



GAMES RELEASE #1

The Glengarry Highland Games Turn Sixty

Fifty-nine years ago, in the summer of 1948, the first Glengarry Highland Games were held and much to the amazement of the organizers were an overwhelming success. The twenty thousand fans who packed the grounds that day far exceeded the expected numbers for a small farming village like Maxville, Ontario.

When the 2007 Games open on August 3rd, this summer classic will be celebrating its 60th edition. The original organizers would be amazed to see how their Games have grown now to two full days - Friday and Saturday, with over thirty thousand people from far and near, and that more than sixty-five pipe bands replace the eight of the first Games. Moreover, they would be proud that the Games still remain the annual gathering of highland athletes and entertainers to celebrate all things Scottish.

Games President Neil MacDonell invites everyone to join in the celebrations and adds, "As with any milestone, be it a family or community event, the 60th anniversary of the Glengarry Highland Games allows all involved, organizers, participants and spectators alike an opportunity to rejoice in the successes and cherished memories of the past, while looking forward and celebrating the future that lies ahead!"

This year's Games committee has created a host of special events to showcase this world class festival. Fittingly, the renowned Barra MacNeils, themselves marking 20 years recording and touring, will be the Friday night Tattoo and Concert headliners. These six siblings are widely regarded as one of the greatest live acts in the Celtic world. Hailing from Sydney Mines, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, the family group is deeply rooted in Celtic music, culture and history. This diverse and talented family group has thrilled audiences around the world with their captivating vocals, harmonies and extraordinary musicianship.

The Friday Night Tattoo also offers an exciting and colourful performance by RCMP massed pipe bands with representatives from across Canada. On Saturday, August 4th, special celebrations continue. The piping tradition at the Games will be celebrated with an Anniversary "Open" March Strathspey/Reel Competition. The Highland Dancing Committee will hold a Special Anniversary "Blue Bonnets" competition. Also competing in honour of the Anniversary will be Military Units in a Tug O' War contest.

Another honour in this celebration of 60 years of proud Scottish tradition, is the 2007 Top 50 Ontario Festivals designation awarded to the Glengarry Highland Games by *Festivals and Events Ontario*.

The traditional events and entertainment sought out by the many Games goers will be offered as well including the best in Glengarry entertainment in the Metcalfe Centre (formerly The Angus Grey) and the Beer Tents. Visit the newly designed Games website, www.glengarryhighlandgames.com for details on all events and competitions.

Be part of history and join us in Maxville on Friday, August 3rd and Saturday, August 4th for a special time as one of Ontario's Top 50 Festivals and one of the largest celtic events in North America celebrates Sixty Years.

GAMES RELEASE #2

Steve MacLean, Canadian Space Agency Astronaut, to Open 2007 Games

The Glengarry Highland Games are pleased to announce that Steve MacLean, Canadian Space Agency astronaut, will officially open the 60th Anniversary Games on Saturday, August 4, 2007.

Steve MacLean was born in Ottawa, Ontario. He attended primary and secondary schools in Ottawa, received a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Doctorate in Physics from York University in Toronto, Ontario.

He was selected as one of the first six Canadian astronauts in 1983.

Missions and assignments

In 1992, Steve MacLean flew onboard Space Shuttle *Columbia* as a Payload Specialist for Mission STS-52. During this mission, he performed a set of seven experiments known as CANEX-2, which included an evaluation of the Space Vision System.

MacLean was the Chief Science Advisor for the International Space Station from 1993 until 1994, when he headed the Canadian Astronaut Program for two years.

In 1996 Steve MacLean began mission specialist training at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. After successfully completing basic training in 1998, he continued with advanced training while fulfilling technical duties in the NASA Astronaut Office Robotics Branch. Later, he served as CapCom (Capsule Communicator), responsible for communications between ground controllers and astronauts for both the International Space Station (ISS) Program and the Shuttle Program, at the Johnson Space Center.



Steve MacLean went to space for the second time in September 2006 on Mission STS-115, serving as mission specialist on Space Shuttle *Atlantis*. MacLean became the first Canadian to operate Canadarm2 in space when the crew installed trusses and deployed solar array panels on the International Space Station. On this mission, Steve MacLean also became the second Canadian to walk in space.

The Glengarry Highland Games take great pleasure in inviting you to join our Official Guest, Steve MacLean, as he leads our celebration of 60 years of proud Scottish tradition.

