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S T L O U I S
SCOTTISH GAMES

*St. Louis Scottish Games is a not for profit company registered in Missouri
with the purpose of operating Scottish Games and cultural events.*

Dear Friends,

March 4, 2002

"Our first Games was a monumental event – a rainsoaked masterpiece of determination, creativity and love. A seed was planted and began to germinate. Let us nurture it, until it becomes a 'flower of Scotland' in the Midwest." (Janet Moss, 2002)

This quote expresses the sentiments of all who have been involved over the past two years in the development of the **St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival**. The question is: how do we nurture this budding flower? We must develop a financial base that will sustain us in good weather or bad. With this in mind, the Games Board of Directors has set the goal of raising \$100,000 before the second Games begin on October 11th, 2002.

With that goal in mind, we are forming a support organization called **Friends of the Games**, and we are inviting you to be a charter member. St. Louis Scottish Games is a not-for-profit corporation, making your contribution tax-deductible.

The *Friends of the Games*' kick-off event will be **A Celebration of Scotland** at the **Sheldon Concert Hall** on **April 30th, 2002**. This event is part of the Sheldon's Tuesday night series, **Notes from Home**. Charter members (contributions received by April 27th) are invited to the concert and a reception following the event. **A Celebration of Scotland** will feature Alex Sutherland & His Cronies, Dance Caledonia, Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers, Duddybreeks, the poetry of Robert Burns and other friends of Scottish culture. Expect kilts everywhere.

We need your help. Enclosed you will find a list of Sponsors' Benefits, both Individual and Corporate. Please look it over and decide at what level you feel you can donate. Your willingness to support this effort will help ensure the future of the St. Louis Scottish Games & Cultural Festival for years to come. Does your employer provide matching funds to not-for-profit organizations? If so, please enquire how you can apply. Every donation – large or small – will help move us toward our goal, and make this year's Games that much better.

St. Louis Scottish Games and *Friends of the Games* thank you for your generosity and commitment to providing a first-class Scottish Games that will become a regional/national tradition.

Yours aye,
Board of Directors:

Jim McLaren *Bill Nicoll*
Diane McCullough

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Sponsorship 2002

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- \$5,000 8' Banner at Games
Full Page ad in Program
Link to Website
Acknowledgment on Sponsors Board
Two Games pins
Preferred parking - two vehicles
- \$2,500 6' Banner at Games
Half Page ad in Program
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- \$500 Eighth Page ad in Program
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Preferred parking - two vehicles
- \$250 Listing in program
Link to Website
Two Games pins
Preferred parking - one vehicle

Individual

- \$1,000 Listing in Program
Acknowledgment on Sponsors Board
Four Games pins
Preferred parking - two vehicles
Preferred seating at Ceilidh
Four tickets to Games
- \$500 Listing in Program
Acknowledgment on Sponsors Board
Two Games pins
Preferred parking - one vehicle
Preferred seating at Ceilidh
Four tickets to Games
- \$250 Listing in Program
Two Games pins
Preferred parking - one vehicle
Two tickets to Games
- \$100 Listing in Program
Preferred parking - one vehicle
Two tickets to Games

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Festival brings bit of Scotland to Forest Park



ABOVE Bill Bangert, of Marthasville, Mo., prepares to heave a 24-pound stone during an event Saturday at Forest Park. The 77-year-old has been participating in Scottish games for 60 years, including traveling to Scotland to test his skills. RIGHT Don Magg tosses a 56-pound weight in a competition Saturday. BELOW Damon Davis throws a caber during Saturday's Scottish Games and Cultural Festival. A caber is a section of tree, averaging 18 feet in height and weighing 80 to 100 pounds.



By Justin R. Lopnot
Staff writer

Forest Park looked like a traditional Scottish Highlands scene Saturday morning, with thick fog hovering above the grass, light rain drizzling from the sky, and bagpipe players gently tuning their instruments.

The first St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival officially got started around 9 a.m. with an opening ceremony.

St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay

addressed the morning crowd.

"St. Louis is a city with tremendous cultural diversity, and the Scots are a great part of that," Slay said. "I think it's wonderful that we are here today celebrating Scottish ancestry, Scottish tradition and Scottish culture."

The traditional Scottish athletic events that took place drew large crowds, as each contestant took turns heaving large stones, a 22-pound blacksmith hammer and other objects for distance; using

a pitchfork to heave a sheaf over a crossbar; and throwing a 56-pound weight over a bar.

The most popular event was the caber toss, a sport that dates back to the 16th century.

A caber is a section of tree, averaging 18 feet in height and weighing 80 to 100 pounds. The word "caber" is Gaelic for pole, said Jerry Van Dyke, the announcer for the athletic events.

In this event, each contestant attempts to flip the caber end-over-end by holding it upright against a shoulder, running a short distance and thrusting it up in the air, Van Dyke said.

Amanda Meinen, of Maplewood, was watching her brother, Matthew, take part in the sheaf toss.

She said her brother has participated in Scottish games before, but this was the first time she has been a spectator.

"I'm just happy because he's doing well," she said, noting that her family is "a little bit Scottish."

Vendors and booths run by Scottish "clans" lined the area around the athletics field.

