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Kitchen

and more!



around town | community events



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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 to 1945 ● VHGA donates 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



twitter.com/VicHighlandGame

youtube.com/user/VicHighlandGames

facebook.com/VictoriaHighlandGames

instagram.com/VictoriaHighlandGames

ROGER MCGUIRE, CHIEFTAIN OF THE GAMES



Producer / Director / Pipe Major

Roger McGuire is well known in Victoria as the Pipe Major of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), an appointment he held from 1992 to 2012 as serving reservist Warrant Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces. He made an unplanned return in 2019 when the incumbent Pipe Major got posted, and led the band through the pandemic period, and since.

Growing up in Ottawa, Roger was exposed to the Changing of the Guard, and witnessed many major events and ceremonies on Parliament Hill over the years. As a young child, Roger became an accomplished highland dancer & piper.

Between 1976 and 1984, Roger was actively involved in historical re-enactment as a member of the 84th Royal Highland Emigrants, a Loyalist unit of the American War of Independence.

Following graduation from university, and an extended period of travelling, he enrolled in the Canadian Forces as a piper and infantryman in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.

Moving to Victoria with his wife Sally in 1988, Roger joined The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and became Pipe Sergeant of the band. Appointed Pipe Major of The Canadian Scottish Regiment in 1992, he began an active program to elevate the band's profile in the community.

He conceived the Canadian Scottish participation in the Symphony Splash, led the Massed Vancouver Island Pipes and Drums in the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony and dozens of events across Vancouver Island, and produced the recording CD "Bands Across the Border" with the Third Marine Aircraft Wing Band.

Highlights also include many public performances across North America and Europe, the repatriation of the pipes of Victoria Cross Winner, Piper James Richardson. Roger has also played pipes in the Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band.

Roger has been producer/director of Victoria Military Music Festival, for all the concerts, festivals and special events associated with the Society beginning in 1994, up to and including "Fortissimo Victoria" this weekend.

After a civilian career of more than 30 years Roger, retired from the BC Provincial Government in 2022. His Victoria-born son Harry, a former drummer in the Canadian Scottish and Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band now lives in Ottawa and plays in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa where Roger started. Sally, and Roger still live in the Fairfield Neighbourhood of Victoria.

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 is managing the Victoria Scottish Community Centre and renting this spectacular venue to community groups and the public to host their activities. The Victoria Scottish Community Centre Society is managing the Capital City Pipe Band for youth at the Centre, and will be presenting Scottish and Celtic activities during the year. We look forward to welcoming you to the central hub for the Scottish and Celtic community in Greater Victoria!

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

Jim Maxwell,
President, Victoria Highland Games Association





THE HONOURABLE JANET AUSTIN, OBC

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
The Honourable Janet Austin was sworn-in as the 30th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia on April 24, 2018. Prior to this appointment, she spent 15 years as Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Metro Vancouver.

Her Honour is Chancellor of the Order of British Columbia and was invested as a Member of the Order in 2016. As Lieutenant Governor, she has identified three key themes for her mandate: the promotion of diversity and inclusion, democracy and civic engagement, and Reconciliation.



On behalf of the City of Victoria, I am delighted to welcome you to the 161st Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival.

The Highland Games are always a standout event in Victoria and this local festival is the longest continually running Highland Games in North America. I hope you enjoy the exciting festival featuring the International Heavy Events Challenge with incredible athletes from across North America, and the Canadian Invitational Drum Major Championship, with some of the best pipe bands in North America.

Congratulations to the Victoria Highland Games Association, all the participants, organizers and volunteers on another successful celebration of Celtic culture and friendly competition. This event marks the start of a busy festival season in our city and is an opportunity to share this exciting culture with our community members.

Thank you for visiting and supporting the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival. Enjoy the event!

Sincerely, Marianne Alto, Victoria Mayor



Welcome to the 161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

As the MLA for Esquimalt-Metchosin, it is my pleasure to welcome everybody to the 161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival. This is the longest continually running Highland Games in North America, and is a beloved festival in our community's annual calendar.

People come from near and far to participate in and enjoy Scottish and Celtic arts and culture. It's a fabulous weekend of fun and entertainment with pipe band and Scottish Highland dancing competitions, Scottish country dancing, fiddling performances, Scottish/Celtic and folk music bands, Scottish Clan and genealogy displays, and historic military demonstrations and displays.

Once again, the Highland Games 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. All that excitement is bound to work up

an appetite, and that's where the Scottish and Celtic food and merchandise vendors can help.

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, sponsors and many supporters who have come together to deliver this year's festival. It couldn't be done without a lot of hands and a lot of hearts, and we are grateful. Have a great time!

