



162ND VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL

2025



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NEWS

**DONNIE
AND DHALI**
THE TEAM



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VANCOUVER**

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ON THE
COAST**

**community
kitchen**

and more!



around town

community
events



@chek_aroundtown



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*The first Victoria Highland Games is held by the **Caledonia Benevolent Association***

1864 ●

*Amalgamation of the **Caledonia Benevolent Association** and **St. Andrew's Society**. They continue to managed the games until 1937*

1870 ●

25th Anniversary of the Games

1888 ●

***Victoria Highland Games Association (VHGA)** is formed*

1938 ●

*VHGA **donates** proceeds to the **Scottish War Effort***

1939 to 1945 ●

1945 ●

Games continue to be held at various venues around Victoria

2008 ●

*Games move to **Victoria's Topaz Park** to expand the event, including the **Victoria International Heavy Events Challenge***

2014 ●

*VHGA becomes the sole organization responsible for the historic **Craigflower Manor and Property***

2022 ●

Victoria Highland Games Association** officially opens its **Victoria Scottish Community Centre

For more information, visit the **History Tent** or our website at **victoriahighlandgames.com**



x.com/**VicHighlandGame**

youtube.com/@**VicHighlandGames**

facebook.com/**VictoriaHighlandGames**

instagram.com/**VictoriaHighlandGames**

Photos used on the cover by:
Tomasz Michniewicz
Heather Ancelet
James

STEVE S. KELLY, CD, CHIEFTAIN OF THE GAMES



Chief Warrant Officer (ret'd) Steve S. Kelly, CD

In 1959, Steve joined Scotland's premier Scottish infantry regiment, the 1st Bn The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) and served in Scotland, Libya, Germany and Yemen (Aden).

During his service with the Royal Scots, Steve attended piping courses for both junior and senior pipers at the Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle under the tutelage of then WO1 John A. McClellan, MBE.

On completion of his military service from the British army in 1968, Steve and his wife Christeen took up residence in Calgary, Alberta where they lived before moving to their current family home in Victoria, British Columbia.

In Canada, Steve served as a player and/or instructor with several pipe bands including The Calgary Highlanders, the Clan MacBain Pipe Band, started the Ogden Legion Youth Pipe Band (now Foothills Caledonia Pipe Band in Calgary) and became the Pipe Major of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) as well as the Regimental Sergeant Major later on in his career. Steve finally retired as the Senior Piping Instructor for the Canadian Cadet Programme in the Pacific in 2001.

Steve currently plays with 443 (Maritime Helicopter) Squadron Pipes and Drums, Royal Canadian Air Force, as well as the Pipes and Drums of the 78th Fraser Highlanders of the Fort Victoria Garrison.

On behalf of the Victoria Highland Games Association Board of Directors, I welcome you to the oldest, continually running Highland Games in North America! Once again, the Board and the wonderful group of volunteers have put together a Games of world-class Scottish and Celtic arts, culture, music, dance and sport. I wish to acknowledge our sponsors, community partners and government agencies whose support is critical to maintaining the high quality of our Games.

The VHGA looks forward to enhancing future Victoria Highland Games and has confirmed the 2026 Games will host the World Women's Heavy Events Championship, for the first time in Canada. With the VHGA managing its Scottish Centre in View Royal, and its charitable society managing the Capital City Pipe Band for youth, the future looks very bright for Scottish and Celtic culture and arts in Greater Victoria!

I wish you a great weekend of wonderful memories!

Jim Maxwell, President
Victoria Highland Games Association





Nina Krieger is pleased to be attending the Highland Games and Celtic Festival as the new MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake and Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film.

With two decades of experience as a non-profit leader, Nina is dedicated to advancing education, justice, and a brighter and more equal future for everyone in British Columbia.

As an advocate for arts and culture, she gratefully acknowledges this significant festival and its role in building a vibrant community.



On behalf of the City of Victoria, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival.

The Highland Games are always a highlight event, kicking off a busy festival season here in Victoria. From the impressive strength of athletes competing in the International Heavy Events Challenge, to the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band's performances at the Canadian International Drum Major Championship, this festival is full of excitement. Experience the talent of skilled Scottish Highland dancers, Scottish/Celtic musical performances and dive into the rich history displays. This carefully curated event has something for everyone.

Congratulations to all the participants, organizers and volunteers on another successful celebration of Celtic culture and friendly competition, the longest running Highland Games in North America.

