

Niagara Celtic remains hopeful for a Gathering this September, albeit in a smaller capacity

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Volunteers with the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games, an annual weekend event held in Niagara County, have made plans to host a smaller event in place of their annual festival, which has been postponed until next year due to COVID-19.

“We would have celebrated our 20th anniversary this September, but unfortunately it proved too challenging to host a very large event at this time,” stated Beth Banks, Niagara Celtic’s Festival Director. “Thankfully our extensive festival can wait until next year, when we can commemorate 20 years properly. In the meantime, we’re planning to host a smaller event this year, which we hope many people can look forward to.”

Called the 19½ Niagara Celtic Gathering, it will take place on Sept. 19 & 20 and will host wonderful Celtic music, foods, athletics and culture. The event will include, and in turn support, many local performers, groups and vendors. A limited amount of tickets will be sold each day, to manage crowd size.

The event is being meticulously planned to include health and safety procedures to allow everyone a fun, but protected, experience. They will require all attendees to follow protocols based on CDC and state recommendations, using guidelines in place this September. These will likely include wearing face coverings, temperature screenings and physical distancing. Volunteers of Niagara Celtic believe these are simple measures to take, as participants will be rewarded with a rare social event in a year when so many others have been canceled.

Banks explained further. “We know our ability to hold an event comes down largely to chance, as hosting an annual event in September may place us in between two pandemic waves. This is not lost on our volunteers, who are working diligently to create a few moments of joy in a very difficult time.”

The 19½ Niagara Celtic Gathering will be held on Sept. 19 & 20 at the Niagara County Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$16/ day, children 12 & under are free, and parking is free. **Limited tickets are available each day, and only for sale online at NiagaraCeltic.com.** You can also visit their website to learn everything about this year, including the event schedule, planned safety operations, and FAQ.

The Niagara Celtic Heritage Society, founded in 2001, is a 501c3 non-for-profit organization dedicated to the celebration and education of Celtic heritage.