

News Release June 30, 2020

Summer of Pop-Up-Pipers Launched by The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg

In Celebration of Scottish Culture, Heritage & the Society's 150th Anniversary

Celebrating its 150th anniversary, and hoping to create a greater awareness of Scottish culture and heritage, the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg will be introducing the city and the surrounding area to a series of free, impromptu pop-up-pipers and highland dancer performances to be held throughout the summer.

Society President Andrew Flook said the idea of the "pop-up-pipers" was taken from a similar, successful, initiative in Montreal and Scotland. "It's simply meant to be a fun and pleasant surprise for those people who happen to be nearby when the pipers show up," said Flook. "Media outlets will get a 'heads-up' in the morning saying where the pipers will perform – which each performance lasting about 20 minutes."

"With the loss of Folklorama this summer, we think Winnipeggers might get a kick out of a surprise minibagpipe performance," said the society's 150th anniversary chairperson Dwight MacAulay. "Let's face it - one of the highlights of any parade is seeing and hearing the pipes and drums."

The first pop-up-piper performance, which is slated to begin at 11 a.m. on July 1 at The Forks, will feature at least one piper and possibly a highland dancer, all decked in their traditional dress.

"Manitobans have led the nation in dealing responsibly with the health pandemic, and the St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg is hoping to simply bring a little fun, a surprise and a smile to those who encounter our pop-up-pipers," said Flook.

The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg is the oldest continuously active Scottish society in Western Canada. Founded in 1871, the Society had two objectives: the care and welfare of immigrant Scots; and the promotion and preservation of Scottish culture in Manitoba.

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