Thank you for visiting and supporting the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival. The City of Victoria appreciates the festival's continuing contribution to our city's rich cultural landscape. Enjoy the event!

Sincerely, Marianne Alto, Victoria Mayor



HISTORY TENT

Come visit the History Tent to learn more about the Games history and Scottish culture! There will be photographs, articles and write-ups on famous Scots, Scottish inventors, Piper James Richardson as well as past Victoria Highland Games from years dating back to the 1860s.

Also, don't miss out on the displays about Craigflower Manor and property, a National Historic Site of Canada. On the Craigflower property, the VHGA has recently built the Victoria Scottish Community Centre which is the home base of the Association.

The original Highland Games were founded by King Malcolm III. The first Highland Games were held in Scotland in the 11th century, known as Canmore (1058-1093).

They were originally created to find the fittest men to deliver messages for the King. In later years, these gatherings were used as training exercises for clan warriors.

They included tests of strength, agility, accuracy and stamina of the candidates such as the caber toss, the sheaf toss, and the stone throw.

Featuring competitions on Piping and drumming, dancing, heavy athletics, as well as all kinds of entertainment and exhibits, the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival celebrates and helps promote the Scottish and Celtic culture.

HERITAGE HUB **SAT SUN**

Harpist, Allison Vardy

Alison has been pulling (harp) strings for 40 years. Now resident in Cedar, she plucks regularly through a 15-hr repertoire, sans written music, switching keys & hands to add challenge. She is delighted to play again at the Highland Games.

Saltire Society

One of the objects of the Saltire Society of Victoria BC founded in 1953, is to help preserve the culture and heritage of Scotland, the Land of our Ancestry. In this presentation, you will hear about Glasgow's history around the birth and death of steelmaking, shipbuilding and the industry along the River Clyde.

The Victoria Gaelic Choir

Guth nan Eilean, The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir is a SATB a cappella choir based in Victoria, BC. We sing traditional songs of the Scottish Highlands in Gaelic while also including some contemporary favorites in Scots. Join us for sing-alongs, featured solos, and more. Be sure to see our full, thirty member choir perform on the music stage at 10am on Sunday. Sit in with us as we full cloth and sing traditional waulking songs at our table among the clan tents too!

4

Victoria Genealogical Society

Have you ever wondered what your ancestors believed about these monsters and other Scottish legends? Did you hear stories sitting on your grandparent's knee? Did anyone in their family ever see a monster, a fairy, a kelpie? How do legends and myths relate to Genealogy?

Mary Ross, Accordionist & Joan Axeford, V.I. Scottish Country Dancing

Mary's Scottish Heritage contributes to her strong ties to Celtic Music, with Highland dancing and accordion lessons starting at an early age. Joan Axford has taught highland, step and Scottish country dancing for over 40 years. Please join them in song and dance, while trying out the dance steps as well, if you like!

Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dog's Brewery

Enjoy an informative chat about what makes whiskey have its complexities and how the barrel is the true definer of creating the taste and flavour profiles.

Evolution of a Kilt

Kilts and tartans have a long and dramatic history, yet many of our ideas about the kilt are based on myth, legend, misconceptions, and (worse yet) Hollywood. Learn the true history of the kilt, and how it has evolved in the modern world.

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*Terms and conditions apply.

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Associations*

78th Fraser Highlanders
 CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada)
 Celtic Performing Arts Inc./CeltFest
 Vancouver Island/ Glengarry Dance
 Fight Like A Highlander
 Okanagan Military Tattoo Society
 The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada
 Vancouver Island Scottish Dance Society
 Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild

Clans*

Clan Gregor
 Clan Leslie
 Clan MacAuley
 Clan MacFarlane
 Worldwide
 Clan MacKenzie
 Clan MacNicol
 Society of North America
 Clan MacRae
 Clan Murray
 Stewart Family

(*) This is a list of clans and associations confirmed as of the date of this printing. Visit the Clan Tent for a complete list of clans and associations present at the games.

