

# SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

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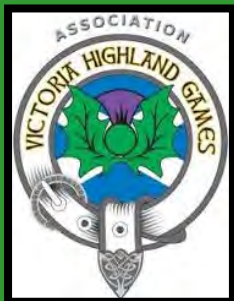
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## 159th VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL: MAY 21-22



**Massed Band at Official Opening.** Photo: vhga

**VICTORIA**—One of the longest running festivals in North America, the 159th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will take place between May 14 and May 22 at various venues around Greater Victoria. Over 25,000 people are expected to participate in the festival activities.

On May 14, the Tartan Parade will leave Centennial Square at 11 am and parade to the Legislature Grounds for a short ceremony. Pipe bands, highland dancers, and heavy event athletes will perform along with many members of local Scottish and Celtic groups.

Jim Maxwell, President of the Victoria Highland Games Association, has announced that the 159th anniversary of the Victoria Highland Games will again be held at Topaz Park following two years of a much smaller Games held at the Craigflower Manor property that the association manages.

“Prior to the pandemic, the Victoria Highland Games was a premier destination in North America for people looking for the best festivals of Scottish and Celtic music, dance, sport and heritage”, said Maxwell. “We have been waiting and planning for when the public health orders will allow us to again hold our large festival back at Topaz Park. With some changes to the venue layout due to construction on one of the fields at Topaz Park, we will be hosting the International Heavy Events Challenge and Canadian Invitational Drum Major Championship, with a full line-up of current and past world and national champions. We have confirmed that Simon Fraser University Pipe Band will attend, so people can witness the best pipe band in North America compete both days!

Massed pipe band performances on both Saturday and Sunday, Irish dancing on Saturday and Highland dancing on Sunday are must-see events. This is the best value ticket for large festivals in Victoria! If you have ever wanted to go to a world-class Highland Games, the 159th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will definitely meet your expectations!

New for 2022 is a Saturday evening Sunset Ceremony performance. The highlight of the performance is the Strathcona Mounted Troop, which will perform on the Saturday evening, as well as close the Games on late Sunday afternoon. (For more info on Strathcona Mounted Troop, go to: <https://strathconas.ca/about-the-mounted-troop>).

We will have the Canadian Forces Skyhawks parachutists as part of the Sunset Ceremony!



**Strathcona Mounted Troop.** Photo contributed.

In addition, the Naden Band and Canadian Scottish Regiment pipe bands will provide musical performances at the same event.

The Victoria Highland Games is a family-focused weekend of Scottish and Celtic arts and culture including pipe band competitions, Scottish Highland and Irish Dancing competitions, Heavy Events—e.g. caber toss, hammer throw—haggis hurling, tug of war, Scottish Country Dancing, fiddling performances, Scottish and Celtic and folk music bands, Scottish clan and genealogy booths and displays, historic military demonstrations and displays, Scottish/Celtic

*Cont'd on p. 2*



# Highland Games ...cont'd from p. 1

food and merchandise vendors. For adults 19 and over there is a single malt whisky school, and a wine tasting school. There is also an excellent line up of local Celtic bands performing at the Celtic Music Tent; you can see a preview of these bands at [victoriahighlandgames.com/craigflower-music-festival-may-20th-2022/](http://victoriahighlandgames.com/craigflower-music-festival-may-20th-2022/) There is also a large FREE area for children's entertainment.

Try Lighthouse Brewing Company's *Highland Challenge Ale*, brewed specially for the Games and watch the various activities with a pint in hand! You might also nose and taste some of the finest single malt scotch at the Whisky Tasting School.



Purchase your tickets early and save! Discounted tickets are available at the Strathcona Hotel Liquor Store and Liquor Planet (Langford) or online through Eventbrite. Tickets are available at the Games gates—cash only but ATMS are present. Children under 12 do receive FREE admission! In true Scottish fashion, the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place rain or shine.

For more info visit: [victoriahighlandgames.com](http://victoriahighlandgames.com) You can follow us on Twitter [@vichighlndgames](https://twitter.com/vichighlndgames) |

Like us on Facebook – **Victoria Highland Games**  
*The above article was contributed as a press release by the Victoria Highland Games Association. Ω*



Entrance of the clan societies 2019.



78th Fraser Highlanders demonstration team 2018.

