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**Around the World with
 The Andover Beacon**



The Mishcon family visiting their son, Sam, in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Sam has just finished his first of two years teaching English with the Peace Corps in Georgia.

Don from page 33

"Fiche." Astonished, Don realized that his great grandmother, Maggie Fitch, was descended from the Essex family.

Although originally a small-scale hobby that became a part time business for an aesthetically-inclined art major, stained glass restoration now occupies more of Don's time as he has put more energy into social media promotion of his work. He has restored glass from as far as New Jersey and Ohio, including the church from his hometown. In fact, he has even traveled to Britain to the Williams and Byrne Studio in Stanton Lacy, Shropshire to learn more about the discipline of painting and firing glass.

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For many, stained glass restoration as an endeavor would be enough. But then there's the bagpipe.

Over 46 years a piper, Don also presides as the President of the New Hampshire Pipes and Drums (NHP&D) and is Pipe Sergeant as well. He competes as a soloist and with the Grade 4 pipe band, one of two competition bands fielded by the NHP&D. You may have seen him at Andover's

Fourth of July celebration, on the Village Green and in the parade, kilt and all.

As a teenager, he purchased a practice chanter and attempted to learn how to play pipe himself, a strategy he later came to realize "just doesn't work."

Because of the complexity of the instrument, he soon turned to the Pipe Major of the Akron Pipe Band for free lessons. He has been in love with the instrument ever since.

Enthralled by the rich history of the bagpipe, he is disheartened at times by its portrayal in popular media. "There's this scene in Rob Roy," he tells me with a bemused tone, "when someone's being chased, and all you hear in the background are these Irish bagpipes. It takes place in Scotland! Irish pipes are beautiful, but Scottish pipes are a completely different sound. It's just that nobody really gets to hear them when they are well played."

Don cherishes the traditions and art of both his undertakings, stained glass and bagpipe. But at the same time, he remains sensible. Above all, he's just having a good time. "All this stuff is just fun. It keeps life interesting."

Amen.



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