

# Scottish pride rolls out the tartan carpet



Swing 'er far. About seven men with muscular upper torsos swung shotput after shotput across the Georgetown Fairgrounds. Three North American records were broken Saturday by these kilted giants. In the 35-pound shotput throwing, Dave Harrington beat the Canadian and American records by throwing a shotput 30 feet, one inch.



The Georgetown Legion Pipe Band led a short but colorful parade along Georgetown's Main Street and up Park Avenue into the Fairgrounds Saturday to help officially open the Speyside Games. An estimated 5,000 people passed through the gates at Fairgrounds Park to watch the numerous events and organizers are pleased with the number of participants in the games who travelled from all over the province and the U.S.



Speyside Highland Games master Sandy McAllan (left) welcomes honorary games chieftain Henry Shannon to the opening ceremonies Saturday at Georgetown's Fairgrounds Park. Mr. Shannon was presented with a "cromach", a walking stick with a symbolic staghorn handle carried, according to tradition, by games chieftains. The feathers in his cap are also traditionally significant for his role.



Putting on a colorful show for thousands of people at the Speyside Highland Games Saturday, 23 bands turned out to participate in the pipe band competitions.

Performance isn't the only thing that the judges look for—they are also concerned with dress and deportment.

Herald photos by Ani Pederian and Chris Aagaard



Taking a bend on the sky, massed bands parade grand marshal George Forgan checks for rain Saturday at the Speyside Games in Georgetown. The president of the Ontario Pipers and Pipe Bands Association, Mr. Forgan watched as the centre field at Fairgrounds park filled with many of the 23 bands which arrived to compete against each other, among them the Georgetown Legion Pipe Band and the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band.

## Record-smashing games

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highest reached in the province.

In the "professional" piping competition, Georgetown resident Jim McGillivray won the open "pibroch" event.

Gates opened promptly at 8 a.m. with members of the Georgetown Lions Club handling ticket sales. By noon, most of the competitions had already passed their first round. Crowds gathered at centre field for the gala opening ceremonies, led by honorary games chieftain Henry Shannon, a broadcaster for CFRB radio.

George Forgan, president of the Ontario Pipers and Pipe Band Society, led the colorful and spine-tingling march of the massed bands past the podium. Among the bands were two American entries, one from Chicago and another from Birmingham, Michigan. The Georgetown Legion Pipe Band and the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band also competed this year but didn't place.

Meanwhile, above the skirl of pipes, North American records in such events as the 16-pound Scottish hammer toss and the 56-pound weight for distance were being shattered with awesome regularity.

Mr. Harrington took top spot in all seven heavy events at the games for a clean-sweep total of 49 points. In the 16-pound hammer event, he shattered the old record of 123-feet, ten inches with a throw of 129 feet, eight inches.

In the 56-pound weight for distance, Mr. Harrington managed a toss of 40 feet, one inch to shatter

the North American record and he set a new record in the 22-pound hammer toss with a throw of 103 feet, four inches which broke the previous mark of 101 feet, six inches.



He won the 35-pound stone put toss with a 30 feet, 10 inch throw. He also came first in the 28-pound weight for distance, the caber toss (in which contestants try to heave a large wooden pole weighing approximately 200 pounds) and the 56-pound weight for height.

The farmer's walk was won by Metro Toronto police officer Dan Markovic who, balancing 207 pounds in each hand, waddled 344 feet down the field, better than the 337 feet achieved last year, but not quite as good as the Speyside games record of 467.5 feet set a few years ago.

Two local boys, Adam Gray and Steve Ritchie,

competed in amateur heavy events. The two are members of the local Lorne Scots unit.

There were no local winners in the highland dance competitions. Hamilton's Karen Beattie won first place in the baby class while Jennifer McDonald took top spot in the novice category. Jane Munroe of Newmarket was the winner in the novice class, Clare Donnelly of Owen Sound captured the intermediate class and London's Tara Rowland won the "professional" or 17 years of age and over class.

St. Catharines Clan McFarlane won the pipe bands' first class honors this year. Second class winners were members of the 400 Squadron band from Toronto; the third class winner was the town of Newmarket Pipe Band and fourth class honors went to the Ingersoll Pipe Band.

The Georgetown Girls Pipe Band received a cheque from the Sons of Scotland organization. The money will be used to bolster a fund the band has set up which will eventually cover airfare to send the

girls to Scotland this year or next, where they will compete.

The Speyside Highland Games committee has already made a \$2,000 donation to the travel fund and has a standing challenge to other groups to contribute to the effort.

A winner has been announced in the side of beef draw, but there are still three people holding "lucky programs". Georgetown resident B. Lorrain won the beef and someone picked up a \$25 voucher in the lucky program draw. However, people with programs bearing numbers 760, 920 and 1829 have prizes coming to them. Contact 451-9633 if you're a winner.

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