



Alasdair with son Norrie at Invergordon Games
August 2010

Piping World mourns the death of one of Scotland's greatest Pipers

One of the greatest pipers that Scotland has produced has died at the age of 47.

Alasdair Gillies was the last Pipe Major of the Queen's Own Highlanders and the first of the Highlanders.

He won the coveted Royal Society Silver Star for the former winners' march, strathspey, and reel contest at the Northern Meeting a record 11 times.

Alasdair was born in Glasgow in 1963, he moved up to stay in Ullapool in 1974 when his father was appointed piping instructor for schools in Wester Ross.

He played in the Queen's Own Highlanders 1st Cadet Band for four years before going into the Army as a junior piper at 16.

He became Pipe Major of the Queen's Own Highlanders in 1992 and was there when the regiment amalgamated with the Gordon Highlanders in 1994.

In 1996 he moved to the Scottish Division Depot, where he trained British Army Pipers.

He resigned from his post in 1997 to take up teaching duties at the Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he also directed the university's pipe band.

He returned to Ullapool due to ill health and had been ill for some time.

What Maj Gen Seymour Munro had to say about Alasdair.

Maj Gen Seymour Munro,
I have just been told by PM Andy Venters that Alasdair Gillies died in Ullapool last night.

He was of course the last PM of the Queen's Own Highlanders and the first of The Highlanders. He won the Gold Medal and Clasp competitions at the Northern Meeting- which are again about to take place this coming week. He was a wonderful piper.

Very sad.
Seymour.

Please go to the College of Piping website to read what they have to say about Alasdair

Seoras McIntosh