Election of President and Directors at Large to the Board of the Piper's and Pipe Band Society of Ontario

The PPBSO Board of Directors is responsible for directing and overseeing the business of the Society. The Board's responsibilities include prudent financial stewardship, effective governance and oversight, addressing membership requests and concerns in a neutral and unbiased manner; ensuring the interests of the membership as a whole are reflected in negotiations with the various Games / Festival committees, that competitions and contests are adequately staffed and properly run, and so many other things that remain largely unseen by members

Along with these responsibilities, Directors at Large are also expected to sit on at least one Board Committee as part of their duties.

This year we are fortunate to have several candidates willing to join the Board of Directors. The following PPBSO members have given notice of their willingness to stand for election as Directors at Large to the PPBSO Board of Directors. Three Director-at-large positions are open for election.

The two-year term of the current President, Malkie Bow, is also up for election at the AGM with Malkie indicating that he would stand for re-election, if nominated.

Nominations for all elected position may come from the floor of the Annual General Meeting.

Brad

Brad Davidson
Vice-President, PPBSO

Drew Duthart

Drew Duthart started playing snare drum under the instruction and guidance of Alex Duthart around the age of nine and joined the local pipe band called Newmains and District.

In Scotland Drew played with several top pipe bands, including Shotts & Dykehead pipe band and British Caledonian Airways pipe band.

During his 5 years with Shotts & Dykehead he achieved every drum corps prize that was to be won and also won the worlds juvenile solo drumming at the age of fourteen.

Drew moved to Ontario in 1986 and was a member of the Toronto Police pipe band as the lead drummer for 11 years. During that time his drum corps has won all the North American titles as well Drew himself winning every top title available on the solo circuit.

Drew Duthart has won many top solo drumming prizes at the World Championships, including the World's Juvenile Solo title and many North American titles. Drew joined the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band in 2003 to play under John Fisher and became the L/D of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band in 2004. In 2007 the drum corps won the drumming at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow.

Drew has been a member of the PPBSO for 37 years and is an accredited “A” snare drumming judge on the PPBSO judging panel. He has a long history of teaching and has mentored many accomplished snare drummers. Drew has previously served on both the Music Committee and Education Committee.

Charlie MacDonald

At the PPBSO AGM on November 28th 2009, Charlie MacDonald was elected President of the Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario after 5 decades of PPBSO leadership participation having served in Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President positions. Thereafter, at the PPBSO AGM on November 8, 2014, Charlie was awarded PPBSO Life Membership.

Charlie is an accomplished piper, both as a soloist and within pipe bands. In 1971, Charlie joined the grade one St. Thomas Police Pipe Band, where he competed for 17 years, and was awarded band life membership at the band's 75th anniversary reunion. As a Professional soloist, Charlie was awarded Professional Piper of the Day at Antigonish in 1981 and Miami in 1987. As P/M of the Port Elgin Pipe Band, Charlie led his band to Scotland winning prizes in Grade 3 in 1979. Charlie was also P/M of the Downsview Pipe Band in 1988, joining Toronto & District Caledonia the next year where he competed until 1995.

As a member of the PPBSO judges panel, he received the Pipe Band Piping certificate (all grades) in 1990 and subsequently received both Solo Piping adjudicator accreditation and Pipe Band Ensemble accreditation.

In 1974 Charlie was elected as Western Branch representative on the PPBSO parent body and in 1977 became PPBSO Secretary. He has served nearly continuously on the PPBSO Executive since then, holding the positions of Treasurer and Vice-President for several years. He has also represented the PPBSO at six ANAPBA summits. All changes to PPBSO letters patent since 1979 have been coordinated by Charlie, who has contributed significantly to the betterment of the Society over the past five decades.

By profession, Charlie is a registered Professional Engineer in the Province of Ontario with 5 decades of professional engineering experience in the nuclear power industry. Since 2005, Charlie has held the position of Secretary of the CSA N285 technical committee responsible for nuclear pressure boundary rules for CANDU reactors, serving a total of three decades on this committee. And as a consultant in the nuclear energy field, Charlie is President of Norok Enterprises Incorporated.

This year the PPBSO is probably in the best organizational shape ever. These are exciting times and it would be my great honour, with your support, to continue serving as one of its Directors for the next two-year term. Thank you.

Marli Ramsey

Connection to the PPBSO

Marli first took up the bagpipes over 25 years ago, but a career that involved extensive travel kept her from playing regularly. Once her schedule allowed, she joined a non-competition band and eventually transitioned to a competition band. She is currently a member of the St. Andrew's Spirit of Ontario Pipe Band.

