



The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Newsletter

Spring 2007



The President Speaks

It is with a great pleasure that I welcome all Scots, and those who want to be Scots, to the 2007 games season, some games have already made their presence in this fabulous weather. As most of you know we will have our fifty-second annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games this July 12th-15th, 2007.

Our leadership team has put together a new educational and cultural event, a week long Highland Dancing school led by Pat Johnston and the Highland Dance committee. You can contact Pat at (919) 614-3303 for any details regarding this new event.

General Manager Frank Vance tells me that everything is moving along as scheduled for this year's Games and gathering of Scottish Clans. We have had over 6,000 hits on the state-of-the-art GMHG website (www.gmhg.org) in the month of March alone.

The bronze plaques are now being made for the new cairn, located in the beautiful garden, at the back of the new building and will be in place for all to view when in the Linville area.

We are still seeking sponsors for: sealing of the asphalt parking area, tire bumpers in each parking space nearest to the building, new signage and some other minor items. We have added additional scholarships to the Avery County High School scholarship program.

We are all excited about another competition, now in the planning stage, that will be unveiled closer to the Games time.

In closing I want to thank Grandfather Mountain, Inc. and president Crae Morton for allowing us to use MacRae Meadows and for all of their cooperation with the Games.

Sincerely,

Ross Morrison, Jr.

Ross Morrison, Jr.
GMHG President



Above: Some of the Hugh Morton prints donated by Crae Morton & Grandfather Mountain, Inc. The prints are framed in wormy chestnut and hang proudly in our new office building. (Photos by Thomas Taylor, Sr.)

"A Wee Bit of the Scottish Highlands in North Carolina!"

General Manager's Perspective



As I sit and write this, I am looking out the window at a beautiful early Spring day that feels much more like a summer day here in Linville. We will certainly be fortunate when the weather is

this nice during the Games! Weather like this only causes me to get a case of "Spring Fever", but I must be patient. As many of you know, a large number of Games employees are teachers by profession, and renovations at Avery County High School have caused the end of the school year to be pushed to June 13th. Needless to say, by then we will be anxious to get on the mountain!

While I am on the subject, I should mention that Frances Fletcher and her niece Erin Grindstaff are doing a tremendous job of taking care of the office through the day, and Levin and I usually try to come in by 4:00 pm. I try to be here between about 4:00 and 6:00 most evenings, and I am working many Saturday mornings as well. Please feel free to call the Games office at (828) 733-1333 if you need to speak to me or any of the staff. Just leave a message if nobody is in and we will get right back to you.

As far as preparations are concerned, things are going quite well so far. For those of you who are patrons, I will tell you that we will once again be hosting the Patrons and sponsors reception at the lovely Broyhill Convention Center in Boone. The Nightlife Band will once again be providing the entertainment, and we are looking forward to having all of our patrons and sponsors there.

A REMINDER :

If you plan on being a camper or patron at the 2007 Games, please submit your order as soon as possible. Space is limited, and we want you to be a part of the fun & festivities July 12th - 15th!

There will be an exciting new feature for the "wee lads and lassies" that I am very much looking forward to having this year. Marjorie Warren, a long-time exhibitor of Scottish Spinning & Weaving and a great friend of the Games, will be hosting a hands-on workshop in the GMHG Children's Tent just inside the lower entrance to MacRae Meadows. Mrs. Warren will demonstrate the fine art of spinning and weaving in the proud Scottish tradition, and then let the kids try their hand at creating their own "tartan cloth" using a fully functioning loom! Those of you with children (and those of you who are still children at heart) will want to check out the workshop schedule in the Souvenir GMHG Program when it becomes available.

Finally, I am proud to announce that the GMHG Board of Directors has approved funding for several new vocational scholarships, targeted towards Avery County students wishing to pursue a vocational degree. It is a wonderful feeling to know that aside from promoting Scottish culture around the world, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games is also helping educate those who work so hard to put on this wonderful event.

See you on the mountain,

Frank Vance

General Manager and Vice President of Operations



RIGHT: As the crowd looks on, a pole-vaulter makes an attempt to clear the bar during the track & field competitions at the 2006 Games. (Mike Lacey photo)

The 52nd Annual Games Will Be Held July 12th - 15th, 2007

News From the Groves

The Grandfather Games has become well known for the quality of music that is presented and the unique place where it occurs. Nowhere else can you experience the kind of magic that the Celtic Groves deliver. 2007 will once again highlight some fantastic musical talent among the trees in the Groves.



ALBANNACH will return to Grandfather this year to deliver their powerful, passionate and primal sound. These six musicians from Glasgow, Scotland will make your experience at the games truly unique. **ED MILLER** will once again bring us his wonderful tunes and wit and also serve as our MC for Grove 1. Back by popular demand is the ever-entertaining **HENRI'S NOTIONS**, featuring masterful instrumentals and uplifting vocals. The **BLAIR BAND** from Nashville will also return after wonderful crowd response last year. Their music, dance and humor have become crowd favorites and they will help to round out the Grove 1 line up.

In Grove 2 you will find only the best in Celtic rock. **THE KILLDARES** will once again take the stage with plenty of energy and style. The remaining groups will all be making their GMHG debut! From Indianapolis comes the sound of **MOTHER GROVE** that blends their talents to produce electric performances that will keep you

moving. **BARLEYJUICE** is making a name for themselves on the highland games circuit for taking a wide-open approach to Celtic music. **COYOTE RUN** will complete those new faces this year and their chemistry of talent is one that is sure to please the listener.

In Grove 3 you will get the best of regional talent and also a special guest this year in author/historian **SIR DAVID ROSS**. Ross has written many books on Scotland and has appeared as an expert on such television channels as the BBC, History & Discovery. In 2005 he took on the Walk for Wallace that retraced the more than 400 miles, on foot, that William Wallace was dragged from Glasgow to London and executed.

Joining Ross in Grove 3 will be regional bluegrass favorites **HIT or MISS** on Friday and on Saturday a great collection of musical talent in **RG ABSHER & CELTIC CONNECTION**. These local musicians will give you a taste of the extraordinary musical legacy located in this portion of the Appalachian Mountains.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEAR'S EDITION OF THE MUSIC THAT MAKES THE MOUNTAIN!!

Check out the artist web sites below for more details, bios and music clips.



Albannach
Ed Miller
Henri's Notions
The Blair Band
The Killdares
Mother Grove
Hit or Miss

www.albannachonline.com
www.songsotscotland.com
www.henrisnotions.com
www.ricblair.com
www.killdares.com
www.mothergrove.com
www.altapassorchard.com/hit_or_miss.htm

Barleyjuice www.barleyjuice.com
Coyote Run www.coyoterun.com
David Ross www.drross.org
RG Absher & Celtic Connection
www.rgabsher.net

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Faces in the Crowd



ABOVE: Two generations of highlanders pose for a photo by the memorial cairn at the 2006 Games. (James Shaffer photo)



ABOVE: Drum Major Jim Thompson leads the massed bands during the 2006 Parade of Tartans. (James Shaffer photo)



ABOVE: A wee kilted lad enjoys one of the many children's activities held on the meadow during the 2006 Games. The St. Andrews Society of MacRae Meadows proudly sponsors children's activities each year. (James Shaffer photo)

Want to keep up with the latest GMHG news & events? Be sure to check out our website, www.gmhg.org for updated scheduling information, secure online ordering and lots of pictures and area travel information. For a detailed schedule of events, be sure and get a 2007 GMHG Souvenir Program.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games & Gathering of Scottish Clans

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