*Photos on this page by L. Scott*



Simon Fraser University PB at Games 2018

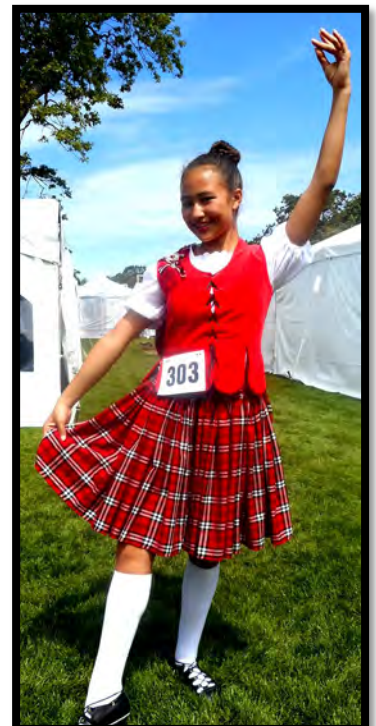


Matt Doherty is putting the 26.5 lb Braemar stone 2018.

*Photo Credit: Alec Provan*



Canadian Forces Parachute Team —The Sky Hawks. CF Photo.



Mayumi Hinatsu-Willie, from Port Hardy, strikes a pose.



## Upcoming Events

### Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Tribute to Dora Dempster

Saturday, 7 May 2022  
City Lights Church Hall

Details at <https://viscds.ca>



### Tartan Parade—14 May 2022



Parade starts at Centennial Square at 11:00 am and then proceeds down Government Street to the BC Legislature lawn, where there will be short ceremony and Scottish dancing, sports, etc. Wear your tartan and walk in the parade!

### 159th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival: May 21-22

Highlights of the Highland Games at Topaz Park:

- Pipe Bands,  
(including Gr. 1 Simon Fraser University Pipe Band)
- Canadian Invitational Drum Major Challenge
- International Heavy Events Challenge:  
Men and Women
- Highland and Irish Dance
- Celtic Music,  
(local bands throughout the weekend)
- Clan and Society Tents, Heritage Performers and Artisans
- Games Gala Performance,  
(inaugural Saturday evening performance)
- Celtic Vendors, Food Court, Adult beverage service
- Whisky and Wine Tasting Schools

[www.victoriahighlandgames.com](http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com)

Many volunteer positions need to be filled! Please help:  
[victoriahighlandgames.com/Participate/Volunteers](http://victoriahighlandgames.com/Participate/Volunteers)



## CeltFest Vancouver Island 2022 Presents



### Beòlach

Scottish-Canadian Group:  
*Traditional Roots Album of the Year*  
*Juno Awards Nominee*

Beòlach: Cape Breton Calling  
Sunday, June 19, 7:00 pm  
Sid Williams Theatre, Courteney

You can see and hear the group at  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZ5r\\_ZPIeL4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZ5r_ZPIeL4)

Tickets and Detailed Info:  
<https://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/events/beolach-cape-breton-calling/>

### And on the Humorous Side ...





# Craigflower Hall Takes Shape

By Ian Booth



Preparation for the sprung flooring.

**VIEW ROYAL**— Construction continues at a steady pace on our new building, despite minor setbacks. Originally set to be turned over to us by the contractors in July of 2022, we are now looking at the end of August, for occupancy on a project that has taken many years of planning and hard work.

No date has been set for an official opening of the building. As we get closer, we will have a better idea and will let everyone know of our plans.

The main framing on the structure is complete and by the time that you read this, the roof membrane will be on and the windows in place. The building is then closed in from the elements and the interior can be completed.



Custom-cut stone for rustic façade of building.

Currently the solid rock siding is being installed. Craftsmen labour to shape and place the thick local stone on the outside. This is not the typical veneer stone cladding that is often seen on a building's exterior, but solid rock. This is a major feature of the building and one that will make the structure stand out. The stone facade comes at a substantial cost but is an important addition that will lend to the Scottish character of Craigflower Hall. The latter's rustic stone profile will appear modern, but also blend in with the historic setting of Craigflower Manor. The architects and builders continue to receive rave reviews from

those in the building industry who watch as the building progresses. Such comments are indeed very rewarding to hear. Because of the attractiveness of the venue, we know that many in the community will want to come to our new facility and take part in its events and activities.

As often happens in construction projects, the cost of the project has risen beyond initial estimates — due to the extra time being taken to complete the building by the contractors and due to rising costs in the supply chain. One recent example is the charge from BC Hydro to supply power to the building, from the street up to the meter. Original estimates were in the neighbourhood of \$30,000. The company has recently provided us with a quote of over \$75,000 — more than double the figure.

We have the funds to open the building but the rising costs limit our ability to complete those finishing touches that will make it stand out. Craigflower Hall will initially have a bare bones and functional look.



