

The Road to The Games – Release 4 – July 24, 2010

The 63rd Edition of the Glengarry Highland Games is Set to Roll

Everything is in readiness at the Glengarry Highland Games for a fantastic production for its 63rd year. Next Friday and Saturday, July 30th and 31st all roads will indeed lead to Maxville as thousands begin their annual trek to enjoy all things Scottish.

It is said that in Glengarry, this is the weekend when everyone comes home from near and far. Wherever Glengarrians roam or whatever the reason, all plans are re-directed to make this long summer weekend a time to reunite at the Glengarry Highland Games.

Other people come to the Games intent on winning one of the many prestigious awards in competition. Whether it's for the honour of being the North American Pipe Band Champion, the Canadian Scottish Heavyweight Champion, the Glengarry Highland Games Open Highland Dancing Champion or the Gold Medal Winner in the Piobaireachd, the best in North America and beyond are headed for the Games.

Thousand of Games fans from Martintown to Antigonish are packing up and heading to Maxville because they know that you can find no better summer experience at no better price than this world class festival of athletics, entertainment and Scottish traditions. All Scots will appreciate that once you are on the grounds, there are no further costs to view events except for seats in the grandstands--- and the parking is free. The grandstand seats are sold out for Saturday, but a few are left for Friday.

The Games Offers a Variety of Places to Watch Events

Experience has it that for the Games it's either sweltering hot or raining in torrents. Hardy Games goers take the weather in stride and say it's part of being at the Games, but for those who prefer not to melt in the heat or drip in the rain, there are many inside and covered venues in which to enjoy the wide array of attractions. Two event-filled days of Scottish fiddling will take place in the air-conditioned Arena Hall. In the United and Anglican Churches in downtown Maxville, the Piorbairachd piping competitions will be held all day Friday. In the two Clan Buildings to the North of the Arena you can visit the thirty plus clans displaying their histories and their unique tartans. The Metcalfe Centre is the place for great celtic entertainment starting on Friday at noon and ending at 10pm on Saturday night. Outside the Centre on the wide sheltering porches, the Bronze Games Patrons can enjoy both the music playing inside and the many Games events occurring on the infield. In the large Tent, highland dancing competitions are carried out all day Friday. Great celtic dancing music starts up on Friday night after the Tattoo and continues Saturday afternoon until Saturday night at 10 pm. A few seats remain in the grandstands on Friday which give a covered vantage spot for the heavyweight events and the exciting Games Tattoo. If you prefer to be outdoors, there are many shady areas where you can enjoy the sites and sounds without the full brunt of the weather. Remember if severe weather occurs, take refuge inside one of the permanent buildings or even better, sit it out in your car.

The Clans are a Celebration of Scottish Heritage

The Clans are an important part of the Games and the wearing of the many intricate clan tartans is a common sight on Games days. There will be over thirty clans set up in the Clan Buildings north of the Arena. Here you can search for your ancestors, find out how to become a member of a clan and perhaps join up for the Clan Parade at noon hour on Saturday. The Parade is quite a colourful spectacle as each clan in full tartan marches around the infield following their clan banner. Many of the names of early Glengarry settlers can be seen in the parade of the Clans. This year's Games Guest of Honour, Sheila Fraser comes from Glengarry roots and the Fraser tartan will be one of the most popular ones at the Games.



Something for All Ages

For the younger set, there are the Junior Heavyweight events on Saturday with registration at 9:00 am and the events starting at 9:30. Well over a hundred youngsters, will try their hand at scaled down events with the caber being the most popular for sure. For the older group, a new intermediate heavyweight event for ages 13-17 will be held at the soccer fields behind the clan buildings. Later in the day at 2 pm, the track and field events in the infield are an attraction to many young people to show off their running abilities.

Becoming a very popular event at the Games, the Tug of War will be held Saturday at 2 pm on the infield where three kilted highland regiments including the SD&G Highlanders and the Cameron Highlanders (Ottawa) will compete to win the honours of the day. The final pull for the Cup will take place before the massed bands.

Last Ride at the Games

When you see the Official Party enter the grounds on Saturday, July 31st and notice the two RCMP officers on horseback who lead the procession and take positions on either side of the stage, take a good look at the rider at the north end of the stage. It will most likely be Mike McDonell from nearby Loch Garry who is currently, Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP and Commanding Officer of the Ontario Division. As of Sunday, July 1st, Mike will hang up his spurs to take command of the S.D. & G. Ontario Provincial Police Detachment. Mike and his horse have been on guard for many years at the Games and the Games wish him great success in his new role. Perhaps next year, you might look carefully at the OPP motorcycle escort and see a familiar face.

Get a Sneak Peek of the Games

To get a preview of the Games, be sure to tune into the Ottawa A Channel's AM Show on Thursday morning. At 9:25am, President Donaldson MacLeod will be interviewed and provide a short tune on the fiddle. Highland Dancing Director Kathy Coleman Spink with three young dancers and a piper will entertain during the 9:40 segment.

Maxville's Scotiabank Surpasses Funding Goal

For the past several years, Scotiabank in Maxville has set a program offering to match Patron's donations to the Glengarry Highland Games up to a total amount of \$5000. From the end of June to mid-July, anyone who became a Patron of the Games had that amount matched by the bank. Bank Manager, Karen Campbell, is proud to announce that for ten years straight, the Bank's goal has been surpassed. Congratulations to the Bank of Nova Scotia for an excellent fundraising campaign this year and for being such a fine supporter of the Games. Many thanks to all of those who participated by donating to the Games Patrons' Program which ensures the Games site and facilities are some of the finest in the area.

Enjoy the Games Safely

Remember, when coming to the Games make sure there is a designated driver to get everyone home safely. The OPP will be checking vehicles throughout the Games to keep the roadways safe for all of our visitors. Starr Taxi offers special rates to the Games and from Ottawa and Montreal, buses will be running to the Games.

The Games go on whether it's rain or shine. The grounds are fully accessible for those who are handicapped including designated parking and viewing areas. Everything you could need can be pretty much found on the grounds including ATM machines. Please note, that no animals except personal assistance animals are allowed on the site. Once on the grounds, any details about the Games or the event locations can be found at the Information Booth located just inside the Main Gates Lots more information can be found at www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

The Glengarry Highland Games is a world class celtic festival that provides exciting competitions, outstanding live celtic entertainment, a spectacular evening Tattoo, a wide array of Scottish food and shopping and the renowned massed bands ---all right in here in Glengarry.

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