"What's the Rush?" University of
 Victoria Mapping Table

*Art by Laura
 A. McDonald*

Fantasy Arts

Art by Dale Hitchcox

Beaver House Fudge

Cherry's Stained Glass

Bag's N- Boxes

Wild Abandon Jewelry

Happy Camper

Freeze Dried

Vancouver

Island Scrunchie

Windspinners

Sharon Hubbard Arts

Island Sisters

Body Works

Karmic Henna Art &

Sparkly Tattoos

Phaest Digital Art

Bebop's Creations

Your Yiru Baby shop &
 Photography

Tidal Toys

Sparklelily Jewelry

Spell Binding Leather

Otter & Emma

Island Jerkey

West Coast

Creative Spirits

Macaloney's Island Distillers

King Kauna

Hawaiian Shirts

Fantastical Worlds

Ima Designs

West Coast Black

Sheep Custom prints

Oh Snap Trio

North of Hadrians Kilts

Affordable Kilts

The Scottish Shoppe

Sasquatch Snacks

Mcphail Kits

HUNGRY? READY TO SHOP?

Island Culinary Service

haggis & gravy, scotch
 pies & beans, bacon baps

Greek on the Street

pita wraps, souvlaki,
 hummus, tzatziki,
 calamari, spanakopita
 (vegan, vegetarian &
 gluten free available)

Mama Rosie's Kitchen

authentic Filipino
 cuisine (vegetarian
 available)

Country Crepes

savory and sweet
 (vegetarian & gluten free
 available)

Naked Dressings

all natural salads and
 bowls (vegan, vegetarian
 & gluten free available).

Trio's Extreme Mac and Cheese

macaroni and cheese
 comfort food

Kattias Kitchen Authentic Mexican

authentic Mexican,
 tacos, quesadillas (vegan,
 vegetarian & gluten free
 available)

Holy Cow Mini- Donuts

freshly made do-nuts

Road Treasure Treats

ice-cream, cotton candy

Lemon Heaven

freshly squeezed
 lemonade and cotton
 candy

Hazel's Ice Cream

hand-dipped ice cream
 bars

Weiner Dogs

hot dogs, veggie dogs,
 various toppings,
 assorted fruit, chips,
 drinks



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WHISKY SCHOOL

SAT SUN

Whisky Folk (Sat 10:45am)

with Adam Bradshaw

House of Suntory Japanese Whisky Masterclass (Sat 12:20pm)

with Rick Sousa

Charcuterie and Sleeman and Son's Spring Hill

Distillery Masterclass (Sat 1:55pm)

with distillery representative

Glenallachie Distillery Masterclass (Sat 3:30pm)

with James Bornn

Laphroaig Distillery Masterclass (Sat 5:05pm)

with distillery representative

Paul John Masterclass (Sun 11:00am)

with distillery representative

Whyte and Mackay

Masterclass (Sun 12:35pm)

with Adam Bradshaw

Scotch Malt Whisky Society

Masterclass (Sun 2:10pm)

with Lawrence Graham

The Vancouver Island Distilleries Masterclass

(Sunday 3:45pm)

*with Chris Reid,
Brennan Colebank, and
Graeme Macaloney*

WINE SCHOOL

SAT SUN

Bubbles! Sparkles!

Saturday, Sunday 1:00pm

Summertime Sippers

Saturday, Sunday 2:30pm

Big, Bold Reds from Around the World

Saturday, Sunday 4:00pm

The Victoria Highland Games Association is pleased to present
"The Wine Tasting School".

All sessions feature high quality wines (6 samples each class) presented by
Dustin Truscio from Everything Wine.

HIGHLAND DANCE SAT SUN

What are judges looking for?

In competitions, dancers are judged on three fundamentals: **timing**, **technique** and **general deportment**.

Dancers are judged on their **timing** by their ability to follow and keep to the rhythm of the music.

Good positioning of the feet and hands, strong footwork and coordination of the head and arms are important **techniques** watched closely.

Dancers are judged on **general deportment** through their posture, balance, carriage of their head, body, arms, hands and general confidence and happy demeanor.

While highland dancing is an athletic skill dancers must perform with lightness and graceful ease.

Competition

In competition, each dancer is ranked according to one of five groups: **Primary**, under 7 years of age; **Beginner** until winning 6 different contests; **Novice**, until winning 6 more competitions; **Advanced Intermediate**, for one year from date of last Novice competition; and then **Open or Premiere**. Each of these groups has several age classifications.

Up until the 1900s, Highland Dancing was originally an athletic event for Scottish Men only, to keep soldiers in the Scottish Regiments in top physical shape for battle. It wasn't until the World Wars that women started dancing, to keep their heritage and culture alive while men fought in war. Today, Highland Dancing organizations and schools exist around the world and women outnumber men significantly. Dancers around the world perform both **Traditional** and **Scottish National Dances**.



