

These girls do get around

Spotlight on Milton Girls' Pipe Band

One of the cutest, and by far the most popular pipe bands in this area is operating from Milton's Pine St. Union Hall. If you're a resident of the area, you're quite familiar with the Scottish music resounding from the hall on Monday evenings, and it's not uncommon to see the group of 14 girls marching around the hall or on Bruce St. school yard, practising for a parade.

The Milton Girls' Pipe Band members not only good looking, but excellent musicians as well. "We can certainly give the men's pipe bands a run for their money," quipped one of the group.

More practises
At present the 14 girls attend practises quite faithfully. "But when the summer comes with all the parades and fairs, we'll have to practise twice a week," said past president Marilyn Martin. The rest of the group groaned at the thought of the hot summer practises but echoed together that "practise makes perfect."

Executive members of the group include president Susan Martin, vice-president Suzanne Ricketts, secretary-treasurer Zandra Miller and assistant secretary-treasurer Marilyn Martin. Marilyn Martin is the acting pipe major, with Suzanne

Ricketts the drum major, Zandra Miller the drum sergeant and Marg, Janie and Vicki Bird as quartermasters.

The Milton Legion Ladies Auxiliary now sponsors the band and provides them with \$200 a year to buy crests, blazers and instruments. "The Legion men also gave us a donation last year and also stage dances with the proceeds donated to us," reported the past president.

The band has been in existence in Milton for the past 14 years, originally started by Barb and Frances Lemon of town. "We used to finance ourselves by selling chocolate bars and Christmas cakes during the

holiday season, but with our new sponsors well, we certainly appreciate all that the ladies are doing for us."

The girls, ranging in age from 11 to 20, are easily recognized in their pert uniforms of red and green McNichol tartan. The uniforms consist of matching knee high socks, green doublets (for winter wear only), white blouses and matching ties (for summer) and a plaid kilt with beret type hat to complete the uniform.

Mainly a parade band, the group performs an average of 15 times a year, locally in other parts of the province and the United States as well. Locally the

band plays at fairs, the steam show, the Manor garden party and for first time this year at the snow carnival and an OSD track meet. "It was quite exciting to lead the team onto the field," added another member of the group.

"We have played in New York and Pennsylvania for steam reunions and will be back to Pennsylvania again this summer." The band also enjoys trips to Stoney Creek (for Canada Flag Day), Toronto for the Orangemen's Parade and Hamilton for the Safety Parade. "We have always played in the Orangemen's parade in Toronto in years gone by, but this year we weren't asked to participate. Maybe the reason is because our group is so small," Miss Martin noted.

In a recent venture the group played for the Decoration Day parade in Acton on Sunday and are practising for several upcoming events.

Harvey Brush instructs the band in techniques and each girl admits she practises "fairly faithfully" on her own.

New drums and chanters (instruments each girl learns to play on before she is given her own set of pipes) were recently bought with funds provided by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary. To repay the Legion ladies for their financial assistance in keeping the band going, the girls help out regularly at the Tuesday evening Legion bingos.

New members are trained by the group and it takes pipers anywhere from three months to a year before they graduate from the chanter to the pipes. "You get used to the weight of the pipes and you don't even notice it when on parade," one said.

The band is well received wherever it goes and as an added attraction to give the audience a change of pace, Karen and her sister Suzanne as well as Susan and Marilyn Martin, set down their instruments and perform as highland dancers. The remaining members of the band supply music for the girls.

As a year end treat for the girls the Legion auxiliary pays for the group to enjoy dinner out at the Tien Kue restaurant in Burlington. "That Chinese dinner is certainly welcome after a year of steady practising. Before our big end of the year bash we have

something to look forward to. After it's over, it's back to the pipes and drums, and more hard work to strive for next year's goal," said Marilyn.

Although the band is small "we are always looking for new members. Our motto is, quantity

doesn't always replace quality, and that's just what we work for."

Other members of the band are Caroline Dempster, Arlene Graham, Beth Harrison, Susan Martin, Marilyn Miller, Patricia Powell and Karen Ricketts.



MILTON GIRLS' PIPE BAND holds their weekly practises in Pine Street Union Hall. The group is sponsored by the Milton Legion Ladies Auxiliary and the girls march and play in parades across Canada as well as in the United States. The girls range in age from 11 to 20.—(Staff Photo)



PARADE FORMAT for marching is also a weekly practise session for the girls. Here only the pipers of the band demonstrate their skills. Left to right are Beth Harrison, leading the group, Audrey Falkenstein, Janie Bird, Marilyn Martin, Trisha Powell and Caroline Dempster.—(Staff Photo)



BOOMING OUT A SOUND is Margaret Bird on the bass drum. She keeps pace with the other pipers and drummers in a lively Scottish tune.—(Staff Photo)

60 years minister

The Rev. Dr. B. J. Warr, a retired United Church minister living on Thomas St. in Milton, recently returned to Springdale, Newfoundland to preach on his 60th anniversary in the ministry.

It was at Grace United Church in Springdale that Dr. Warr first preached after entering the ministry 60 years ago. He served in various congregations across Canada and retired 10 years ago while serving St. John's Church in Stratford. For several years he did relief work at St. Paul's United in Milton.

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2050 Guelph Line
P.O. Box 5005
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The Burlington area telephone number will be:
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Halton County residents will continue to use Zenith 1-9220 to reach the Central Administration Office toll free.

All other area telephone numbers remain unchanged.



TUNING UP ON THE CHANTERS, this group of nine members of the Milton Girls' Pipe Band plays a tune on their instruments. Practising left to right around the table are Audrey Falkenstein, Zandra Miller, Arlene Graham, Janie Bird, Beth Harrison, Vicki Bird, Trisha Powell, Marilyn Martin and Caroline Dempster.—(Staff Photo)

Fires burned two and a half million acres in Canada in 1970.

Lightning storms can be tracked by radar.

Dutch Elm disease is spreading in Canada.

Kelso music students plan three concerts

Students at the Kelso Music Centre, which is operating at Ontario School for the Deaf campus in Milton this summer, are planning three concerts open to the general public just before the three-week course in chamber music concludes.

The first will be held Wednesday evening, July 21 at 8 p.m. at the Oakville Public Library, Navy St., Oakville. The following evening, Thursday July 22, they will present a concert at the OSD senior auditorium starting at 8 p.m.

Final concert is Friday afternoon, July 23 at 3 p.m. at OSD.

There is no admission charge and citizens of this area are invited to attend the concert and see how well the young musicians perform after their 21-day cram course in string chamber music.

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