



THE ROAD TO THE GAMES – Release #1-2009

The Glengarry Highland Games Salutes the OPP

The 62nd edition of the Glengarry Highland Games is just a short month away and the many committees and volunteers are putting the finishing touches on what promises to be another exciting celebration of Scottish heritage. This year's Games on July 31st and August 1st in Maxville, Ontario, is proud to be joining with the Ontario Provincial Police in commemorating 100 years of policing service to the Province.

The Games is privileged that OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino will be its 2009 Official Guest of Honour and attending events on both Friday and Saturday of the Games.

With his appointment as Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on October 30, 2006, Julian Fantino accepted responsibility for one of North America's largest deployed police services.

Previous to his appointment, Julian Fantino was Commissioner for Emergency Management for the Province of Ontario as well as serving terms as Chief of the Toronto Police Service from 2000 to 2005, Chief of York Regional Police from 1998 to 2000 and Chief of the London Police Service from 1991 to 1998.

Commissioner Fantino has lectured extensively to the international police community, the public sector and government bodies. He is the Past President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and Past Chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Organized Crime Committee. Commissioner Fantino is also past Vice President at Large of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and was a member of the Major Cities Chiefs. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and is the Secretary Treasurer of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. He is also the co-author of a best selling biography, "DUTY, The Life of a Cop."



Recipient of numerous awards, including Commander of the Order of Police Forces, the Order of Ontario, St. John's Ambulance, and the Queen's Commission, Commissioner

Fantino believes that his most valued reward has been the opportunity to be a member of an honourable profession, which he has enjoyed over his 40 years of dedicated service.

In addition to the presence of Commissioner Fantino, there will be several special events celebrating the OPP's 100th Anniversary during the Games. Activities include performances by the OPP Pipes and Drums, demonstrations by the Canine division, interactive displays, and a deployment of OPP vehicles and equipment. For details about the OPP at the Glengarry Highland Games, go to www.glengarryhighlandgames.com and for more information on the OPP 100th Anniversary, visit www.opp100.ca.

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The 2009 Glengarry Highland Games Presents the Best Scottish Festival Ever

Since the first Glengarry Highland Games were held in Maxville, Ontario in 1948, the organizing committee has set out to present the best possible Scottish festival for all those who attend either as competitors or visitors. This year's 62nd Games organizers are working hard to meet the challenge set out by that first Games' committee.

As well as partnering with the Ontario Provincial Police as the Signature Event for the Eastern Region in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the OPP, the 2009 Games to be held July 31st and August 1st, has many other exciting features that will entertain all those who attend.

Tattoo and Concert One of the Best

For those who have never attended the Friday night Concert and Tattoo, this is one of the best outdoor concerts and shows that can be found in Ontario in either a small town or large city. Pre-concert entertainment starts at 6:30 pm with the highlight of close to 100 Scottish fiddlers. The concert starts at 7 pm with skydivers and National Anthems followed by the world famous MacCulloch Dancers and the Brigadoons. This all leads up to the headliners and then, to one of the best pipe band and military Tattoos to be found outside of Scotland. The night is capped off with an amazing fireworks display as the last sounds of the pipes fade away into the darkness. As with every Tattoo and Concert, expect a little something new and surprising in the show.

Poor Angus are Friday Night Headliners

This year's featured headliners at the July 31st Concert and Tattoo, Poor Angus, promise to be as exciting as last year's group, Scotia from Scotland. Although not from abroad, this celtic band from Hamilton, Ontario has made quite a name across North America and from all reports, the show will be an outstanding one.

The award-winning quintet was formed by Brian LeBlanc and fiddler Andrew Bryan and is rounded out by piper Ross Griffiths, noted folk singer Scott Cameron



Smith, and DJ Moons. With an award winning album under their belts and three years of playing festivals and events around North America, these five talented individuals create a show which preserves the essence of traditional Scottish, Irish and East Coast music. An enthusiastic emerging talent, Poor Angus has performed with the likes of The Proclaimers, Jeremy Fisher, Irish Mythen, Switchback, Blue Rodeo and Samantha Robichaud.

