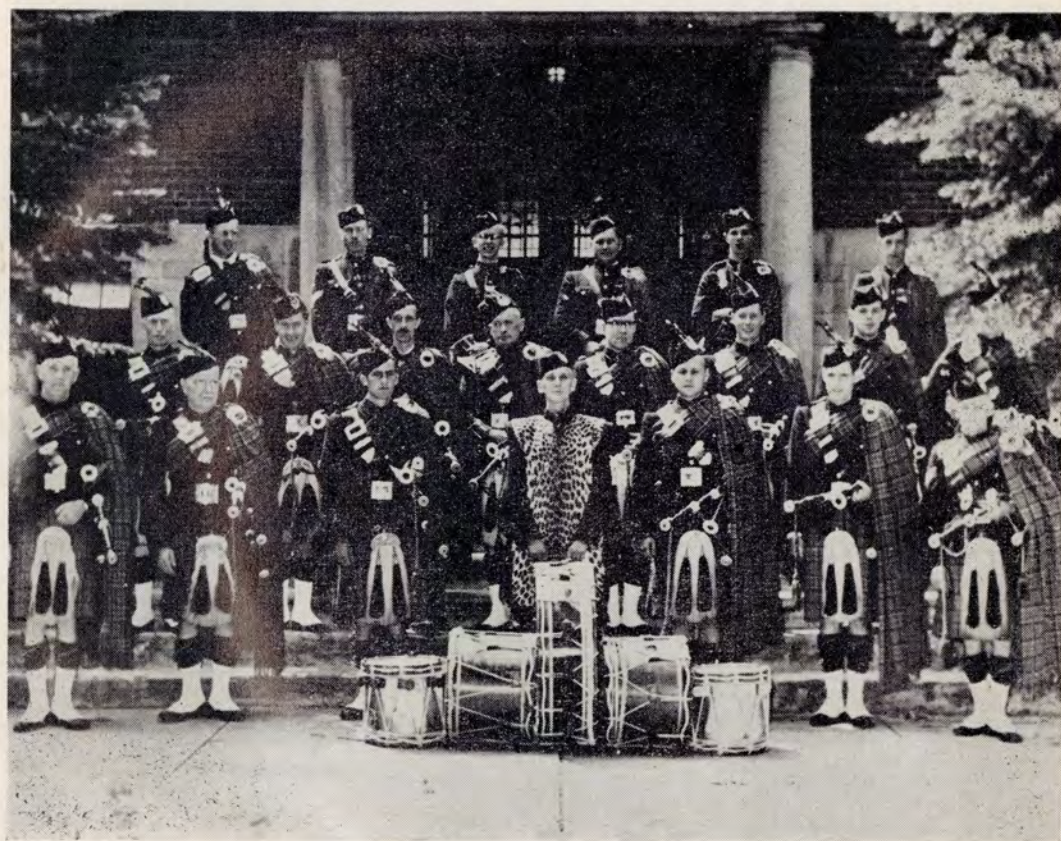
As War Clouds Gather 1938

Rear—E. Goodall, Geo. Schaeffer, V. Thornton, D. McCutcheon, A. Presswell, R. Pearson.
Centre—J. Little, Wm. Pearson, Wm. Collins, J. Balfour, J. Galbraith, Alex. MacKenzie, Don Wilson.
Front—P/M. A. Collins, J. M. Wilson, H. I. Stewart, P/Sgt. Robt. Johnston.
Inset—Wilson McBeath, Alex. Pearson, L. McNiven, Les. Hutchinson.

Band Engagements

The Ingersoll Pipe Band has been invited to participate in almost every sort of public function one can name. The various Highland Games, Embro, Hamilton, Toronto, Detroit, Buffalo, Dutton, have always been of particular interest to the Band, and many competitions have been won.

Most Band Engagements are of the street parade type, and usually for one charity or another. Last year, for example, of 28 engagements, 18 were Church Parades. During the summer season, there is hardly a week-end free from engagements. All this public service is performed by Bandsmen without personal reward. In fact, much hard practise and effort is required by all members. The wages are personal satisfaction for a job well done.