GAMES RELEASE #3

Sixtieth Glengarry Highland Games Promise A Grand Show

On August 3rd and 4th, the Glengarry Highland Games will be celebrating sixty successful years of proud Scottish tradition. When the 2007 Games begin in Maxville early that Friday morning, there will be two jam-packed days of athletic events, piping, drumming, and highland dancing

competitions, as well as enough celtic music to keep the most energetic dancers entertained.

Over the past 60 years, the Games Committee has added many events and seen Friday grow from the spectacular evening Tattoo and Concert into a whole day of exciting activities from eight in the morning until midnight. One of the secrets to this success is that hundreds of volunteers are committed to presenting the best Games possible each year. They work tirelessly all year round to provide a balance of the traditions of the past with a little something new and better to satisfy the tens of thousands who crowd the fairgrounds each year.



This year's Games offer many special Anniversary events. Cape Breton's *The Barra MacNeils* headline the Friday night Tattoo and Concert starting at 7 pm.

A massed RCMP pipe band will perform at the Tattoo with band members from Halifax, Moncton, Montreal, Ottawa, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver. On Saturday, in the highland dancing competitions, a special Anniversary contest will be held and as well, there will be an Anniversary March, Strathspey, Reel Competition for pipers. Steve MacLean, Canadian Space Agency astronaut, will be the Games Official Guest and will welcome everyone to the Games at the Official Ceremonies at noon on Saturday.

For many people, the Games are an opportunity to enjoy the many great Glengarry celtic groups. What a better way to pass a summer's afternoon or evening, than being entertained by the Brigadoons, Gerry O'Neill, Bob and Ducky, Hadrian's Wall, Pat Kelly and Paddy Maher all at the same event. Friday and Saturday, these talented performers will be playing the licensed Tents and the Metcalfe Centre (Angus Grey) for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Tickets are now available for grandstand seating as well as general admission each day. For tickets, call 1-866-883-8855 or 613-527-2216 or contact tickets@glengarryhighlandgames.com. Grandstand seating tends to sell out quickly, so call early to ensure a good seat.

Every Glengarry Highland Games promise a great time, but this year's celebration of sixty years will be a grand occasion to come to the Games and enjoy the treats of one of the largest celtic festivals in North America.

For more information on the Games and a complete list of events and schedules, visit www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

GAMES RELEASE #4

Games Heavyweight Events Set High Marks

The Heavyweight events at this year's Glengarry Highland Games, August 3rd and 4th will offer one of the best shows ever at the Games. For this 60th Anniversary year, the event organizers have brought some of the finest in the world to Maxville to thrill viewers with their colourful and skillful attempts at traditional Scottish athletic feats.



The most popular event by far is the caber toss, but many Games goers will tell you that the hammer throw or the sheaf toss is just as thrilling. In the caber toss, the competitor must "pick" (pick up) the caber, run, and toss it so it lands straight out at a 12 o'clock position. The caber is tossed for accuracy, not distance. Cabers range between 18-26 feet, and weigh from 100 - 150 lbs. The sheaf toss, like many of the events, derives from the farming traditions of Scotland, and grew out of a competition to see who could toss a sheaf of wheat the highest. Today the sheaf is a 16 or 20 lb. bag of twine and burlap (women competitors throw a 10lb. sheaf), and a standard pitch fork is used to toss it over a horizontal bar. Another event is the Scottish hammer weighing either 12, 16, or 22 lbs with the hammer head made of lead, and the handle made of wicker/rattan, which is strong and can flex on impact. The competitor vigorously rotates the hammer to gain momentum, and releases it into the air. The throw is measured for distance to where the hammer hits the ground.

Many of the athletes this year have achieved first place rankings in numerous competitions around the world. Four of these world-class athletes are new faces to the Games. Stephen Aitken from Aberdeenshire, Scotland Jamie Barr from Fife, Scotland, Sean Betz of Omaha, Nebraska and Will Barron from Syracuse, NY will be competing in the Open Professional events on Saturday.

On Friday, the day starts at 8 am with the Amateur Heavyweight Competition. At 10 am, the Professional Women's Events will see defending Champion Josee Morneau from Winnipeg return to compete against a strong field of challengers. Following the women, the Masters' Heavyweights take the field at 1 pm.

World Famous Heavyweight Expert David Webster To Attend

The Master of Ceremonies and Colour Commentator for the Heavyweight events will be David P. Webster, O.B.E. from Irvine, Scotland. As Secretary General of the World Federation of Heavy Events, David has a passion for and knowledge of the world's highest standards of heavyweight sports that has placed him in great demand worldwide.

