

**Press release – September 10, 2018**

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**Fergus Scottish Festival**  
& Highland Games

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The 2018 Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games Had a Banner Year!**

**WHAT A WEEKEND...**

The 73rd annual Fergus Scottish Festival, held August 10-12, 2018 on the Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex grounds had its best year to date! Three days of sunshine, an incredible lineup, and events featuring and honouring the four pillars of Scottish heritage and culture culminated into a weekend of unsurpassed family fun and entertainment. We are thrilled to announce a total attendance of 20,341 festivalgoers, 340 campsites sold out months before the festival, and over 400 dedicated and exceptional volunteers who helped put this whole event together!

TAPADH LEIBH!

**FEATURED GUEST...**

This year's Featured Guest, Graham McTavish (the Scottish actor who portrays Dougal MacKenzie, War Chieftain of Clan MacKenzie, in Diana Gabaldon's unbelievably popular series, *Outlander*, now a television drama series currently airing on STARZ) engaged with festivalgoers all weekend long. Graham signed over 600 autographs, attended a Scottish Brunch at the Wellington County Museum and Archives, delivered a captivating toast at the Women's Only whisky tasting, and still managed to make time to meet and greet his fans all over the festival. He fought villains in the McKiddies venue, met up with former castmate Gillebride MacMillan on the Main Field, got schooled by the Women's Championship competitors, and checked out his real and fictional families on the Avenue of Clans! Graham was an incredible sport, and is welcome back to the Festival any time.

**CELTIC MUSIC...**

Our music lineup this year had something for everyone, from the Red Hot Chilli Pipers performing their signature bagrock TWICE on mainstage for record crowds, to the beautiful melodies that resonated throughout the Fergus Grand Theatre in downtown Fergus's Celtic Traditions concert. Gaelic minstrels, bareknuckle pipes and drums, fiddles, guitars, and beloved bands returning and new, the Celtic music heard all weekend long had us all shouting for more!

**CSAF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP...**

New this year, the Heavies Competition welcomed six competitors to the Canadian Scottish Athletic Federation's 2018 Women's Championship on Sunday. We are thrilled to announce that Ontario's Sultana Frizzell set and reset Canadian Heavy Events records EIGHT times!

Also new this year, the Clash of the Regiments Tug-of-War competition, which saw six Scottish

Regiments battle each other on Main Field. Congratulations to the Toronto Scottish Regiment for winning the 2018 title!

### HERITAGE TENT...

Also new this year, The Angels Must Be Drunk hosted seven sold out, unbelievably good whisky tasting sessions over the weekend in the Heritage venue. In addition to the Jacobite Reenactment Camp and the authentic heritage interactive displays, The Ontario Genealogical Society hosted genealogical sessions where people could learn more about their Scottish ancestors, take a virtual reality tour of historic Scotland, or capture and share their image with a Scottish backdrop in partnership with the Halton Hills Public Library, the Wellington OGS, Global Genealogy, the Scottish Studies and Archival and Special Collections departments at the University of Guelph, and the Scottish Special Interest Group.

### CLANS...

Another record-breaker... this year saw 52 clans gather at the Fergus Scottish Festival! Did you see yours there?!? Congratulations to Clan Fraser for winning this year's Best Clan Trophy. **Sláinte!**

### VOLUNTEERS...

From Friday night's Tattoo'd in Tradition to Sunday's closing ceremonies, the 2018 Fergus Scottish Festival was filled with cultural events and activities perfect for those who are young, and young at heart. The McKiddies venue added many new attractions for the wee bairns, including mini golf, archery, curling, bouncy castles, crafts, swordplay, and The Fergus Friends! A huge shout out to our amazing volunteers in the bright blue shirts; we literally couldn't do this without you!

With so many offerings at such great value, the 2018 Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games really was a trip to Scotland... without the airfare!

