

Cobourg Highland Games Society

January 14, 2019

Highland games have been held in Cobourg for many years. Perhaps the first Scottish Games held in Cobourg, reminiscent of today's Highland Games took place on July 29, 1905 at Donegan Park. They were sponsored by the Cobourg Chapter of the Sons of Scotland, a Scottish patriotic society.

The Cobourg Highland Games of today was started in 1963 and the first president was David Carr, a local barber and travel agent. The games were held that year in Donegan Park and every year since until the move to Victoria Park in 2013 for our 50th games.

This year June 15, 2019 we will be celebrating our 56th games. We are the third oldest Highland Games in Ontario. People attending the games come from across Ontario and further.

Last fall, we applied for the Municipal Grant. The funds [\$9000.00] from this grant will help us enhance our games. Our Highland Dance stage is 12feet by 48 feet and assembled/unassembled at each game's. The dance stage surface is ¾" plywood and after 15 years, has reached the end of its useful life. We also wish to update our advertising signage and information signage around the park during the games. Promoting the Highland Games helps with more tourism for the town because of the vibrant heritage and culture here.

We are also asking for an In-Kind grant [\$3984.00]. We are proposing to have a shuttle bus run between Donegan Park and Victoria Park from 10am-6pm to encourage people to park east of Victoria Park. We are asking for two bleachers for the Highland Dance area. Like other years we are asking for free parking next to the park for our vendors, volunteers and competitors.

Our Games bring over 1,000 competitors and vendors plus the attendees from across Ontario and Northern United States. They fill the local hotels, motels. There is a positive impact on local tourism and local businesses such as restaurants, gas stations, etc.

Our success shows in the number and quality of the competitors. We attract 30competition Pipe Bands, 200+ Highland Dancers, including world class competitors and 20 Heavy Event athletes including Canadian Champions and Olympians.

The current Electrical system in Victoria Park north of the Band Shell is in serious need of replacing to a more dependable system and more outlets with 110 and 220 volts for the vendors attending our games. Last fall Jason Johns reached out to us to get our input into what upgrades are needed. Please move this project forward as it directly effects how successful our games can be.

Edgar Carman

President, Cobourg Highland Games Society