

QUIGLEY HIGHLANDERS PIPES AND DRUMS

The idea of having a community based pipe band was born seven years ago around a kitchen table at the home of Millan MacPherson's, while enjoying Celtic music and refreshments. The people sitting at that table decided to form The Quigley Highlanders Pipes and Drums (QHPD) to honour the former hamlet of Quigley's Corners, now Lochiel , Ontario , Canada. The community was excited that the QHPD was born, and that their motto was "Know Your Past, Empower your Future".

In 1845, Owen Quigley bought the lot on the north-west corner where Lochiel Road intersects with Old Military Road and established a store, post office, hotel and tavern, a cheese factory, a forge, sawmill, grist mill and potash plant. The corner quickly became hub of the surrounding community. Today, all that remains is a tiny cluster of houses but the old popular name, Quigley's Corners, lives on as an important part of the history of Lochiel. The motto expresses pride in the strength and courage of the Scots who left their homeland and established their families in Glengarry. People who no longer reside in Glengarry County still feel the connection and comfort it offers.

Formation of the band went quickly. Bandsmen ranged in age from sixteen to sixty and came from a variety of backgrounds, with varying degrees of experience. Under the leadership of the band's first Pipe Major, David MacPherson, and Lead Tip Margaret Boekhoff, were pipers and drummers who once played with Glengarry, Black Watch, Air Force, Dunvegan, Ottawa Police and others. People that never played an instrument before, including retirees quickly learned their instrument and joined the ranks.

In 2002, the band's dream would become a reality. The band was lead onto the field, by J.T. Mackenzie, for the massed bands at the Glengarry Highland Games. For both musician of old and new, this was a dream come true to take to the field and march with 1,500 other pipers and drummers. This was the first public appearance for the Quigley's, and a chance to debut their tartan, the Modern MacKenzie, in honour of JT and his contribution to Pipe Bands in Glengarry County and beyond.

In the competition circle, the band placed fifth out of twelve in its Grade 5 debut at Maxville. Judging by the reaction of the bandsmen and the many community supporters in the crowd, you would have thought we took first place. The honour of the our first competition win would have to wait until the summer of 2007, when the band took the top spot in Grade 5 at the North Lanark Highland Games (Almonte). Five years in the making, the win was celebrated all over Glengarry County.

The band is now under the leadership of Pipe Major Ron Graham, and Lead Tip Scott Graham. President of the Quigley Highlanders Association (not for profit organization) is Chris MacPherson, with the Secretary being Fiona MacPherson and Treasurer Sharon Davies. The Quigley's main source of fundraising is an annual dance dubbed "The Quigley Wigley", more formally known as "A Night with the Quigley Highlanders", which annually takes in late April/early May, at the Metcalfe Centre at the Maxville Fairgrounds. The band also enjoys support from the Alexandria Legion, Branch 423, where the band practices as well as several other local businesses. Thank You! Local media with the support of Ms. Margaret Caldbeck have also been very good to the Quigleys, we thank you as well.

Fiery enthusiasm, determination, seriousness in their mission, all while having fun fun, are the reasons that in Glengarry, the Quigley's have been embraced by the community with pride and affection.

"Know Your Past-Empower Your Future,"