Another Post War Band 1951

Front—P/M. Alex. Collins, Jack Little, W. Muir, Tom Ellis, C. Mac-Dougall, W. McBeath, P/Sgt. R. Johnston.

Second—Wm. Pearson, Robt. Collins, D. Ritchie, D. Wilson, Robt. Wilson, D. Cole, Stew Thurtell.

Rear—Ivan Groves, Drum/Sgt. A. Presswell, M. Brooks, J. Fairbanks, Don Cole, D. Sivyer.

Band Jamboree Programme Ingersoll Pipe Band 50th Anniversary Friday, May 13, 1960, at 8:15 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies — Mr. Archie McCulloch of London

MARCH PAST OF BANDS

1. Ingersoll Pipe Band - - - - - March on the Colours
2. Ingersoll Boys' and Girls' Band
3. 3rd R.C.R. Oxford Garrison Band
4. Brantford Shriners' Club Oriental Band
5. Highland Light Infantry of Canada Pipe Band, Galt

Massed Pipe Bands

6. H.L.I. of C Pipe Band and Ingersoll Pipe Band
7. Scottish Grace—London Scottish Country Dancers—
with Ingersoll Pipers

INTERMISSION--15 Minutes

8. The 3rd R.C.R. Oxford Garrison Band - - - - - Selections
9. H.L.I. of C Pipe Band - - - - - Selections
10. Ingersoll Boys' and Girls' Band - - - - - Selections
11. Woodstock Imperials Drum Corps - - - - - Ceremonial
12. Brantford Shriners' Club Oriental Band - - - - - Selections
13. London Scottish Country Dancers—with Ingersoll Pipers
14. FINALE—Bands form up in centre of Arena.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN



On Parade 1951

The Great Highland Bagpipe

This most ancient of instruments was known in Egypt of the Phaorohs and the Rome of Nero, but reached its highest development among the turbulent and warlike Celtic races. The Scots adopted and adapted the pipes as irresistible, superseding the harp as their favoured instrument. Every nationality responds to the wild skirl of the Great Highland War Pipes -- making blood course faster through the veins, the head held higher, and an urge to step out becoming irresistible.

The early form of the bagpipe, with bag, chanter, blowpipe and drone remained unaltered until around 1500 when a second drone was added. A third -- the big drone -- being adopted about 200 years later. The Highland Clans had a piper to the Chief -- in many cases a hereditary office -- and several colleges were set up for the teaching of bagpipe playing. Here was developed the "Ceol Mor", or "Pio-baireachd," the classical music of the bagpipe -- which still stands comparison with the greatest compositions in the world of music.

The most famous college was that of the MacCrimmons of Skye, they being the hereditary pipers to the MacLeods of Dunvegan -- and flourished for over 200 years in the training of pipers from all over the Highlands. Many of their compositions are still played. After the Rising of 1745 the playing of the bagpipe was forbidden by the English, with harsh penalties provided. Also, the colleges of piping were broken up, and the pipers scattered.

On the formation of the Highland Regiments, the bagpipes being the favourite instrument of the Scottish soldiers, each company had its own piper. Gradually this evolved, with the various company pipers playing together, and by the 1640's the company drummers began to play with the pipers. From this regimental pattern the modern Pipe Band is descended. Even during the two World Wars pipers served in all the Scottish Regiments of the Commonwealth, many pipers being killed and wounded in playing to encourage their comrades in battle. This tradition continues, as any foot-weary soldier will tell you how the Pipe Band revives his flagging energy after a long march.

This continued popularity of the bagpipe has spread Pipe Bands throughout the British Commonwealth and beyond. In Canada there are over 500 Pipe Bands now organized, and others being formed rapidly.



A Newer Band 1957

Front—P/M. Alex Collins, Stew Thurtell, J. Fairbanks, N. Edmonds, Dave Ritchie, J. McGachie, P/Sgt. Robt. Collins.

Centre—Don McLeod, Don Robinson, G. Johnston, Jas. Mutterer.

Rear—Drum/Sgt. Don Sivyer, Cam Johnston, Dave Tribe, G. MacKay.