



An Drochaid - The Bridge



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Culture on Ice!
The Great Canadian Kilt Skate



Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC)



Founded in 1977, CASSOC is an organization for organizations. Our primary purpose is to provide coordination and communication between our member groups. We encourage the celebration of our Scottish cultural heritage and the promotion of this Scottish culture in Canada in all its aspects. We seek to be the assembly of all groups in Canada who are pursuing Scottish interests.

AN DROCHAID – The Bridge is the newsletter of CASSOC and will be published in March, June Sept and Dec. Items for publication should be submitted to the Editor, editor@cassoc.ca

Any member group of CASSOC may submit an advertisement to any issue at no cost.

Membership in CASSOC is open to any and all organizations which promote or encourage some aspect of Scottish tradition or culture, represent a link between the Scottish people and their descendants and relations in Canada, or seek to develop an understanding of the role Scotland and its culture has played in the development of Canada and its history.

2017-2018 Board of Directors:

Chair: Karen Macleod McCrimmon

1st Vice-Chair

2nd Vice-Chair

Past-Chair: Alene M. McNeill

Secretary: Jo Ann Tuskin

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Terry Myles

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Paul Elliot

John Duff

Patrons: Charles Edward Bruce, Lord Bruce, DL MA MSc FSA Scot
Major The Hon. Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart, Bt. CVO DL

Meetings 2018:

The Executive Meetings will be 8 April and 28 October 2018.

The General Assembly meetings will be 6 May and 25 November 2018, location TBA.

Website:

The website contains, among other things, a list of Scottish and Celtic Events in Canada, Canadian Regional tartans, and a list of our member groups with a link to their websites and other digital media, as well as their membership contact information. On the Events list, for each date, our member group events are highlighted with a link to their website and our icon if we will be participating.

www.cassoc.ca

Frae the Chair:

Greetings Clansfolk,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we inch towards spring. The winter season has been a busy one and I hope that you have all sufficiently recovered from the Winter holidays.

I attended the Toronto Kilt Skate at the end of January and it was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many in tartan on the ice. A lot of interest was expressed by those who were visiting the area, including in particular, a group of exchange students from Brazil. All-in-all, it was a fun afternoon and I look forward to seeing even more participation by our Scottish groups at Nathan Phillip's Square next year.

Highland Games season is fast approaching. Please support the games by signing up to host your clan or Scottish Society tent. It is an excellent way to gain new members and get your clan name and information out to those interested in their Scottish heritage. If your clan is not able to be represented at the games, CASSOC plans to attend a number of games this summer. We would be happy to represent you and pass on your contact information to any who are interested.

The Executive decided at our AGM in the fall that we would not be hosting a Tartan Day dinner in 2018. It was felt that as an umbrella group, we should not be competing with the Tartan Day activities of our members. Please make sure you participate by wearing the tartan on April 6th, or by attending a Tartan Day event in your area.

I would like to welcome Chris MacDougall on board as our new An Drochaid Editor and media liaison. We are still looking to fill a few positions on our Board of Directors and we welcome your nominations and feedback. We gain strength from your support. The Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada aims to remain a relevant and active group for our members. Your voice, whether it be in terms of suggestions or constructive feedback, is important to us.

Hold Fast,



Karen Macleod McCrimmon

Chair, CASSOC

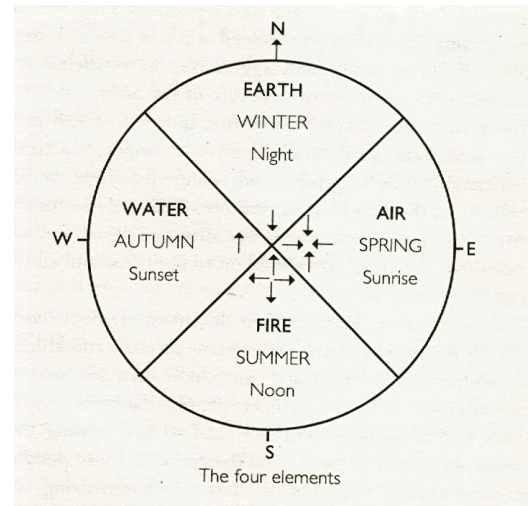
New Publishing Schedule:

Please note the new publishing schedule: An Drochaid - The Bridge will be published in March, June, September and December. Deadline for submissions is the **1st** of the month of issue.