Before joining St. Andrew's, she was a member of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band, where, for several years, she raised money from fellow band members to support the Peel Regional Police's Toys for Tots campaign.

This year, she volunteered with the PPBSO Board Executive, helping prepare a grant application to fund PPBSO programs.

What Marli Brings to the Board of the PPBSO

· Board governance practice, including board leadership and policy development

· Board recruitment, nominations and succession planning

· Strategic planning experience

· Finance, audit and risk oversight, including risk management policy development

· Fundraising and grant application experience, including with the PPBSO

· Strong leadership, facilitation, communication and problem-solving skills

· A personal connection to the piping community as an active pipe band member

· A love of ceòl mòr and Glenmorangie Signet

Professional Profile

Marli has been an independent management consultant for the past 10 years, advising senior leaders on complex business challenges and working with boards to evaluate business performance, analyse opportunities, respond to crises, and develop strategic plans.

For the past few years, she has collaborated with former colleagues through a boutique consulting firm called Digital^Shift, which specializes in AI-driven digital transformation and guides executives on AI governance and strategy.

Over a 40-year career, including more than 20 in senior leadership positions with PwC, CGI and Info-Tech Research Group, Marli has managed teams delivering complex client projects

and advised executives and senior leadership teams as they planned and carried out their strategic and operational priorities.

She brings more than 25 years of non-profit board and committee service, including two years as President of the YWCA Toronto board, and a clear understanding of how a high-functioning Board of Directors operates.

Marli holds an MBA and a B.Sc. from Dalhousie University.

Board and Governance Experience

YWCA Toronto – Board member for eight years, including two as Board President
· Introduced a consent agenda and in-camera meetings
· Served on the Finance & Audit, Executive and Asset Management committees (Chair, Asset Management)
· Took part in strategic planning and led the CEO performance review
· After leaving the board, chaired the Nominations Committee for six years
· Currently a member of the Distinction Awards Selection Committee
Crossroads International – Board member for six years
· Took part in selecting a new Executive Director for the organization on two occasions
· After leaving the board, spent six years on the Finance & Audit Committee and the Risk Management Committee, and developed the organization's risk management policy
· Currently a member of the Governance Committee and Chair of the International Day of the Girl Breakfast Committee, Crossroads' premier fundraising event
Theatre Gargantua – Current board member
· Board Secretary and member of the Executive Committee
· Led the development of the 2026 strategic plan
· Developed the Respectful Workplace Environment Policy
· Spearheaded a board recruitment initiative to address gaps in board capabilities
YWCA Canada – Current member of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto – Current member of the Governance Committee

Don Steele
B.Comm (Hons), CFA, CAIA, FEA

Don was appointed to the PPBSO Board mid-year to fill a vacancy. He is interested in continuing to serve on the Board. He is a past member of Peel Regional Police Pipe Band and The Guelph Pipe Band.

SUMMARY

A seasoned financial services leader, with extensive experience in financial analysis & reporting, capital markets, corporate finance, risk management, family enterprise advisory and business valuation, and a passion for driving thoughtful, transparent financial stewardship and best-in-class organizational governance.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

STERLING CAPITAL ADVISORS

Founder & Principal Advisor (2024 – Present)

Collaborating with private companies and their advisory teams to plan and execute effective business transitions, acquisitions and organic growth strategies, divestitures and capital redeployment.

BLACKWOOD FAMILY ENTERPRISE SERVICES

Senior Advisor (2022 – 2024)

Advisory support for family enterprises to improve governance and alignment across family, business and ownership systems, enhancing resilience, continuity profitability and value.

Director, Trading Book Capital – Market Risk Management (2015 – 2022)

BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

Director, Market Risk Management – Market Risk Management (2015 – 2022)

Responsible for oversight market risk capital utilization in BMO Capital Markets, including forecasting and disclosure, Basel III implementation, ad-hoc modelling & analysis of complex trades, and M&A support.

Director, Capital Management – Corporate Treasury (2012 – 2015)

Responsible for management of BMO's capital supply, including structuring of Non-Viability Contingent Capital instruments, issuance, redemption and securitization programs, disclosure and M&A support.

RBC FINANCIAL GROUP

Managing Director, Wholesale Credit Methodologies – Group Risk Management (2006 – 2011)

Led the redevelopment, implementation and operation of RBC's corporate credit rating methodologies, along with supporting IT infrastructure, to achieve compliance with the Basel II bank capital framework.

Managing Director & Enterprise Head, Decision Support – Global Finance (2004 – 2006)

Reporting to the CFO, had enterprise-wide responsibility for leading strategic and financial analysis, and post-implementation review of all projects, capital expenditures and acquisitions greater than $1 million.