

# Castleton drummer is world beater

By **BOB OWEN**  
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Tied of hearing that constant drum beating in your basement as your kid practices the drums? Be careful, that child may one day become a world champion!

Bill and Sue March can attest to that. The Castleton couple have just returned from Scotland with the 8 Wing Air Force Pipe Band. The Trenton-based group were awarded top honours for the efforts of the drum corps and fourth for the pipe band in the Grade 4 championships.

Bill has been a drummer since he joined cadets as a youngster. He can claim to have played a bit with Gordon Lightfoot, long before he became a Canadian icon. Sue came much later to the pipes. The retired school teacher has just under 20 years experience.

The couple moved to the outskirts of Castleton a year ago in search of the

Northumberland hills. Prior to that they had been elk farming near Fraserville where they still have 200 head.

Bill is a former professor at Sir Sanford Fleming College where he lectured in law and police science.

While at Sir Sanford he started a pipe band. The couple learned how to play the pipes together. Sue explains that the music for the pipes isn't easy to read. Even with grade eight piano she had difficulty at first.

On their last outing with the Sir Sanford band there were 16 pipers and a total of 26 participants.

In 1991 Sue joined the Port Hope Legion Band where she stayed until the move to Castleton. It made sense to play in Trenton. It was closer to their new home.

So, last fall they joined up, and after a winter of rehearsals they headed off to Glasgow with the 8 Wing Pipe Band.

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The 8 Wing Air Force Pipe Band pauses for a formal portrait in front of Auchincruise, Scotland. Bill is fourth from the right in the front row. Sue is third from the right in the back row.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Castleton drummer

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Competing against over 50 bands on August 16, they played a three-and-a-half minute medley of marches, placing fourth behind the Royal Army of Oman Band in the Pipe Band competition and first in the competition for drummers. Both are judged simultaneously by different judges watching for synchronicity and tuning as well as timing. The bass drums are actually tuned to the drone of the pipes. Also affecting their marks was the complexity of the music performed. Each band chose its own pieces.

Their playing has taken them other places as well.

Prior to joining 8 Wing Sue travelled to Scotland with the Port Hope Band. They have also participated in the Rose Bowl and Orange Bowl parades. Their pipes have been heard in the Bahamas, New Zealand and Australia.

The 8 Wing Band has become a large part of their social life. Last year the band or its members per-

formed in 274 engagements from parades to weddings and funerals.

Earlier this year they captured the North American Championships at the Glengarry Games. For the drummers it was a first-ever double gold - North America and the World.

Having accomplished so much, the pipe band wants to return to Scotland next summer and bring home the gold.

In Colorado they recently received rave reviews for their performances at the Long Peak Scottish/Irish Festival.

Their most recent request had them playing for the funeral of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Blanchette, the Commanding Officer of the Canadian Parachute Centre who died last week in a jumping exercise when his parachute released early in a water jump.

Friends and former students have asked them to pipe for their weddings. Sue says it's a special honour when she is asked to pipe at the funeral of a friend.

## Beaver program in jeopardy



First Colborne Cub Camp at Asphodel Provincial Park, May 30-June 1 2003. Such outings are in jeopardy without leaders.

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There have been Cubs in Colborne for 77 years and this will continue this year giving the youth of this area the benefits, adventures and memories of scouting.

If you can help with the Beaver program call Lynne Ashwood at 905 355 1859. All that's needed are two to three people.

Registration for both Beavers and Cubs will take place on Tuesday, September 23 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Colborne Public School.

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Unless someone comes forward there may be no Beaver Program in Colborne for the first time in four years. The leaders from last year's group are moving up with their children. That leaves a void for this year's group of 5 - 7 year olds.

For 77 years Colborne has had a Cub pack. Thirty years ago Scout Canada introduced the Beaver program. There have been Beavers in Colborne for 23 of those 30 years. Beavers is a program that encourages sharing, cooperation, teamwork, community involvement, respect and care for the environment. Everyone is a winner in Beaver games and everyone feels good. All this is accomplished through games, songs, crafts and excursions.

If no one comes forward all this will be lost to the children of our community. The program is in place; all that's needed is leadership.