
THE MACE



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Drum Major Profile: Paul Olson



How long have you been a drum major?

I began in 1974 after my freshman year of high school. The first time I was in front of a musical group was a Drum Major audition for the Knight Raiders Drum and Bugle Corps. I wasn't selected but it cemented the desire to be a Drum Major. I was Assistant DM of the Leigh High School Band (San Jose, CA) my junior year and Drum Major my senior year (1977). In college, I was Drum Major of the San Jose State University Band in 1981.

Do you compete and if so, what do you do to keep yourself in shape?

I competed from 1990 to about 1996. I would practice year round using large plate glass windows so I could watch what I was doing.

Tell us about your best drum major experience.

My most memorable experience was at a local field show while Drum Major at Leigh High School. We didn't compete much and field shows were a new endeavor. I had been attending the local drum and bugle corps shows for several years at that point and was an instructor for the summer Drum Major camp as well. I designed about 75% of the show (before the days of band drill and design staff). The music was all orchestral (also a departure for the time) which included Sibelius' Finlandia and Dvorak's New World Symphony. The band won every major caption except one: Drum Major. I placed dead last: lower than several of my beginning students. My crime? Using a mace and then switching to a military baton

in the show. After the announcements, the band gathered around and carried me off the field on their shoulders!

What about your worst experience?

The first Pre-Game show at San Jose State. The stadium had been reconfigured over the summer. I had the band go to the side of the stadium where field access had been removed! With only a minute or two to spare, I was able to corral the band to the other side of the stadium and onto the field. This experience has caused me to check the parade route or performance area ever since.

Do you play any instruments?

I play or have played the accordion (my first instrument), trumpet, French horn, soprano bugle, French horn bugle, Great Highland Bagpipes, guitar.

Ok, so you are in a pipe band, but do you have any other musical interests?

Up until 2005, I was playing French horn bugle with the Renegades Senior Drum & Bugle Corps. I marched with them from 2001 – 2004. We were the first West Coast corps to make DCA finals in 2002.

What brought about creating the RDMA, how long did it take?

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Olson, continued...

In the winter of 2002 I was contacted by Mick Stewart in response to a general invitation to join my band (Stewart Tartan Pipes & Drums of San Francisco). Mick indicated that he was a Drum Major. After an exchange of several emails, Mick indicated that he had a group called the United States Drum Major Association and he was looking to breathe new life into it, and was I interested. My initial thought was that I had too much on my plate already, besides I didn't know the first thing about websites other than how to surf them. Mick encouraged me to think about it, get back to him, and, by the way, he had a web guy (Scott Grant.)

I researched Drum Major sites on the web. The few which existed were either solely devoted to Pipe Band Drum Majors, commercial sites with little or no valuable information on the public access pages, or they were designed around a single individual. My thoughts were: 1) there was little available pertinent Drum Major information available to the average Drum Major; 2) knowledge of Drum Major skills was guarded (sometimes jealously) by those in the know; 3) the Scottish circuit emphasized flourishing over basic working Drum Major skills; 4) I had to learn the hard way by ferreting out Drum Majors willing to assist me; 5) what was available to Drum Majors in other musical fields (fife and drum, drum & bugle, band, etc.).

The Old Guard no longer had a copy of this manual, so we were able to arrange a homecoming of sorts

This led me to believe that a group concerned more about education than the latest score would be accepted by many, and a website would be the perfect vehicle to provide the information; and we could find the manuals, and if none existed, then we'd publish our own.

So Mick, Scott and myself started putting in long hours, writing articles, designing the website, and getting the project off the ground. We didn't want to give the impression that this was a site strictly for American Drum Majors so we changed the name to the Regimental Drum Major Association. About this time I solicited some articles from long time friend Rick Wilson. Rick had run a Drum Major Academy in the San Jose area and was well

connected. As luck would have it, Rick had the same idea that I had, and already had a site up. His site was targeted towards high school, college, and drum & bugle Drum Majors. We formed an affiliation that the RDMA would handle field music and military drum majors while Rick would focus on the school band and drum & bugle drum majors. About this time we brought Kieran Boyle on board.

