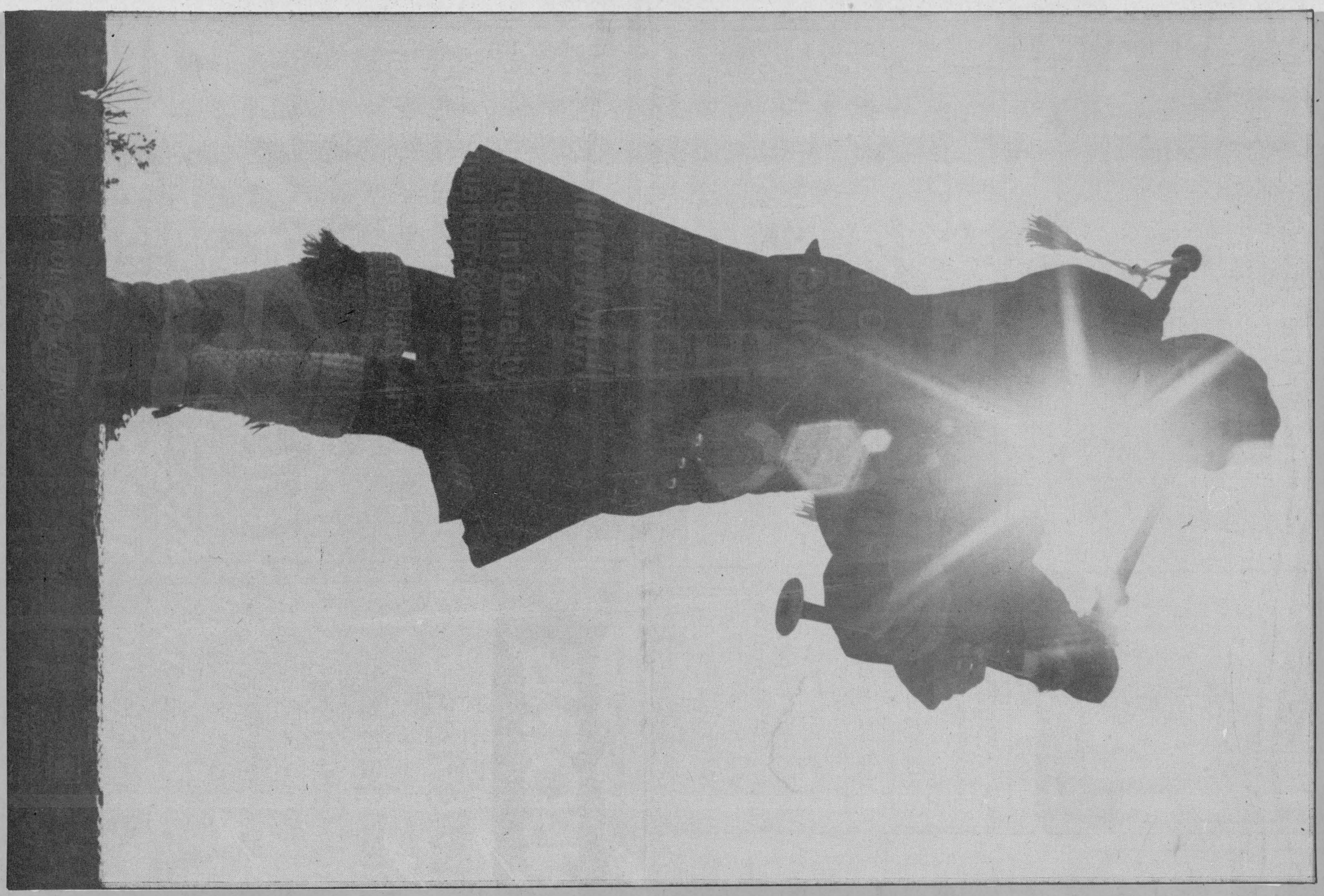
Supplement to The Glengarry News



43rd Anniversary Issue

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES



Connie Blaney

President's welcome

It is Highland Games time again in Glengarry, time for me to welcome everyone, newcomers and regular patrons alike to the 43rd edition of the Glengarry Highland Games on August 4th and to the Tattoo on the evening of August 3rd.

There are few people who have attended the Glengarry Highland Games who do not speak in glowing terms of the Games in general and the great spectacle of the massed bands in particular.

