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**1864** ● The first Victoria Highland Games is held by the *Caledonia Benevolent Association*

**1870** ● Amalgamation of the *Caledonia Benevolent Association* and *St. Andrew's Society*. They continue to managed the games until 1937

**1888** ● 25th Anniversary of the Games

**1938** ● *Victoria Highland Games Association (VHGA)* is formed

**1939** ● VHGA donates  
**1945** ● proceeds to the *Scottish War Effort*

**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*

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

Cover photos by  
**Tomasz Michniewicz, Robert Coates and Douglas Sisk**



<https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaHighlandGames/>  
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<https://twitter.com/VicHighlandGame>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/vichighlandgames>

# LARRY SCOTT, CHIEFTAIN OF THE GAMES



This year's Chieftain of the Games is Larry Scott, the editor and publisher of the Scottish Newsletter, which began eight years ago as a means of connecting our various Scottish groups on Vancouver Island with news about local Scottish events. The newsletter has continued through Covid with items of interest from Scottish and Celtic history. Various members of the local Scottish community contribute articles about their organization or about a topic of Scottish or Celtic culture that interest them.

Larry is a past secretary of the St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society (now closed), a current member of the Victoria Saltire Society and a supporter of the Victoria Scottish Cultural Centre Society. He grew up at Maxville, Ontario which is the home of the Glengarry Highland Games. It seemed natural to learn the pipes as a teenager. As a young adult he played in a Canadian composite pipe band that participated in the 25th anniversary of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, in 1970. (Later this became the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.) Larry played in other bands including the Lorne Scots and the 48th Highlanders, as well as various Legion pipe bands.

Larry is a graduate of the University of Toronto (history) and Princeton Theological Seminary. He served thirty-five years as a United Church minister. These days, due to age and health issues, he only dabbles a bit with some mini bagpipes. Further retirement dabbling includes trips to Scotland, learning some elementary Gaelic, serving for a number of years as an interpretive docent at Craigdarroch Castle, and having published

*The Duckling House*, a humorous novel about life in Victoria.

"It is an unexpected honour and pleasure to act as Chieftain of this 160th edition of the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival. President Jim Maxwell and the many volunteers of the Victoria Highland Games Association are to be congratulated on their diligence and creativity in keeping alive this annual celebration of Scottish heritage, as well as being the driving force behind the creation of Craigflower Community Centre as a Scottish Cultural Centre and as a venue for gathering people together from all corners of Victoria. I wish success and enjoyment to bands, dancers, athletes, musicians and all who have attended today! Ceud mile failte – A hundred thousand welcomes!



On behalf of the Victoria Highland Games Association, I welcome you to the longest continually running Highland Games in North America! As we continue to improve our Games post-pandemic, we hope you enjoy the efforts of our Board of Directors and excellent volunteers to provide a high quality celebration of Scottish and Celtic arts, culture, music, dance and sport. Many thanks to our sponsors, community partners and government agencies that support us in hosting a world class event.

Our association recently completed the building of the spectacular Craigflower Center, which is now the central hub for the Scottish and Celtic community in Greater Victoria and provides an excellent venue for other community groups and individuals to host their activities. Our association will host its annual schedule of Scottish activities at the new Centre and looks forward to welcoming you there!

I wish you a great weekend of Scottish and Celtic memories!

Jim Maxwell,

President, Victoria Highland Games Association



Welcome to the 160th Victoria Highlands Games and Celtic Festival! Each year, this event brings people from all over the region and beyond to celebrate Scottish and Celtic arts and culture.

There is something for everyone to enjoy here, from the Highland dancing competition to Heavy Events to folk music performances, or the delicious food vendors and talented artisans. I am pleased that our government supports events like these year after year, that are so important in helping us share culture in our community with people coming from near and far. Wishing you all a fantastic time at the festival making meaningful memories with their friends, family and community!

Hon. Rob Fleming, MLA



Greetings from Mayor Marianne Alto

On behalf of the City of Victoria, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 160th Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival!