After we got the basic website up in March 2003, we discovered that there were no manuals on the Scottish Division style and, as we continued our research, there were inconsistencies between Scottish Division and RSPBA Drum Major Regulations (particularly on dress). *What to do!*

We decided that it was time to start putting together our manuals that comported with the Scottish Division style, as all this activity was heavily, if not exclusively, influenced by the Scottish military pipe bands. Of course all the research conducted in the drafting of these manuals made me realize just how much information I had was completely wrong. Through some fortuitous contacts, we had three very accomplished resources: John Moon (formerly with the Scots Guards), Joe MacDonald (formerly with the Queen's Own Highlanders – Seaforth and Camerons), and Iain McGibbon (currently with the Lorne Scots.) At the current time we are closing in on the completion of the Pipe Band Dress Manual. We also need a few photos to complete the Pipe Band Dress Manual. The Fife Corps manual for Signal Baton is also in the works.

Best attribute of the RDMA?

The best attributes of the RDMA are placing new Drum Majors together with experienced instructors and providing them with free study material.

What would you like to see the RDMA accomplish?

The RDMA has accomplished a lot in its short life. Networking allowed us to find and restore a esponentoon manual of the Old Guard dating from at least 1973. The Old Guard no longer had a copy of this manual, so we were able to arrange a homecoming of sorts for the manual.

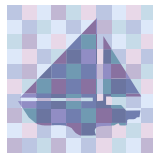
For the future there are a few projects that I would

Olson, continued...

like to see. First is a DVD of training material. I receive many requests for such a resource. We have the people we need as far as information, but need technical types (videographers, editors, etc) and money to get this off the ground. Another area is to provide regular seminars to Drum Majors. We had our first seminar in July 2005. As helpful as written manuals are, nothing can supplant individual instruction. Lastly, I would like to see the RDMA become a world recognized resource for Drum Major material. We are getting there. I have military and civilian Drum Majors from 20 countries seeking information from the RDMA. A frustration is trying to get military Drum Major manuals from various countries. Some countries still have military band manuals as classified material. We currently have all of the U.S. service manuals and the Swedish Drum Major manual.

Favorite hobby?

You've got to be kidding!! HA! Sailing, *of course!* :^)



A Steward's Perspective of the Worlds

By DM Andy Grant

Six o'clock in the morning - up, washed/shaved into most of my kit - kilt/jacket sporran & belt excluded.

Of course, it's raining, welcome to Scotland!

Driving from Bannockburn to Glasgow for the World Pipe Band Championship...*at six thirty in the morning* I need a psychiatrist! I'm not even competing this year for goodness sake!! What's wrong with me??

Arrive at Glasgow Green at around 07:30 and get the rest of my kit on me! Do I REALLY want to be a Drum Major Steward?

Raining again...

Meet up with Davy, the other steward, and the Judges - enjoy a hot cup of tea and a roll & bacon! Band...they don't get this y'ken! I think about going for a wander - oh, sit down again - ***it's raining!***

After the talk to Judges by the National Council everyone departs for their various rings and areas, I suppose I'd

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ASK!

By DM Tom Balyea

Hello Brother & Sister Drum Majors!

With a lack of time available I have not been able to read past volumes of *The Mace*, but in recent months, I have been able to catch up all of the reading materials that have been stacking up.

I finally read the first volume, and noted (with some amusement) that our tireless leader, Paul Olson, described me as the "resident uniform and regimental expert". I almost fell off my chair! I would certainly not consider myself an "expert", as that implies that I know all, and that is simply not the case (*Note: the editorial staff disagrees*). What I have gleaned has come from endless digging, and in some cases, *hounding* the poor UK drummies who have come across the pond to perform! The learning process never ends, and it is when one believes that they have nothing left to learn, that they make the subconscious decision to stop growing and stagnate.

Permit me to begin at the beginning. I come from a family marching tradition. My grandfather's brother came from Dublin, Ireland, and had his own brass band in Philadelphia in the 1920's. My father grew up in Charlestown, MA and learned the bugle with the St. Francis D'Salle's Drum and Bugle Corps, while in school in 1939. My brother, Paul began marching in a junior drum corps before going on to the Blue Angels Drum Corps.

I followed a different muse, and started in on the pipes at the age of 14, much to the dismay of my family *and* our neighbors! My first pipe band was the Marblehead Pipes and Drums. I then joined the Clan Wallace Pipe Band, under P/M Lennie Oakes, and marched with both bands for a time, until 1985, when I suffered a serious attack in which I was bit in the face by a dog, removing almost half of my upper lip. Sadly, it was clear I would never play the great Highland pipes again.

