## THE GLOEGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities BURGETOWN, GIEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL TIMEHOUSE, HORNBY STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD, TERRA COTTA

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## The Editor's Column

### PIPE BAND HAD UNUSUAL BEGINNING

In the short space of three and a half years, we have been struck with the rapid growth and the increasing popularity of a local group which has brought publicity to themselves and to Georgetown, in the person of the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band. We can recall the first time that Mr. Roy Magloughlen mentioned to us that he thought the idea had good possibilities and it was not long after that this was translated into action and the Pipe Band was organized.

Mr. Magloughlen recalls how Mary Cummins (now second in command) had mentioned wanting to learn the 'pipes' for some time, and was willing to sell her bicycle to buy the instrument. Mary was employed at the Bank of Commerce at the time, and a fellow-employee, Alice Costigan also became interested. The two girls said they would buy their own pipes and uniforms and look after all expenses if a band could be organized. With this request in mind, Jimmy Valentine was brought in on the idea. It was arranged that with Mr. Valentine teaching the drums, and Mr. Magloughlen the pipes, a band would be organized with a fee of 25 cents a week for each member, to be divided between the instructors, fees to terminate as soon' as the band made its first public appearance.

#### THE BAND GETS UNDER-WAY

The initial organization being underway in October, 1943, the members soon included Bertha Shelbourne, Ethel Kemshead, Doris Shepherd, (Mrs. Bert Raymond), Helen Shepherd (Mrs. Noel Cloutier), Geraldine Tyers, Muriel Hewson (Mrs. W. Emmerson), Marjorie Harlow (Mrs. C. Laws) and Marjorie Schenk. Planning to work with practice chanters until the arrival of pipes at Christmas time, plans were delayed when the shipment of pipes was lost at sea, and the first three or four sets were not able to be purchased until April 1st, 1943.

Mariotte Lyen, Col. Audiey Bearing and L Cols. Garage art, Helen McGill, Marjorie Schank and Rence Diggins as drum major?

The financial end of the business, and this is no small one after over two years of successful engagements and money-raising projects, is in the capable hands of president G. W. McLintock and treasurer Cecil Dobie.

As decided, the 25 cent fee was discontinued after this first public performance and the girls began to pay 10 ecnts a week into their own treasury to replace drum heads, reeds, pipe bags and make any necessary repairs to their equipment.

Th band is particularly proud that one of their members, Marjorie Schenk, was a member of the C.W. A.C. Pipe Band which has just returned to Canada after a tour of army camps in England and on the continent.

## YOU TAK' THE HIGH ROAD

In the 2331 miles travelled by the girls to play engagements outside Georgetown, the band has journeyed to many parts of Ontario, and has been particularly in demand during the autumn fall fair season. Proof of their popularity is evidenced in the number of return engagements booked, and two engagements in June are already scheduled for this year, one being at Oakville. Places visited include Guelph (5); Orangeville (3), Brampton (3), Huttonville (3), Brampton Army Camp (3); twice at Erin, Oshawa, Streetsville, Acton and Port Credit: and once at Milton, Tottenham, Norval, Malton, Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Christie Street Hospital, No. 2 District Depot,, Bolton, Niagara-on-the Lake, Toronto, Craig Lee and Limehouse. The Pipe Band played at the reception for Premier and Mrs. George Drew and members of the government, which was held at Mr. Stan Hall's last summer, and we must not forget the three paid engagements at Georgetown Fair, as well as a number of charitable events in town and district. Periodically the band has held its own carnivals and entertainments, the last being the Mid-Winter Revue staged at the Gregory Theatre.

#### A PAXING ORGANIZATION

The band is grateful to the generous people of lown and ommunity who have patronized their entertainments and made it unnecessary for any personal donations to be sought.

Approximately \$2500 in instruments and uniforms has all been bought and paid for from the funds and there is money in the bank to purchase a 21-passenger bus to provide transportation for this season:

The band has a set fee for engagements, being \$5 per member per day, \$3 per afternoon or \$2 per evening. Fransportation and meal expenses are extra to this. The fee is paid to members when on parade at the next rehearsal. This schedule of fees has been in effect ever since the inauguration of the band and on



It was then that the work really started, and to avoid curious spectators and early publicity, he group journeyed to the rural districts for practices. Happy memories are still recalled of visits to the homes of John Newton, Hazen Graham, Fred Charles, George Leslie, J. J. Thompson, Don Reid, Dan McLaughlin, Angus Lawson, Vern Picket and Jos. Ross. A couple of hours of practice on pipes and drums were invariably followed by delicious refreshments served by the hosts, and it sometimes seemed as if the farm ladies were having a contest to see who could serve the most delicious lunch. Those were the days!

It was during this period that the uniform material was bought and made up in secret by Mrs. William Roney and Sgt. Alex Smith of the 48th Highlanders.

## THE FIRST ENGAGEMENT

On July 1st, 1943, everything was ready and headed by Chief W. G. Marshall as escort and Shirley Wright as drum major, the band paraded from the home of E. B. Tyers to Mill Street where a street carnival was in progress to aid band finances, playing one of the six tunes which had been mastered by the girls. This first appearance was an outstanding success and many were the favourable comments reported. The Pipe Band was on its way!

## BAND PERSONNEL

The present make-up of the band includes twenty young ladies from Georgetown and district. The pipe section is headed by Sgt. Mary Cummins and includes Cpls. Alice Costigan and Grace Beerman and L Cpls. Inez Scott, Bertha Shelbourne, Eleanor Smith, Shirley Wright, Joan Marchington, Helen Shelbourne, Betty Hunter and Kay Tyers. The drum section includes Sgt.

more than one occasion, the band has received one hundred dollars for an engagement.

## A BOOST FOR GEORGETOWN

We can think of no single group which has done more to advertise the Georgetown community than the Girls Pipe Band. Publicized both in Canada and the States, it has received mention in English newspapers as well, and will undoubtedly be one of the features when the Canadian National exhibition reopens in Toronto next year, - that is, if a different type of "engagement doesn't deplete the already thinning ranks of older members. Lady pipers are not immune to cupid, and alrady several of the original members have married or movd to other towns. Their places are filled by new recruits interested in learning the pipes. Each new member is chosen with care, and must be voted upon by the other girls before she is invited to join the group. She must show that she has a real interest in music and that she will do credit to the band.

## A NEW HIGH SCHOOL

If the opinion of a representative group of citizens who gathered in the municipal building last night can be taken as representative of the town's opinion on a whole; it would appear that Georgetown's war memorial will take the form of a new High School with more and better facilities for educational and recreational facilities for our young people. With this we are in full . agreement. It is impossible to ever repay those whose lives were sacrificed, and those whose best years were given to the defence of democracy, and if the town can provide better education for their children it will be at least a partial payment on the debt owing. The veterans

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themselves, according to those in close touch with them, are behind a high school project, and if we all are prepared to help pay for it, both in taxes and private donations, there should be no obstacles towards an early planning.

Toronto

Some details, of course, remain to be settled. The question of remodelling vs a complete new building; what extra facilities such as a swimming pool should be embodied in the building; to name but two. But these are matters which can be dealt with in committee once the project is definitely adopted.

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