

# The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Pipe Band



The Band performing at its January 2006 'Cantabile' concert (B. Brown photo)

The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg Pipe Band was formed in 1973 through the efforts of graduates of the Lord Selkirk Boy Scout Pipe Band. Pipe Major Robert Fraser was approached with the proposal that a band be formed from ex-members of the Lord Selkirk Boy Scout Pipe Band.

The board of the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg agreed to act as a sponsor. A distinctive tartan was desired and permission was sought and received from the Lord Lyon King of Arms to outfit the band in the Earl of St. Andrew's tartan

The activities of the band have been varied over the last 33 years, performing at all Society functions and taking part in functions and parades in Winnipeg, throughout the province of Manitoba and adjoining provinces and states. The band has been actively involved in competitive playing at the Grade 3 level since 1999, and has won the Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba Grade 3 Champion Supreme award for the past 6 years. The band is currently the top-ranked Pipe Band in Manitoba. The band won first place in every contest entered in 2005, culminating with winning the 2005 Grade 3 North American Pipe Band Championships in Maxville, Ontario. The band has been upgraded to the Grade 2 competition for the 2006 season.

Pipe Major Robert Fraser provided direction to the band for 30 years, retiring in 2003. Pipe Major Robert Stankey filled the Pipe Major role from 1998 through 2003. The band is currently under the direction of Pipe Major Wesley Sheppard and Drum Sergeant Roland Reid.

In 2004, a second band was formed at the Grade 4 level, and is under the direction of Pipe Major Kirby McRae and Drum Sergeant Sean Johnston. The purpose of this new band is to support and strengthen the organization, to provide a place for new members to step up into the Grade 2 band, and for existing members to drop down to a lower level yet remain part of the organization.

With its extensive repertoire including traditional Scottish tunes and modern Canadian pipe music, the band has always been able to perform anywhere and for any audience. Its strength and success has come, and will continue to come, from the commitment of the band members to the organization. Our goal is to preserve and promote Scottish-Canadian Culture and Music in Manitoba.

For more information or to hire the band, please contact Mr. Danny Hoplock at (204)888-7085 ext. 1, or (204)885-4771, or visit our web site at [www.SASPB.com](http://www.SASPB.com).