*willing to not only talk to me, but
show me what I wanted to learn*

But to remain faithful to my muse, in late 1985, the drum major position for my hometown band became available and I immediately applied for the position. How did I know what to do? Where did I find the information necessary to fill this post? Could I just call 1-800-DRUMMIE and get answers? No. I had to dig. Luckily, I have the friendship of two very fine gentlemen who are well versed in most things, British military band-wise. John Frayler, an archivist with the

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ASK!, continued...

National Park Service and side drummer with the 2nd South Carolina String Band; and Dave Clark, founder of Hamilton/Wenham Regimental Band and a founding member of the International Corps of Drums Society. They passed along to me a tattered copy of the 1950 Ceremonial Manual (provisional), and that copy, which I still have, is what started me on this wonderful journey of Drum Majordom. The only problem is that these manuals are designed for those who have the basics down, not for those just starting out!

I mucked about and tried to delve into this manual, only to be frustrated time and time again by the terms and descriptions within. That is when I decided that I needed this information straight from the horse's gob. I started going to every Highland games that I could, and I approached quite a few drummies at that time, but all to no avail. It seemed like there was a secret society involved, and to divulge this knowledge to a novice would somehow diminish their status as Drum Majors. Little did I know then that most of these "Drum Majors" that I was questioning, had only as much knowledge as I did, or even less. There just

Ask Questions

HAD to be some way of finding the information that I needed! That is when I began my campaign of harassment with the regimental Drum Majors who came on tour from the UK. And it worked! Ninety-nine percent of the drummies that I talked to, be it Argylls, Black Watch, Gordons, Scots Guards, Royal Anglian Regiment...they were all supportive and more than willing to not only talk to me, but *show* me what I wanted to learn, even the little details about uniform and kit.

I have a sharp eye for detail, and I started my collection of military pipe, and brass band videos, and I studied these endlessly, as I still do. I took keen note of mace commands, all the various nuances in the voice commands, M&M, deportment and anything else that I could learn about my chosen title of Drum Major. Hell, if I tried to learn the State Walk from any of the manuals I have studied, I still wouldn't know how to do it properly, but I learned it from these videos, watching, rewinding, and watching again and again. It worked.

This was, of course, before the advent of our Association. I only wish that I had such a superb resource as the R.D.M.A. when I was trying to learn. To those of you who are just starting out on this quest, use this resource- it has become, in its relatively short existence, a wellspring of knowledge

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Stewards View, continued...

better tag along...*still bloody raining!* Hang on - it's slowed to a drizzle! Not bad!

Okay time to get to the arena and see my mates and any new DM's competing for the first time...*oh no!!!!!! It is pouring down - head for the nearest tree!*

...and then it stops! Skies clear you'd never have known it rained... and now it's time to wander to the DM arena.

Ah, that's more like it...greeted by DMs, their relatives, friends, and dressers from all over the place. Americans, Canadians, Omanis...even the Pakistani Army is here and their DM is to compete for the first time in his life! What a place to start!!!! Scots, Irish, and English they're all here and South Africa, too! Now who can deny it's not representative?

I spot the 'big guns' all getting dressed; John, Brian, Grant, Kevin, Billy, and I remembered why I stopped! One or two are getting wound up already and I try to calm them down with humour. Works sometime other times I get a look that would drop lesser mortals on the spot! I know they don't mean it and we'll be pals again afterwards.

Oh heck! The judges have arrived - time to put on my Steward's 'hat' and get organised.

Davy (*remember him? Well buck up!! Questions will be asked at the end of this!*), and I agreed some time back that I would oversee the adults and he would look after the youngsters. And now the time is at hand...

I wander up, looking smart but casual -wouldn't do to let them know we get nervous too! Deep breath and here we go!! Dress inspection begins. At the top of the voice is yelled 'ADULTS HEAT 1', the names yelled out...and we're away. When getting them organised I also give them a very quick look to see of anything's shifted. If it has I try to let them know before they're judged to try and have them rectify it.

Part of my responsibility is to also take note of every DM there as the Judges will need the names for the Heats prior to Flourishing so we can keep things running as smoothly as possible. Can be hectic at times...and then suddenly the first part is over! All have been dressed, all have been judged and all breathe small sighs of relief. *'Back at 13:30 boys okay?'*

Fed, watered and raring to go; I love watching the runs although it's a bit difficult trying to watch a heat then hurtle off to get the next one in! Hey! I'm Andy Grant and it WILL work!

