

OUR OXFORD

57th annual Zorra Highland Games

Touch of Scotland in Embro

By HILARY IBBOTSON
of The Sentinel-Review

They'll be tossing the caber, playing the bagpipes, dancing the highland fling and pulling on the tug of war rope Friday, when the 57th annual Zorra Highland Games bring a wee bit of Scotland to Embro.

"It's an international event this year," said Ron Totten, past president of The Zorra Caledonian Society and tug of war committee chairperson.

Tug of war teams and pipers from Canada and the United States will participate, as will dancers from as far away as Florida, Prince Edward Island and Scotland.

About 200 dancers will participate in this year's games. As well, eight pipe bands will compete, joining together twice during the day to perform as a massed band.

Field events will include log sawing, stone throw, high jump, a 10-kilometre road race and the caber toss, in which participants lift and throw a giant log, a feat which takes strength and co-ordination.

The 1994 memorial tug of war championship competition is likely to attract a large crowd, said Totten. This year marks the 101st anniversary of the "mighty men of Zorra" and their 1893 World Championship.

This year's competition features nine teams, including the Ciociaro team from Windsor, which will represent Canada at the tug of war World Championships in Sweden this September, said Totten.

"The Zorra team could surprise a lot of people. They're a good young team and they've been practicing hard," he said.

The South Easthope and Ellice teams, both from Perth County, should also do well.

The tug of war championship is a single round-robin competition, which will take 35 pulls to finish, unless a pull-off is needed as a tie-breaker. The championship is reg-



RON TOTTON, a member of The Zorra Caledonian Society and chairperson of the 1994 memorial tug of war committee, shows the tug of war championship trophy. The tug of war competition is always a popular spectator event at the Zorra Highland Games. This year's games begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday, with tug of war competition starting at 1:15 p.m.

ulated by the Ontario Tug of War Association.

Corporate sponsors of the tug of war are Lafarge Canada Inc., Cold Springs Farms Ltd., McFarlan Martin Insurance Brokers Ltd., RWF Industries and K-104 FM.

"Without them we couldn't have the tug of war," said Totten. "It costs about \$6,000 to hold the event."

There will also be food and drinks available at the games and tickets can be purchased for a full-course meal, which will be served in the auditorium at noon.

The Zorra Highland Games will be held at the Embro-West-Zorra Community Centre July 1, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and finishing with a massed band performance about 4:30 p.m.

Alison Downie, Editor 537-2341

Doctor retires after 2 decades of serving city

By MIKE CAMPBELL
of The Sentinel-Review

Retiring Woodstock doctor Ross McElroy will now have more time to pursue his "billions of dreams" after 23 years of family practice in the Friendly City.



Last Thursday was McElroy's last day at his 379 Hunter St. office and it was an emotional one for McElroy both staff and patients.

"It's always difficult to leave one place in life and go on to the next," said the doctor who lives at RR 2, Tavistock. "It's difficult to make changes."

McElroy graduated from the faculty of medicine at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont., in 1966. He interned, worked and travelled for a few years before setting up his family practice in Woodstock.

Among the things he did before arriving in this city was work as a casualty officer at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton and he did a summer stint in the Canadian Arctic.

But Woodstock will be fond in his memory.

"It's a pleasant place to live and work," he said.

McElroy also had nice things to say about Woodstock General Hospital.

"It is an ideal hospital for a family practitioner with excellent back up and specialty staff, an excellent group of reliable nurses," he said.

Friends, family, the cottage, sailing and biking all beckon, said McElroy.

The doctor said he will continue to keep his hand in the medicine field by filling in for other doctors across the province when they go on vacation or take leaves.

Dr. John Tam, a physician from Newfoundland, will take over McElroy's practice beginning today.