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HISTORY OF THE CANUSA GAMES

The CANUSA Games were created in 1958 through the joint efforts of the Canadian and United States Amateur Athletics Unions.

Having conducted their Flint Olympian Games in July of the previous year, Flint officials were looking for another competition for their Olympian winners and contacted their A.A.U. for a City of comparable size and interests. Hamilton was selected, hence the birth of CANUSA (Canada-U.S.A.) Games. It was also decided that the site of the Games would alternate yearly between the two cities.

In 1958, a caravan of cars set out for Flint on the second weekend in August, led by Chairman Wilf Thomas and his volunteer committee. That year approximately 200 athletes from each city competed in seven sport areas and from these meager beginnings, the volunteer spirit caught on and the ideals continue today.

Various means of transporting the athletes have been used including the aforementioned caravan of private vehicles, a special CANUSA Games train, and in more recent years, a convoy of up to 20 chartered buses.

The CANUSA Games presently have over 800 athletes participating in 13 sport areas, and while the organization has grown considerably, the ideals remain the same - volunteers working in their community for the social and recreational betterment of young and old.

As part of the Opening Ceremonies the National Anthems of both countries are sung by all in attendance. The mayor of the host city then presents the FRIENDSHIP TROPHY to the Mayor of the visiting city as a token of peace, brotherhood and true friendship, not only between Mayors, but also between all competitors, the two Cities and the two Countries.

CANUSA GAMES PRESIDENT- HAMILTON BRANCH

Dear CANUSA Athletes, Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to be celebrating CANUSA Games 65th year, which will be held in Hamilton, ON during the weekend of August 11th-13th.

As a participant of the oldest and largest summer games competition in North America, you join thousands of athletes from Hamilton and Flint who have been a part of CANUSA since 1958.

We have written this parent- participant manual as a guide to assist everyone in having the best possible experience as a host or athlete at the CANUSA Games.

Please read this guide carefully and contact your Sport Coordinator or the CANUSA Office at (905) 546-2424 ext. 2537 or by emailing canusa@hamilton.com if you have any questions or concerns. You can also visit our website at www.canusagames.com for more information.

We believe the lasting friendships you make now will be happy memories in the future.

We hope you will enjoy and 'Experience the Friendship' at this year's Games.

Yours in Sport,

Louise Palciauskas

*Louise Palciauskas
CANUSA Games, Hamilton Branch*

CREED OF SPORTSMANSHIP

The CANUSA Games were established for the purpose of fostering goodwill and understanding between the cities of Hamilton, Ontario and Flint, Michigan through the medium of friendly competition in a host of athletic activities. Therefore, any conduct within any activity that does not promote camaraderie among the participants is contrary to the fundamental purpose of the Games. The specific competitions and the outcome thereof are secondary in the operation of the Games.

Because of the vital importance of sportsmanlike conduct in all activities of the CANUSA Games, officials and coaches of the Games carry heavy responsibility to ensure that the rules of sportsmanship shall be observed at all times.

Coaches shall be held responsible for the conduct of individual participants. It is their obligation to withdraw any athlete from competition that is observed to be conducting himself/herself in a manner that does not show goodwill and respect for the opposing competitors.

Any member of the CANUSA Games Board of Directors, upon observation of behaviour that he/she considers to be contrary to the best purposes of the Games as described above, may take measures deemed necessary, including immediate cessation of the activity, to correct the situation.

With this statement, the members of the CANUSA Games Board of Directors attest to the absolute importance they place upon the adherence of the CANUSA Games to their primary purpose -- the promotion of friendship and goodwill between the sister cities of Hamilton and Flint.

CANUSA GAMES CREED

The CANUSA Games Creed was composed by the late Ivan Miller, a long-time Sports Director with the Hamilton Spectator.

*We swear
That we will take part in the CANUSA Games
In fair competition
Respecting the regulations which govern them
And with the desire to participate
In the true spirit of sportsmanship
For the glory of sports
And for the honour of our country.*

CANUSA GAMES' PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the CANUSA Games is to demonstrate the practicality of a community approach to international goodwill between the cities of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and Flint, Michigan, United States, through the participation of amateur athletics.

Families from the host city open their homes to the people from the visiting city in the spirit of goodwill and neighbourliness that marks the friendly rivalry between the competitors of the two cities.

The CANUSA Organization believes that world peace and understanding among people must begin in peoples' hearts; that neighbours must understand neighbours, and that people must learn to live together in neighbourhoods and cities before nations can understand nations and the world can live in peace. To this end, the CANUSA Games provide an opportunity at the grass roots level to learn to understand each other's similarities, differences, and problems, to work together, and to find the means for individuals to improve themselves and their cities.