As usual we have world class individual competitors and also world class pipe bands here to demonstrate their skills and celebrate our rich Scottish heritage.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the keen interest and dedication of a most capable Games Committee which has worked very hard to provide for you Games that rank second to none.

Come early, absorb the great sights and sounds, meet your friends and above all, enjoy yourselves at the Glengarry Highland Games.

Connie Blaney,
President



Murray MacQueen

Words of welcome from the chairman

On behalf of the Glengarry Highland Games executive, the committee chairpeople, and their numerous volunteers, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 42nd presentation of the world's largest Highland games. As in previous years, a good deal of effort is expended to improve the facilities and present a pre-Games tattoo which is varied, entertaining, and caters to all Canadians, but most importantly, to ensure you of a warm Glengarry welcome.

This year we are pleased to have a record number of 47 pipe bands registered for competition.

Sunday, the annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan church service will be held at St. Columba Church, Kirk Hill, at 2:30 p.m. St. Raphael's Galarama promises a day of fun and entertainment for the entire family. If ancestral history and Scottish tradition interests you, the museums at Dunvegan and Williamstown will prove interesting and informative.

We shall be most honored to have you join us at Maxville, we hope to entertain you, and pray that you have a safe journey to and from the Games. God bless!

Murray MacQueen,
Chairman

The Glengarry News

is pleased to present this year's edition of the Glengarry Highland Games supplement.

The cover photo of James Libbey and all stories are by Bruce Myers.

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Area gold medalist picks the pipe bands to watch

Which will be the pipe bands to watch this year's Highland Games?

Who better to ask than one of the world's best pipers: Maxville's Colin MacLellan.

The pipe major of the Canadian champion Glengarry Pipe Band and 1982 gold medalist at the world individual piping championships at Inverness, Scotland, offers his opinions on who might be hot — or not — at Maxville.

At last count, only 34 bands had registered with the Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario to compete at the Glengarry Highland Games.

But an official with the society says not to worry; he assures that the normal turnout of more than 50 bands should show up by the time the long weekend rolls around.

The reason for the small number now, the official says, is that most bands put off registration until the last minute. Therefore, an accurate count of the number of bands usually isn't available until a few days prior to the day of competition.

The actual competition is divided into four levels of difficulty, called "grades." Grade 4 is the least difficult, while Grade 1 is the highest level.

The judging is done by four adjudicators. Two mark piping, one checks drumming and the fourth inspects the band's marching, dress and deportment.

Now, the bands.

Starting with Grade 4. MacLellan says to keep an eye on the Braemar Pipe Band from St. Catharines, Ontario. They've been up-and-coming for a while and "they're always getting prizes." Another group that might take home an award is the Rob Roy Pipe Band of Kingston; they're not very organized, he says, but they do play well and have won divisions before.

Glengarry will have its own entry in this class as well. The Maxville Pipe Band is the junior complement of the Grade 2 Glengarry Pipe Band and will be in the thick of the competition.

The band, however, is composed of mostly young and inexperienced players. MacLellan says that the main purpose of the group is to get its members used to a competitive scenario, so they aren't totally shocked if they are chosen to advance to the senior band.

Other Grade 4 bands scheduled so far include the 48th Highlanders from Thornhill, Ontario. Halifax Police Association; Invergarry from Brampton, Ontario; Ottawa Police; Sheridan Oakville Pipes and Drums from Oakville and the Special Service Forces' Pipes and Drums from CFB Petawawa.

In Grade 3, the division in which Glengarry is the current Canadian champion, the competition looks fierce.

The 48th Highlanders (who have entries in every grade but the first) are "looking pretty good" to MacLellan. They and the Tri-City and District Pipe Band from Brand Blanc, Michigan, seem to MacLellan two of the best bets to win that division, adding the American band isn't "doing bad, either."

Bands also enlisted in Grade 3 are the Capital City Pipes and Drums from Columbus, Ohio; Clan Thompson from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Glengarry Highlanders from Calgary, Alberta; Loch Traigh from Windsor, Ontario and Metro Toronto Police.

The fight for Grade 2 is going to be one that many Glengarrians will be keeping a close watch on.