The clan tents allowed visitors to discover their Scottish heritage and meet distant relatives. In ancient times, clans were like extended families, with unions formed for political as much as familial reasons.

John McKean, of Kansas City, Mo., manned the Clan Donald tent on Saturday.

He said the clan comes from the Isle of Skye in northwest Scotland.

"We are the largest clan in the world," McKean said.

The St. Louis Scottish Games also featured a British car show, storytelling, music workshops, animal displays, a parade, bagpipe music and Highland dancing competitions.

Bill Nicoli, managing director for the games, handed out trophies to several participants during the closing ceremony.

Of the 34 athletes who took part in the games, Chad Braden was named athlete of the day. Others honored were: Jim Hendrix and his 1947 Jaguar 2.5-liter Saloon, best in-show for cars; Sarah McKee, dancer of the day; and Bob Pantaleoni, piper of the day.

On Friday, event organizers held a torchlight ceremony and "ceilidh," a Scottish-style party with music, song and dance.

Despite the rainy weather on Saturday, thousands of men, women and children, most wearing traditional Scottish kilts, came out to the games.

Nicoli said organizers spent about two years preparing for the games, which they intend to make an annual event.



Susan Skrobonja photos

ABOVE Bill Rogers plays the bagpipes prior to the St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival. BELOW Corey Hankins, of Springfield, Ill., tosses a 56-pound weight during an event.



Festival is a celebration of Scottish heritage

Despite the rain, crowds come out for games and more in Forest Park

BY D. PAUL HARRIS
Of the Post-Dispatch

Steady rain wasn't enough to dampen the spirit of the more than 1,500 people who braved the elements Saturday to attend the first St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival in Forest Park.

"We're somewhat disappointed with the rain," said Jim McLaren, chairman of the board of the event. "But the people who are here don't even notice the rain."

Crowds were expected to reach 3,000.

The event, which organizers plan to hold annually, began Friday evening with a torchlight ceremony and a "ceilidh" (pronounced KAY-lee) or "good time" gathering of the more than 30 Scottish clans in the area. The event continued Saturday with the games and festival.

"This festival is a demonstration of the depth of our cultural diversity here in St. Louis," said Mayor Francis Slay, who officially opened the event. "We have a lot of diversity, and that's great because diversity is our strength."

McLaren said the games are an ancient tradition that came out of all the Scottish clans and are celebrated in most major cities throughout the United States. The ancient clan chiefs would call for competition among the clans as a way of celebration of the culture and heritage, similar to an ancient Olympics, he said.

"That's how it started," McLaren said. "Now of course, it's grown over the years to include dancing and (bag) pipe band music."

Each of the more than 40 kilt-wearing athletes competed in several events including stone, hammer and sheaf throwing, weight over bar tossing and caber tossing — which is probably the most recognized sport of the events. It involves a single man throwing a 80- to 120-pound felled tree. The



JOHN LOK/POST-DISPATCH

Dennis Snook of Omaha, Neb., prepares to toss a caber, or felled tree, Saturday at the St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival. The 19-foot-long caber weighed about 100 pounds.

wet weather made it a bit difficult for some athletes.

"The implements are hard to keep a hold of, and it makes for a tough competition," said Mark Kephart, 37, of Tulsa, Okla., who had been competing for about a year. "It's very difficult to make

the throws. It's pretty slick."

Athletes competed for trophies, ribbons or medallions in A and B amateur classes as well as in C amateur class, women's and master's for over age 50.

In addition to the games, there were dance competitions; musical

and other performing artists, including storytellers; and vendors peddling crafts, jewelry, CDs, books, figurines, clothing and accessories.

Judy Chaboude, a vendor and head of ceremonies for the event, said the rain didn't slow business too much. "I'm really surprised to the amount of people that have turned out in the rain," Chaboude said. "That's absolutely superb, and as a vendor, that's good. I'm pleased."

Children's activities included events with such exotic names as the haggis toss, thruso thistle race and troon pitch n' toss, as well as a carrbridge caber toss.

Scottish sheep dogs also displayed skills in herding, and pictures were taken with Scottish Highland cattle.

Chuck Garrett of Florissant said he enjoyed the sheep dog trials the most, but the games overall were interesting despite the weather.

"The rain slows everything down a little bit, but it's not a big deal," said Garrett, who just returned from a four-week vacation in the United Kingdom.

Mary Hunter-Linneman of Chillicothe, Mo., drove more than 250 miles to meet friends and to enjoy the games and festival.

"The rain is not enough to keep me away because I'm Scots," Linneman said. "I'm hoping to explore a little more of my Scottish heritage."

Ann Huff of Bloomington, Ind., is here visiting relatives and was on her way to Six Flags but decided to take in the games instead.

"We've always had interest in the Irish and Scottish heritage," Huff said. "Whether it's raining or not we thought we'd stop by because I enjoy seeing the crafts, and I enjoy listening to the music."

Organizers said an attempt to present the Scottish culture to the area about 20 years ago didn't quite take root. Now they hope for continuing recognition and an expanding knowledge of the Scottish heritage.

"The Scottish culture is a part of diversity that makes up America, and we're very proud of that," McLaren said. "We'd like people to come out and see what we're about."