

Press Release: 82nd Embro Highland Games – July 1, 2019

The Zorra Caledonian Society is putting the finishing touches on the **82nd Embro Highland Games**, taking place July 1, 2019 at the **Embro Zorra Community Centre** 355644 35th Line, Zorra. Gates open at 7 am and there is a full line-up of family-friendly activities that will be taking place to mark Canada Day.

There are over 60 entries in the individual piping and drumming competitions which begin at 8:30 am with the ever-popular Massed Bands taking the Main Field at 12:30 pm and again at 4:30 pm. For guests wanting to take in some true Scottish culture the Highland dance competition begins at 9 a.m. In keeping with the theme, a wide variety of **Scottish concessions** on site offer Scottish jewelry, food, tartan clothing, and Celtic arts & crafts and more.

The annual **2, 5 and 10 km road races** will begin at 9 a.m. and the **Ontario Heavy Events Championships** (with the popular caber toss) featuring professional male and female athletes from across the province vying for top honours, starts at 10:30 am. The men's division will include three-time Ontario Champion, Owen Wilms, Lorne Colthart, currently ranked number two in Canada, and field record holder, Jason Baines will also compete. The female division includes Guinness Record Holder, Heather Boundy and Celine Freeman-Gibb currently ranked fourth in Canada.

The **Tug of War** competition is back and will have its own dedicated "pitch" for the day. To date, four teams have registered. **NEW Rugby Sevens** (men's, women's and a youth division) will debut in Embro with local teams from the area.

For those animal enthusiasts, the **Scottish livestock** area will be open all day with breeds of cattle, horses and sheep that would have all originated in Scotland. The **sheep herding** demonstrations and the dog agility shows will run continuously all day. The fun and educational **Scottish Dogs on Parade** will take place at 10 a.m. and **Kilted Yoga** will be at 11:30 a.m. Remember to pack your yoga mats and wear your kilt for that one!

NEW to the Games in Embro will be **local craft beverages** – Upper Thames Brewing Co. (Woodstock) and Junction 56 Distillery (Stratford) and a NEW Scottish Tea Room will be open from 2-4 p.m. serving a selection of teas and traditional light tea-time fare" in the arena lobby.

Inside the large hall (complete with air-conditioning) the following events will take place:

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the children's **Scottish Craft Corner** will engage and entertain the wee visitors as they embrace and create with Scottish culture in mind!

From 10 am to noon visitors can learn to dance the *Dashing White Sergeant* - a Scottish country dance which will be taught by some local dance enthusiasts. Returning from launching her newest CD "Words of Love", **Allison Lupton, Ian Bell & James Stephens** will perform two sets of live Celtic and Canadian music at 2 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Outdoors, fun children's games will take place at 11 am and 3 pm. Oxford Spinners & Weavers will be onsite all day demonstrating their skills. Twelve Scottish clans will participate at the Games this year rounding out a full day of family fun with a Scottish flare!

Parking at the Games is free and gate admission (cash only) is \$ 20 for adults \$10 for youth (13-17 years) and children 12 & under no charge. All guests are welcome to bring a lawn chair.

The Zorra Caledonian Society was founded in 1937 and is a community organization of volunteers dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the Village of Embro and the Township of Zorra. Their signature event, the Embro Highland Games, brings in thousands of visitors every Canada Day to Oxford County. The Zorra Caledonian Society truly exemplifies an entire community coming together for the celebration of all things Scottish! Follow us on Facebook, Snapchat & Instagram.

For information on the Zorra Caledonian Society visit; www.embrohighlandgames.ca
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