

CALGARY HIGHLAND GAMES HISTORY

This chart gives some highlights of the Calgary Highland Games through the years. It is not complete but does give a flavor of some of the early Games. If you have any stories, pictures or details to share about the Calgary Highland Games I would be very happy to hear from you. Please use the e-mail address info@calgaryhighlandgames.com to forward your information

| DATE | NOTES |
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| November 21, 1884 | St. Andrew's Society formed in Calgary to plan for the annual St. Andrew's night. The motto was: To relieve the distressed. |
| August 9, 1913 | <p>First Caledonian Games held at Victoria Park, organized by the St. Andrew's Society. Over 2000 people in attendance.</p> <p>Miss Jean McDonald, Calgary – Dancing champion of the Games</p> <p>Pipe Major S. McKinnon, Edmonton – The championship of the Western Provinces, winner of the Calgary Gaelic Society's silver cup</p> <p>Edmonton Pipe Band – The championship of the western provinces, winner of the D.E. Black silver cup.</p> |
| May 25, 1914 | Games held at Victoria Park. There was a parade on Eighth Avenue the evening before the Games and competitors entered in dancing, piping, band competitions, soccer, track athletics and several classes of wrestling. Four pipe bands were in attendance |
| August 6, 1921 | <p>First Caledonian Games held since before World War I. Special events included tent pegging, tug of war and wrestling as well as a wide variety of track events. There were 193 athletes entered in the events. Dancing champions were Daily Whyte of Medicine Hat and Jean Gauld of Calgary. The champion piper was Alex Hosie of Medicine Hat</p> |
| August 12, 1922 | <p>Games held at Victoria Park in conjunction with the Dominion track and field championships.</p> <p>Jean Gauld – Champion of Western Canada for Highland Dancing</p> <p>Pipe-Major Hugh McBeth, Calgary – Individual piping champion of the western provinces</p> <p>10th Battalion Calgary Highlanders – Champion pipe band of the western provinces</p> |
| November 23, 1923 | St. Andrew's Society incorporated as a society. A statement in the bylaws reads: |

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| | <p>At the discretion of the Society, there shall be an annual gathering for the celebration of Games on such a day as may be appointed by the Society. The Games shall be celebrated according to the rules made by the general committee previous to the annual gathering. Some of the games or all of them may be thrown open under certain restrictions to non-members.</p> <p>The Games were held at Victoria Park. L.R. Wilson of Drumheller was the champion dancer, Alex Hosie of Medicine Hat was the champion piper and Leslie Corse of Calgary was the champion athlete.</p> |
| 1924 | On August 15 th it was announced that the games were cancelled for this year. |
| 1925 | No confirmation of Games. |
| July 31, 1926 | Games held at Victoria Park in conjunction with the provincial track and field championships. Fred Russell of Medicine Hat and Frank Waines shared honors in the athletic events. Mary Malcolm won the dancing championship and R. Allen of Calgary was the champion piper. |
| 1927-1931 Sept 2-5, 1927 Aug 31 – Sept 3, 1928 Aug 30 – Sept 2, 1929 Aug 29 – Sept 1, 1930 Aug 27 – 30, 1931 | Games held at the Banff Springs Hotel. This was a 3 day event at the end of August including Scottish concerts and special Scottish meals at the hotel as well as standard events. There was always a church service conducted in the open air at the Devil's Cauldron conducted by Ralph Connor (Dr. C.W. Gordon). These were big events in all aspects. Pipers came from across the country and even a few from Scotland. So too with dancers, travelling long distance by train to attend these gatherings. Up to 8000 people flocked to the town of Banff and the Hotel to be a part of this festival, among the most highly acclaimed North American Highland Games in those years. |
| August 20, 1932 | Games were held at Mewata Park. Mayor Andy Davidson officially opened the Games. George Sutherland won the grand aggregate for athletics. Jimmy Macbeth of Calgary was the champion dancer for the day and Alex Hosie of Medicine Hat, the champion piper. |
| August 10, 1933 | The Games were held at Mewata Stadium. Jean Murdoch entered the under 8 events and placed first in each. George Sutherland won the aggregate for track and field events. Colin Cameron of Winnipeg took first place honors in piping. Quoiting was one of the unique events offered at these Games. |

