



## **Chieftain of the Day**

# **Olive Mitchell Campbell**

Olive Campbell was born in Calgary to immigrant Scottish parents, James and Margaret Mitchell.

Olive started Highland Dancing at age 6, competed in all dancing classes and professional levels, and also judged. She has won many medals in Highland Dancing and Major Awards in dancing and piping. She was also given special honours to dance with the White Heather Concert Parties from Scotland.

Olive started piping at age 12. She was first taught by Alex Oliphant, and played in the Blue Bonnet Girl's Pipe Band. She was later taught by Sandy Reid, Pipe Major of the Calgary Highlanders and often played as a guest piper with the band.

Olive was also the official piper for the Sons of Scotland and the St. Andrews Caledonian Society. She has piped for many Robbie Burns dinners and still does. Over the years she has taught many girls to play, which led to the inception of the Brig O'Doon Girl's Pipe Band of which she was the Pipe Major and Principal instructor. During her piping career, she has played in many Stampede and Community Parades and played for the MacDonald Briar Curling, Scott Tournament of Hearts Ladies Championship Curling, Girl Guides Award Ceremonies for over 30 years. She has also played at the Stampede Grandstand Show for out of town drill teams, Grey Cup Parade, Centennial Parade and Tattoo Massed Bands. She has piped for conventions at the Chateau Lake Louise and in Calgary. Olive was presented the Alberta Centennial Medal by Senator Dan Hays for over 50 years of volunteering and piping.

Olive's daughter, Margaret, also Highland danced. She is married to piper Don Maxwell Jr. and they have twin daughters, Laura and Meghan, who Highland Dance, and a son, Donny, who is playing the pipes.

Olive's son, Bill Jr. also played the pipes. He is married to Nancy and they have a daughter Ashleigh.

Olive's husband of 52 years, Bill Campbell, also plays the pipes and they are still in the Clan Maxwell Pipe Band with Pipe Major Donald Maxwell Sr.

This year the Clan Maxwell Pipe Band and many friends and former pupils honoured Olive for 68 years of piping and for her contribution to the Calgary Scottish Culture and Traditions.