

2015 Pugwash Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day Report

The 64th anniversary Pugwash Gathering of the Clans went exceptionally well and the weather was almost perfect. July 1st fell on a Wednesday, but that did not seem to deter the crowds. We had a much better attendance than one would expect and it was up 13% from last year.

Gate

Entrance gate returns were \$24,724. This 13% increase is reflected in the increased wristband count of 4,660 adults and 667 students. Very strict controls are kept over wristband and gate income security. The fact that numbers match so closely are a testament to that.

There is an estimated thousand additional participants that are not included in the paid wristband count. These include competitors and judges in the Highland Dance and the pipe and drum competitions, participants in the heavyweight Highland games, the Canada Day parade, vendors and the 150 or more volunteers that made the day so special for all involved, residents and visitors alike. Many purchase a wristband anyway, which is greatly appreciated.

Highland Dance

The day started with 78 dancers competing on Eaton Stage in Highland Dance. The Bonnie Gael Huston Memorial award went to

Parade

The theme for the Canada Day Parade was "Canada's Flag's 50th birthday". There was no Parade Marshall. The Parade results were:

Commercial

1st: Cunningham Construction

2nd: K+S Windsor Salt

3rd: Roy Mattinson and Son

Non- Commercial

1st: Miller Road MX Crew

2nd: George Lockhart

3rd: Pugwash District High School

Antique Vehicles

1st: Allis Chalmer's Model G

2nd: 1933 Ford half ton truck – John Vandeweil

3rd: 1971 Chevrolet Malibu – Jerry Jamieson

Most humorous: K+S Windsor Salt

Pipes and Drums

Eight pipe and drum bands competed this year! This is biggest number of bands to compete for many years. Grade 3 was won by Dartmouth and District Pipe Band. In Grade 4, first place went to Simonds Lions Caledonian Pipe Band, 2nd to Clan Thompson, 3rd Belfast Pipe and Drum Band. Grade 4 runners up were Correctional Services Canada Community Pipes and Drum Band and Antigonish Highland Society and Old Scotia Pipe and Drum band. Grade 5: 1st was Dartmouth and District and 2nd went to 36 Halifax Pipes and Drums. After the competitions were over the bands massed and marched up Water Street as far as Black Street for their prize giving.

Entertainment

The entertainment of Eaton stage rocked throughout the afternoon and evening ending up with the great fun of Rawlins Cross who played until the fireworks were set off at 10pm.

Vendors

There were 30 vendors, including 5 food vendors. The Gathering will look into encouraging more food vendors to come to Pugwash.

Gate income helps support local and area community non profit groups. The groups benefiting this year include: the North Cumberland Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, The Pugwash and District Volunteer Fire Department, the Pugwash and Area Ground Search and Rescue, HarbourFest, Pugwash and

Area Chamber of Commerce, Pugwash Legion Peach Branch 60 and Friends of the Pugwash Estuary.

Preparations are already under way for 2016, the 65th anniversary of the Pugwash Gathering of the Clans and 2017, the 150th anniversary of Canada (Dominion) Day.

Many, many thanks go out to the volunteers who do a tremendous job helping with events and helping our visitors enjoy their time in the beautiful little Village of Pugwash.