The Glengarry Pipe Band will be vying for its first North American title at such a high level. But it won't be easy, according to MacLellan. The two bands that defeated Glengarry at the Georgetown Highland Games in June — the 48th Highlanders and the 400 Squadron Pipe Band — will both be there.

Other bands like the Toronto Transit Commission Pipe Band and the Winnipeg Legion Pipe Band that have been playing at the Grade 2 level for years will be tough nuts to crack too.

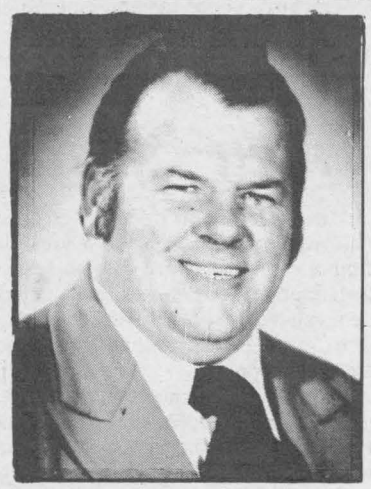
One band making quite a voyage to compete in Maxville is the City of Papakura Highland Pipe Band from New Zealand. Although MacLellan hasn't heard much about them, he says the mere fact that they are travelling half way around the world to compete indicates that they will probably be a force to reckoned with.

Other second grade bands include Clan Sutherland from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; Halifax Police Association and the North Coast Pipe Band from Painesville, Ohio.

The top level, Grade 1, is an easy prediction for MacLellan.

The former world champion 78th Fraser Highlanders from Toronto are a shoo-in. "They're going to win Maxville," says MacLellan adamantly. "No band in Ontario can beat them . . . and the only one in Canada that might be able to is Simon Fraser University from Vancouver."

Other bands that are still going to give it a try are Clan MacFarlane from Niagara Falls, Ontario; Metro Toronto Police; Parlin and District from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the Toronto and District Caledonia Pipe Band.



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More money for caber toss

More than a few heavyweights will be in Maxville on Aug. 4. And they're going to mean business.

About a dozen men ranging in weight from nearly 300 to 475 lbs. will be after the Canadian Heavyweight Championship at the Maxville Games.

Heavy events organizer Don Bond says that the same calibre of competition probably won't be evident at this year's Games. Competitors from far away, for various reasons, can't make the considerable trek to Glengarry.

But he assures that it will still be a good show. Champions like 21-year-old Harry MacDonald, Toronto policeman Don Markovic and London's Harvey Barkaushas will be vying for the title.

Glengarry's own Ian Sandilands will be in the thick of the competition as well. The other native son who has become a well-known name in heavyweight competition — Robin Thomson — won't be on hand as a competitor, though. A back injury has forced him to retire from the sport.

The eight events — the sheaf toss, stone throw, 56 lb. distance throw, 56 lb. height throw, caber toss, 16 lb. hammer throw and the 22 lb. hammer throw — will run from morning to evening on the Games field in front of the grandstand.

The yet unturned Glengarry Caber will again be back, with added incentive. The 19-foot, 175 lb. pole (50 lbs. heavier than the regular caber) has not been successfully turned since its introduction six years ago. However, Don Bond says that the prize money of $1,500 and three new cash awards should make competitors anxious to give the caber a try. Prizes of $125, $100 and $75, respectively, will be awarded to the three best attempts of the day.

Bond doubts that any records will be broken at Maxville this year, but he remains optimistic.

"Maybe some Canadian records, but not North American ones," he adds. "But you never know."



Sheaf toss competitor at '89 Games

Track competition 'rarin' to go'

Things are going to be off and running at the Highland Games.

The track and field competition, a regular feature of the Glengarry Games, will have eight events open to anyone wishing to show off their athletic prowess.

And the events are just about all set for the big day. Organizer Dale Munro reported "Everything's rarin' to go!"

The high jump, triple jump, long jum, 200 and 400 meter races are divided into 16 and under and over 16 age groups.

The 100 meter event is split into 10 and under, 11 to 16, and over 16. The 800 metres is an open event for all women, as is the 1,500 metres for men. All other events are open to both sexes.

No monetary prizes are awarded, but winners in each event will receive gold, silver and bronze medals. The top male and female athletes of the day will receive trophies.

There is no entry fee and all competitors are welcome. Interested athletes should contact Munro at 527-2984. Procrastinators can register on Games day at the main gate between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The events get under way at 1:30 p.m. on the infield.