Best regards, Mitzi Dean, MLA Esquimalt-Metchosin

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.

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 un auditioned 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.

Tom Harris
Cellular • TV • Internet

The Evolution of the Kilt

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.

Victoria Genealogical Society

The Victoria Genealogical Society presents the History of British (Scottish) Home Children. 15,000 Scottish children were taken from their parents (only 2% were orphans) and sent to Canada to work on farms until they were 18. Although over 100,000 children were sent from all parts of Great Britain between 1869 and 1947, the focus will be on Scotland.

Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dog's Brewery

An award winning distillery and brewery, started by Graeme Macaloney. The presentation will provide history and the process used to create world renowned whiskey.

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.



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.



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*
 Windspillers
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
Mcp hail 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
 savoury and sweet
 (vegetarian & gluten free
 available)
Naked Dressings
 all natural salads and
 bowls (vegan, vegetarian
 & gluten free available).
Ciccio’s Cucina
 Italian pasta, panini,
 meatballs, fusilli, garlic
 bread and bruschetta
 (vegetarian & gluten free
 available)

Kattias Kitchen
Authentic Mexican
 authentic Mexican,
 tacos, quesadillas (vegan,
 vegetarian & gluten free
 available)
Trio’s Extreme Mac and Cheese
 macaroni and cheese
 comfort food
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

The Strath's Single Casks

Saturday 11:00am
with Adam Bradshaw

Lindores Abbey Distillery Masterclass

Saturday 12:45pm
with Rick Souza

Nikka Japanese Whiskies

Saturday 2:30pm
with Rick Souza

Scotland vs The World

Saturday 4:15pm
with Stacy Kyle

Whisky and Local Charcuterie Pairing (Loch Lomond and Glen Scotia)

Sunday 10:45am
with Chef Chris Ireland and Adam Bradshaw

The Lost Distillery Company – Whisky Legends Reborn

Sunday 12:45pm
with Stacy Kyle of Lionheart Spirits

Scotch Malt Whisky Society Masterclass

Sunday 2:45pm
with Lawrence Graham

The Vancouver Island Distilleries Masterclass (Devine, Macaloney, Stillhead, Shelter Point)