The Highland Games are always a highlight in Victoria. I hope that you enjoy watching these incredible athletes from across North America compete in the International Heavy Events Challenge, and music from some past national and world champion bands – including the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band USMC from San Diego.

A special congratulations to the Victoria Highlands Games Association for their recent move into their new home at the historic Craigflower Manor. I look forward to the many community connections that will take place at this wonderful facility.

Thank you for 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. Have a great event!

Sincerely,  
Marianne Alto  
Victoria Mayor

Please help our green team keep the park clean and enjoyable to all patrons. Your efforts will help the game stay green and sustainable. If you have any questions about recycling, please visit the Glasgow Green Info Tent to get more information.

Please notice that following CRD BYLAW 3962 the games are a **SMOKE FREE EVENT**. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.



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# HERITAGE HUB SAT SUN

Curious about your Scottish or Celtic heritage? Interested to learn more or discover something new? Join us in the Heritage Hub to hear presentations by experts in traditional food, textiles, music, history and more.

## **Dunty the Ghost, a lawsuit and DNA.**

*Talk by the Victoria Genealogical Society*

Victoria Genealogical Society presents a fascinating story about a member's 7x great grandfather, James Porteous, Dunty the Ghost of Spedlins Tower. Dunty is one of Scotland's famous ghosts who still is known to protest his untimely death. Recently he was the subject of a lawsuit which involved hundreds of descendants. A classic tale with a modern twist.

## **Cows and Dairy-Maids Galore: food and summer shielings in the 19th century coastal west**

*Talk by Theresa Mackay, PhD History student, University of Victoria*

Theresa Mackay, PhD candidate and recipient of the Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Graduate Teaching Fellowship in Scottish Studies, University of Victoria. Nineteenth century rural kitchens in the west Highlands and Islands also lived beyond the walls of thatched-roof homes. Learn where butter and cheese were made, what supplies were needed, and why dairymaids were more than just young women who passed the summer in the hills, they were skilled workers who were crucial to the farm economy.

## **Celtic Harp**

*Performance by Alison Vardy, harpist and teacher*

Alison has been pulling (harp) strings for 38 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, eager to hold her own with the ambulatory pipers

just outside her performance tent. At this year's Games you will enjoy the diversity and rich repertoire of the celtic harp played by a master of the instrument. For those hugging onto their CD players you'll be able to buy Alison's CDs for half-price! Visit her website and have a listen before you come: <https://www.alisonvardy.com/listen-to-harp-music.html>

## **Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir**

*Performance by The Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir*

Victoria Scottish Gaelic Choir sings mainly in the Gaelic language, with some songs in English. Our repertoire consists of traditional heritage songs and newer compositions which promote and celebrate the language. We are an unauditioned choir, and no music or language experience is required. We have a fluent Gaelic speaker who tutors us in the words of the songs. We meet on Wednesdays, 7-9 pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church 2964 Tillicum Rd.

## **Mary Ross**

*Performance by Accordionist, Mary Ross*

Mary's Scottish Heritage contributes to her strong ties to Celtic Music. Highland dancing and accordion lessons started at an early age. Mary's musical career has taken her from Greenland to Texas, Scotland, and the Pacific Northwest. She accompanied Scottish entertainer George McDowall for 35 years and enjoyed being a Irish Feis musician for 20 years. Mary continues as a musician for Scottish Country Dance events, ceilidhs, is an accordion instructor and has accompanied the Victoria Police Chorus since 2000.

## **The Evolution of the Kilt**

*Talk by Justin Guthrie – Co-owner, North of Hadrian's Custom Kilts*

Kilts and Celtic clothing have a very long and dramatic history, yet many of our ideas about the kilt are based on myth, legend, misconceptions, and (worse yet) Hollywood. Learn the history, origins, and evolution of the kilt.

# 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, a National Historic Site of Canada, which is now a new home base for the Victoria Highland Games. Learn more about the plans on reviving this property and building a Scottish Cultural Centre through fundraising efforts, and how you can become involved.

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 gathering 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.

