

News Release
Victoria Highland Games Association (VHGA)

**2016 Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival
Topaz Park on May 21-23, 2016**

VHGA is holding two full days of solo and pipe band competitions in 2016

The VHGA has been attracting more competitors (Dancers, Solo and Pipe Band, Heavy Events and Drum Majors) and increasing attendance at the Victoria Highland Games over the last few years by adding new events and format changes. Based on the feedback that we have received over the years, in 2016 we will be expanding the pipe band and solo competitions to a full 2 day schedule (Saturday and Sunday, May 21/22). Our hope is that more solo competitors and bands will attend the Games and take in the high quality and variety of events, including the Heavy events, Highland and Irish dance competitions, Celtic sports, Whisky school, Celtic music, Entertainment stages and the Heritage and Clansman tents.

The new 3-day format (including the holiday Monday) has expanded the number of activities held at the Games, which will continue to grow in 2016. The Highland Games & Celtic Festival will continue to run through to Monday with a Drum Major demonstration featuring Jason Paguio, the multiple World Drum Major Champion. For the first time, we are hosting an Irish Dance competition on the Monday.

We are also happy to announce that the LA Scots from Los Angeles will be competing at the 2016 Grade 1 (Full) band contest. The LA Scots and Greighlan Crossing Pipe Band are the Duty Bands for the 2016 Highland Games & Celtic Festival over the 3 day weekend.

The 2016 Canadian Invitational Drum Major Championship will also be running at the same time and we are pleased to announce that John Noble will be coming from Scotland to act as the head drum major judge. In addition, Bruce Gandy from Nova Scotia will be joining the judging panel. An Open Piobaireachd competition will again be held on Saturday at the Games' site.

More details to come in January regarding the format and event listing for the piping, drumming and drum major competitions. We will also post information and details of the 3-day games on our website: www.victoriahighlandgames.com