At the Major competitions it is ALWAYS the Adults that

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Stewards View continued...

compete first, due to the compilers having to work out the Final. So I get stuck straight in at the right time and Heat 1 is ready and waiting to go...only for the Band to fail to turn up! This is a nightmare, not only for the Stewards but mainly for the competitors.

With a sigh of relief the band turns up and we're off! I get the competing itch again! *Maybe next year!!* :O)

Feed in the Heats with the co-operation of the competitors, all of whom are near the entrance and fall in as quickly as they are called. They want in to show what THEY can do! At one point I have to drag the Pakistani DM back and explain, via an interpreter, that he has to change back into the striking head gear he wore in the morning dress inspection otherwise he could be disqualified. Well I'm not about to let THAT happen am I?

Stone me! It's all over again. Well the heats are! Just the Final to come and here comes the National Council officer with the list. And yet again the Worlds throws up consternation!!!! Again the usual mixture of, 'Aye right enough' and, 'You must be joking', could be heard but there again...it wouldn't be the same without them now would it???

I wish to publicly thank the Drum Majors, the dressers, the families and friends who make it enjoyable for me to take part in our hobby. If it wasn't for their friendly co-operation it would be a hundred times more difficult. I would also like to thank my wife Cathy for her forbearance when in amongst DMs. I send her daft at times!

Finally to all Drum Majors that read this...*see you in August! I'll be the one shouting!* ☺

Slainté mhath, Andy Grant

April DM Workshops

April 14-16: Norman MacKenzie (Victoria, BC, Canada)

April 22-23: Billy Jordan (Albany, NY, USA)

April 29-30: Billy Jordan (Gastonbury, CT, USA)

To register: <http://www.drummajor.net/1Calendar.htm>

***Articles for DM's, written by DM's...
Submit yours to The Mace! Contact M. Baile***

ASK! continued...

and information. Get involved, not only with the R.D.M.A., but also with any of the various Pipe Band Associations. I say that only because I am presently involved with pipe bands, but I have led brass bands AND pipe bands as well as being involved with drum and bugle corps and an interest in someday forming a British style corps of drums, so this goes for you who are with brass bands, corps of drums, fife and drum corps...whatever your chosen muse. Go to competitions and ask questions. There truly is no such thing as a "stupid" question! There is only learning, and if you have the burning desire to learn and to be the best Drum Major that you can be...ASK! You may, in your journey, come across those who either can't or won't see the benefit of learning from others, and even perhaps the very few who might brush off your questions. **DO NOT GET DISCOURAGED!** There are many who will welcome your interest, your desire to learn, and your camaraderie. We are an "Association", but beyond that title, we really are, and should be, a brotherhood. And a brotherhood should assist ALL its brothers and sisters to become the best that they can at what they do.

*Best Regards,
Tom Belyea D/M*

United States Marine Corps Drum Major

Quietly moving through the darkness of the staging area, the lights of Hollywood gleam as if it were daylight ahead. As band enters the camera area, the roar of the crowd becomes deafening as spectators realize who is approaching. Unlike each of the other bands, this group is not playing. They simply march in step to the quiet tap of the snare drum, positioning at a predetermined mark in the camera zone. The band stands ready, awaiting its queue. Finally the moment arrives; five, four, three, two, one, music. Once again the crowd erupts as they experience the power and pride of their United States Marine Corps Band. After a three minute presentation, the band marches off to the strains of the Marines' Hymn, anticipating the next three miles, and over 1.5 million screaming spectators.

From events like the Hollywood Christmas Parade, Tournament of Roses Parade, the New York City Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade, to the Funeral of President Ronald Reagan; the Marine Band exemplifies what each American expects of their Marines. I have the distinct honor of ensuring that each Marine upholds the

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standards expected of them. I am a United States Marine Corps Drum Major, and I am responsible for the perfection that is displayed during each performance.

I began playing trumpet in the second grade, taught by my neighbor who had played professionally. The private instruction, as well as a keen desire to excel assisted in my love for music. By the time I was in the third grade, I was marching in a band. As I continued with my desire to conquer the three valve monster, I once again felt a need for more, and became the Drum Major of my high school band. I was very proud of the position held, and truly put every bit of effort into upholding those standards of all the Redwood Drum Majors that came before me.