The Glengarry News centennial, 1892-1992

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Galarama has new features

If after the Games are over, you just can't seem to keep your feet from tapping or you can't get that tune you've been humming all day out of your head, you should head on down to St. Raphael's.

There at the ruins, the hamlet will be hosting its 14th galarama of entertainment, Sunday, Aug. 5.

Some of the best talent from the area will be spotlighted. The Brigadoons, MacCulloch Dancers, Glengarry Strathspey and Reel Society, and singer Hugh McDonell are alreay lined up for the event. Many more performers are expected to be added to the program.

Some new attractions at this year's galarama are Tony Lee the Magician, and a baby contest for proud parents who want to show off their prize progeny.

A ''kiddies' corner'' will be located on the grounds for parents who want to drop off their kids and enjoy the afternoon alone. A number of activities will be going on for children to keep themselves amused.

Activity booths will also be nearby, to keep the parents entertained in between acts too. A hot dinner will also be served.

The fun begins around 2 p.m. and will last until around 7 p.m. Admission is three dollars for adults and two dollars for children 12 years of age and under.



The color guard of the Scottish-American Military Society will again be flying its colors high. The North Carolina-based group will lead in the official party during the opening ceremonies.

175 dancers expected to fling

The Glengarry Highland Games must have made a name for itself across the country.

Even though no major prizes are being awarded for the Highland dancing competition, girls from as far away as British Columbia, New Brunswick and New York State are coming to give the contest a try.

Dancing organizer Jean Campbell reports that about 125 dancers have registered; she expects that number to rise by about 50 by Games day.

A number of those girls will be rather close to home, though. Students from dancing schools throughout the area will be performing under the close scrutiny of adjudicators, in attempts to capture a prize.

Four judges have been secured for the Games, as have two pipers. Competition is divided into three age groups, and all perform simultaneously.

Judging starts in front of the grandstand at 8:15 a.m. They'll break around 1:15 for all of the dancers to take part in the massed Highland fling portion of the official opening ceremonies. Then it's back to flings, jigs, reels and *seann triubhas* from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

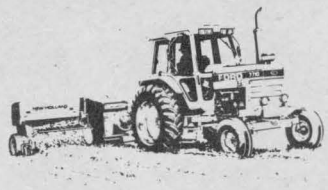
Maxville centennial is coming

While Maxville generally hosts only one big celebration a year — namely the Glengarry Highland Games — next year will be an exception.

The Village of Maxville will be marking its centenary in 1991, and it's getting set for some of the biggest celebrations in its hundred-year-long history.

Centennial events will take place throughout the year, including special celebrations over the Canada Day weekend.

A centennial book will be published, and other Maxville memorabilia will be made available as well.