## Clans\*

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



## 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

Affordable Kilts  
Art by Sharon Lam  
Bag's-N-Boxes  
Beaver House Fudge  
Caledonia Distillers & Twa Dogs Brewery  
Cherry's Stained Glass  
Fantasy Arts  
Fantastical Wolds  
Kelts & Vikings  
G&B Ent - Wind Spinners  
Happy Camper  
Freeze Dried Foods  
Ima Designs  
Island Highlander  
Island Jerky  
Karmic Henna  
Leaf Fitter  
King Kahuna  
Hawaiian Shirts

McCaleer Highland Gear  
Mcphail Highland Outfitters  
North of Hadrian's Kilt's  
Norwex  
Oh Snap Trio Jewelry  
Scotland Shop  
Sparkle Lily Jewelry  
Spellbinding Journal's  
Storm Artworks  
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### Country Crepes

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### Holy Cow Mini-Donuts

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### Naked Dressings

salads, bowls, vegetarian, gluten free

### Weiner Dogs

hot dogs, veggie dogs, pop

### Ciccio's Cucina

Italian pasta, panini, meatballs, fusilli, garlic bread and bruschetta and vegetarian panini caprese

### Kattias Kitchen

### Authentic Mexican

tacos, quesadillas, vegan, vegetarian, gluten free

### Island Culinary Service

haggis & gravy, scotch pies & beans, bacon baps

### Hazel's Ice Cream

hand-dipped ice cream bars

### The Clover Cafe

specialty coffee, iced coffee, baked goods

### Bite Me Cookie Company

frozen yogurt, cookies, ice tea

# WHISKY SCHOOL

**SAT SUN**

## 20 Years of the Strath

Saturday 11:00am

*with Adam Bradshaw*

## Shelter Point Distillery Masterclass

Saturday 12:45pm

*with Chris Read*

## Get to know your Kujira/Shinobu Japanese Whiskies

Saturday 2:30pm

*with Rick Sousa*

## Scotland vs The World

Saturday 4:15pm

*with Stacy Kyle*

## Whisky and Local Charcuterie Pairing

Sunday 10:45am

*with Chef Chris Ireland and Stacy Kyle*

## Whisky and Local Food Pairing

Sunday 12:45pm

*with Bill Jones and James Bornn*

## Scotch Malt Whisky Society Masterclass

Sunday 2:45pm

*with Lawrence Graham*

## The Kyrö Distillery Masterclass

Sunday 4:30pm

*with Mark Robertson*

Whisky School is presented  
by the Victoria Chapter  
of the Companions  
of the Quaich

# WINE SCHOOL

**SAT SUN**

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.

## Bubbles! Sparkles!

Saturday, Sunday 1:00pm

## Big, Bold Reds

Saturday, Sunday 2:30pm

## Rose All Day

Saturday, Sunday 4:00pm





# HIGHLAND DANCE

SAT SUN

atLive Photography

## 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**.



## Coastline

Coastline is a string ensemble comprised of BC's top young musicians ranging from ages 14-23, coached and mentored by internationally acclaimed fiddler, Ivonne Hernandez. With intricate arrangements of traditional, original and contemporary fiddle tunes from around the world, Coastline is pushing boundaries and always having a great time whenever they play.

## Ivonne Hernandez

Ivonne Hernandez Some people are born to play music. By the age of three, Ivonne Hernandez started playing violin by ear, everything from her mother's favourite Maritime reels to her father's Chilean folk music roots. A child prodigy, she soon was playing guitar, piano, cello, flute, and percussion before joining Daniel Lapp's BC Fiddle Orchestra.

## Clanna Morna

Hailing from the occupied territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ nations (Victoria, BC in Canada), Clanna Morna brings their take on the Celtic Traditional genre to the west coast. 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.

## Cookeilidh

Cookeilidh has been delighting audiences for over 15 years with their high energy traditional, and modernized Celtic tunes. Comprised of 12-string guitar, electric bass, Irish flute, fiddle, bodhran, and vocals, they weave their own special blend of Trad with Attitude, Celtic Craic, and Pot O' Gold Folk!

