



Glengarry Highland Games July Release #4

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 surprised 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!