My love for music, as well as my internal need for the extreme found me enlisting in the United States Marine Corps after graduating from high school. I went to recruit training, and then the Armed Forces School of Music. Once I graduated, I became a Marine trumpet player. Performing with the Marine Corps band has been an experience that will be difficult to top. I have had the opportunity to perform throughout the United States, as well as in several different countries throughout the world. After nine years, I was selected to return to the School of Music as an instructor. For two years, I taught Marines and Sailors drill every day. This was a great experience, as drill has always been what I loved doing most. Ready for a complete change, I headed for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, for duty as a Drill Instructor. The three years I spent at Parris Island were some of the greatest of my life. Not only did I perfect my skills of teaching drill, I worked with individuals for every different MOS (job) within the Marine Corps. This is where I learned the most in regards to leadership, mentorship, and discipline. Although this duty was very challenging, I realized the job I had done for years was much more difficult than most realize.

Being a Drum Major or any musician for that matter leaves very little room for error. As a musician, there is no 'do over', there is no strike two, there is no third down and there is no backspace or undo. In our line of work, there is one shot. What the audience sees is what they get. This causes many musicians extreme stress, as the need for perfection is constant. It is important to realize the opportunity to bring joy to others through your talents makes everything worth the work it takes to realize perfection. This is the life we love. It makes us competitive, and ultimately propels us towards success in everything we do in life.

After my tour as a Drill Instructor, I became a Marine Drum Major. In order to attain this post, I had to compete with several individuals. As there are only 12 Drum Majors in the Marine Corps, the competition for one or two open spots is very tight. I was very fortunate, as I was picked for the position. Drum Majors are not

chosen simply because they can spin a mace. Past experience, demonstrated leadership, and past evaluations are all considered in the decision making process.

Being the individual that every member of the band looks to as the subject matter expert is motivating, but can be very humbling. You must set the example. It is important to realize people know you are the Drum Major. There is no need to be arrogant, yell and scream, or treat others as if they were less than you. There might be the occasion where it is necessary to be a bit firm and raise your voice, but not on a consistent basis. Being overbearing will only turn others off to you as a leader. Remember, as a Drum Major, you are THE leader. Listen to what band members have to say. Many of the best things my groups have done have come from the ideas of others, and are worth listening to. If anything, they will be more proud, and work harder knowing that they are truly part of what the group produces. Most importantly, don't be afraid to admit when you make a mistake. Don't blame it on others; take responsibility for all of your actions. If you don't, your band will not think you are their leader, they will think you are a joke.

The opportunity to lead the Marine Corps Band throughout the country is an incredible opportunity. Leading my high school marching band brought the same amount of pride. Regardless of whether you are the Drum Major of a high school band, a pipe band, or a military band, you are the one leading the way. There might be others that are in a higher position within the group, but remember, they all come to attention when the Drum Major gives the command. *Command through your example.*

DM Jos. Streeter, USMC





THE DRAPED MACE

As noted on the website, Leathernecks Drum Major Don Davidson (1st Sergeant, USMC [retired]), passed away in December 2005. However, we'd be remiss if we didn't take the time to salute one of our best. Don's enthusiasm for the RDMA was apparent to all, and he was in fact, the second person to sign on as a member of the association. His attention to detail, pride in his post and long list of friends and admirers is a fitting tribute to a man who never forgot a face or name. He was gracious, open and welcoming of all who had to pleasure to have known him.

- RDMA Staff

Newfoundland's Own 'Mr. CLB': Major William G. Tilley (Church Lads' Brigade)

By Terry Hissey

Born on the 30th November 1914 in St. John's, Newfoundland, William G. Tilley's earliest influence of the Church Lads' Brigade (CLB) was through his uncle, Drum Major Harry Willar who would occasionally allow his six-year-old nephew to wear his bearskin. Maj Tilley applied to join the Brigade on the 12th November 1925, and after recruit training, he formally joined the CLB on the 26th March 1926 at Bishop Field Company. With the formation of the CLB Naval Company in 1933, he transferred with the rank of Able Seaman.

With the position of Drum Major becoming vacant in September 1939, William had the opportunity of following in his uncle's footsteps. The Bandmaster, Major Nathaniel Snow appointed him Drum Major in December that year. He recalls how he was suddenly pressed into service as Drum Major for the first time when he was 25 years old without any previous musical experience. He had applied for the job, but wasn't told he had got it until the day before the parade. *"I had seen other Drum Majors, but I had no formal training at all, so I had to get a broom and go out in the garden that night (to practise). Little did I realize as I practiced that I would undertake this role for some 63 years!"*, he said. An early engagement with the CLB Band was playing off drafts of troops at the railway station as they headed towards Europe in 1940. In 1945 DM Tilley with the Band, and many others, were there to welcome them back home.