Sunday 4:30pm
with Chris Reid, Brennan Colebank, Adam Bradshaw and Iain Hooley

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

WINE SCHOOL

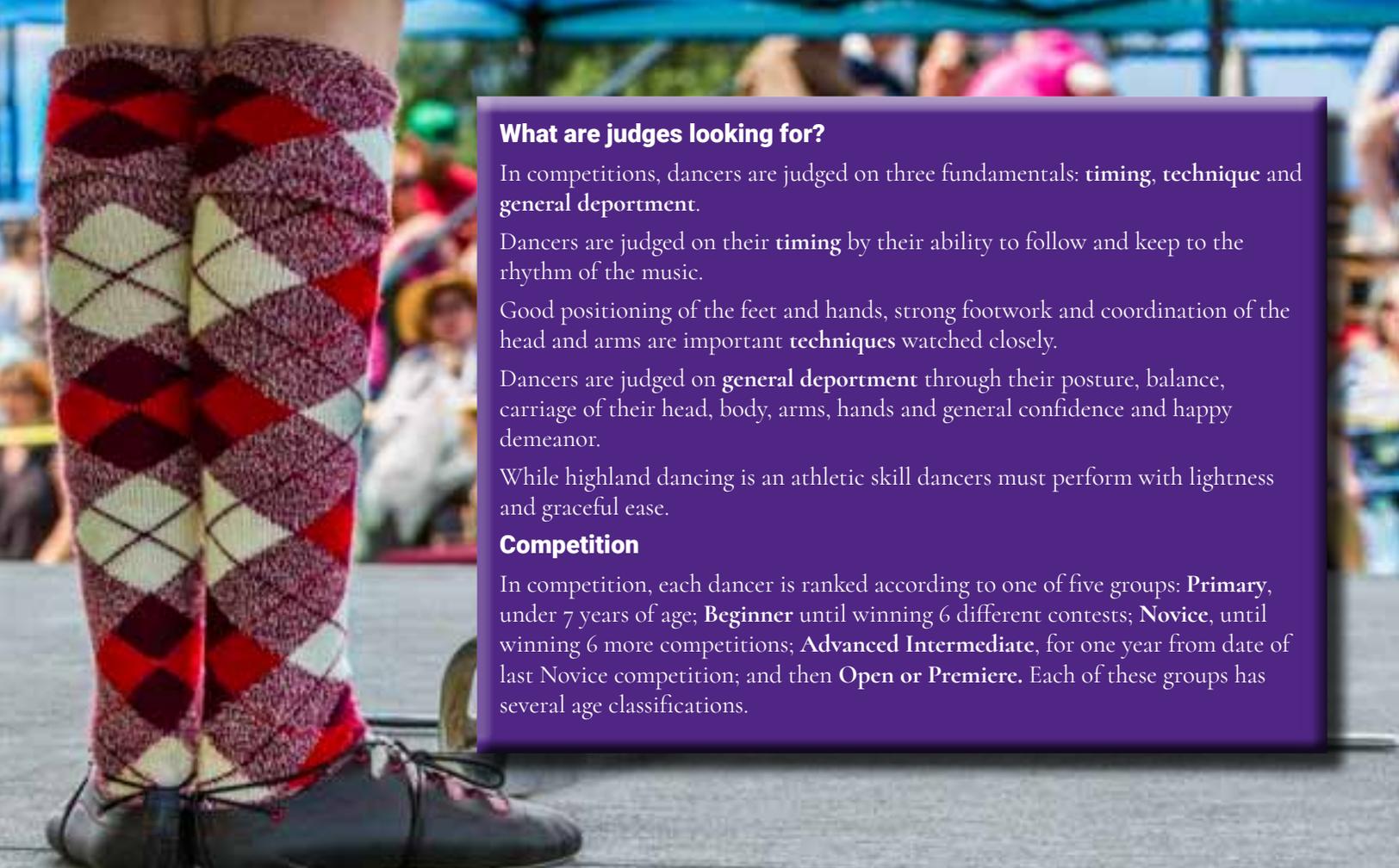
SAT SUN

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

Summertime Sippers
Saturday, Sunday 2:30pm

Big, Bold Reds from Around the World
Saturday, Sunday 4:00pm



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.

HIGHLAND DANCE SAT SUN

alive Photography

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

Black Angus

Black Angus is about good friends, good humour, and good songs. The core of Black Angus is the duo of Gareth Hurwood and Alex MacCuaig, starting their evolving take on the Celtic tradition in 2007. With acoustic guitar and upright bass, they blend two-part harmonies that delve into the familiar and the original from the Celtic repertoire and beyond.

The McGullicuddy's

Celtic punk rock'n'roll, with lashings of mandolin, tin whistle and accordion all amped up with power chords that will transport you back to a mythical smoky pub with brawling songs of drink, hard living and hard loving.

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.

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.

Blackthorn

Blackthorn is a Canadian Celtic folk band that saw its inception back in 1989 with a group of musicians who found a common interest in a music that wasn't all that common in Vancouver at the time. Early highlights included performing at Vancouver's seminal Celtica Festival in 1990 along with De Dannan and Andy M. Stewart and performing and recording with the World Champion SFU Pipe Band.

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.

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. From the farthest island on the West Coast of Canada comes a new tradition that is Coastline!

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.

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.

- 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/Highland Dance (D4) **10**
- History Tent (B4) **11**
- Capital City Pipe Band (C4) **12**
- Hospitality Tent (C4) **13**
- Volunteer Tent (C3) **14**
- Hurling (E2) **15**

A

B

C

D

E

F



1

2

3

4

5

- 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)



THE BALLS ARE BACK



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MORE THAN A PLAYLIST



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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

ESTD

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JAMIE CLARK

Calgary, AB, Canada

Age 33, 5'10", 210 lb

- * Occupation: Grade 5 Teacher
- * 2019 Canadian Champion
- * Runner up Canadian Champ 2018, 2022, 2023

LIZ MACDONALD

Halifax, NS, Canada

Age 36, 5'9.5", 173 lbs

- * Occupation: Principal Scientist at Solid State Pharma
- * Current Canadian Champion
- * Ranked #1 in Canada 2023

Elissa Hapner

Aurora, IL, USA

Age 31, 5'11", 180 lb

- * Occupation: Teacher
- * Ranked #8 in North America
- * 2022 Victoria Highland Games champ
- * 2016 Women's World Champion

Emily Adams

Lynchburg, VA, USA

Age 38, 5'9", 215 lb

- * Occupation: Baker & Receptionist at animal hospital
- * 3rd place at 2021 World Championships
- * 2023 Victoria Pro Women Champion

SUSIE LAJOIE

Wainwright, AB, Canada

Age 31, 5'9", 160 lbs

- * Occupation: Strength and Conditioning Coach
- * 3x Canadian Champion
- * Holds Canadian Records in two events (HWFD, H. Hammer)