As well as the headliners at the Friday night Tattoo and Concert, Poor Angus will also be entertaining in the Tents on Saturday afternoon

The best seat in the house for this show is the Grandstand but many people prefer to come early and put up their chairs around the infield for a front row seat. Grandstand tickets for Friday are admission plus \$5 and can be reserved by calling 613-527-2216 or on the Games website at www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

Patron's Program Supported by Bank of Nova Scotia

For the ninth year, the Bank of Nova Scotia in Maxville will match Patron's Program donations to a total amount of \$5000. That means if you go to the Bank this week to renew or join the Patron's Program at any level, your amount will be matched by the bank. Cindy Sommers, Bank Manager, is proud to report that each year the \$5000 limit has been reached. What a community partner for our Highland Games!

Many people have joined the Patrons' Program and know the rewards of being an active partner with one of North America's biggest celtic events. Through their contributions, Patrons have ensured that future Games will benefit from continued upgrades to services and improved facilities fitting for this world-class festival.

For further information on becoming a Patron whether Bronze or Gold, go to our website, www.glengarryhighlandgames.com or contact Anne Stewart at 524-2297 or 2annestewart@sympatico.ca.

Take the Train to the Games

Last summer for the first time since 1989, there were trains running from Ottawa and Montreal to the Games. Thanks to a partnership with the North Glengarry Prescott & Russell Transport Board and Via Rail, travelers can again this year take the train from Ottawa to the Games on Saturday, August 1st. Games cars will be attached to the 9:55 am Ottawa train with a special stop in Maxville. The evening train will return people back home leaving Maxville at 6:50 pm. The train fare is \$30 return from Ottawa for all ages (children under two free) and admission to the Games will cost \$20 (children under 12 free) for a total of \$50. Tickets may be purchased at **The Scottish and Irish Stores**, 194 Robertson Rd. (Bell's Corners) tel. 613.829.2251 or 1713 St-Laurent Boulevard (near Innes Rd) tel. 613.739.3393.

A Real Scottish Bargain

A great bargain, the Games admission is still only \$20 a day including parking and access to all events once inside the Gates. Camping is available and the grounds are fully accessible. More information can be found at www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

See you at the Games. Ceud mille failte

The Road to the Games – Release 3

There is Always Something New and Exciting at the Games

Regular visitors to the Glengarry Highland Games know that every Games offers an exciting line up of entertainment and special features. This year's Games will be no exception.

Not only are the Games celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the OPP, but there is also another century celebration this year at the Games.

Imagine a frozen lake in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. It is February 23rd, 1909. A team of aviation pioneers known as the Aerial Experiment Association, led by Alexander Graham Bell, gather to test an aeroplane that can "carry the weight of a motor and a man". Piloted by John Alexander Douglas McCurdy, the team's shimmering 'Silver Dart' aircraft successfully lifts off and is flown for an entire ¾ of a mile over the surface of Bras d'Or Lake: the first powered heavier-than-air flight in Canada.

To recognize that accomplishment, the Games Tattoo will present #12 and 14 Wings of the Air Force Pipe Bands from Shearwater and Greenwood, Nova Scotia in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Canada's first powered, controlled flight. The combined pipe band will perform in the massed bands in the Tattoo on Friday, July 31, and during the massed bands on Saturday, Aug. 1.

And that's just some of the excitement for this year's Tattoo. Direct from Edinburgh, Scotland, the George Watson's College Pipes & Drums will be travelling to Maxville to add to an outstanding Tattoo lineup as well as compete in Grade Three pipe band competitions on Saturday. Competing all over the U.K. at Juvenile and Novice Juvenile level, George Watson's College is now one of the most successful



teaching establishments in the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. There are currently over 200 children being taught either piping or drumming under the leadership of Pipe Majors Iain Simpson, Ross Harvey and Drum Majors Mick O'Neill and Jim

Clark. Over the last eight years they have won over eighty Major Championship Honours. Their highest achievement to date is winning the World Championships in 2002 and 2007. The Pipes & Drums are in huge demand to play at many events including performing for Prince Charles, The Great Scottish Walk, Concerts and numerous Corporate Events. They have also travelled to various countries, performing in Japan, Belgium and Russia where they were extremely well received. This is the band's second visit to Canada.