## The Hounds of Cuchulain

The Hounds of Cuchulain are a four-piece 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, energetic dance tunes, engaging storytelling, and haunting airs on the Irish harp.

## Black Angus

Black Angus is an enduring musical outfit, about good friends, good humour, and good music. The harmonic duo at the core of Black Angus is Gareth Hurwood and Alex MacCuaig, who started their evolving partnership within the Celtic tradition in 2007. Accompanying themselves on acoustic guitar and upright bass, the boys of Black Angus delve into the familiar and the original from the Celtic repertoire and beyond.

## Tom Morrissey

Tom Morrissey Band , current members are Tom Morrissey guitar and vocals, Ian Todd bass and vocals, Patrick Allen drums and vocals. High energy East coast music. based on Vancouver island Playing pubs, clubs and festivals all over Canada. Tom Morrissey Band brings high energy east coast music and pub favorites to every show.

## Sarah Tradewell

Award winning fiddler Sarah Tradewell is a Victoria-based musician whose middle name should be versatility. Not only a fine fiddler, you may have seen her performing with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra, with singer Ken Lavigne, in shows with Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre, or at the Irish Times Pub with Black Angus.

## Joe Higgins

Joe Higgins is a solo Scottish singer/songwriter, who immigrated to Canada in the mid 90's and has performed locally ever since. Prior to coming to Canada, Joe performed in Glasgow, London, Germany and Austria. Joe has performed at past Highland Games and his Celtic songs have been played on CFUV and CBC radio stations.

## Ceilidh Briscoe

(The Women of the Celtic Fiddle)

From Victoria BC, Ceilidh Briscoe is a freelance violinist who is well-versed in a variety of musical styles. As a classically trained violinist, Ceilidh began her post secondary education at the Victoria Conservatory of Music through their joint diploma program with Camosun College. She then transferred to the University of Ottawa to study with the late Yehonotan Berick to complete her Bachelors of Music in violin performance.

## The Slieves

The Slieves are a high energy Irish trad band hailing from Victoria, British Columbia. For well over a decade this group has brought the music of the Emerald Isle to all corners of the coast of B.C. as well as some original music, and other folk music inspired by Irish traditional music.

## Eric Elison

Eric Elison is a retired Navy Commander and Aviator who is a Colorado based Singer Songwriter, and Gordon Lightfoot Tribute Artist. Eric Tours North America wowing audiences with his performance of Canada's favorite Troubadour. Eric is known for telling stories of Adventure, Mysticism, and Romance through song.

GORDON & LIGHTFOOT



# 160th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

May 20, 21 2023



- Heritage Tent (B4) ①
- Piping and Drumming (A4) ②
- Children's Area (D5) ③
- Clans' Tents (B4) ④
- Merchant Vendors (B3) ⑤
- Food Court (A4) ⑥
- Whisky School (C4) ⑦
- Celtic Music Tent (B5) ⑧
- Wine School (C4) ⑨
- Main Stage (D4) ⑩
- History Tent (B4) ⑪
- Victoria Scottish Community Centre (C4) ⑫
- Hospitality Tent (C4) ⑬
- Volunteer Tent (C3) ⑭

## B Beer Gardens

- B1 Crooked Caber (E4)
- B2 Rampant Lion (C5)

## G Entrance Gate

- G1 Finlayson Gate (C2)
- G2 Glasgow Gate (A5)
- G3 Performers Gate (B3)

- Medical
- Bathroom
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- Information
- Food Stand



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SUNDAY

11

# HEAVY EVENTS 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.

### 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.

### 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.

#### Victoria Highland Games Field Records

##### Victoria Open Stone

56'3.25" | 48'10.5"

Matt Vincent – 2013 | Adriane Wilson – 2013

##### Victoria Braemar Stone

41'10.75" | 37'6"

Andy Vincent – 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

### 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.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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.