This ancient sport is believed to have been brought to Ireland by the Celts around 1200 BC. It is considered to be the fastest grass field sport in the World and can be described as a combination of Field Lacrosse, Field Hockey and Rugby. For the VHGA's McNamara Cup, the game will be played as a Super Sevens format with only net goals no upright points.

HURLING

The Slieves

The Slieves are a West Coast Celtic band hailing from Victoria and Duncan B.C., the traditional territories of the Lekwungen, WSÁNEĆ and Quw'utsun peoples. Brought together by their love of traditional Irish Music, this group has brought Celtic folk and Celtic-inspired original music to the coast of B.C. for well over a decade.

The McGillicuddy's

Under the influence of old school punk rock and traditional Celtic tunes, the McGillicuddys are a psycho ceilidh mixed up with power chords. Electric guitar, bass and drums provide a thumping background, for the lashings of mandolin, tin whistle and accordion that complete the glorious din.

Castle Cary Pipes and Drums

Cookeilidh

Cookeilidh has been delighting audiences for years with their high energy traditional, and modernized Celtic tunes. Comprised of 12 string guitar, fiddle, Irish flute, electric bass, bodhran and vocals, they define their music as "Trad with Attitude" "Celtic Craic" and "Pot O' Gold Folk". A timeless blend of music and vocal numbers that caters to all ages and all audiences.

Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir

Guth Nan Eilean - Voices of the Island, aka Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir, has been promoting and preserving the Gaelic language, music and culture since 1997.

Joe Higgins

Joe Higgins is a Scottish singer/songwriter from the Glasgow area of Scotland who also thoroughly enjoys playing the old Scottish songs from his childhood. Joe immigrated to Canada over 25 years ago and has had the pleasure of playing his tunes in and around Victoria, B.C. pubs and local events ever since.

Terry Boyle & Ceilidh Briscoe

Together, Terry and Ceilidh present a wide range of songs and tunes in the style of an intimate kitchen concert. Usually exhilarating and free flowing, sometimes mellow and thoughtful, this hugely entertaining and engaging duo is not to be missed.

Tom Morrissey

Tom Morrissey, lives on Vancouver island. Playing pubs, clubs and festivals all over Canada bringing high energy east coast music and pub favorites to every show. Born in Mount Pearl Newfoundland Tom has been entertaining audiences for over 40 years.

Clanna Morna

Hailing from the occupied territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ nations (Victoria, BC in Canada), Clanna Morna breathes life into their unique take on the Celtic Folk genre. Their sound is rooted in the traditional Irish, Scottish and English music that many love, and features carefully crafted arrangements, rhythmic spirited energy and captivating storytelling.

The Hounds of Cuchulain

The Hounds of Cuchulain are a high-energy celtic folk band from Victoria BC who perform a wide selection of Irish, Scottish, English, and original songs in the Celtic tradition, dating from the 1600's all the way up to the 1980's. The group's performances feature rowdy pub songs, historical ballads, haunting airs, and ripping reels - all woven together with engaging storytelling of the music's history.

A

B

C

D

E

F



1

2

3

4

5

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Heritage Tent (D5) ① | Hospitality Tent (C4) ⑬ |
| Piping and Drumming (A4) ② | Volunteer Tent (C3) ⑭ |
| Children's Area (B4) ③ | Hurling (E2) ⑮ |
| Clans' Tents (D4) ④ | Heavy Events (E5) ⑯ |
| Merchant Vendors (D4) ⑤ | |
| Food Court (A4) ⑥ | |
| Whisky School (C4) ⑦ | |
| Celtic Music Tent (B5) ⑧ | |
| Wine School (C4) ⑨ | |
| Main Stage/Highland Dance (D4) ⑩ | |
| History Tent (D5) ⑪ | |
| Capital City Pipe Band (C4) ⑫ | |

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Medical | |
| Bathroom | |
| Security Tent | |
| Information | |
| Food Stand | |

- B Beer Gardens**
- B1 Crooked Caber (E4)
 - B2 Rampant Lion (C5)
- G Entrance Gate**
- G1 Finlayson Gate (C2)
 - G2 Glasgow Gate (A5)



PLAID TO THE BONE



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MORE THAN A PLAYLIST



SUNDAY

SPORTS MUSIC / DANCE CULTURE / EDUCATION

NOTE: schedule subject to change without prior notice

[illegible]

2025 LIGHTHOUSE BREWING COMPANY VICTORIA INTERNATIONAL HEAVY EVENTS CHALLENGE

SAT
SUN

The Events The Heavy Events have been contested at Highland Games for centuries, starting with games set up by King Malcolm III of Scotland to select the strongest men in Scotland to serve as his personal bodyguards. Implements used are those that were in use at that period of history, blacksmith's weight's, hammers used for driving fence posts, stones from the local rivers and trees cut down by woodsmen. There are nine traditional events that you will see contested and all are a true test of not only strength but skill and athleticism.

