

2014 Pugwash Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day Report

The 63rd anniversary Pugwash Gathering of the Clans went exceptionally well and the weather was almost perfect.

The day started with 95 dancers competing on Eaton Stage in Highland Dance. The Bonnie Gael Huston Memorial award went to Gwendolyn Henderson of River John.

The theme for the Canada Day Parade was "East Meets West". Maggie Stone, a very active community volunteer, was Parade Marshall. The Parade results were:

Commercial

3rd: Field of Screams

2nd: O'Brien's PharmaChoice

1st: Cunningham Construction

Non- Commercial

3rd: Jack Sheehy

2nd: Doris Lockhart

1st: Miller Road MX Crew

Antique Vehicles

3rd: Floyd Dicky's '64 black Belvedere

2nd Wells family - '48 Allis Chalmers tractor

1st: 1957 BelleAir red convertable

Most humorous: Mundles (train)

Five pipe and drum bands competed this year. Grade 3 was won by Dartmouth and District Pipe Band. In Grade 4, first place went to the Antigonish Highland Society and Old Scotia Pipe and Drum band and second to Clan Thompson. Grade 5 was won by Belfast Pipe and Drum Band and second went to the Correctional Services Canada Community Pipes and Drum Band. A personal highlight of the day was when the band

competitions were complete; they amassed and marched up Water Street as far as Black Street. Their prizes were given out and they played again as they turned around and marched back towards Thinkers' Lodge.

The entertainment of Eaton stage rocked throughout the afternoon and evening ending up with the astonishing talents of JP Cormier who played until the fireworks were set off at 10pm.

The entrance gate returns of \$21,940 and wristband count of 4,706 adults and students. This year the gate keepers and other volunteers had bright yellow vests (or smocks) to help identify them as GOC volunteers. These will last for many years and we hope they will become emblematic of the volunteerism we see at the Gathering.

There are nearly a 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. Gross profits were up by 4% from last year.

Additional volunteers, security gating and procedures made the entrance gates and banking go very smoothly. Wristband security is taken very seriously. Not only do they help us keep an accurate account of how many have paid at the gates but help us identify those who have somehow missed paying at the gates. 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, the Wentworth C@P site and Friends of the Pugwash Estuary.

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.