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## ADRIANE WILSON

*Irmo, SC, USA*

*Age 42, 5'10", 173 lbs*

- \* Years Competing: 12
- \* Occupation: Strength and Conditioning coach
- \* 5 times World Champion
- \* Ranked #3 in N. America

## Emily Adams

*Lynchburg, VA, USA*

*Age 37, 5'9", 215 lb*

- \* Years Competing: 9
- \* Occupation: Baker & Receptionist at animal hospital
- \* 3rd place at 2021 World Championships
- \* Victoria Highland Game runner up 2022

## Jamie Clark

*Calgary, AB, Canada*

*Age 32, 5'10", 200 lb*

- \* Years Competing: 12
- \* Occupation: Teacher
- \* Canadian Record holder for the Heavy Weight for Distance
- \* 2019 Canadian Champion, 2nd place 2022

## Jarvina Routt

*Buena Park, CA, USA*

*Age 36, 5'9", 198 lbs*

- \* Years Competing: 5
- \* Occupation: Longshoreman
- \* 2018 US lightweight champion
- \* Ranked #10 in N. America

## Felicia Baltren

*Vista, CA, USA*

*Age 36, 5'9", 160 lbs*

- \* Years Competing: 11
- \* Occupation: Real Estate/Property Manager
- \* 2016 3rd place World Championships
- \* Ranked #15 in N. America

## Elissa Hapner

*Aurora, IL, USA*

*Age 30, 5'11", 180 lb*

- \* Occupation: Teacher
- \* Ranked #4 in North America
- \* 2022 Victoria Highland Games champ
- \* 2016 Women's World Champion

## Erin Moen

*Victoria, BC, Canada*

*Age 28, 5'11.5", 190 lbs*

- \* Occupation: Massage therapy student (graduating in August!)
- \* 2022 Victoria Highland Games Amateur champ
- \* 2022 Campbell River Highland Games Elite Women champ

# Vision

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**Rob Young**

*Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

*Age 39, 6'4", 320 lb*

- \* Occupation: Communications
- \* 5 times top 3 at CSAF Canadian Championships
- \* Multiple time World Championship competitor

**Lorne Colthart**

*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*

*Age 32, 6'4", 280 lb*

- \* Occupation: Arborist
- \* Scottish Native Champion four years running
- \* 2017 World Caber Champion
- \* Current Canadian Champion

**Colin Dunbar**

*Costa Mesa, CA, USA*

*Age 34, 6'8", 320 lb*

- \* Occupation: Alcohol Sales
- \* Former IHGF Am Champion
- \* Former US Am Champion
- \* 2019 2nd place Celtic Classic (US Pro Championships)

**Nathan Burchett**

*Mason City, Iowa, USA*

*Age 37, 6'3", 250 lb*

- \* Occupation: Network Engineer
- \* Ranked #8 in North America 2022
- \* Holds 2 lightweight World Records and 1 Amateur Record.

**Damien Fisher**

*Bellingham, WA, USA*

*Age 31, 6'7", 290 lb*

- \* Years Competing: 9
- \* Occupation: Strength and Conditioning Coach/T&F Coach – Western Washington University
- \* 3rd place at 2022 World Heavy Events Championships
- \* 2021 US National Champion
- \* 2022 US National Runner-up

**Alex McAra**

*Victoria, BC, Canada*

*Age 24, 6'4", 290 lb*

- \* Occupation: Heavy Equipment Technician
- \* Ranked 2nd in Canada 2022
- \* 3rd place 2022 Canadian Championships
- \* 2017 Canadian Junior Champion





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# PIPING & DRUMMING **SAT SUN**



## **Piping Judge Brian Switalla**

Brian resides in Auckland, New Zealand and

commenced his piping at age 11. He has won all the Premier Solo Piping Competitions in New Zealand, including 9 New Zealand Championships. The Gold Medal and Clasp (2) for Piobaireachd playing at Hastings, and the Senior Clasp March Strathspey and Reel event at Christchurch on 12 occasions. He has won the Gold Medal for Piobaireachd and was most points winner at the RU Brown Competition held in Adelaide, Australia

Brian is on the New Zealand Judging Panel for both Bands and Solos, and has adjudicated in New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Canada and America. He holds the Advanced Certificate in Piping with the Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands association, and is an Associate Principle of the New Zealand College of Piping. In 2016 Brian was appointed Convenor of the Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association Music Judges Committee.