Putting The Stone The precursor to the modern Olympic shot put, the Stone Put is thrown in two styles. The Braemar Stone is a standing throw with no approach and a stone weighing up to 28lbs. The Open Stone weighing up to 20lbs is thrown with the option of an approach (glide, spin, etc)

Weight For Distance The athlete uses a spinning technique to throw either the Lightweight (28lbs for Men and 14lbs for Women) or the Heavy Weight (56lbs for Men and 28lbs for Women). The weights involve a ball and chain measuring no more than 18" and are thrown with one hand aiming for greatest distance.

Throwing The Hammer The Hammer involves a weighted head attached to a rigid pvc handle. The Hammer is spun overhead multiple times and released so that the Hammer flies behind the athlete. The Light Hammer weighs 16lbs for Men and 12lbs for Women and the Heavy Hammer weighs 22lbs for Men and 16lbs for Women.

Weight For Height Weight for Height is one of the greatest tests of explosive power in Heavy Events. A 56lbs weight is thrown with one hand overhead for maximum height. The athlete has three attempts at each height and is scored on the last successful height cleared. The winner is the athlete that clears the greatest height.

Sheaf Toss The Sheaf is a burlap sack weighing up to 20lbs that is thrown for height using a pitch fork. Rules are very similar to the Weight for Height and again the athlete who clears the greatest height being the winner

Tossing The Caber A Caber is a tapered log measuring up to 20+ feet. The athlete will attempt to pick up the Caber and balance it holding the small end. He will then run with the Caber and attempt to flip the Caber end over end. The Caber is not thrown for distance but rather accuracy using the hands of a clock. The goal is for the Caber to flip and land straight in line with the direction he was running, a perfect score being at 12 o'clock.



Victoria Highland Games

Field Records

Victoria Open Stone

57'5" | 48'10.5"

Kyle Lillie – 2024 | Adriane Wilson – 2013

Victoria Braemar Stone

42'5" | 37'6"

Kyle Lillie – 2015 | Jessica Bridenthal – 2017

Lightweight for Distance

92'2.5" | 90'10"

Matt Vincent – 2015 | Elissa Hapner – 2018

Heavyweight for Distance

48'3.25" | 55'1.5" (World Record)

Spencer Tyler – 2016 | Jessica Bridenthal – 2017

Light Hammer

142'10.5" | 111'9"

Matthew Doherty – 2018 | Kristy Scott – 2013

Heavy Hammer

117'8" | 91'3"

Matthew Doherty – 2016 | Kristy Scott – 2014

Weight for Height

18'2" | 18.1'

Andy Vincent – 2016 | Elissa Hapner – 2018



LIGHTHOUSE
BREWING CO

BREWING CO

The image displays four cans of Lighthouse Brewing Co. beer, each with a distinct label design and color scheme. The cans are arranged horizontally against a dark background.

- Shipwreck India Pale Ale:** The label is green with gold and white text. It features the Lighthouse Brewing Co. logo at the top, followed by "SHIPWRECK" in large, bold, white letters, and "INDIA PALE ALE" in smaller white letters below it. A circular seal at the bottom left indicates "EST. 2012" and "Lighthouse Brewing Co. Portland, OR".
- Race Rocks Amber Ale:** The label is blue with gold and white text. It features the Lighthouse Brewing Co. logo at the top, followed by "RACE ROCKS" in large, bold, white letters, and "AMBER ALE" in smaller white letters below it. A circular seal at the bottom left indicates "EST. 2012" and "Lighthouse Brewing Co. Portland, OR".
- Kapitan Czech Pilsner:** The label is maroon with gold and white text. It features the Lighthouse Brewing Co. logo at the top, followed by "KAPITAN" in large, bold, white letters, and "CZECH PILSNER" in smaller white letters below it. A circular seal at the bottom left indicates "EST. 2012" and "Lighthouse Brewing Co. Portland, OR".
- Tropical Storm Hazy IPA:** The label is light blue with gold and white text. It features the Lighthouse Brewing Co. logo at the top, followed by "TROPICAL STORM" in large, bold, white letters, and "HAZY IPA" in smaller white letters below it. A circular seal at the bottom left indicates "EST. 2012" and "Lighthouse Brewing Co. Portland, OR".