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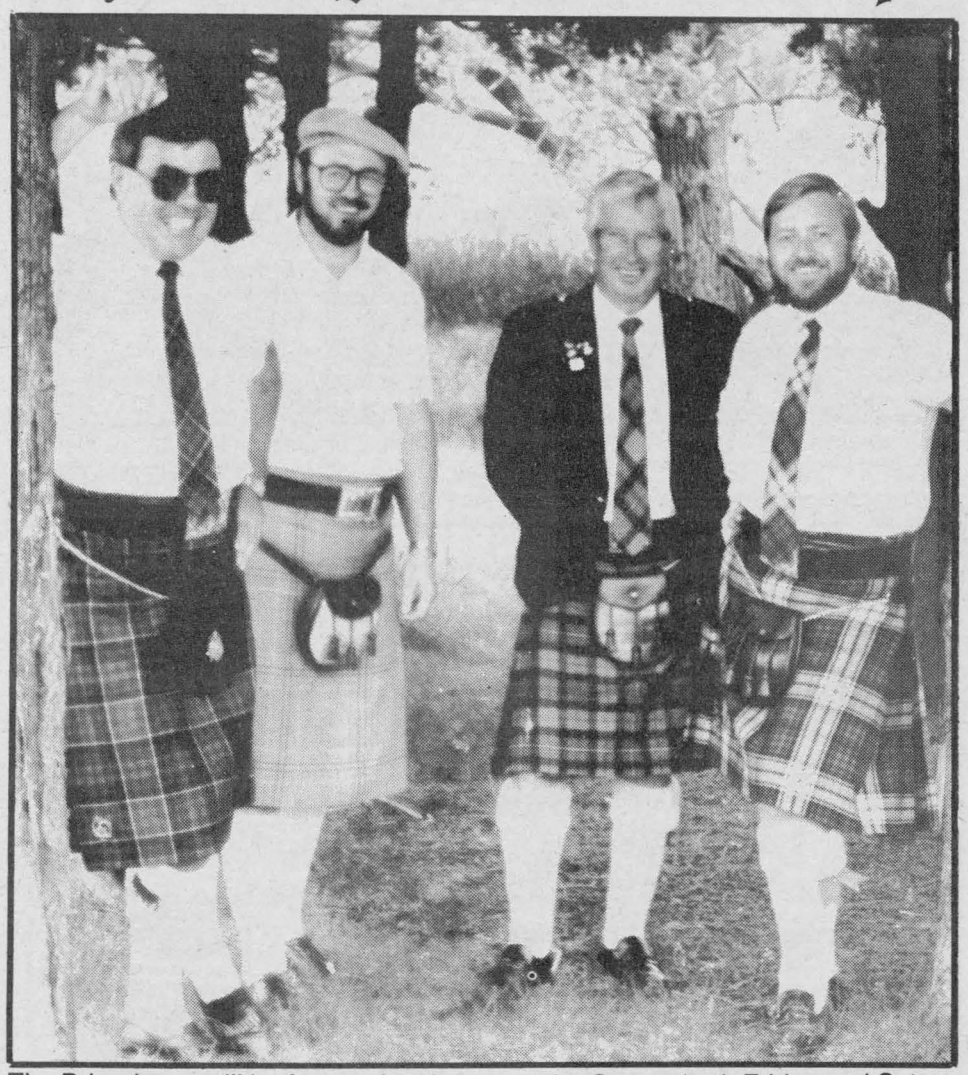
The Brigadoons: Keeping Glengarry County hoppi



The Brigadoons will be featured at dances at the Games both Friday and Saturday nights. From left are Denis Carr, Rob Taylor, Jackie Smith and Paddy Kelly.

By Bruce Myers
***News* correspondent**

They are as much a part of Glengarry as the Highland Games or a good game of soccer.

And they've played an even bigger role in the musical scene of the county for nearly the past two decades.

If they still need an introduction after that, then you are one of the few who haven't experienced the band that evolved from four guys who just liked Celtic music to a Glengarry institution.

They are the Brigadoons.

The four men that make up the group today have been together for eight years.

Rob Taylor moved from Newfoundland 22 years ago, and founded the group in 1972.

He explains that back then, getting three other guys together to play some music was no big deal; he had no idea they would be as popular as they are today. "I enjoyed Scottish/Celtic music," he says, "and it seemed to fit in with the area. I love the music."

Taylor, a professor at St. Lawrence College in Cornwall, is the only remaining member of the original quartet that made up the Brigadoons. The other three — Gauy Leroux, Brian MacDonell and Bob Burnie — eventually moved on from the group for various reasons. And, for a time, the Brigadoons were in limbo.

But Taylor was determined to see his group carry on. Enter Denis Carr.

A native of Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, Carr moved to Canada in 1966. He had just

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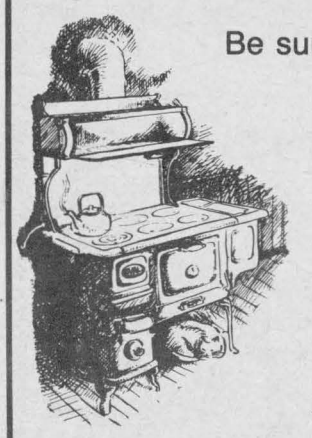

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parted company with a rock band when Taylor approached him about joining his group. "I liked that kind of music," Carr reminisces, "I knew most of the tunes." Needless to say, he took Taylor up on his offer.

That was ten years ago, and the training consultant, Cornwall city councillor, lead vocalist and *bodhran* (Celtic drum) player hasn't looked back since.

Jackie Smith arrived one year after Carr. Also a musical veteran, Smith was involved in a number of groups in the area. The Glengarry native provides string bass, piano and vocal accompaniment to the group. Taylor recalled that Smith seemed like the ideal choice for the band, in light of his close connections to the county.

