

British Columbia Pipers' Association

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January 9, 2012

To BCPA members

Re: Supporting Highland Games in your area/region

On behalf of and with the unanimous agreement of the BC Pipers' Association Board of Directors, I am writing to you to strongly encourage you to assist the Highland Games in your area/region to ensure their continued viability and advancement.

The Board of Directors feels this request is necessary in light of developments late last year with the BC Highland Games, which lost a significant amount of money due to bad weather and for which the United Scottish Cultural Society (which organizes the Games) agreed that it could not continue to fund a similar loss next year without jeopardizing the continued existence of the United Scottish Cultural Society (USCS) itself.

At the same time, several other highland games across our jurisdiction have experienced similar situations, indicating that they are "one rainy day away from not being able to run their Games". While funding is the primary issue, Highland Games are also being affected by declining numbers of volunteers. Many Scottish societies, which provide the backbone of the volunteer pool, have aging members who are retiring from such activities. These societies do not have the advantage of the youth base (and their parents) of the piping, drumming and highland dancing communities, and as such the volunteer pool is reducing to a smaller base that is "burning out" with the increased workload.

The significant international competitive success that BCPA jurisdiction pipers, drummers and pipe bands have achieved over many years is in part due to the presence of challenging competitive environments presented by the Highland Games, which multiplies the aims and efforts of the BCPA. As a BCPA member supporting the advancement of piping and drumming, also channeling your support to the Highland Games in your area/region ensures that the benefits of Highland Games will continue to flow to pipers, drummers and pipe bands.

Thus, please consider contacting your local Highland Games to volunteer your talents and efforts. Links for these Games are on the BCPA website (www.bcpipers.org in the About BCPA --> BCPA Area Games section)

Finally, while BCPA must be equal and fair in its support of all BCPA sanctioned Highland Games, BCPA has had a decades long involvement as a founding member of the United Scottish Cultural Society and a share holder in the United Scottish Auditorium Ltd (which owns the Scottish Cultural Centre, and which is administered by the USCS).

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Thus, BCPA has a legal duty to ensure the continued viability of these two entities, which by the constitution of the USCS includes to “educate and disseminate knowledge of the Scottish language, music, dance and art to the public at large” by the Highland Games.

The alarm stirred in the local piping, drumming, pipe band and highland dancing communities in the Metro Vancouver area demonstrated that there is strong interest within these communities in ensuring that the BC Highland Games continues. However, as indicated above, it requires the talents and efforts of the members of the BC Pipers’ Association, the BC Highland Dancing Association, and other Scottish societies that are founding members of the USCS and share holders in the USAL to realize this goal.

Specifically, the BC Highland Games Organizing Committee is seeking volunteers to fill the following positions for their Games scheduled for **June 23, 2012**:

1. Key Positions

- Finance/Accounting Manager
- Volunteers Coordinator

The estimated time commitments for these positions varies by position but is approximately 10 hours per month from February to May and approximately 15 to 20 hours in June. The organizing committee is seeking to fill these positions by mid to late January as they are needed before the plan for the Games can be prepared.

2. Regular Positions

- Parking and Traffic Coordinator
- Signage & Programme Production Coordinator

These positions require less time than the Key Positions. Experience in the printing industry would be an asset for the Signage & Programme Production Coordinator position.

3. On The Day General Volunteers

50 to 75 general volunteers are needed on the day of the Games.

BCPA members interested in providing their talents and effort for the above types of volunteer positions should contact BC Highland Games organizers Jim Bain at 604-435-0764 or Glenna Urbshadt at 604-224-5479.

Thank you and again please provide support to the Highland Games in your area/region.

Yours truly

Rob MacNeil
President