   @LIGHTHOUSEBEER

PLEASE ENJOY RESPONSIBLY. MUST BE LEGAL DRINKING AGE.

ADRIANE WILSON, USA

Hometown: Irmo, SC
 Age: 44, 5'10", 173lb
 Occupation: Strength and Conditioning coach
 6 times World Champion
 Ranked #1 in N. America

LIZ KING, CANADA

Hometown: Halifax, Nova Scotia
 Age: 37, 5'9.5", 182lb
 Occupation: Student at Saint Francis Xavier University
 Current and two time Canadian Champion
 2024 recipient of the Jim Sears Award

EMILY ADAMS USA

Hometown: Schneider, IN
 Age: 39, 5'9", 215lb
 Occupation: manufacture track & field throwing equipment
 Three World Records in Sheaf toss (10#, 12# & 16#)
 Current and multiple time Victoria Pro Women Champion

JAMIE CLARK, CAN

Hometown: Calgary, AB
 Age: 34, 5'10", 210lb
 Occupation: Grade 5 Teacher
 2019 Canadian Champion
 Multiple time 2nd place at Canadian Championships

AMARISSA HANDY, USA

Hometown: Tucson, AZ
 Age: 27, 6', 200lb
 Occupation: Registered Dietitian
 Top-5 women's world finisher 3yrs in a row
 Ranked #8 in N. America

ELISSA VAN VLECK, USA

Hometown: Aurora, IL
 Age: 32, 5'11", 180lb
 Occupation: Teacher
 Ranked #8 in North America
 2022 Victoria Highland Games champ
 2016 Women's World Champion

ERIN SWANSON, local athlete

Hometown: Victoria, BC
 Age: 30, 5'11", 190lb
 Occupation: Massage therapy
 Ranked 5th in Canada
 2022 Victoria Highland Games
 Amateur champ
 2024 4th place at Canadian
 Championships

JARVINA ROUTT, USA

Hometown: Buena Park, CA
 Age: 38, 5'9", 198lb
 Occupation: Longshoreman
 2018 US lightweight champion
 Ranked #10 in N. America 2023
 Has broken multiple world records

FELICIA BALTREN, USA

Hometown: Vista, CA
 Age: 38, 5'9", 160lb
 Occupation: Real Estate/Property Manager
 2016 3rd place World Championships
 Broke 5 world records as a lightweight
 thrower
 Avid admirer of geese

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COLIN DUNBAR, USA

Hometown: Santa Barbara CA

Age: 32, 6'8", 315lb

Occupation: Wine and Spirit Sales

3 time Olympic Trials competitor in the Olympic hammer.

Current Scottish World Record holder
WOB 17'6"

Ranked #7 in N. America 2024

JONATHAN HARDING, USA

Hometown: Austinville, VA

Age: 36, 6'4", 275lb

Occupation: Pricing Analyst

6th place at 2024 World Championships

Ranked 5th in N. America 2024

LORNE COLTHART, CANADA/ SCOTLAND

Hometown: Ottawa, Ontario

Age: 34, 6'4", 280lb

Occupation: Millwright

Scottish Native Champion for four years

Competed 7 times at the World
Championships

Current/3x Canadian Champion

ALEX MCARA, LOCAL ATHLETE

Hometown: Victoria, BC

Age: 26, 6'4", 300lb

* Occupation: Heavy Equipment
Technician

* Ranked 2nd in Canada 2024

* 2nd place 2024 Canadian Championships

* 7th place 2023 World Championships

GLEN NYS, BELGIUM

Hometown: Antwerp, Belgium

Age: 31, 6'4", 275lb

* Occupation: Strength and Conditioning
Coach

* 3rd place at 2024 World Championships

* Current/6x Belgium National Champion

JAMIE TRASK, CAN

Hometown: Fergus, ON

Age: 27, 6'3", 275lb

* Occupation: Diesel Technician

* 2015 CSAF Canadian Junior Champion

* ranked #4 in Canada 2024

* 12th place at 2023 World Championships

NICK RENYARD, LOCAL AM ATHLETE

Hometown: Campbell River, BC

Age: 30, 5'11", 260lb

* Occupation: VIHA/Hockey Coach

* Multiple time winner of Victoria
Highland Games Amateur class

* Former Victoria Royals Hockey coach

* Ranked 5th in Canada

NIK ASTON, USA

Hometown: Los Lunas, New Mexico

Age: 30, 6'3", 250lb

Occupation: Personal Trainer

Ranked #4 in North America 2024

3rd place at 2024 Celtic Classic (USA
Championships)