Preparing to put in the large glass windows.

We are still looking at ways to come up with additional funding. We call upon people like you, who have an interest in preserving Scottish culture and traditions, to help us achieve our goal. To those of you who have already stepped forward I thank you once again.

To those who would like to be part of this additional challenge, I call upon you to help in any way you can. If you are not personally able to offer financial support, perhaps you could bend the ear of a friend or associate who may be in that position, and make them aware of our shortfall.

To those skeptics who may have thought that a Scottish Cultural Centre would never happen, be assured it will. Help to join with us and be part of this Scottish legacy in Victoria and beyond. Now is the time to take a step and be able to say, "I was part of realizing the dream of Craigflower Hall".

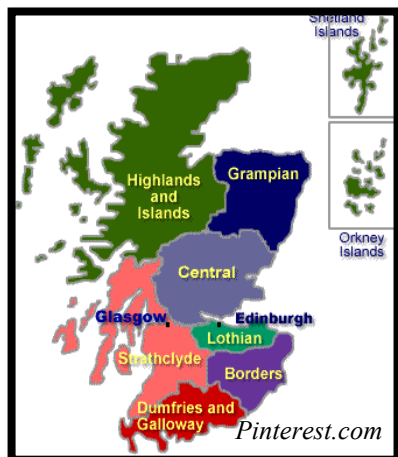
Once again the Victoria Scottish Community Centre Society will be set up at the Victoria Highland Games this May 21 & 22. We will be there to answer questions and display the building, as we have done at previous Victoria Highland Games.

If you are not able to make it to the Games, visit [www.craigflowercommunitycentre.ca](http://www.craigflowercommunitycentre.ca) for information.

*Article and photos contributed by Ian Booth.*

# Lothian Region

Condensed from [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midlothian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midlothian)



**MIDLOTHIAN**—Scottish Gaelic: *Meadhan Lodainn*—is an historic county, registration county, lieutenancy area and one of thirty-two council areas of Scotland used for local government. Midlothian lies in the east-central Lowlands, bordering the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. Midlothian emerged as a county

in the Middle Ages, under larger boundaries than the modern council area, including Edinburgh itself – and also known as Edinburghshire until 1921. It bordered West Lothian to the west, Lanarkshire, Peeblesshire and Selkirkshire to the south, and East Berwickshire and Roxburghshire to the east. Traditional industries included mining, agriculture and fishing – although the modern council area is now landlocked.

In the Middle Ages, Lothian was the scene of several historic conflicts between the kingdoms of Scotland and England. The Battle of Roslin took place in 1303 at Roslin as part of the First War of Scottish Independence.

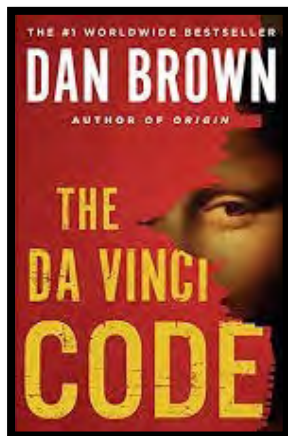
A Scottish army led by Simon Fraser and John Comyn defeated an army led by English commander John Segrave.

Along with other parts of the Lothians, the county was involved in the Rough Wooing when Roslin Castle, seat of the Earl of Caithness, was destroyed in 1544 by forces of Henry VIII of England. Henry destroyed widely.

Rosslyn Chapel—spelled differently from the namesake castle and town, Roslin—has obtained fame more recently from its appearance in *The Da Vinci Code*. In the latter, the chapel was allegedly the one-time resting place of the Holy Grail, placed there by the Masons. But the Order of Freemasons was founded more than a century after the chapel was built, so Masons had nothing to do with the symbolism in the architecture of the building. The chapel is now being restored.



**Roslin Chapel in the grounds of Roslin Castle.** Photo: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)



**Purple heather in the Pentland Hills of Midlothian**

Photo: <https://edinburgh.org/cityplus/midlothian/>

Historically, Midlothian was one of the traditional counties into which Scotland was divided prior to 1975. It only formally became known as Midlothian, however, following a minor reorganisation in 1921 which changed its name from the County of Edinburgh and made some minor boundary changes that resulted in the transfer of the village of Whitecraig, south of Musselburgh to East Lothian. Although the formal name change was relatively recent, the county had long been informally referred to as Midlothian, not least in the name of a football team, Heart of Midlothian or "Hearts", and the title of a book by Sir Walter Scott, also *Heart of Midlothian*.

