

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Linda Pilgrim blows her lungs out every day of her life and loves it. She's been a member of the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band for 15 years, playing the bagpipes.

Most people are moved by the sound of a Scottish Pipe Band and Linda is no exception although she doesn't get to hear it much. From deep in the middle of the pipe band all she hears is a mass of confused sound.

Linda "got hooked" on the pipes in her early teens when she joined the 37 year old Pipe Band. Pipe Major, then and now, is Virginia Hulme and it is she who taught all her girls to play. She also instructs in piping at Sheraton College.

Finding the pipes physically difficult to master, Linda says it's the most satisfying instrument once it has been learned. The pipes are usually imported from Scotland and are purchased by each piper, although the uniform is donated by the band. A good set of pipes may cost up to six or eight hundred dollars and consists of a chanter—a pipe like instrument used to play the tune—a blow stick, and three drones over the shoulder to produce the background notes. These are made of a special seasoned black wood.

The bag is made from leather and is kept inflated under the piper's arm, where the player applies continuous pressure. The air escaping from the bag produces the sound—a piper does not "pump" the bag, I was told.

The pipes need care every day and should be played frequently. Although Linda used a practice chanter by itself she does try to play the pipes every day in the summer when the band is on the move and practice is essential. She says her Main Street South neighbours are marvelous and don't complain about her backyard practice, although she often goes to the park to play taking three year old daughter Michelle for fun on the swings.

Moisture affects the pipes, as does cold. "Which is why we sound so lousy in Santa Claus parades," Linda groans.

The reeds in the pipes are fragile and need to be changed frequently—fortunately there's a supplier in Brampton.

Just the right damp

The Girls Pipe Band uniform consists of a McGregor tartan kilt, white shirt with lace jabot and black velvet vest made by the girls. This is completed by a glengarry on the head, heavy tartan-design argyle socks and men's oxford shoes with a buckle on the front.

This summer uniform can be hot as Linda remembers on that hot humid 90 degree day of the Speyside Highland Games in Georgetown this year—"the pipes loved it though," Linda laughs.

In winter pipers wear a smart green doublet with the tartan over the shoulder.

Activities of the Pipe Band are considerable. As well as appearing in many parades, the band travel to the Fergus Highland Games, the Parade of Pipers in Toronto and competition at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The group is going somewhere every weekend in June, most in July and August, and are kept busy with parades in September.

The band are proud of the fourth place they won in stiff competition at the Fergus games last year.

They also remember fondly being asked to appear in the shooting of the movie "Never Trust an Honest Thief" with Orson Welles this summer.

Linda herself played for then opposition leader Joe Clark when he was in Acton campaigning last spring.

The Pipe Band is also planning a mass trip to Scotland in 1981 and is busily putting on dances, craft and bake sales to raise the money.

All ages and areas in band
Linda gives all the credit for the Pipe Bands successes to Pipe Major Virginia Hulme.

Virginia does all the teaching, arranging, repertoire changes, and marching designs Linda explains.

"She likes to start youngsters as young as seven or eight," Linda says.

However, the youngest band members are in their teens. There's also a group of young adults in the 25 member band and a group of "senior citizens" as Linda calls her age group—"Mothers who'll stick with it even if it kills us," she chuckles.

Members travel from all over the area for band practices several times a week in the summer and weekly during winter. They come from Orangeville, Woodbridge, Mississauga, Burlington and Acton.

The band has very good camaraderie, Linda says, and despite age differences, really enjoy each other's company on trips.

Linda also states she couldn't keep up her band work without the support of husband Ken who is enthusiastic about her playing. An ex-school teacher at Stewarttown School, Linda now devotes her time to little Michelle, her dogs, cats, bird and her pipes.

She says piping is very good for every organ in the body, specially the heart and lungs. I believe it—she sure blows up a balloon fast.

The concentration and intense delight on her face as she plays are as stirring as the sound of the pipes,—and her toes wiggle when she reaches the high notes!



Linda Pilgrim



Signs down

A Halton Regional police officer on his way from Acton to Guelph on September 30 reported that two speed limit signs and five warning signs between Acton and Creswell's Corners had been knocked down.

Ministry of Transportation and Communications employees have replaced the signs. Halton Regional Police report that a car parked on Churchill Road was entered on October 3 with a portable radio, gear shift knob and a car lighter stolen.

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Minor injuries

The driver of this van escaped serious injury Monday after his vehicle went out of control on Churchill Rd. N., taking out a hedge, fence, and flower beds of Alice Doby's home. The van was a total write-off. Leaking gas was washed down by the Acton Volunteer Fire Department while crowds gathered.

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Tuesday meet

Halton Women's Place committee has been busy lately, organizing a variety of fund-raising events to bring in money for its women's shelter, to open in early 1980.

An open meeting is planned next Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Grace Anglican Church Hall.



I wish to thank everyone who supported me during the recent election!

Dave Whiting

Reulens retires as police head

After nearly 15 years the Halton Regional Police Association will have a new leader.

Constable Al Reulens, who has been either president or vice-president of the 264 man association for most of that period did not seek re-election at the last annual meeting.

Reulens said he was vacating the position he held for so long for personal reasons.

Constable William Gall was the only one of four people nominated for the position to run. He was

elected unanimously. "I'll still be available to defend any of the people who need help," Reulens said. "I expect that's something the new executive will be leaning on me rather heavy for."

Other executive officers of the Association will be named Wednesday when ballots from the election are counted.

Reulens said the only major piece of business to complete before he vacates his position is the completion of an agreement for the 75 civilian employees represented by the Association.



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Centre Cut Chops lb.	\$1.89
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Fresh Rainbow Trout	Arriving Daily!

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