

ARTS

Local drummer keeps world-class beat in Scotland

Duthart leads corps to championship triumph

By Robin Downton-Poirier
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Following in his father's illustrious footsteps, drum sergeant Drew Duthart of Milton led his drum corps to win the 2007 World Champion Drum Corps title in Glasgow, Scotland August 11.

A five-year member of the Scottish Lion 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band (SL 78th), Duthart said the win is his most memorable achievement and is extremely special.

"It is really exciting to win the world championship and to see my name on the sash (presented when he won) along with my father's," said Duthart. "My father won the world championship eight times in his career so this win is extra special for me."

Duthart, 44, comes from a long line of drummers, including his grandfather and father, the latter being famous throughout the pipe band world for his innovative drumming and leadership. Alex Duthart won awards worldwide, both for solo and team performances, before his sudden death in 1986, and his youngest son has followed his lead.

"My whole family are drummers and I began getting into it seriously when I was nine years old. It feels like I've been playing for a million years," laughed Duthart. "My dad had been a drum sergeant for as long as I can remember and it was just natural for me to pick it up."

Duthart was born in Scotland and grew up with the tute-

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BEAT OF HIS OWN DRUM: Drew Duthart (centre) performs with his SL 78th corps at the world championships in Scotland.

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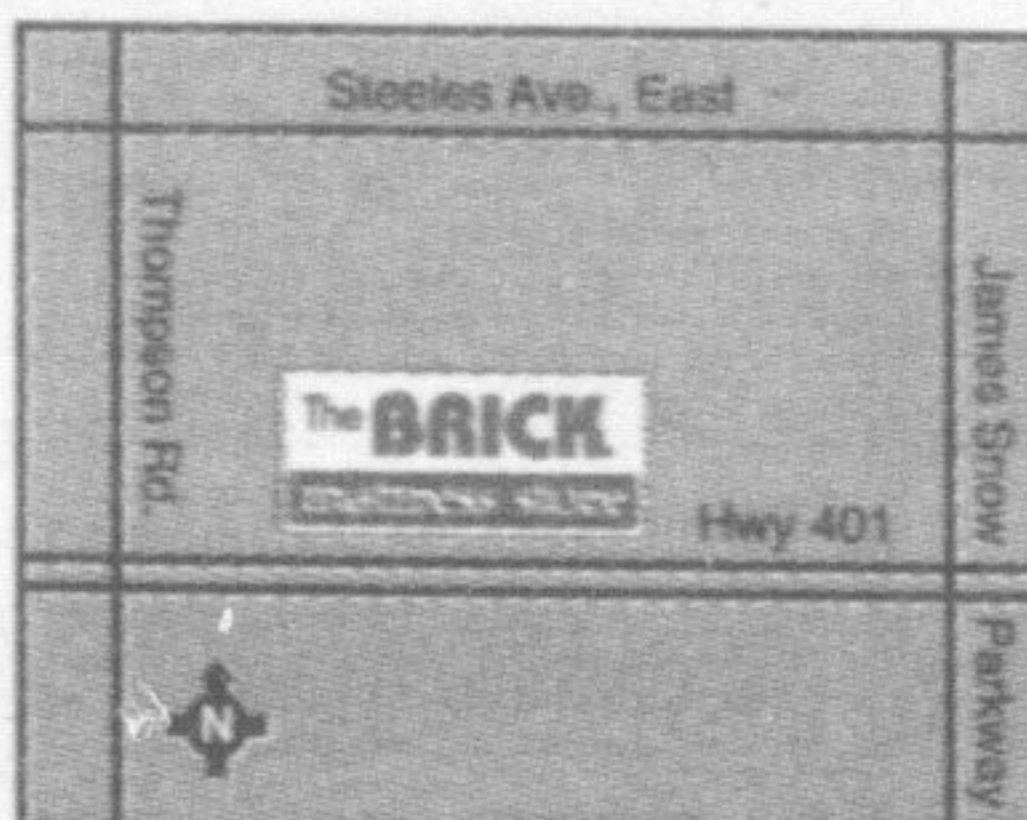
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