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

As a participant, you will serve as ambassadors of goodwill for CANUSA and for your own family. The CANUSA Games Board of Directors expects you to abide by the Code of Conduct herewith presented:

- To conduct myself as a participant showing the highest level of sportsmanship at all times.
- As an athlete under the age of 18, I will honour the 11:00 p.m. curfew as established by the Hamilton and Flint Boards of Directors.
- To be neat in my appearance, warm and friendly in my behaviour, and not be inappropriate or use profane language.
- To abide by all rules set down by the CANUSA Games Board of Directors, and respect the house rules of our host family.
- Wherever possible, I will strive to make friends with all the participants, hoping that these new friendships will continue through the years.
- I will not consume alcoholic beverages if under the legal age (Michigan law is 21 yrs. old). I will not use illegal drugs.
- I will attend the Opening and Closing Ceremonies (please wear your CANUSA shirt).
- I will remember that my city and country will be judged by the way I conduct myself during the Games.

In the event of extreme misconduct, the CANUSA Games Board of Directors will:

- Notify the participant's parents/guardians of the improper action.
- Disqualify the participant from further competition.

Welcome letter from Housing Committee

HOUSING A VISITING ATHLETE LEADS TO FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has been chosen to be a member of a CANUSA team for the 65th Annual CANUSA Games to be held this year in Hamilton, ON the weekend of August 11-13, 2023.

The philosophy of the CANUSA Games is to establish goodwill and camaraderie through sporting competitions.

We are excited to welcome back our friends from Flint to our friendly city. As the host city, each Flint athlete will be housed with a participating Hamilton athlete and their family.

The billeting matchup will occur at opening ceremonies Friday, August 11th at 1:00 p.m.

We are very grateful for the generosity of our Hamilton families for opening their homes to our friends from Flint.

The CANUSA Games Board of Directors, Sport Coordinators, and Coaches hope that you will enjoy the billeting experience. If you have any questions regarding billeting, please contact the CANUSA Office at canusa@hamilton.ca

Thank you for your support with this CANUSA tradition.

In the spirit of the Games,

*Sheila Drury
Glenn Ostrosser
Housing Committee
CANUSA Games - Hamilton Branch
canusagamesregistry@gmail.com*

BILLETING POLICY

1. All participants under 18 years of age are to be billeted with a Flint family for the entire weekend. Certain sports, such as Bowling, also require participants 21 years of age and under to billet. for
2. Participants will be billeted with a host family, or matched with a host family, on the basis of age, gender, and sport area or event, where possible.
3. The Housing Committee will not reassign billets unless good cause is shown.
Any change of assignment unauthorized by the Housing/CANUSA Committee will result in the participant's suspension for the balance of the weekend's activities and competitions.
4. Special billet requests are to be noted on the Registration Form and arranged prior to roster deadline. Arrangements are handled by the Hamilton and Flint Housing Committees.
5. Host families will provide Friday lunch and dinner, Saturday Breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as breakfast on Sunday morning for the Flint athletes in their home.
6. **The CANUSA Games Board of Directors expect participants to be in the homes of their hosts by 11:00 p.m. on Friday, August 11th and Saturday, August 12th, 2023.**

ATHLETE ITINERARY

PRIOR TO CANUSA WEEKEND:

- Hand in Registration Form and Registration Fee, \$60.00 (\$70.00 for golf and hockey) to your Sport Coordinator before **July 22, 2023**. Indicate any special billet requests on your form.
- Obtain your CANUSA participant shirt from your Sport Coordinator.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th:

- **All athletes are to be at Dave Andreychuk Mountain Arena by 12:30 p.m. a.m.**
- Upon arrival, follow the volunteers who will direct you to the Opening Ceremonies, which will begin around 1:00 p.m. You should be wearing your CANUSA shirt.
- After the Opening Ceremonies are complete, athletes return to their bus to pick up your luggage and be matched up with your Flint billet.
- Some sports competitions are scheduled to begin as early as 3:00 p.m. Check the “Schedule of Events” for competition times or the CANUSA website. Hosts transport their billet(s) to the sport site(s).
- Hosts provide lunch and dinner for their billet(s).
- Curfew is 11:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th:

- Hosts provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for their billet(s).
- Sports competitions are scheduled to begin as early as 8:00 a.m. and continue until approximately 3:00 p.m. Check the “Schedule of Events” for competition times or the CANUSA website. Hosts transport their billet(s) to their sport site(s).
- Host Sport Coordinators will distribute participant memento.
- Curfew is 11:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th:

- Hosts are to provide breakfast and bus snacks for athletes ride back to Flint.
- Closing Ceremonies begin at 9:00 a.m. at Mohawk College Student Services Courtyard. Hosts will transport their Flint billet(s) to the Closing Ceremonies, unless a participant in the Modified Billeting Program, and to buses for departure from Hamilton.
- Buses will be leaving for Flint at 9:30 a.m. from Mohawk College.

- Please board the sport specific team bus to which you have been assigned. This will allow departure time to run as scheduled.

**THANK YOU to ALL OUR GENEROUS HAMILTON HOSTING FAMILIES!
MODIFIED BILLETING PROGRAM – information: (implemented 2019)**

Objective: To modify not eliminate, the billeting program, in order to retain the billeting tradition.