From 1990 to 1995, David was Chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland and in 1998 he held the title of Chief of Mission for the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia. In 1955 in recognition of his many years of work with the Commonwealth, Her Majesty the Queen of England bestowed upon him the honour of Order of the British Empire.



photo: Lynn Bolland Richardson

He has organized and judged Mr. Britain and Mr. Universe contests and worked for Arnold Schwarzenegger on a yearly basis at strength challenges in the United States. David has participated in hundreds of TV and radio programs around the world, including scripting and narrating on national networks. He was involved with Steven Speilberg's film, *Gladiator*, acting on behalf of several strongmen.

David was also a builder of heavyweight competitions to include the many events found in modern Games: the caber toss, weight for distance, weight for height, the Farmers walk, and, the Canadian favourite, the sheaf toss.

David P. Webster officiates at hundreds of sporting events all over the world, and he has greatly influenced strength sports globally. The Glengarry Highland Games is very pleased to have David as a part of the 60th Anniversary events, with his vast knowledge on the subject and his very colourful commentaries. As an added attraction, David will be the Guest speaker at Thursday night's Tartan Ball.

GAMES RELEASE # 5

No Finer Celtic Entertainment Than At the 2007 Games

From Thursday night's Tartan Ball to the closing notes on Saturday evening, this year's Glengarry Highland Games will provide the best celtic dancing and listening music to be found anywhere. The Barra MacNeils will be headlining the 60th Anniversary Tattoo and Concert on Friday, August 3 at 7 pm. Widely regarded as one of the greatest live acts in the Celtic world, this talented family group from Sydney Mines in Cape Breton is deeply rooted in Celtic music, culture and history, and has thrilled audiences around the world.

Glengarry's own world famous MacCulloch Dancers will be performing in the Tattoo along with the popular Brigadoons. The Brigadoons have been playing for over 25 years touring Canada and the United States for festivals and highland gatherings. Both groups will also be entertaining with Pat Kelly at Thursday evening's Tartan Ball, a most colourful and impressive event with all dressed in their formal Scottish attire.

What would a Highland Games be without Gerry O'Neil who can coax any reluctant dancers into kicking up their heels for a couple of steps. A native of Derry, Gerry O'Neill came to Canada in 1974 and now claims Glengarry as his home. A great attraction at local events, Gerry is a must see at the Games. You can catch him Friday night from 10 pm to midnight in the Metcalfe Centre (formerly the Angus Gray).



Another group that many will be excited to have return to the Games is Hadrian's Wall. A local favourite that has performed extensively throughout Canada and the United States, the group is back together for this year's Games. Members of the band from the past and the present and other special guests will have the Tents filled as they perform Friday night from 10 pm until midnight.

Saturday, August 4th has a huge lineup of entertainment that starts early in the morning and continues until 9 pm. Kendra MacGillvray, from Antigonish, Nova Scotia and one of Cape Breton's best fiddlers, will present a workshop on Scottish music at 10:00 am. Kendra has won two prestigious East Coast Music Awards, including "Female Artist of the Year" and "Instrumental Artist of the Year," and travels the world playing the traditional Scottish/Cape Breton style.

Entertainment in the Tents and the Metcalfe Centre begins at 2 pm on Saturday. Neil Emberg, the energetic lead of Hadrian's Wall, returns to the Tents joined by Dalkeith's Ashley MacLeod, a well-known fiddler at the Games and throughout Canada. Neil and Ashley's appealing sounds make both young and old go from tappin' and clappin' to jiggin' and reelin'! Ewen McIntosh formerly of the Crofters will be joining them on stage.

Also performing in the same time slot as Neil and Ashley, will be Brandy 'n' Port, Ottawa's premier Celtic band for over a decade. They perform regularly at many Highland Games and everyone will no doubt be well entertained by their high energy Celtic mix

The Metcalfe Centre (the Angus Gray) will offer a full slate of fine Celtic groups from 2 until 9 pm as well. The Brigadoons, Pat Kelly and Pat Maher, along with Bob and Ducky will keep everyone

entertained throughout Saturday afternoon and evening. Bob and Ducky, a very popular duo in and around the area, have been performing at the Highland Games for several years. Pat Kelly and Pat Maher offer a great mix of traditional Irish music that is both relaxing and enjoyable.

