



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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.



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

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.