ERIN MOEN, local AM athlete

Victoria, BC, Canada

Age 29, 5'11.5", 190 lbs

- * Occupation: Massage therapy
- * Ranked 6th in Canada
- * 2022 Victoria Highland Games Amateur champ
- * 2022 Campbell River Highland Games Elite Women champ

Vision

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Jonathan Harding

Austinville, VA, USA

Age 35, 6'4", 275 lb

- * Occupation: Pricing Analyst
- * 7th place at the 2023 World Championships

ISAAC BURCHETT

Mayview, MO, USA

Age 37, 6'3", 250 lb

- * Occupation: Owner of Burchett Construction
- * Ranked 8th in North America 2023
- * 9th place at 2023 Celtic Classic (USA Championships)

Brian Freed

Sheridan, WY, USA

Age 32, 6'7", 270 lb

- * Occupation: Geotechnical Engineer
- * 2019 IHGF Amateur World Champion
- * 2022, 2024 North South Pro/Am Champion
- * 2023 East Coast Champion

Kyle Lillie

Colorado Springs, CO, USA

Age 32, 6'4", 350 lb

- * Occupation: Track and Field Coach (US Air Force Academy)
- * 2 time Amateur World Champion
- * 2nd place 2022 Celtic Classic (USA Championships)

Damien Fisher

Bellingham, WA, USA

Age 32, 6'7", 290 lb

- * Years Competing: 9
- * Occupation: Strength and Conditioning Coach/T&F Coach – Western Washington University
- * 2nd place at 2023 World Championships
- * Current/2x US National Champion

Lorne Colthart

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Age 33, 6'4", 280 lb

- * Occupation: Millwright
- * Scottish Native Champion for four years
- * Competed 7 times at the World Championships
- * Current/2x Canadian Champion

Alex McAra, local athlete

Victoria, BC, Canada

Age 25, 6'4", 290 lb

- * Occupation: Heavy Equipment Technician
- * Ranked 2nd in Canada 2023
- * 2nd place 2023 Canadian Championships
- * 10th place 2023 World Championships

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PIPING & DRUMMING SAT | SUN

Piping Judge Bruce Gandy

Bruce was born and raised in Victoria and moved away in 1982 to Toronto to play with the now famous 78th Highlanders, winning the World Championships with them in 1987 (the first band outside of Scotland to do so). In 2000, Bruce and his wife, Beverley moved to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia where he currently resides.



New for Bruce just this past June is the release of his online learning program called "Essential Piobaireachd Foundations." The title is self-explanatory and this program comes from his many years of teaching students to bring the program to completion, winning the award for "product of the year" in 2023 as voted on by a panel from Pipes|Drums magazine.

In addition to the program, Bruce has recorded several Piobaireachds with full video tuition which are on his website as a learning tool for people. Bruce is a full-time piping teacher at home in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He is one of the worlds most "in demand"

teachers on the growing "online network" with over 40-50 students coming online to see him regularly, when he can fit them in. This is combined with several out of province and country workshops throughout the year and is also busy with the Grade one band.

Bruce has embraced technology once again to pioneer a series of Piobaireachd workshops with a class "in house" and students all over the world attending the live streaming to work through piobaireachd from easier tunes to the classics. Known as the Clubhouse Sessions, this great new innovation now brings the workshop "to the people" versus the people travelling great lengths to a venue.



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 Shorts 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.



2024 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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Judge Drum Major **Kevin Conquest**

Kevin Conquest of the Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band has been involved in the Scottish arts for three decades as a drummer, piper, and a very accomplished Drum Major. As a drum major, Kevin is fortunate to have earned competition titles as a North American champion, a US Champion, a Canadian champion, Ontario Champion Supreme, Lothian and Borders Champion, and the first and only overseas drum major to make the final at all of the major championships in the UK, including the World Championships. As a bandsman he also enjoyed competing in Grade 1 with the Los Angeles Scots and in two Canadian bands - the 78th Fraser Highlanders and Dowco Triumph Street.

Drum Major Conquest also participates heavily in the military tattoo concert circuit. As part of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Pipes and Drums he performs throughout the month of August for 8,500 people each night at Edinburgh Castle. Additional venues have included Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, Utah, Estes Park, and the new Phoenix International Twilight Tattoo. He has also served four times as the Drum Major for the National Coast Guard Memorial.

Kevin's involvement with Scottish heritage runs deeper than just pipe band. His volunteer efforts to enrich the diaspora were recognized with a grant of personal arms from the Lord Lyon in 2017 and investiture to the Order of Saint John in 2018, each on behalf of the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

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.



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.

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'.



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



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