

Local youth beats all to be World Pipe Band champion

A Georgetown youth still can't believe that the drum corps he plays with captured a first place title in the recent World Pipe Band Championships.

Cameron Trotter, 14, is one of 10 drummers with the corps of the Hamilton Police Pipe Band that won the drumming title in the 3B classification at the championships held in Glasgow, Scotland last month.

Cameron's brother Nathaniel, 17, is also a member of the band. He is a piper with the 32-member Hamilton band, which placed ninth overall out of nearly 30 bands.

The band's lead drummer John Gaudet said expectations are usually limited when competing in a foreign country in judged events.

"We knew we were going to be close," said Gaudet. "We were probably the youngest band to participate at that grade level."

Gaudet said the young band members have worked hard to bring their skills up to an elite level.

He and the other instructor Ian Madeiros have been raising the bar for the drummers. The majority of the band members are aged 14 to 16.

Cameron, a bass drummer in the corps, has been playing the drums since he was 11 years old.

"What makes Cameron unique is there are very few 14 year olds playing (the bass drum), let alone playing at the level he's playing at," said Gaudet. "He's extremely talented."

Gaudet said that the bass drum "is such an integral part of the pipe band."

"We rely on the bass drummer for so many things. His tempo and timing has to be 100 per cent," said Gaudet, stressing that Cameron's is.

Gaudet said that Nathaniel is also an "exceptionally talented" piper. The two brothers became interested in pipe band music from years of listening from their backyard to the pipers and drummers playing in the Georgetown Highland Games. Nathaniel chose to play the bagpipes to learn how to play and, not wanting to do the same thing as his brother, Cameron decided on the drums.

The boys, both Georgetown District High School students, spend a lot of time practising on their own, and twice weekly with the band. They also both take individual lessons.



Cameron (left) and Nathaniel Trotter of Georgetown are members of the Hamilton Police Pipe Band, that recently placed ninth overall in their classification at the World Pipe Band Championships in Scotland. Drummers from the band, Cameron plays bass drum, won a drumming title in the competition.

During the performing season, which starts in May, the band practises three or four times a week.

The Hamilton band also won a competition in North Berwick, a resort town near Edinburgh.

It wrapped up Scottish competitions by finishing just behind a 2005 World champion at the Perth Highland Games.

The band has active teaching programs for young drummers and pipers, said Gaudet.

"We're moving at lightning speed. We hope to advance to Grade 2 next year," said Gaudet.

The Hamilton Police Pipe Band has three active bands and more than 60 pipers and drummers. For more details, visit the website at www.hamiltonpipeband.com.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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