- Majority of Flint athletes will continue to billet with a Host Family for the entire weekend following CANUSA’s traditional format and we will continue to encourage this. However, if requested, a Flint athlete will be granted permission to stay with their parents at night in a Hamilton, ON area hotel, under CANUSA Games guidelines, signed contract must be adhered to, or participation in competition will be revoked.
- This is our attempt to keep billeting a key part of the Games, otherwise it is just another tournament and the athletes will miss out on the “Experience the Friendship” component of what CANUSA Games has always been about for 65 years.

Friday August 11, 2023:

- Flint athlete will still be matched with a Host Family/athlete for the weekend. Match up will take place after Opening Ceremonies. Flint athlete’s family will exchange contact information with the Hamilton Host Family.
- As per standard protocols, Host Families will continue to have police checks in accordance with the Hamilton CANUSA Games policy.
- The Host Family will take the Flint athlete after Opening Ceremonies to start building the friendship component which is an essential part of the Games.
- The Host Family is responsible for feeding the Flint athlete lunch and dinner and for transporting athletes to the Friday games and social activities.
- Flint athletes officially registered in the trial program will be able to stay in their parent’s hotel room. The Flint parents are responsible for coordinating a mutually agreed time/location with the Host Family to pick-up their child and transport them back to the hotel, after the conclusion of sports schedules and organized activities; **after 9 pm and no later than 10:45pm.**
- **Non-Negotiable:** A Flint athlete can only stay with their parents; they CANNOT stay with another Flint parent/family or relatives in the hotel. Under no circumstance should a host athlete stay with the Flint family in the hotel.

Saturday August 12, 2023:

- Flint athletes who stayed with their parents on Friday night will be transported to their sport venue on Saturday morning by their parents. Flint parents are responsible for feeding the Flint athlete breakfast.
- After the Saturday sport competitions, the Flint athlete will go with their Host Family to participate in the host's predetermined activities (e.g., BBQ's, movies, chill at home etc.).
- The Host Family is responsible for providing lunch and dinner to the Flint athlete.
- Visiting athletes officially registered in the trial program will be able to stay in their parent's hotel room. The Flint parents are responsible for coordinating a mutually agreed time/location with the Host Family to pick-up their child and transport them back to the hotel, after the conclusion of sports schedules and organized activities; **after 9 pm and no later than 10:45pm.**
- **Possible adaptation:** If the Flint athlete wants to sleep at the Host Family residence on the Friday and/or Saturday night; the **CANUSA Games Headquarters at Mohawk College Residence MUST be promptly notified** by the Flint's athlete's parent or the Host Family parent. Under no circumstance should a host athlete stay with the Flint family in the hotel.

Sunday August 13, 2023:

- Flint athletes who stayed with their parents on Saturday night will be transported to Closing Ceremonies by 9am on Sunday morning by their parents.
- Flint athletes who stayed with their Host Families on Saturday night will be transported to Closing Ceremonies by 9am on Sunday morning by their hosts. Host Family is responsible for feeding the Flint athlete breakfast.
- **Closing Ceremonies start at 9am sharp; Attendance is mandatory**

2023 CANUSA GAMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MASON SADJER	Office Intern
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MIKE SAVOY	City of Hamilton Recreation Liaison

2023 CANUSA GAMES COORDINATORS

<u>SPORT AREA</u>	<u>COORDINATORS</u>	<u>ASSISTANT COORDINATORS</u>
BASEBALL	Pam Ostrosser	Glenn Ostrosser
BOYS BASKETBALL	Jon Gordon	Nick Bennett
GIRLS BASKETBALL	Amanda Heeren	Patti Dawson
10 PIN BOWLING	Mark & Lisa Ward	
DARTS	Pete Riehl	
FLAG FOOTBALL	Ed Valtenbergs	Jay Hayes
GOLF	Matt Cupido	
ICE HOCKEY	Gerry Rush	Justin Ismeal
PICKLEBALL	Jeff Morgan	
SKEET	John Kapron	
GIRLS SOCCER	Carrie Boschman	Jeff White
BOYS SOCCER		Leo Provo, Alen Audisho
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TENNIS	Mike Kool	Mo Jamal
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GIRLS VOLLEYBALL		Greg Mills
HOUSING	Sheila Drury	Glenn Ostrosser
BINGO	Greg Mills	
MEDIA ROOM	Larry Robertson	
SOCIAL MEDIA	TSMedia	
SALES	Andrea Rogers	Leanne Brennan, Paul Palciauskas

If interested in Volunteering for the CANUSA Games please contact canusa@hamilton.ca

CANUSA GAMES OFFICE

Mailing Address:

City of Hamilton
Community Services, Recreation Division
Lister Block Building – 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 2040
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Office Location:

Bennetto Recreation Centre
450 Hughson Street North
Hamilton Ontario
(905) 546-2424 ext. 2537

canusa@hamilton.ca
www.canusagames.com

The CANUSA Games would like to thank the following community and corporate sponsors for their support in making the 65th CANUSA Games a success.

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