"We asked him because we considered him 'Mr. Glengarry'!" Taylor recalls.

Completing the group one year after Smith joined was Paddy Kelly. Originally from Ottawa, he had just finished a jaunt with an Irish band when he was welcomed aboard. He had heard the Brigadoons before and had been to Glengarry County more than once. When the offer came to join the group, he jumped. "I wanted to get off the road," Kelly says, "and I enjoyed Glengarry County."

Although he has been playing with the group for eight years, he only made the move from Ottawa with his wife and children four years ago. Kelly plays guitar, mandolin, fiddle, tin whistle and provides considerable vocal talent too.

It took some time and patience, but Taylor kept together the group he worked so hard to start.

Since these four got together, they have released four albums: *Road to Dalhousie, Glengarry My Home, The Brigadoons,* and *The Lads from Glengarry.*

The songs on those records, and new ones they are continually adding to their repertoire, are many and varied. There are the traditional old Scottish songs, tunes from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and some of Glengarry's own musical pieces.

The Brigadoons also make it a habit to write some of their own material; it's a practice they say keeps them fresh and always a little bit different.

That unique mix is a regular feature at pubs and taverns throughout the area, and a wedding reception in Glengarry just isn't the same unless the Brigadoons are on stage.

The group has also made its mark south of the border. They are regularly invited to Scottish gatherings in the United States. But most notably, they have been two-time guest performers of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Plans are in the works for another trip to the Sunshine State next year.

But they say it's the fans back home that they really take pleasure in satisfying.

And one of the most important factors in satisfying their fans, they say, is making sure that the music they play is close to home, and has some meaning for those listening to it.

"I think," Carr adds, "it's important to play what people can identify with."

Another thing that keeps everyone happy too is ensuring that everyone has a good time, whether it be a 50th wedding anniversary dance or a crash at a local bar.

And it's not only the people on the dance floor who get all the kicks, according to Carr.

"We have fun playing, too."

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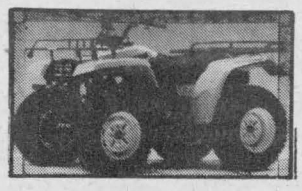

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Recent successes have Glengarry piped up for worlds

One might expect that after competing for the North American Band Championship at the Maxville games, members of the Glengarry Pipe Band would take it easy for a while.

Not so.

In fact, things are going to do nothing but speed up for the county's own band after the last strain of the pipes is heard at Maxville.

Glengarry's corps of pipes and drums compete at the Montreal Highland Games the Sunday following the ones in at home.

They'll have but one day home after that. Then they really go places.

On Aug. 7, about 40 performers leave from Mirabel Airport near Montreal to play their wares in the old country: Scotland.

There for two weeks, the band will criss-cross the Bonnie Isle, performing at various locales throughout.

They will be the only North American band participating in the international Street Parade in Glasgow, named the 1990 European City of Culture. Invited by the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, they will be competing in the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Jubilee Championship.

In addition, they will be participating in two Highland games and a number of other smaller engagements.

But what the band is really in Scotland for is something else that's happening in Glasgow: the World Pipe Band Championships.

They will be competing at the Grade 2 level, the second most difficult and one which they have been competing at for only a couple of months. They will be up against about 25 of the other top bands on the globe.

A recent good showing at the Georgetown Highland Games and a first prize placing at the Cobourg games have boosted both the spirits and confidence of the band, says its pipe major. But he's also being reserved about their successes.

''All it means is that we're another band capable of winning (at the Grade 2 level),'' Colin MacLellan says.

But he and the band are looking toward Scotland with optimism nevertheless.

''We have just as good a chance as anybody else,'' MacLellan adds.

He says that the constant and continuous practice the members of the band have been putting themselves through might just give them the edge.

''Nobody will have worked harder than we have,'' he affirms.

So be sure to get a glimpse of the Glengarry Pipe Band at the Games. You may, in a few weeks, be able to say you saw the world champions before they made it big.

Kirkin' tradition continues at Kirk Hill church

An event at Kirk Hill has, for many, become the traditional way to top off their Highland Games weekend.

The annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan service will again be held at St. Columba Presbyterian Church.

The ceremony honors the memory of the Highland Scots after the right to wear tartan or Highland dress and play the bagpipe was taken from them by the British government.