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victoriasporttourism.com



Piping Judge Barry Donaldson

Barry Donaldson was a police officer by profession and has since retired in 2006. He was a founder member and of the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, formed in 1975 and have won the World Pipe Band Championships on 11 occasions. Promotions precluded further involvement with the band, however, it did allow Barry to teach lower grade bands.

Over the next period as Pipe Major, he successfully led the Strathclyde Fire Brigade Pipe Band, North Lanarkshire Pipe Band and City of Edinburgh Pipe Band. Each



winning Championships in grades 4, 3 & 2. On retirement Barry returned to grade 1 and performed with Shotts and Dykehead Pipe Band.

From the late 70s through to the early 90s he successfully competed and won many of the top solo piping competitions and graded Premier by the Competing Pipers Association. In 1995 Barry was invited to become a solo piping judge and appointed a senior piping adjudicator with the Solo Piping Judges Association (SPJA) in the UK. He is also a pipe band adjudicator with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA).

Barry is responsible for creating successful youth teaching initiatives which culminated in the formation of both the North Lanarkshire Schools Pipe Band and City of Edinburgh School Pipe Band.



Drumming Judge John Fisher

John Fisher is one of the most versatile players and educators of our lifetime. His career has spanned over 3 decades dividing his passion between pipe band and drum set genres.

John is both a master player and educator. He was a former faculty member at the Musicians Institute in Los Angeles where he also performed as a studio session drummer. He has counselled and instructed many world-famous drummers including Grammy,

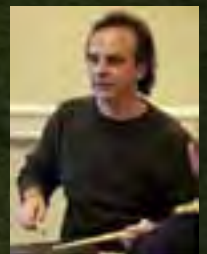
Billboard Magazine, American Music, MTV music award winners.

He is a former North American Champion, a former lead drummer of The City of Victoria Pipe Band, a drum corps member of the Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band under lead drummer Alex Duthart, and a former lead drummer of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band.

John was the lead drummer of the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band from its inception until 2016. In 2008, the Spirit of Scotland Pipe Band, comprised of world-class players,

was the subject of an award-winning documentary by John McDonald, "On the Day".

Residing in Vancouver, John performs, teaches and counsels private drum set and pipe band snare drum lessons. In addition, he is a much sought-after instructor and performer for many pipe band schools and workshops across North America.



2025 Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery Open Piobaireachd Competition

The word "piobaireachd" literally means pipe playing or pipe music, but is now

used to describe the classical music of the Great Highland Bagpipe. Another name for it is "Ceol Mor" meaning the Big Music, which separates Piobaireachd from all other forms of bag pipe music (marches, reels, jigs etc.) which are referred to as "Ceol Beag" – the Little Music.



It consists of a theme or "ground", with a succession of increasingly complex variations that follow the theme. These variations are divided into movements and performed in (relatively) rigorously defined order and manner. Pibroch compositions are distinguished from other traditional Scottish tunes by their considerable length (typically 8-12 minutes long), slow rhythm, complex ornamentation and virtuosic nature.

Nothing resembling piobaireachd has been discovered in any other country in the world. The open Piobaireachd competition, featuring the top pipers in the Pacific Northwest, is proudly sponsored by the Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery.

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Drum Major Judge

John Noble

John resides in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, with his wife Helen, daughter Caitlin and son Gregor. Working as Head of Commercial Catering Division, John and his team are involved in all aspects of commercial catering within the Public Sector in Scotland

Competing in the Adult grade for over twenty years, John is the most accomplished Drum Major of the modern era. He started his career as a Drum Major for Ayr Society Pipe Band in 1986, before moving to City of Glasgow Pipe and finally with Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia in 1990, where he remained until his retirement in 2005.

Career highlights include qualifying for 52 consecutive Adult Drum major championship finals, winning 9 World Champion and 13 Champion of Champion titles.

John remains actively involved with the RSPBA as an Adjudicator, Drum Major representative on the Adjudicators Panel Management Board and member of the

Adjudicator Development Group. A key aspect of his role is to coach and develop potential new Drum Major adjudicators. John travels the world adjudicating and conducting workshops to help develop the standard of Drum Majors.