Midlothian remained a county in its own right until reorganisation in 1975 swept all the counties away in favour of 12 regions. The regions formed in 1975 were the upper tier of a two tier local authority system, and the traditional county area of Midlothian became part of the region of Lothian. (See green area on map, left column.)

**Lothian Chambers was the former headquarters of the Midlothian County Council, now home to the Consulate of France, in Edinburgh.** Photo: [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)



Those of a piping background might know an old march, *The Midlothian Pipe Band*. It was composed by Farquhar Beaton, who was the third pipe major of the 48th Highlanders of Canada (1900-1913). He was born in 1859 in Edinburgh; **Midlothian** was a part of what was then Edinburghshire, and hence Beaton named his new march after his birthplace. Beaton is credited with the introducing the idea of pipe bands playing tunes in parts — an innovation for our Canadian pipe bands in that day, but something already being done in Scotland. He died in 1916 in Toronto. Ω



**Pipe Major Farquhar Beaton** Photo: [regimentalpipers.com](http://regimentalpipers.com)



## Castles of Coastal Scotland



Eilan Donan, which means simply "island of Donnán", is named after Donnán of Eigg, a Celtic saint who was martyred in 617. The present castle was reconstructed in 1919-1932. *en.wikipedia.org*



Broughty Castle, built as a guardian of the Firth of Tay, just a few miles east of Dundee © VisitScotland / Kenny Lam



Dunnottar stands ruinous today but the Royal Regalia—crown, sword, and sceptre— was kept at Dunnottar when Oliver Cromwell's army, laden with cannon, laid siege in 1650s. <https://www.scottishfield.co.uk/travel/scotland-travel>



Rothesay — Scotland's only circular castle. The ownership of Rothesay, on the Isle of Bute, was hotly contested between the kingdoms of Scotland and Norway. *Image by David Weinczok.*



Caisteal Tioram is now a ruins that sits on the tidal island of Eilan Tioram in Loch Moidart, Lochaber Highland. *Image by David Weinczok*

## Scottish Culture:

**Saltire Society of Victoria:** Contact is the Provost, Doug McLeod, at 250 360-1776 or the society's Scrivener (secretary), Larry Scott at 250 213-5239.

**Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association.** For inquiries, contact Keith Feir at 250 652-5773 or [kfeir@shaw.ca](mailto:kfeir@shaw.ca)

**Victoria Gaelic Choir:** The group sings in both Gaelic and English. [shancummings@gmail.com](mailto:shancummings@gmail.com)

**Victoria Highland Games Association:** President is Jim Maxwell. [www.victoriahighlandgames.com](http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com)

## Websites:

**The Celtic Connection:** Burnaby-based tabloid, publishing since 1991. Online at [celtic-connection.com](http://celtic-connection.com)

**The Scottish Banner** is a digital download subscription service. View at: [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com)

**Bruce Knight Memorial Piobaireachd Competition**  
<https://www.facebook.com/bruceknightmemorial>

**Scottish Review** is now edited by Islay McLeod, who is located in Prestwick: [www.scottishreview.net](http://www.scottishreview.net)

**Rampant Scotland** is a site begun in 1996 and written by Alan Scott at: [www.RampantScotland.com/letter.htm](http://www.RampantScotland.com/letter.htm)

**Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners.** Did you ever work in the UK? You may be eligible for a pension. [info@britishpensions.com](mailto:info@britishpensions.com) or [www.britishpensions.com](http://www.britishpensions.com)

## Dance Instruction:

**Brentwood Scottish Country Dancers:** Contact Janet Mitchell at [mitchel5@telus.net](mailto:mitchel5@telus.net) for more detailed information. Classes happen at the Brentwood Centre.

**Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society:** [www.viscds.ca](http://www.viscds.ca) Weekly classes for various levels of ability. Further information may be had from June Robinson, [viscdspresident@shaw.ca](mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca)

**Bon Accord Highland Dancers:** Lynne Griffiths. Tel. 250 479-7804 [BonAccordDancers@shaw.ca](mailto:BonAccordDancers@shaw.ca)

**Glengarry Highland Dancers:** Carolyn Phillips-Cusson. Tel. 250 758-0208 or email for information to [info@celticperformingarts.com](mailto:info@celticperformingarts.com)

**Kathleen Laurie School of Highland Dance:** Tel. 250 213-9627 [dancehighland@gmail.com](mailto:dancehighland@gmail.com)

**Kathy White's Island Highland Dance Academy:** [kathywhitedance@hotmail.com](mailto:kathywhitedance@hotmail.com) Cell 250-710-0837

**Katie Dean School of Highland Dance:** H 250-920-3513 cell 250-514-8110 [kdean@shaw.ca](mailto:kdean@shaw.ca)

**O'Brien School of Irish Dancing:** Teachers — Mairead O'Brien/Crystal van Boven. [www.obrienirishdance.com](http://www.obrienirishdance.com) Tel. 604 340-2370.