The action was taken by the British after the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, led by Charles Edward Stuart (''Bonnie Prince Charlie''), in an effort to regain the Scottish throne taken from his father.

Many Highlanders were members of the rebelling army, and the government felt that such measures would once and for all discourage any further thoughts of revolt by the Highland clans.

Although the oppression was eventually lifted by the government, Glengarrians of Highland descent still commemorate what their ancestors went through centuries ago.

The guest lecturer at this year's service will be Rev. Alan MacKenzie from Fort Coulougne, Que.

Providing musical accompaniment for the service will be the church's own choir, a piper, and the violins of the Glengarry Strathspey and Reel Society.

An expanded assortment of tartan flags — a new feature added last year — will be carried in by parishioners of various clans to begin and end the service.

Worship begins at 2:30 p.m., but a prelude of bagpipe and violin music will lead everyone into the church at 2 p.m.

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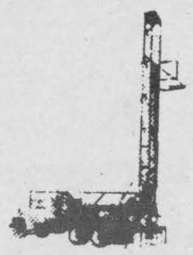
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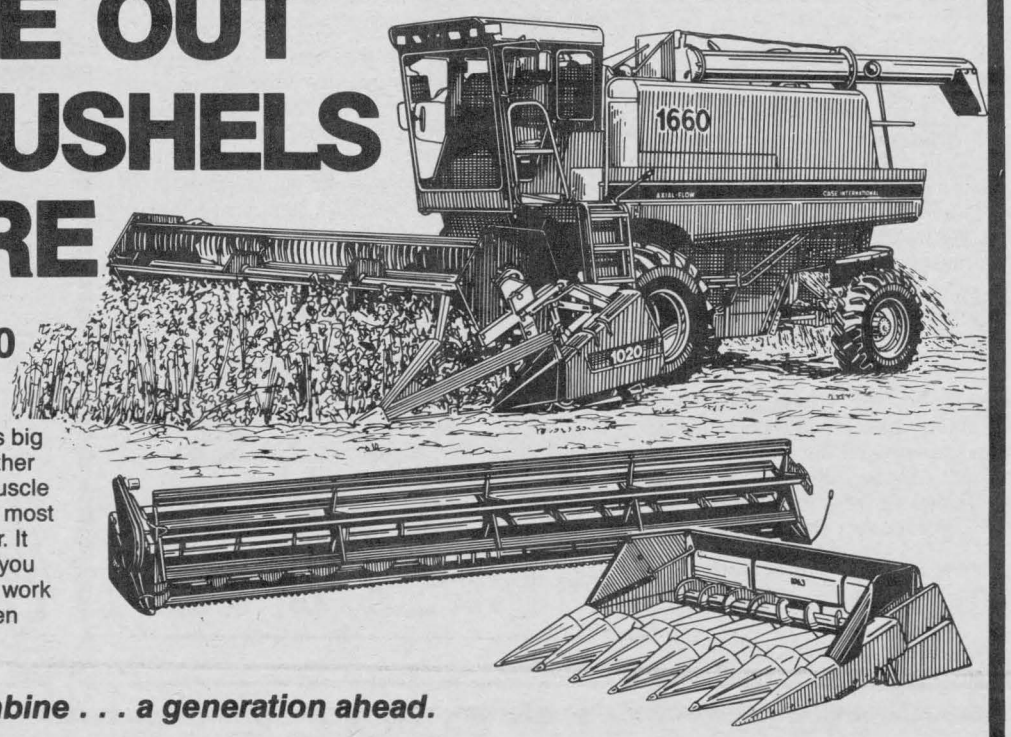
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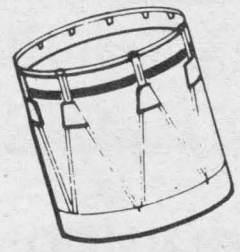
8:00 a.m.
Individual Piping Competition
Individual Drumming
Highland Dancing Competition

1:15 p.m.
Massed Bands
Massed Highland Fling

1:45 p.m. thru 5:30 p.m.
Pipe Bands Competitions
Drum Majors Competitions
Track & Field



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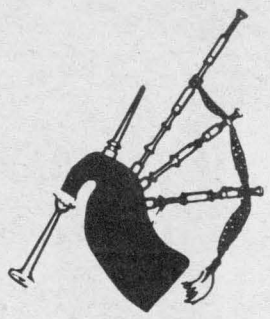

PRE-GAMES GRANDSTAND SHOW

Friday, August 3rd, 1990 at 8:00 p.m.

