

GOC report 2018

The 69th Pugwash Gathering of the Clans went off without a hitch, despite the problematic date of being on Monday, July 2nd. We won't have to worry about that eventuality again for many years. After a cool misty morning, the weather brightened up to make for a lovely day. The parade was as large as any could remember for a long time. The winners were:

Commercial

- 1st Pugwash Co-OP
- 2nd K+S Windsor Salt
- 3rd Cunningham Construction

Non-commercial

- 1st Pugwash District High School
- 2nd Friends of the Pugwash Estuary
- 3rd "Sea Horse" (Andrew Jamieson)

Antique Vehicles

- 1st 1925 Star (Vic Matheson)
- 2nd 1956 Lincoln Capri (Vic Matheson)
- 3rd Red Ford 1932 Truck (John VandeWeil)

Most Original/Humorous:

Ava Mundle (riding Windy point Girlie the cow)

There were one hundred Highland Dancers competing on Eaton Stage through the morning. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped this run super smoothly. The winner of the much-prized Bonny Gael Memorial Trophy was Morgan MacDonald of Orleans, Ontario.

There were four pipe and drum bands this year, plus Moncton and District Pipe band marched in the parade and played at Eaton Stage prior to the Opening Ceremony. Grade 4 winners : Dartmouth and District. Grade 5 winners: 36th Halifax Highlanders.

There were 22 vendors selling everything from sheets to pulled pork to collectables to popcorn. The midway was here again, and the heavyweight games were held again at the Cyrus Eaton Elementary school playgrounds.

The entertainment at the stage after the Opening Ceremony through the afternoon and evening were Celtic Duo, Paul Randy Mingo, Alycia Putnam and family and finally the Matt Minglewood band. Matt has played Pugwash a number of times and we were delighted to have him back for one last time on the present Eaton Stage. The fireworks were, as always, stupendous!

The gates were run by groups of volunteers. The six gates took in \$23,600, selling 5,038 wristbands, through the day! There are not too many events around that charge such a low fee for entrance. The \$5 fee has not changed in Pugwash for a very long time.

Many thanks go out to the 150 or more volunteers that help the day go smoothly. All the various events, the fireworks, parade security, the gates and bankers are all run by volunteers and all deserve big thanks! Thanks also go to the many sponsors whose generosity help make this historic event a success. With several financially successful events held in recent years, the Gathering of the Clans is in a position to assist the funding of a new stage by contributing \$40,000.