Impressive Lineup of Scottish Fiddling

This year's Scottish Fiddling lineup at this year's Games is impressive as well. Sandy MacIntyre from Cape Breton will be leading the Fiddler's Workshop on Saturday morning at 10 am. Local fiddlers and interested visitors are invited to gather in the Arena dining hall to learn tips and techniques from this master fiddler who is one of today's most prominent players and teachers of Cape Breton fiddling.

Sandy appeared on the CBC TV show "Ceilidh," and played and conducted workshops in Scotland at the International Celtic Concert. Nowadays, Sandy performs and conducts workshops throughout the US, Canada, and abroad. For the past fifteen years he has been director of the fiddle program at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and he has performed for the last several years at Cape Breton's famed Celtic Colours Festival.



Glengarry is home to its own fiddling sensations. Gerry O'Neill will be performing along with the 2 Paddy's as the Greenfield Trio on Friday in the Metcalfe Centre. On Saturday afternoon and evening, Ashley MacLeod will be presenting her new band in the Metcalfe Centre. The Tents and the Metcalfe Centre will operating Friday until 1 am and Saturday until 10 pm.

Glengarry's young fiddlers will have their own new event at the Games this year on Friday from 2-5 pm. This Fiddler's Showcase will provide a venue for over twenty up-and-coming Glengarry fiddlers to show off their talents. Make your way to the Arena Dining Hall and see the stars of tomorrow.

Bank of Nova Scotia Meets Target Again

News is just in that the Bank of Nova Scotia in Maxville is over the top of its matching dollars for the Games Patron's Program well before the end of the campaign. Bank Manager, Cindy Sommers, is proud to announce that once again the bank has raised \$5000 for the Patron's Program. These funds ensure that the Games site is maintained and enhanced for future years. Congratulations to the Bank of Nova Scotia for their community spirit and support to the Games.

The Road to the Games - Release 4

Entertainment For All At the Games

The Glengarry Highland Games offers two full days of great entertainment value for all ages. Whether you are Scottish or just want to be, this is one festival that will keep you busy from the time you enter the gates at the Maxville fairgrounds right until the time you leave. Starting Friday, July 31st at 8 am, the competitions begin in full force and continue to the end of the day on Saturday, August 1st.

Heavyweight Events A Crowd Pleaser at the Games

The heavyweight contenders start on Friday at 8 am in the Amateur events. This year's field of 12 includes several area names such as Lyndon MacNaughton and Jason Baines of Dalkeith, Ron Graham of Greenfield, Paul Bouffard of Maxville, Hamish MacDonell from Williamstown and from Vankleek Hill, Stuart MacLaren, Dale MacDonald and Steve Rutherford. The heavyweight traditions are alive and well in Glengarry and area.

Next at 10 am, the Women's professional events begin. Competition is keen as these brawny women throw the hammer and toss the caber. Mindy Pockoski of Las Vegas, Nevada will be back to defend her title from last year. As well, the popular Josée Morneau from Winnipeg, MN will do her best to take the title from Mindy. Locals will be glad to hear that Laura Reusser, formerly of Martintown and now living in Bow Island, Alberta, will join this year's competition.

The day is rounded out with the Masters' heavyweights starting at 1 pm. These veterans can still demonstrate how they were all once champions. As well as welcoming an athlete from Switzerland, the fans will be cheering on Lee MacKinnon from Alexandria.

David Webster, the Secretary General of the World Federation of Heavyweight Events, will be back again this year as Master of Ceremonies for all heavyweight events and will provide expert background information as well as lively commentary. Friday morning, there will also be a heavyweight information and display area where visitors can find out more about the events and the equipment. The display takes place on the lower patio of the Administration building.