Brian became the Pipe Major of the City of Dunedin Grade One Pipe Band, which won many South Island and Provincial Championships. In 1995 Brian joined the New Zealand Police Pipe Band and played at the World Championships from 1995 to 1999.

In 2000 the opportunity to play with the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band, from Northern Ireland arose. Brian played with the Band in 2000, 2002 (when they won the World Championships) and 2003.

Brian played in the Grade 1 Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band from 2013 to 2016, in which time the band won the New Zealand Championships every year and was placed in the top ten at the World Pipe Band Championships in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

In 2016 Brian became a Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Piping Adjudicator (the first New Zealander to be admitted to the panel).

## **Drumming Judge Paul Turner**

Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Paul started drumming at the age of five under the tutorship of his father and at the age of 10 was with his father and the Saintfield Pipe Band. In 1977 he became a founder member of The Royal Ulster Constabulary Pipe Band and the Leading Drummer started in 1983 and followed by spells with the ScotRail Vale of Atholl and then with the Victoria Police in Australia. During Paul's time in Australia, he travelled extensively in the Southern Hemisphere teaching and performing with the Victoria Police Band.

In 1989, Paul won the World Solo Drumming Championship in Glasgow and has been a member of the R.S.P.B.A. adjudicator's panel since 1985 and served on the music board

on a number of occasions. He has travelled throughout Europe, Nth America, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa teaching and adjudicating.

After returning from Australia and following a short period as leading drummer with the Grampian Police Pipe Band, Paul joined Dysart & Dundonald Pipe band as Leading Drummer in July 1997 and held this position until September 2004. Paul returned as Lead Drummer of the Robert Wiseman Dairies Vale of Atholl Pipe Band in September 2005.

Paul is now a full-time adjudicator with the R.S.P.B.A. in both Drumming and Ensemble disciplines and a current member of the Adjudicators Panel Management Board. Paul is also a member of the Adjudicator Training and Development Group and part of the World Solo Drumming Competition



development group within the R.S.P.B.A. Music board

## **2023 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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## Master of Ceremonies Ken Misch

Drum Major Ken Misch resides in Las Vegas, Nevada and is currently the Drum Major of the Angeles Scottish Pipe Band. Starting his drum major career at age 11, he has been performing for almost 40 years and was the Drum Major for the University of Colorado Marching Band. Ken has led the United States' Marine Band San Diego and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, together with the Los Angeles Scottish Pipe Band.

He has been the director of ceremonies and massed bands throughout the Southwestern United States, he has also served as Vice Chieftain for the Las Vegas Celtic Society Highland Games. Ken was selected as one of the Kings of Mardi Gras in New Orleans for the Krewe of Okeanos in 2012. Ken has served as a Senior Drum Major in the Victoria Military Tattoo and as the Senior Drum Major in the New York Tattoo. He is very proud of his association with the Las Vegas Pipe Band and the Las Vegas Emerald Society Pipe Band.

## Drum Major Judge Alan McBride

Alan lives in Kilkeel, County Down, the southern-most town in Northern Ireland. Alan started competing in drum majors at the of age 7 alongside his sister Violet and brother Harry. Their tutor was their father Henry and even though he was pipe major of the band he still was able to hone their drum majoring skills.

As a drum major, Alan has been 5 times World Champion, won 13 All-Ireland titles, 13 Ulster, Scottish, British, Cowal, European and Australian titles. He has travelled all over the world for contests, exhibitions, workshops and judging.