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| August 6, 1934 | <p>First reference to the Calgary United Scottish Games Association in a newspaper article.</p> <p>The Games were held at Mewata Stadium. Duncan Cameron of Innisfail was the champion piper. Mary Oakes was the winner of the aggregate cup for senior dancing. Harris Walker of Raymond won the aggregate for athletic events. There were several ladies track and field events contested.</p> |
| July 27, 1935 | <p>Games were held at Mewata Stadium. George Sutherland won the athletics aggregate. Six Alberta track and field records were broken on the day. W.J. Grant of Winnipeg was the champion piper. Mary Oakes was the winner of the senior dancing events.</p> |
| July 1, 1936 | <p>Games were held at Mewata Stadium and included the Alberta Olympic trials for the summer Olympics to be held in Berlin. Five Alberta records were broken on the day. George Sutherland was the all-round champion. E.J. Peden of Edmonton won the piping championship. Betty Marchant of Innisfail was the champion dancer in the open events.</p> |
| July 1, 1937 | <p>Games were held at Mewata Stadium and included the Dominion junior track and field championships. New Glasgow Nova Scotia athletes won almost every junior event. George Sutherland was the big winner in the senior events. Janet Grant McGregor was the champion dancer in open events. L. Maclean was the champion piper. In Ladies piping G. Petera was the winner.</p> |
| July 30, 1938 | <p>Games were held at Mewata Stadium with 28 events on the programme. The chieftain of the Games was Pipe Major R.J. McLaren, F.G.S.. Betty Marchant was the champion dancer in open events. Murdo MacDonald won the senior piping light music events and E.J. Peden won the Piobaireachd.</p> |
| July 29, 1939 | <p>Games were held at Mewata Stadium on a very hot day. Between 3 and 400 watched the games with the majority seeking some relief from the heat in the scant shade of the stadium. Earliest piping trophy still in use—Peter Henderson Shield first awarded in 1939 to R. MacPherson/N. MacIver/W. Lockie/E. Watson – all winners of separate piping events. Janet Grant McGregor was the champion dancer in open events.</p> |
| 1940 | |
| 1941 to 1945 | No Games were held |
| August 10, 1946 | Games held at Mewata Stadium and opened by Colin |

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| | Hart, president of the Calgary Burns club. Fifty entries received for the dancing competitions, eight for piping contests and 35 for the track and field events. Alex M. Smart of Edmonton took the top honors in the piping events. Evelyn Nicholson of Calgary and Betty Cairney of Edmonton shared honors for the open dancing events. J.A. Lavery, Calgary, Ken Johannson, Edmonton, Alex Omelusik, Nordegg and Edith Skitch, Edmonton went home with the lion's share of the athletic awards. |
| August 7, 1948 | Games held at Mewata Stadium. Two thousand participated in spite of rain interruptions. Events had to be completed inside the Armouries. Alex Smart won the piping championship. Jessie Duguid of Edmonton was the best women's piper. Evelyn Nicholson was the champion dancer in open events. |
| 1946 - 1962 | Games held annually at Mewata Stadium |
| 1952 | The St. Andrew's Society and the Caledonian Club of Calgary amalgamated to form the St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary |
| June 28, 1958 | Games held at Mewata Stadium Chieftain – Rev. John MacLeod |
| May 30, 1959 | Games held at Mewata Stadium Chieftain – Robert Riddle |
| June 30, 1962 | Games held at Mewata Stadium Chieftain – Robert Riddle |
| 1963 – 1967(?) | Games were not held |
| 1967, 1968 | No real record of Games but there are piping and drumming winners from these years listed on trophies |
| July 5, 1969 | Games held at Heritage Park Chieftain – Alexander Watson |
| July 4, 1970 | Games held at Glenmore Park |
| May 8, 1971 | Scottish day at the Kiwanis Music Festival – included piping, drumming, band and dancing competitions |
| July 3, 1971 | Games held at Glenmore Park Chieftain – Mr. D. Cameron |
| July 5, 1975 | Games held at Glenmore Park Chieftain – Mr. Andy Little |
| July 3, 1976 | Games held at Currie Barracks Chieftain – Mr. Ben Niven |
| July 2, 1977 | Games held at Glenmore Park |
| July 8, 1978 | Games held at Glenmore Park Chieftain – George Reid |
| July 4-6, 1980 | Games at Foothills Athletic Park – including the |

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| | Canadian Inter-Provincial Highland Dancing Championships Chieftain – Grant MacEwan |
| July 22, 1989 or June 24, 1989? | Games held at Beddington Community Centre Chieftain – Ron Girardau |
| July 21, 1990 | Games held at Beddington Community Centre Chieftain – Alex Hinton |
| July 20, 1991 | Games held at Beddington Community Centre Chieftain – Bonnie Lang |
| July 18, 1992 | Games held at Beddington Community Centre Chieftain – Alec Lancaster |
| July 24, 1993 | Games held at Beddington Community Centre Chieftain – Michael J. O'Connor First occurrence of logo on the program |
| August 31, 1996 | Games held at the Museum of the Regiments Chieftain – Scotty Cameron |
| August 30, 1997 | Games held at the Museum of the Regiments Chieftain – Joe Jackson Family |
| September 5, 1998 | Games held at Mewata Armoury Chieftain – George M. Milne |
| September 4, 1999 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Lou MacEachern |
| September 2, 2000 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Bob Lamond |
| September 1, 2001 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – James Osborne |
| August 31, 2002 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Malcolm MacCrimmon |
| August 30, 2003 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Gail Danysk |
| September 4, 2004 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Robert Taylor |
| September 3, 2005 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Flora McInnes |
| September 2, 2006 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Olive Mitchell Campbell |
| September 1, 2007 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Alex Graham |
| August 30, 2008 | Games held at Shouldice Athletic Park Chieftain – Alex Graham |
| September 5, 2009 | Games held at Foothills Athletic Park Chieftain – A.G. Curly Elliott |
| September 4, 2010 | Games held at Springbank Park for All Seasons |

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| | Chieftain – James Osborne |
| September 3, 2011 | Games to be held at Springbank Park for All Seasons Chieftain – Darrel Janz |