

**Agenda Item:** 1.a

**Meeting Date:** April 2, 2026

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** City Commission

**Through:** Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

**From:** Jocelyn Brodhead

**Date:** 2026-03-03

**Subject:** 58th Highland Games & Festival Week Proclamation

**Presenter(s):** Eric MacNeill, President of the Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation; Iain Donaldson, Director of Scottish Programs; and Mark Brandmaier, 2026 Honorary Chieftain

**Staff Recommendation:** Reading and Presentation of the 58th Highland Games & Festival Week Proclamation by the Commission.

**Strategic Themes:** Community Amenities

**Boards & Committees:** N / A

**Budget Impact:** N / A

**Past Action:** N / A

**Next Action:** N / A

**Attachments:** [A. Highland Games Proclamation \(2026\).pdf](#)

**Background:** The Highland Games & Festival Week Proclamation is read annually recognizing and celebrating the commencement of the Highland Games and related festivities in Dunedin. Our Highland Games & Festival began in 1967 to raise funds to strengthen Dunedin's Scottish heritage through music and performing arts.

The festival now includes: Pipe Band March & Ceilidh, Highland Trail 5K Run, and Workshops. Traditional Highland Games elements include the iconic sound of EUSPBA sanctioned Bagpipe & Drum Competitions, Highland Dance, and Scottish Athletics featuring the caber & sheaf toss, hammer & stone throw, and weight over bar. These Games celebrate Dunedin's deep appreciation for Scottish heritage, rich traditions, and culture.