

Royal Scots O'Mocha

2012-2013

The Royal Scots enjoyed another busy year in 2012. Our season started in January when we were invited to play for the Scottish Appreciation Night so ably hosted by Kilwinning Lodge, always an entertaining evening. We also enjoyed the Shrine Club's Robbie Burns Dinner. It's a good thing we are all haggis aficionados!

We spent our winter practices getting ready for the Kiwanis competitions under the leadership of our music director Ken Webster. In April, Don Gale, Winston Kooistra, and John Lynes travelled to Michigan City, Indiana to attend a Piping and Drumming Seminar sponsored by The Orak Shrine Club. (We won't report on the actual trip...it's an inside story!! Suffice it to say some time was spent at the side of an interstate).

In June we once again played for Kilwinning's Sunrise Service and Breakfast. We always look forward to one of the best breakfast buffets around. We were also pleased to play at the Spring Ceremonial held in Strathroy.

During the summer we played at the Bothwell Car Show, and in the Wheatley Fish Festival Parade. We also marched in the Annual Labour Day Parade in Sarnia.

A mid-September weekend found the band competing at the GLSA held in Mason, Ohio. We were really pleased that every member who competed won a medal, AND...drum roll please... we won the trophy in the band competition!

All this success fuelled our enthusiasm when we played at both the Thorndale Fall Fair and Wallacetown Fair.

We had a bit of a break in October while we readied ourselves for our usual busy Santa Claus Parade schedule. It started in November when we participated in the Christmas festivities in Dutton and enjoyed a Christmas drink back at John McIntyre's house. Next we were hosted in our annual pre-parade get together at Jim Carmichael's which warms us up for the West Lorne Parade. November ended with us playing an evening parade in Parkhill, where we are hosted a to a post parade supper at the Legion. (Did we mention how good their sandwiches are?) Our last parade for the season was in Bothwell...always dangerous as our wives go shopping at the furniture store!

December also saw us enjoying our annual Christmas party at the Shrine Club. We had cocktails while we visited with one another, followed by a delicious turkey dinner. After dinner we always enjoy some good old fashioned music provided by Charlie Thomson, Don Gale, John McIntyre, and Jim Carmichael. The culmination of the evening was the horserace game which has become so popular that we now have simultaneous events to ensure full participation!

January saw some changes to the Band executive. Our Band Director for the last few years has been Charlie Thomson, who has decided to step aside. His role will be ably carried out by Don

Gale. Stew Watt has finished his time as secretary and his shoes will be filled by Winston Kooistra. Our outgoing treasurer, Andy Longridge has turned the books over to Dave Kincaid. We wish to thank Charlie, Andy and Stew for their contributions and wish our new executive members all the best in their positions.

Remember, if you are stirred by the skirl of the pipes or the beat of the drums please join us at one of our practices (second and fourth Tuesdays of the month). To find out more about our band, feel free to call Don Gale (519 644-0131) or Winston Kooistra (519 951 8621).



Tenor Drummer Tex Colter, Piper Don Gale and Side Drummer Winston Kooistra celebrate success at GLSA



Did we say we were proud?!!!