

2016 Pugwash Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day Report

The 65th anniversary Pugwash Gathering of the Clans went exceptionally well with almost perfect weather. The day started early with a very successful pancake and sausage breakfast at the fire station and ended late with a dance at the Eaton Dining Hall (Lobster Factory).

Gate

Entrance gate returns were \$23,356 with 4,366 adults and 672 students purchasing wristbands. It is estimated that there is at least a thousand additional participants 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 100 dancers competing on Eaton Stage in Highland Dance. The Bonnie Gael Huston Memorial Trophy was awarded to Larissa Godin from Bathurst, New Brunswick.

Parade

The theme for the Canada Day Parade was "Get your Tartan On!" The Parade Marshall was Peter Lewis. Peter is a retired teacher and well known for his volunteer efforts in the community. He is currently chair of the "ad hoc committee for a new Health Care Facility in Pugwash". The Parade results were:

Commercial

1st: K+S Windsor Salt

2nd: Cunningham Construction

3rd: Pugwash Co-op

Non- Commercial

1st: Communities in Bloom

2nd: Churches of Pugwash

3rd: Miller Road MX Crew

Antique Vehicles

1st: 1947 Ford station wagon owned by George Verrilli

2nd: 1925 Model T truck – Blair Tattrie

3rd: 1956 Chevrolet black truck -

Most humorous: Pugwash Co-op

Pipes and Drums

Four pipe and drum bands competed this year. In Grade 4, first place went to Belfast Pipe and Drum Band. In Grade 5, first place went to Dartmouth and District Pipe and Drum Band, 2nd went to 36 Halifax Pipes and Drums and 3rd was Correctional Services of Canada Community Pipe and Drum Band. After the competitions were over, the bands massed and marched up Water Street as far as Black Street. MLA Terry Farrell was on hand to present the band prizes.

Heavyweights

The heavyweight exhibition games were held on the Cyrus Eaton Elementary School playgrounds with national and international champions showing their prowess at events such as hammer throwing and caber toss.

Entertainment

The entertainment of Eaton stage rocked throughout the afternoon and evening with Barry Patriquin, Liz and Ben, Paul Randy Mingo, Alycia Putnam and the Elliott Brothers ending up with the Gaelic songs and music of Mary Jane Lamond and Wendy MacIsaac. The fireworks were set off at 10pm and were said by many to be the best ever seen in Pugwash!

Finances

Current financial statement shows a profit of over \$13,000.
The capital cost shown is for four gazebo/tents canopies for judges/volunteer shelters.

Some invoices are yet to be received.

Opening bank balance (October 2015): \$32,349.43

Current bank balance (August 2016): \$46,929.70

Future costs

We suggest the Gathering of the Clans contribute towards the cost of a new stage keeping in mind that Canada's 150th birthday celebrations in 2017 may increase costs next year.

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, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary and the Wentworth Learning Centre.

Preparations are already under way for 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. Many thanks also to our many sponsors who help keep this unique festival going with their support.