On Saturday, the Professional Heavyweights take their turn in the Canadian Scottish Heavyweight Championships from 10 am until 3 pm. Several favorites are back this year such as Harry MacDonald of London, Ontario returning for his 21st Games, and Greg Hadley from Antigonish, Nova Scotia, last year's Champion at the Games. All Glengarry will be cheering loudly for Ian MacNaughton, a local Maxville boy, now living in Texas, as he competes in this Open Professional division.

Tug Of War Has Special Challenge

Two years ago the historic Tug of War event was reintroduced to the Games by two highland military regiments. This year, the S.D.&G. Highlanders will defend their title against other regiments including the Cameron Highlanders. A special feature will be a challenge pull against the winning team by a team of OPP officers as part of their 100th anniversary celebrations. There will be lots on the line in this pull which will take place on the infield late Saturday afternoon.

Highland Dancing One of the Games'

Key Attractions

For the full two days of the Games, over 200 Highland Dancers will take to the stages competing for much coveted prizes. Take in a few of the dancing competitions, and marvel at the grace and dexterity of the dancers.

Competitors include World Champions and dancers from across Canada and North America. The Pre-Premier, Restricted Premier and Premier National competitions take place on Friday. On Saturday, don't miss the "Glengarry Highland Games Open Championship" event. Once again the dancer who resides in S. D. & G. and has the most points in the Championship event will be presented with the "John Angus Carther Trophy".



Great Celtic Music That Couldn't Be Better

A different version of the Brigadoons will be performing at this year's Games following the untimely death this winter of Glengarry's own Jackie Smith. Rob Taylor, Denis Carr



and Luane Wood will carry on with the traditions and songs of the group such as *Glengarry My Home* and *The Martintown Song*. As has been the custom for many years, the Brigadoons will perform with the world famous MacCulloch dancers in the Friday night Tattoo and will also be in the Metcalfe Centre Saturday afternoon where they will share the stage with crowd favorites, Bob and Ducky.

Another remixed group is the Greenfield Trio anchored by Gerry O'Neill, a native of Derry, Ireland and more recently of Greenfield, Ontario and joined by two very popular musicians, Pat Kelly and Pat Maher (aka the 2 Paddys). Don't miss them on Friday in the Metcalfe Centre after the Tattoo for a great mix of your favorite celtic tunes.

It must be the year for new twists on old groups, as Ashley MacLeod, former headliner at the Games and an internationally known fiddler, also comes to the Games with a new

band. Ashley is joined by Adam Lalonde from Fournier on drums and vocals, and Stephen Helferty from Douglas on lead vocals and guitar. This band plays many great traditional tunes as well as tunes written by Ashley herself, which gives them a unique sound. Catch them in the Metcalfe Centre Saturday afternoon and after the Massed Bands.

There will be lots of talented entertainment in the Tents as well. Hadrian's Wall featuring Neil Emberg will provide great dancing music on Friday after the Tattoo until 1 am. On Saturday, Poor Angus, the Friday Concert headliners, and the Celtic group, Brandy n' Port will take over the stage from 2-6 pm. For those who still have the energy, there is still great dancing music to be found in the Tents when local group, Fridge Full of Empties, take to the stage after the Massed Bands.

See you at the Games! www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

The Road to the Games 2009 – Release #5

The Games are Ready to Roll

Here it is - the week leading to the Games. The last touches are being made to the grounds, the tents are up, the first campers will soon arrive and in scores of cities and towns, people are packing up and heading to the Games. When the 62nd edition of the Glengarry Highland Games begins this Friday, July 31st, the village of Maxville will fill with people and vehicles all with one destination, the Games.

The Games Organizing Committee has let out all the stops to create an exciting lineup in competitions, entertainment and special events. Anyone who was there for last year's rousing and emotional Tattoo, is promised that this year's show will surpass that one. The OPP will have a large presence at the Games as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary. OPP officers and auxiliary, past and present, will be coming together for this commemorative occasion and have put together several events for Games visitors to learn more about what they do.

The Pipes Are the Heart of the Games



As home of the North American Pipe Band Championships™ which starts at 1 pm on Saturday, the Games is very much about pipe bands. Sixty bands will be competing at this year's Games and it is said that whoever does well at the Games, does well in the World's Championships in Scotland. Joining the George Watson's College Pipes and Drums from Scotland and a combined Air Force Pipe Band from Nova Scotia, will be thirty-three bands from Ontario, and bands also from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. U.S. Bands will represent Washington D.C., Illinois, Texas, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Virginia and Oregon.

