

BC PIPERS ASSOCIATION AUDIO LIBRARY

The BC Pipers Association is pleased to announce the inauguration of the Association's audio library.

This project has been underway informally for the past while, and this past season the Board has formally approved the development of a permanent audio library.

As we are all aware, there are numerous old reel to reel tape recordings and cassette recordings of prominent players and memorable performances, that have been recorded in distant years past. Many tapes and cassettes can often be found languishing in drawers, attics, basements, or estate collections.

The old reel to reel tapes and cassettes naturally deteriorate over time, and there is an increasing risk that the performances will be lost as the acetate tapes age. The Association feels that the better recordings ought to be preserved – both for our younger generation of players and for posterity.

The BCPA is in the preliminary stages of collecting old tape collections, and having them converted to appropriate digital format. The ultimate goal is to have an audio library established for general access. There are still many technical and copyright issues to be worked through, to the point where an accessible audio library will be available.

Realistically, it may take some time before a proper audio library will be available to our membership. We anticipate that this project will take years, as an ongoing project.

However, the immediate plan is simply to begin the archiving process.

The archiving of available material is already in progress. At this point, many of the Association's old recordings from the past decades (some dating back to the early 1950's) have now been converted to digital format. We have already received the kind donation from Judi Morrison, the custodian of the tape collection of the late Col. John McEwing of Spokane, Washington, to have Col. McEwing's historical tape collection archived.

Initial funding has been made available for this project from the BCPA directors. The seed funding was allocated from funds kindly bequested to the Association from the late Neil Stubberfield. Neil Stubberfield was a long time Association member and devout Piobaireachd enthusiast.

To date, Jim Barrie has generously provided his technical and musical expertise in converting the tapes that the Association currently has available.

Ed McIlwaine, past BCPA president, and Hal Senyk, current BCPA director, are the "steering committee" of the audio library project at this time.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

For anyone interested in being a part of this project, any of the following would be a great asset to the long term value of our Library:

1. Volunteers, with appropriate musical and technical expertise (or with access to good tape recording equipment), who would enjoy the process of editing and converting old reel to reel tapes or cassettes to digital format. This can be a time consuming job, as we will often receive unlabelled tapes or tapes with extraneous material that needs to be edited.
2. Volunteers, who would like to be a part of the administration of the library project (library experience would be a definite asset).
3. Most important, we need the donation and/or loan of old reel to reel and cassette recordings of prominent players and memorable performances for archiving. These can be from personal collections, estate collections – or from the knowledge our members have of where such collections can be found.

The Association does not assert any ownership of the tapes or cassettes, and will return all materials whenever requested.

Please contact either Hal Senyk (halsenyk@yahoo.com) or Ed McIlwaine if you have either materials you would like to provide to the Association for this project, if you have ideas, or if you would simply like to join the administration team of our audio library.