Concert • Tattoo • Massed Pipebands • Pre-Games Dance & Guest Artists

Free Parking • General Admission: $7.00 • No Reserved Seats

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43rd Anniversary

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WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE GAMES

Cape Breton family will be feature act at tattoo



Live from Cape Breton . . .
The popular family of performers from Nova Scotia, the Barra MacNeils will be the headliners at this year's pre-Games show. From the left are Kyle, Sheumas, Lucy and Stewart.

For those who just can't wait for the Saturday of the Games to roll around, there is somewhere for them to vent their enthusiasm.

The annual pre-Games grandstand show and tattoo will take place the Friday evening before the Games, and will offer just a taste of what to expect the following day.

Headlining this year's show are the Barra MacNeils, the popular Cape Breton musical family. They have visited Glengarry two times already and are making a comeback Highland Games weekend to join in the fun.

Also lined up for the show are Glengarry's own Brigadoons, the MacCulloch Dancers, the Governor General's Footguards and singer Peter Glen.

Fifteen bands, including Glengarry's own, will take over the infield for a scaled-down version of the massed pipe bands.

Organizers expect the number of spectators to run as high as the 5,000 mark.

It all starts at 8 p.m. Admission is $7 and there are no reserved seats, so come early and get a good view. Parking is free.

After the show at the grandstand is over, the night will be far from finished.

The Brigadoons will be providing the tunes to dance to at the Angus Gray Centre, while Brandy and Port will do the same just down the path at the Maxville and District Sports Complex.

On Saturday night the Brigadoons will be back, this time at the complex. The Barra MacNeils will keep the crowds hopping at Angus Gray for part of the night; the McMartin Fiddle will take over later into the evening.

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DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!

Commons speaker to open Games

A man who plays a vital role on the Canadian political scene, and has some important Glengarry roots, will be officially opening the 43rd edition of the Glengarry Highland Games.

The Honorable John Fraser, speaker of the House of Commons and Member of Parliament for Vancouver South, will do the honors at a ceremony in front of the grandstand at 12:45 p.m.

Born in Yokohama, Japan, Fraser, 59, moved to Vancouver with his Canadian parents in 1935. There, he attained his Bachelor of Law and practised as a courtroom lawyer and later became a senior partner in a leading Vancouver law firm.

He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1972, and has served in various capacitities. While in opposition, he served as critic for environment, labor, fisheries, the post office and the solicitor general. When the Progressive Conservatives returned to power in 1984, he served briefly as minister of fisheries and oceans. He became speaker of the house in the Commons' first-ever speaker elections in 1988.

An avid fisherman and hunter, Fraser has some roots of his own in Glengarry County. His ancestor, and great Canadian explorer and navigator, Simon Fraser is buried in Williamstown.



Hon. John Fraser

Historic sites abound in Glengarry

If you find the Highland Games have put you in a historical mood, you couldn't ask to be in a better place than Glengarry County.

As one of the oldest settlements in the province, Glengarry is bursting with interesting historical locales and fascinating sights to see.

The county's two museums will be open for business Highland Games weekend.

The Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum in Williamstown will have on display the works of local artist Gordon Light, as well as its usual assortment of tidbits of Glengarry's past. The museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday to Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

A little more north, in Dunvegan, the Glengarry Pioneer Museum will also have its gates open to any curious visitors who may have wandered from nearby Maxville. The museum's several buildings house hundreds of artifacts from the county's yesteryear. It is open from 1 to 5 p.m. the whole weekend of the Games.

Many other glimpses of history abound in the county. Historical plaques mark the locations of some of the following:

•The birthplace of John Sandfield Macdonald, first premier of Ontario.

•*Glengarry School Days* and *The Man From Glengarry* are only two of the books written by famous Glengarry author Ralph Connor. His birthplace and church where his father ministered is marked at St. Elmo.

•Famous Canadian explorer and navigator Simon Fraser is buried at Williamstown.

•And former financial advisor to the royal family, Sir Edward Peacock, has his birthplace marked in Maxville.

A good place to start any historical trek from the Games is at the booth of the Glengarry Historical Society, located on the grounds.

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