John's latest involvement within pipe bands is with Burntisland & District Pipe Bands, where his son Gregor is a key member of the drum corp.

Career Achievements - RSPBA Adult Championships

World Champion: 1987, 88, 89, 93, 94, 2000, 01, 03, 05 (9)

Scottish Champion: 1989, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 99, 2000, 03, 05 (10)

British Champion: 1989, 90, 92, 95, 98, 99, 2000, 01 (8)

European Champion: 1989, 91, 92, 93, 94, 99, 2000, 03 (8)

Cowal Champion: 1985, 87, 89, 90, 95, 99, 2001, 02, 03, 04, 05 (11)

RSPBA Champion of Champions: 1987, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 98, 99, 2000, 01, 03, 05 (13)



Drum Major Jason Paguio

From Coronado, California, Jason Paguio is a 6-time World Champion Drum Major. Jason won his first world title in the Juvenile category (18 & under) in 2004. In 2007, he made international history by becoming the first person from outside the United Kingdom to win the World Drum Major Championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

Following that title, he has qualified as a finalist consecutively and repeated his World Championship wins in 2010, 2013, 2014, and 2019, making him the most successful

active competitor currently at the World Championships and tied for the second most World Championship titles.

Originally a classically trained trumpet player, Jason's began his drum major career in an American-style marching band. Jason is honoured to represent Simon Fraser University Pipe Band as their drum major, performing with the band in local contests, at the World Pipe Band Championships, in many of the band's concerts, and throughout the world.

Professionally, he is the President and CEO of the Asian Business Association of San Diego.

Primary Elements of Judgement

EXECUTION – the technical aspects of playing an instrument with controlled sound.

MUSICAL EXPRESSION – the ability

to properly phrase tunes at tempos that contribute to its overall musicality.

TONE & TUNING – the overall sound of the instruments. Proper tuning and blending of the chanter and drones contributes to tone. Tuning should be done so that no wavering sound is

detected as the instrument is played.

ENSEMBLE – pertains to band competitions. The ensemble judge listens to the 'fit' of the drum score to the pipe music, the balance of volumes from side, tenor, and bass drums with the pipes, and the overall effect of 'one great instrument'.

Greighlan Crossing - Duty Band

Greighlan Crossing is a grade 3 competition and performance pipe band based in Greater Vancouver. For over 20 years, the band has shared pipe music throughout the Pacific Northwest.

In 2024, Greighlan Crossing made its debut in Scotland, placing 5th at the European Championships in Perth and earning 6th place and Best Drum Corps in Grade 3A at the World Championships in Glasgow. The band also claimed the BCPA Grade 3 Aggregate title for the 2024 season.

Greighlan Crossing wears the Weathered Sutherland tartan and performs under the direction of Pipe Major Jeff Rowell and Lead Drummer Curt Watts.



British Columbia Regimental Drum Major Course

The British Columbia Regimental Drum Major Course (BCRDMC) was created in 2018 for the purpose of carrying forward the traditions of the Regimental-style Drum Major.

There are many styles of Drum Major throughout the world for leading many different types of bands. The BCRDMC focuses exclusively on the traditional Scottish Regimental Military style.

This course is not focused on competition, though we do prepare our students for taking part in competitions, rather the course is focused on leading pipes and drums using drill, commands, and musicianship. The target demographic of the course is very wide. This program is perfect for those who are new to Drum Majoring, those who have

been in the role for a period of time but have had little or no formal instruction on how to carry out the role of Drum Major, as well as those experienced Drum Majors who would like to brush up or perfect their current skills. We've had students from all over the world fly in for our course, and we tend to see repeat students year to year.

The course is led by instructors, D/M Bill O'Donnell, D/M Bryan Martin, and D/M Kazimierz Jan Jednorog; and takes place the week before the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival in beautiful Victoria B.C. The week of instruction culminates with the Victoria games' Regimental Drum Major Competition on Saturday and Sunday.

Find out more at BCRDMC.com or www.facebook.com/bcrdmc

What is a drum major?

A drum major leads a pipe band while marching and is responsible for providing commands and directions of what the band will play and when.

The commands may be given either verbally, through hand gestures or with the use of their mace. The drum major often holds the responsibility to keep the band organized and structured.

The Scottish Drum Major competition is an exciting highlight of any highland games, providing the audience with a perfect spectacle of tradition, mixed with innovative showmanship.



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