For those who appreciate the intricacies of the pipes, the Piobaireachd Gold Medal Competitions take place on Friday in the United and Anglican Churches in Maxville. For many, the moment that makes the Games unforgettable, is the massed pipe bands' performance at the closing of the Games on Saturday as sixty bands adding up to 1700 musicians march and play in unison on the infield.

Something For All Ages

The Games has something for all ages and interests. Added to the best piping in North America, and competitions in heavyweights and highland dancing, there are many other interesting events to enjoy. Friday offers a great lineup of such events. Bruce Smart from Laggan and his World Champion sheep dogs will take to the infield to show off their skills at 10:30 am and 2 pm. At 1, 3, & 5 pm, the Olde 78th Fraser Highland Regiment from Fort



Stewart on l'Île Ste. Helene will march on to Circle One to perform a reenactment of 18th century Musket drill. Their musket exercise with the famous Brown Bess and the bellowing of commands, the shrill sound of the bagpipe, and the explosions and the smoke, always attracts large crowds of fascinated spectators.

The S.D. & G. South Glengarry Pipe Band and the Quigley Highlanders Pipe Band will also join in the performances in the Grade One Circle with the 78th Fraser Highlanders. Between these performances, the OPP Pipes and Drums will perform at 2 pm and 4 pm.

OPP Canine Show is Serious Work

A special treat with the OPP Pipes and Drums will be a demonstration by the S. D. & G. OPP Canine Unit. The OPP has twenty-seven canine teams across the province, each consisting of a dog and a handler, who provide canine support for search and rescue operations, tracking wanted persons, detecting narcotics, explosives, cadaver and physical evidence.

Canine teams undergo 16 weeks of intensive training at the O.P.P. Academy Canine Training Centre. There are currently 6 teams trained to detect explosives, 6 additional teams are trained to detect human remains that are buried or under water, and 3 teams are trained to locate people buried as a result of a disaster. The teams are on call 24 hours a day for assignment anywhere in Ontario. The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry's canine unit works out of the Long Sault detachment.

For the younger set, there is the Junior Heavyweight events on Saturday with registration at 9:00 am and the events starting at 9:30. Later in the day, the track and field events in the infield are an attraction to many young people to show off their running abilities.



What would a Highland Games be without the Clans! This year's Games will have twenty-six clans setting up their displays in the Clan Barns. There they will provide information on clan history, genealogy, and ways to stay connected with your clan. Several workshops are also planned on topics such as kiltmaking. This is a great opportunity to find out about the tartan and origins of Scots in North America and back home in Scotland.

Those who are looking to add to their collection of things Scottish, will have no trouble finding just the right item among the almost one hundred concessions ringing the grandstands and the infield. Whether it's a tasty morsel of haggis or a handcrafted celtic ring, it can be found at the Games including the Instakilt, the famous towel kilt that was launched at the Games and is now a world-wide sensation.

For those who can't make it to the Games, various media will be reporting from the Games including Corus Cornwall who will be providing on-air coverage with Traci Trotter on Saturday from 10 am until 1 pm.

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, VIA is providing a special train to the Games.

In a summer where it hasn't been great for the outdoors, and the weather has been a huge damper on everything, the Glengarry Highland Games are just the ticket to chase those blahs away, so come join in the best celebration of any summer. Remember the Games go on whether it's rain or shine. Actually, although most of the competitions take place outdoors, there are many covered and indoor events as well.

Parking is free and once inside the Games, all activities are open to attend. The grounds are fully accessible for those who are handicapped. Everything you could need can be

pretty much found on the grounds including ATM machines. Lots more information can be found at www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

The Glengarry Highland Games --- worldclass competitions, great celtic entertainment, a homecoming and a reunion, pageantry, colour, tradition, and Great Fun!
See you at the Games! Ceud Mile Failte! A hundred thousand welcomes!