He has also taken part at various tattoos/

shows in Russia, Germany, Switzerland and Australia. In 2021 Alan was awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) in the Queens birthdays honours list”

He started his singing career in the Kilkeel High School musicals and since then has performed for an RTE stage production of Carosel, Titanic the Musical in the Opera House Belfast, the Lyceum London, on BBC tv and radio, for former Irish President, Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin and at Stormont Buildings, Belfast. He has sung and drum majored at the Avenches tattoo in Switzerland and the Senior Drum Major at the Spasskaya Military Tattoo on Red Square in Moscow for the last few years.



## 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 trumpeter 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’.





### Drum Major Colleen Wilson

Colleen Wilson began competing in 2014 in Scottish Highland Games throughout California, Nevada, and Arizona, as well as Invitational contests that include The Monterey Classic and the Victoria Highland Games in British Columbia. Colleen won Overall Champion at the Victoria Games in 2022.

Colleen's crowning achievement to date was performing in the 2022 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo August of 2022, appearing in all 25 shows as part of an international flourishing Drum Major team. She has also performed in International Military Tattoos in Colorado and Arizona.

Colleen is the Drum Major for the City of Sacramento Pipe Band and a Drum Major for the Mesa Caledonia Pipe Band in Arizona.

### Drum Major Liam Renton

Liam is a Wind Turbine Technician, Living in Campbeltown (The Mull of Kintyre), Scotland and is the Drum Major for Inveraray & District Pipe Band. He began learning the Mace and to become at Drum Major at the age of 9 and by the end of the Juvenile section (U18's) his confidence and results began to improve. He has been teaching at workshops and performing at Tattoos and events in the UK, Europe and the US from the age of 14, the friendships he has made with people from all different countries and cultures throughout the world is something he greatly appreciates.

He loves to perform in front of an audience and hope that anyone watching will give cheer him on when the mace goes up in the air, the buzz is impossible to replicate.



## Drum Majors Line up



### Drum Major (Sergeant) Shannon Brooks

Sgt Brooks is an RCAF reservist from Burlington, Ontario with 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron. He has performed the duties of Senior Drum Major at many Tattoos, ceremonies, and highland games throughout Canada and abroad. Shannon instructs Drum Majors and Pipe bands and Brass/Reed bands throughout the Canadian Armed Forces.

Competitively, placed 1st in the Professional Drum Major competition at the 2011 North American Championships, 2nd in the 2015 Canadian Invitational Championships, and competed in the 2012 World Championships.



### Drum Major Kara Gilmour

Kara Gilmour is from Magherafelt, Northern Ireland. She is 20 years old and is currently studying accounting at Queen's University Belfast. She took up the position as Drum Major for Police Scotland and Federation in 2022 and is the current Senior World Champion.

From a family who have always been involved in pipe bands, at the young age of 8 years, Kara had a keen interest in becoming a Drum Major. She was taught by Paula Braiden over the years until she reached the senior grade. She has had exciting opportunities being a Drum Major, performing at various tattoos and events at home and abroad, visiting countries such as Switzerland and Russia.

Kara moved into the Senior Drum Major grade last year, and achieved All Ireland Champion, Scottish Champion, European Champion, World Champion and Scottish Champion of Champions.



### Drum Major Gibb Fraser

Gibb Fraser is from a small village in the South West of Scotland. Pipe band has been a big upbringing in his life where he first started at the young age of 10 years old and have travelled all over the United Kingdom, Europe and the USA.

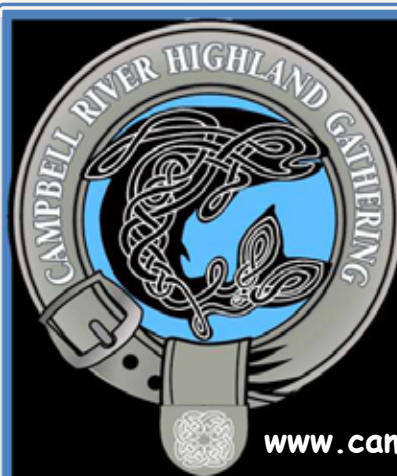
He has won the Scottish championships 3 times, won the European championships once, and the world championships twice. He is currently the Drum Major for the Royal Burgh of Annan Pipe Band.

## 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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