Whether to watch from the sidelines tapping your toes, or catch up with old friends and new acquaintances, or swirl across the dance floor, you must spend a while enjoying the entertainers at this year's Games. Everyone should note that the entertainment hours are different this year, with the bands in the Metcalfe Centre and the Tents playing from 2 pm to 12 midnight on Friday and 2 until 9 pm on Saturday. Both sites will be licensed as usual.

GAMES RELEASE #6

The Sixtieth Edition of the Games Is Ready to Go

In a few short days, thousands of people will start the trek, long and short, to Maxville for the 60th Anniversary Edition of the Glengarry Highland Games. Whether coming as a competitor or a spectator or a family gathering, all roads lead to Maxville. For two days, August 3 and 4th, this small Glengarry town becomes a huge festival city and home to the one of the best Scottish celebrations in North America. The hard work of hundreds of Games volunteers is about to be realized, the fairgrounds are sparkling with fresh paint and grooming, and competitors have started arriving from all over North America, Mexico, Scotland and beyond. The Tartan Ball on Thursday is sold out and grandstand seats for Saturday are sold out with a few seats remaining for Friday. The stage is set, bring on the Games!

For two days and nights, crowds will fill the grounds to view the traditional Scottish events, cheer on their favourites, eat authentic Scottish food, and dance until their legs give out. Whether you are searching your ancestors in the Clan Barn, joining in on the fiddler's workshop or thrilling to Friday's Tattoo or Saturday's massed bands, there is continuous excitement at the Games.

For many this is the opportunity to reconnect with and celebrate their Scottish heritage, but there are exciting events for every taste and culture. On Friday at 10:30 am and 2:00 pm, the sheep dog demonstrations are always a hit. Bruce Smart from Laggan brings his well-trained and entertaining Champion sheep dogs to amaze spectators as they corral a entire flock of sheep or bring one wandering sheep back to the fold.

Also on Friday, the Olde 78th Fraser Highlanders Re-enactment Regiment from Fort Stewart on l'Ile Ste. Helene return to the Games. Piped on to the field by the South Glengarry Pipe Band and the Quigley Highlanders, they will present their colourful 18th century Brown Bess musket routine at 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00 pm. For an authentic experience of what battlefield life was like for troops during the 18th century, these performances on Friday with the bellowing of commands, the shrill sound of the bagpipe, the beating of the drums and the explosions and the smoke, will certainly satisfy everyone.



On Saturday, the first of what is hoped to be an annual competition between Highland regiments will take place. The SD&G Highlanders will vie against the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa in a tug o' war. When the massed bands leave the infield after the Official Ceremonies, soldiers from the two regiments will contest to see who takes home the glory of winner at this year's Games. Dressed in kilts and with much pageantry, the two teams in the tug o' war will be an exciting addition to the afternoon entertainment.

If you are seeking to find out more about your Scottish heritage, be sure to make your way to the Clan barns just north of the Arena. There you will find thirty-three clans set up to provide you with information about your ancestors and also encourage you to join in the pride of being a member of a Scottish clan.

A special event at our 60th Anniversary Games will be the opening of a Games Memorial Garden. A brief ceremony will be held Friday morning at 11:30 am just north of the Glengarry Hall of Fame on the grounds. The Memorial Gardens will become a quiet spot to sit and relax during the Games and also a remembrance to all of those fine volunteers who have made this Glengarry Highland Games a world class event and for many people, the place to be on this long weekend in August.

Friday afternoon from 12:30 until 4:30 pm, the Metcalfe Centre (Angus Gray) provides a welcome venue for the best in traditional Scottish entertainment. Ian MacLeod and Fiddlers with the Lori MacMaster Dancers, Ellen MacIsaac, Couperus Academy of Irish Dance, members of the Morris Family, and the group Ecosse, will fill out a wonderful afternoon of local celtic performances.

Everyone should remember that all roads leading to and from the Games will be regularly policed by our OPP officers. If coming to the Games to party, be sure to have a designated driver or utilize a local taxi service to get you home safely. Everyone loves to enjoy the Games and the Games want you to have the best time ever.

Anyone who visits the Games for the first time is overwhelmed with the colour, the size and the excitement of the events. Sixty years ago Peter MacInnes, the Games first President suggested that "Next year it is to be hoped that we Glengarrians will again hold the Glengarry Highland Games." How thrilled and suprised he would be to see that his beloved Games are still going strong in 2007.

See you at the Games. **Ceud Mile Failte!** A hundred thousand welcomes!



Part of the crowd at the first Highland Games in 1948.
Photo: T.V. Little



