

Annual Report, 2009-2010

For the

42nd Royal Highlanders, Inc.

A pipe band and Scottish Society



Friends,

Now that the mid-summer lull in pipe band activities has arrived, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some of the activities that the 42nd Royal Highlanders, Inc. has been involved in over the last 12 months.

Programs

The Feast of the Hunter's Moon in 2009 was a successful one for the 42nd, despite the steady rain most of the week before and mud around the Feast grounds. TCHA staff and volunteers did a wonderful job minimizing the impact of the mud and letting the event go off without a hitch once the sun came out! All but a couple bags of forfar bridies were sold, but unfortunately, as many of you noticed, the quality of this year's shortbread cookies was not up to par, with far too much flour used. We will use a new source for 2010.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who staff the booth – your assistance at the Feast is priceless in supporting the programs of the 42nd. If you've never worked at the booth, please let us know, we'd love for you to join us at Fort Quiatanon! Special thanks to all who coordinated activities at the booth – Vicki Stirm, Rose Hwang, Jane Arnold, and Sue Cunningham. And thanks to Shane Chapman, who coordinated acquiring new sheet steel and reinforcing it to resist warping in the heat of the ovens. Finally, special thanks to Larry Wilcroust and the team at Rowe Truck for assistance pressing previous years' sheets of steel back to nearly flat, and to Shane Chapman for assistance obtaining new sheets of steel and reinforcing it to prevent warping in the heat.



The Robert Burns Supper returned to the Trails on January 30 with over 250 guests in attendance. We heard from many familiar speakers, and this year we were honored to have Charlie Short toasting the lassies. Thanks to Charlie for being willing to speak on relatively short notice. Other highlights from 2010 included live music from Traveler's Dream before and during the supper, and a special appearance by Lafayette's own Christopher Layer playing for the Whole 9 Yards and with Traveler's Dream. We have received feedback about this year's batch of haggis (from the same supplier as usual), and have passed it back to them in time for 2011's supper, which is scheduled for **January 29, 2011**.

A Scotch Whisky Tasting was held on November 12, 2009, jointly hosted with O'Bryan's Nine Irish Brothers. The tasting guided patrons through the distilling process, differences between Scotch, Irish, and blended Whiskys, and featured tastings of Speyside whiskies Macallan Fine Oak 10 year, Macallan 12 year, Macallan 18 year, and Macallan Fine Oak 15 year, as well as Highland Park from Orkney.

Over 40 patrons attended the tasting, with approximately half being new to the 42nd. We had a great experience working with the O'Bryan's and their staff, and hope to hold another tasting there in 2010! Watch your mailbox for information about the 2010 tasting.



Golf is one of the most Scottish of games and the 42nd is pleased to announce our first annual Highland Golf Scramble. The scramble was held on Saturday, June 26, at the Lafayette Elks golf course, with 36 golfers signed up. The tournament was a scramble (best ball) format with 4-person teams. Congratulations to the winning team, organized by Keaton Cunningham, who, along with prize hole winners, won prizes provided by Nine Irish Brother, Par Golf, and the West Lafayette Wal-Mart. Special thanks to Dan Collins for organizing the event, and to pro Matt Toney and the staff at the Elks for getting us a place to play on relatively short notice after heavy rains flooded the original location at the Lafayette Municipal course.



Nine Yards.

If you're active on the site, please become a fan of the 42nd on **Facebook** – you can get regular updates on the exploits of the band of music, RSVP for programs like the Burns Supper and Scotch Tasting, and network with other fans of the 42nd and Scottish Culture.

Finally, if you've not made a membership contribution to support these programs, I encourage you to do so. Your gift is tax-deductible, and supports all of these programs, the Band of Music, and the Whole

The Band of Music

Performances: In 2009, the 42nd Royal Highlanders Band of Music traveled to two notable new performances in 2009 – the Michiana Highland Games in South Bend on August 29., and the Mississinewa 1812 near Marion, IN, in October.

In early 2010, the 42nd traveled to St Louis, MO for the St. Louis Metropolitan St. Patrick's Day parade, marching down the streets of the Gateway city with the Sherriff's Department of St Louis County for a crowd of nearly 40,000 spectators.

The band completed a special trip for a performance in mid-July, where the 42nd traveled to the Deep River Ancient Muster in Deep River, CT to perform with over 70 fife and drum corps, 1500 marchers, and thousands of spectators. The band was blessed with a prime playing position in the Friday evening tattoo before the muster. This was the 42nd's first trip to the east coast since 2005's appearance at the National Fife and Drum muster at Fort Ticonderoga.

