



For Immediate Release:

157th Antigonish Highland Games suspended until 2021

Today, Antigonish Highland Society President Bill Fraser and Antigonish Highland Games Chair David Smith announced the suspension of the 157th Antigonish Highland Games.

The Society's Board of Directors and Games Committee were guided in their decision by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia in response to the current Coronavirus outbreak (Covid-19) that recommended event organizers and planners cancel or postpone in-person gatherings, where proper social distancing measures would be difficult to implement and maintain, with the goal of delaying and reducing community transmission. The Government of Nova Scotia directed province-wide closures and prohibitions at all parks, including Antigonish Columbus Field where the Games are held.

As such, the 157th Games will be hosted at Columbus Field, Antigonish in July, 2021.

The Society is a volunteer community organization that serves past, present and future generations of Gaels as providers of and advocates for authentic living expressions of Highland Scottish heritage. We create a living and vibrant Scottish culture in Antigonish to be the conduit for the North American Gael to their heritage.

This announcement marks only the second time in event's history that the games have been suspended; the other occurred during the First World War. It is truly unfortunate as the Games have become an unofficial 'come home week' for the Antigonish community. The Games provide both a cultural showcase and entertainment for the Antigonish Town and County through an extensive schedule of events from dinners to dances, from plays and concerts with Highland Dancing Competitions, Piping and Drumming competitions and Ancient Scottish Heavy Events performed during the weekend.

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Antigonish Highland Society <https://www.antigonishhighlandsociety.ca/>