**Victoria Highland Dance Association.** Sponsors competitions, etc. Contact at [www.vhda.weebly.com](http://www.vhda.weebly.com)

**Victoria School of Irish Dance:** [www.victoriairishdancers.com](http://www.victoriairishdancers.com) Contact Alison Paladini at 250 888-9421 or [alisonpaladini@shaw.ca](mailto:alisonpaladini@shaw.ca)

## Victoria Area Pipe Bands:

**BC Pipers' Association** serves solo Highland Bagpipers, Scottish Drummers and Pipe Bands in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. [www.bcpipers.org](http://www.bcpipers.org)

**Canadian Scottish Regimental Association Pipe Band**  
[www.canadianscottishregiment.ca](http://www.canadianscottishregiment.ca)

**Castle Cary Pipes and Drums.** For band info go to: [www.castlecarypipesanddrums.ca](http://www.castlecarypipesanddrums.ca)

**443 Squadron RCAF Pipe Band.** P/M Stephen Kelly [Stephen.kelly@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Stephen.kelly@forces.gc.ca) or [stevekelly@live.ca](mailto:stevekelly@live.ca)

**Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band.** [www.gvppb.com](http://www.gvppb.com) Pipe Major Warren Fells; Drum Major Randy Evans.

**Pipe Band of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's).** Drum Major Glen Ereat, contact at [Glen.Ereat@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Glen.Ereat@forces.gc.ca)

**Saanich Peninsula Pipe Band.** Contact 250-652-9954 or <https://saanichpeninsulapipeband.blogspot.com/>

**78th Fraser's Highlanders Pipe Band.** Contact Pipe Major Dave Hjalmarsen at [nordicsword@hotmail.com](mailto:nordicsword@hotmail.com)

**2136 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Pipes and Drums.** [www.2136cadets.ca](http://www.2136cadets.ca)

**VanIsle Caledonia Pipe Band.** Pipe Major Richard Findlay at [www.vanislecaledonia.com](http://www.vanislecaledonia.com)

## Local Businesses With Celtic Flavour:

**Bard and Banker Scottish Pub,** 1022 Government St, Victoria [www.bardandbanker.com](http://www.bardandbanker.com)

**Caledonia Meats.** Haggis makers. [colegriffiths11@gmail.com](mailto:colegriffiths11@gmail.com) or 250 857-5260.

**Craigdarroch Castle,** 1050 Joan Cresc, Victoria. Built by Scottish coal baron Robert Dunsmuir. <https://thecastle.ca/>

**Fraser Orr's Butcher and Deli,** 108-1931 Mt. Newton Cross Rd., Saanichton. Haggis, Scotch pies, etc. [www.fraserorrsbutcher.com](http://www.fraserorrsbutcher.com)

**Freedom Kilts,** 1335 Pembroke St., Victoria [www.freedomkilts.com](http://www.freedomkilts.com)

**Irish Linen Stores,** 1019 Government St, Victoria [www.irishlinenvictoria.com](http://www.irishlinenvictoria.com)

**Irish Times Pub,** 1200 Government St, Victoria [www.irishtimespub.ca](http://www.irishtimespub.ca)

**Island Bagpipe,** 5775 Alder Way, Nanaimo [www.islandbagpipe.com](http://www.islandbagpipe.com) Bagpipes and much more.

**Lion Rampant Scottish Pub,** 6777 Beaumont Ave., Duncan. [www.lionrampant.ca](http://www.lionrampant.ca)

**North of Hadrian's Kilts and Celtic Clothing,** 102-318 Wale Rd., Victoria. 778 406-2243 [www.northofhadrians.com](http://www.northofhadrians.com)

**Out of Ireland Irish Importers,** 1000 Government St., Victoria: [www.outofireland.ca](http://www.outofireland.ca)

**Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery** does tours and events. [www.victoriacaledonian.com](http://www.victoriacaledonian.com)

\*If you would like to be on the free email mailing list for the **Scottish Newsletter**, contact Larry Scott by email at [kitimatlarry@gmail.com](mailto:kitimatlarry@gmail.com) There is no print version available.