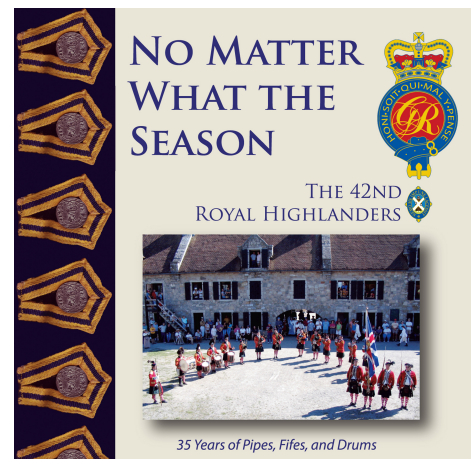
On June 27th the band appeared in West Lafayette for Blessed Sacrament Church's 1st Irish Fest, sponsored by O'Bryan's Nine Irish Brothers

For the remainder of 2010, the band will travel to St Charles, MO; Fort DeChartres and Fort Massac in Illinois; Rochester, IN; Marion, IN; Monroe, MI, the Michiana Celtic Festival in South Bend, and at home at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon .

During Memorial Day weekend, the band visited the annual Tartan Ball hosted by the Indy 500 Gordon Pipers and was honored to meet Scottish Indy Car Driver Dario Franchitti, who, no doubt inspired by the lads of the 42nd, went on to win the Indy 500 two days later!

Band members: In late 2009 the 42nd has graduated one new recruit piper into the marching ranks and anticipates another young piper wearing the red regimentals of the 42nd by this fall.

Most notably, May 15 marked the release of "**No Matter What the Season**", the 42nd's first CD recording since our 1996 self-titled debut. Recorded in Nov. 2009 and March 2010 at Purdue's Elliot Hall of Music, "No Matter What the Season" features an almost entirely different set tunes and arrangements than the previous recording, and the



members of the band are very proud of it. Copies can be ordered online at www.42ndRHR.org, or you can pick up your copy at any band performance. Additionally, it is available for download from iTunes or Amazon MP3.

The Whole Nine Yards (as reported by Isobel Miller)

Since summer is the time of year when people go on vacation, attendance at The Whole Nine Yards classes tends to fluctuate so we have a more casual attitude to the dancing but the underlying rule is still to have fun. When August arrives however, we get serious again as we are back into planning mode for our performances at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon. Dances from the correct period are researched. We try them all then practice the ones we like best to be ready to perform in October.

Our participation at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon last fall was great fun and we danced both Saturday and Sunday in the area right beside the forfar bridie booth. Although it was a wee bit colder than we like and muddy too, we enjoyed the dancing. Because of the muddy conditions however, we decided to cancel our plans to invite the audience to dance with us – maybe this year? Our music was, once again, provided by 3 fifiers from the band and we thank them sincerely for that. Unfortunately, the Feast committee was unable to pay us last year after all. We are hopeful that this year we will be remunerated for our efforts to entertain the Feast attendees with some good Scottish Country dancing.

The Burns Supper in January is another highlight on our performing calendar and we all enjoyed the evening. Every year it seems that more people join in dancing the Friendship Waltz and the Gay Gordons and this year continued that trend. I think the guests really enjoy taking to the floor, especially when the pipers for the 42nd play for dancing the Gay Gordons.

Speaking of guests dancing, the 6 week session of beginner Scottish Country Dancing, Fall classes will start after the Feast of the Hunter's Moon, so circle your calendar for October 7th at 7:00pm at the Morton Community Center. Come to class, learn the steps and you'll enjoy the Burns Supper even more. Call Isobel Miller at 765-463-0608 if you would like more information about the classes.

The Griffin House

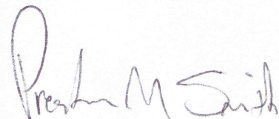
The 42nd has been fortunate over the years to have Helen Griffin's house on South 9th Street as a headquarters, which was left to the organization by his mother, Helen. While an excellent resource as a band rehearsal hall and meeting place, it is no surprise that the house is a challenge: property taxes and insurance are significant expenses with no income to offset it, as well as upkeep.

Already in 2010, band members and volunteers have spent weekends landscaping the property, trimming trees, and repainting rooms in the interior. Planned next is a bathroom renovation; estimates are being gathered now. If you or anybody you know has talents in landscaping, construction, or even simply decorating, please let us know!

Volunteers Wanted

Of course, the 42nd is always interested in new volunteers: from working at the Feast booth, helping put on the Burns Supper, turning the Griffin House into an excellent practice facility or an income source, produce newsletters, provide marketing or fundraising expertise, or, best of all, helping us put on new programming to promote Scottish culture and music. If you have skills that you can offer, please let us know if you're interested in participating in bringing Scottish cultural activities to the Lafayette area.

Respectfully Submitted,



Preston M. Smith
President
Drum Major, Band of Music

42nd Royal Highlanders, Inc
PO Box 2412
West Lafayette, IN 47996

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