The CLB Regimental Band with its full military band instrumentation has been an integral part of

Newfoundland life for over 100 years. The band performs annually on Armistice Day in St. John's and for local organisations such as the Royal Canadian Legion, the Lieutenant Governor's Garden Party at Government House, the Royal St. John's Regatta and many, many more events in support of the CLB and the communities that make up the Province.

Dressed in a scarlet red tunic, navy blue trousers, decorated blue sash and fur bearskin, the Drum Major looks as if he has just stepped out of the Grenadier Guards. During his tenure, Mr. Tilley has marched countless miles and been part of numerous historic events under eight Bandmasters. He is not one to boast of his achievements, but summing up his experiences he felt:

"Parading in front of other groups on special occasions brought me great pleasure to display the Brigade's proud Red, Yellow and Blue colors. However my greatest pride and pleasure came from knowing that I was contributing to the betterment of countless young people. I was certain that their training in the CLB would lead them to be much better people in their adult lives."

The highlights of his parades include the band receiving a standing ovation by the reviewing stand and subsequently being awarded first prize in the winds and percussion category. On a more humorous note, during one parade he took a wrong turn and the band ended up in someone's front garden! Some of the important occasions he has led the Band are the visits of the HM King and Queen in 1939, HRH Princess Elizabeth in 1951, HM Queen Mother Elizabeth in 1967, Pope John Paul II in 1983 and HRH the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1984. The band also performed at the opening and closing of the Canada Summer Games in 1977.

In December, 1977 Mr. Tilley became the first ever CLB Archivist. In 1992, much of the archives, records and various CLB collections were destroyed in a fire. A lesser organisation would never have been able to survive the catastrophe. Undeterred, Maj Tilley, went down and brought a copy of that day's Evening Telegram and started all over again. Since that time, he has built up an archive that is the envy of most. As the new Armoury was being built he kept all these items at his home, downplaying humorous rumours of so many items stored under his bed that there was hardly any room for Mrs. Tilley!

In 1992 the Brigade Council awarded Maj Tilley its Award of Merit which was presented at the CLB

Centennial service on 18th October that year. Along with two other long serving members of the Brigade, Maj Tilley was awarded the Freedom of the City of St. John's on the 28th May 2000 at a banquet at City Hall. Only nine other individuals have been awarded this honour.

In 2003, after 63 years and several pairs of parade shoes, Maj Tilley felt it time to stand down as Drum Major. His last parade was Remembrance Day and he led the CLB Regimental Band through St. John's for the last time. After falling out, the Lieutenant Governor personally congratulated him on his lifetime's achievement. Maj Tilley's chest bears many CLB medals including the Award of Merit and Long Service Medal with '75 Years' bar. He was also awarded the Nfld & Labrador Volunteer Medal in 2001 in recognition of his outstanding service to the CLB and indeed the Province.

Perhaps I can end with words from Major Tilley himself writing in 1991:

"Anything I have done to assist the Brigade movement during my service has been a labour of love, and perhaps in many respects, to try and compensate, somewhat, for the valuable training I obtained in, discipline, obedience, brotherhood and self respect. I have said on many occasions, that I am the better man because of my association with this great Christian organization. I cherish greatly my lengthy period of service to the Brigade and the rewards I have derived there from, in my daily life. As you intimate, dedication and discipline are important words to those who serve under its colours, and it is with a feeling of great pride, that I have had the good fortune, to reach this milestone."



≡ O D D S ‘ n S O D S ≡

With our FOURTH year underway, the RDMA has members from 25 countries - every continent is represented! As of March 14, 2006, we now are now 500 members strong!

Congratulations to our 500th member, Drum Major Norman T. Ervine, Atlantic City Sand Pipers.

The battle continues against Spammers and for now, their attempts to infiltrate the site have been foiled.

2005 Major Accomplishments

- Drill Manual for Pipes and Drums completed (lot's of work); as well as our first Drum Major seminar in July.

2006 Goals

- Signal Baton Manual for Fife & Drum; Dress Manual for Pipes and Drums; Guards Mace Drill
- You should expect further issues of the Newsletter
- We are in the final approval stages for **RDMA patches** and there will be other logo items available for the many members that have requested them. Any profits resulting from sales of such items will be used to provide future seminars and defray the costs of running the site.