

ENTERTAINMENT



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Saturday, June 12

Plans near complete for annual Highland Games

So you think spiking and streaking of hair is a new punk fad — not so.

The early Picts in the Scottish Highlands streaked and spiked their hair to appear fierce before going into battle.

This is only one of the many facets of Scottish history that the University of Guelph will demonstrate at the Highlands Games, Saturday, June 12 at Fairgrounds Park, Georgetown.

For the first time all ye of Scottish ancestry will have the chance to see the facade of an authentic Highland croft (a wee hoos) erected at the Highland Games. It will be built by students

at Stewart School, an appropriate place for a Scottish endeavor.

Members of the Scottish Studies Program at the university felt Georgetown's Highland Games is a perfect spot to recognize all the Canadians whose ancestors came from the "Land o' the Heather" so have lined up activities, depicting life in the Highlands as it was centuries ago, with many directed to children.

But there's more than spiking hair to catch the youngsters' interest.

Their faces will be painted, as were the Picts, with symbols such as salmon, deer, or hunting weapons — all dire necessities — to

eke out existence in the harsh northern land.

Mothers will be glad to hear there is one big difference. These symbols will wash off while the faces of the Picts wore them permanently. They also used lime to streak their hair but only their hairdresser knows the long-term effects of this. Lime will certainly not be used at the Highland Games.

Songs, fiddle music and folklore of early times in the rugged highlands will engage the youngsters at the story-telling centre run by the university studies program.

But grown-ups too can enjoy events conducted by the Scottish Studies Program. Highland cattle

such as Aberdeen Angus and short-horns, huge powerful Ayrshire and Clydesdale horses and in contrast tiny Shetland ponies will add the authentic touch.

Another Scottish tradition, still in use today, is the herding of Black-faced Cheviot sheep by an intelligent, well-trained dog. This one will have the additional task of rounding up a flock of ducks.

We've all heard of tossing the caber, the heavy long tree trunk, which tests the strength of the brawny Scot, but something new has been added for the children's Highland Games.

They too can toss the caber but it will be made of styrofoam, and can even "Throw the Haggis," an act many a non-Scot feels is the right thing to do.

To round out the Highland Games this year a typical "Ceiledh," an evening of feisty Scottish music, will be held in the beergarden after the stirring massed pipes closes the games.

Directors of the Scottish Studies Program has long felt the Scottish heritage has been overlooked and are planning to create a Chair of Scottish Studies as a permanent memorial to the achievements of the Scots who settled in Canada.

By joining in the Highland Games in this unique effort, they hope to kindle interest in the hearts of all Canadians, regardless of their ancestry.

Dancers pass ballet exam

The Acton School of Dance is nearing the end of another busy year.

In April, 10 girls, ranging in age from nine to 15, took their Royal Academy of Dancing Ballet examinations, and all passed successfully.

The following girls participated in the examinations:

Grade 1 - Megaen McGrath; Grade 2 - Mary Pat O'Meara; Grade 3 - Devon Lambert and Cindy Vanderveen; Grade 4 - Anna Cook, Claire St. Aubin and Jennifer West; Grade 5 - Susan Lehman, Carolyn Miles and Rebecca Van Klink.

Since January, all the girls have been practising their ballet and jazz dances for the school's ninth annual dance recital, "Shall We Dance," which is to be held on Saturday, June 5 at the Acton District High School. Tickets for the show are available at the door, and are priced at \$3.50 for adults and \$1 for children. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show is scheduled to start at 8 p.m.

Classes (which take place at St. Alban's Parish Hall in Acton), are already being planned for the 1993/1994 season and will start on September 13, 1993. For information or pre-registration, please call Susanne Keith at 519-853-0390.

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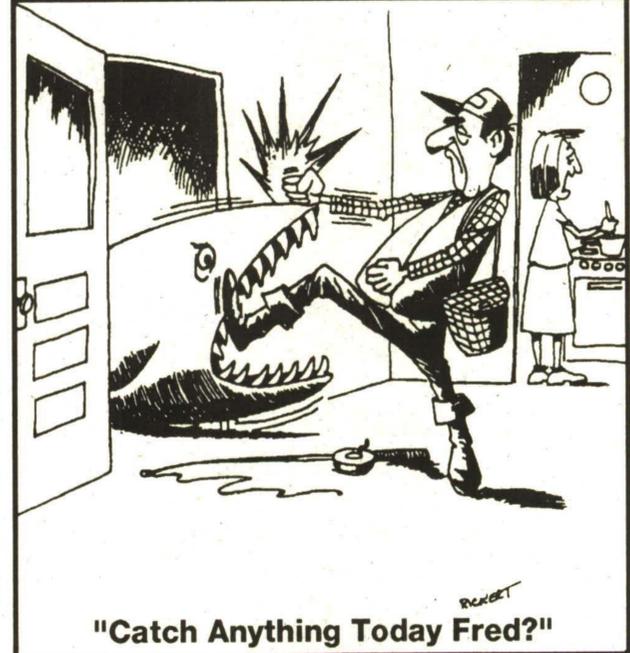
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