The Celtic Elements - Spring

The Four Elements:

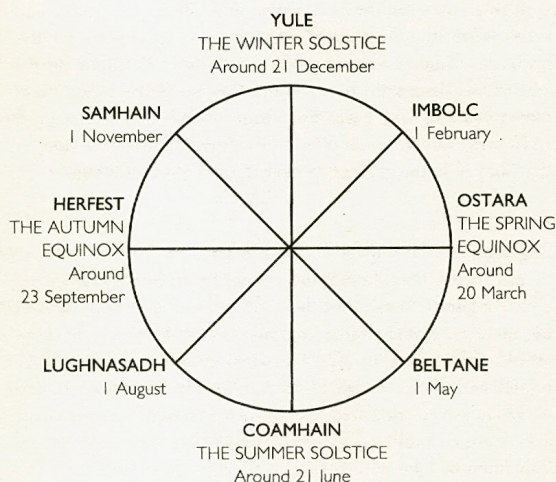
When the Celts looked at the world about them, they noticed that many things had four aspects. There were four winds, four seasons, four cardinal directions and so on. They also noticed that there was a circular or cyclic nature to the world and that, by looking at these four aspects, one could see where on its cycle anything was. They assigned these four aspects names, Earth, Air, Fire and Water. These four 'elements' became the foundation of the Celtic medicine wheel.



Spring – East - Air:

The East is the place of spring in the cycle of a year, the time when the plants begin to draw nutrients from the earth. It is the place of birth and enlightenment. In the cycle of a day, the East is the dawn, the sunrise. It too is a time of awakening, of coming into the light. The power of the East is the power of Air. In the spring, everything comes to life again, the energy is one of gathering. The plants gather nutrients and the new-born draw in air. The power of Air is inward. It is the place of learning, of gathering knowledge and experience. Air is connected to the left-hand side of the brain, the thinking, logical side. It is the place of social interaction.

The Wheel of the Year



NB: All Celtic festivals begin at dusk the night before the festival day, e.g. Samhain begins on the night of 31 October

Ostara

The spring equinox – around 20 March – marks the festival of Ostara, the height of spring. The power of the sun is increasing, the buds are forming and the first flowers are blooming. Cernunnos, the Lord of the Animals, and the Green Man, Lord of the Forest, were both honoured at this time to ensure the birth of healthy offspring to all animals and the return of greenness to the land. Ostara marked the time when all the plans formed in the dark phase of the year could be implemented and so was a hive of activity for both people and nature.

From Celtic Wisdom by Andy Baggott, published 1999 by Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd.



Scottish Society of Ottawa

SIR JOHN A'S GREAT CANADIAN KILT SKATE

Celebrating with bare knees and ice!



Scotland
Scotland.org

Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals: Canada – Spring & Summer

This listing was compiled by our webmaster and is updated regularly on our website: www.cassoc.ca Information is provided for reference only. Please contact organizers of the event for up-to-date information. CASSOC cannot be held responsible for any errors that may occur. Member events are **highlighted**. Please Support Our Members!

Mar 24	Winnipeg Scottish Festival	Winnipeg, MB	www.winnipegscottishfestival.com
Apr 14	Scottish Studies Foundation – Spring Colloquium	Toronto, ON	www.scottishstudies.com/520-spring-colloquium-2018.htm
May 19-20	Regina Highland Games	Regina, SK	www.saskhighland.ca
May 19-21	Victoria Highland Games	Victoria, BC	www.victoriahighlandgames.com
May 26	Kingston Scottish Festival	Kingston, ON	www.kingstonscottishfestival.com
Jun 8-9	Clan Leslie International Gathering	Salt Lake City, UT	www.clanlesliesociety.org
Jun 9	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
Jun 9	Grande Prairie Highland Games	Grande Prairie, AB	www.gphighlandgames.com
Jun 15-16	Cobourg Highland Games	Cobourg, ON	www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
Jun 16	BC Highland Games	Coquitlam, BC	www.bchighlandgames.com
Jun 23	Red Deer Highland Games	Red Deer, AB	www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca
Jun 23-24	Manitoba Highland Gathering	Winnipeg, MB	www.manitobahighlandgathering.org
Jun 24	Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering	Edmonton, AB	https://sites.google.com/view/edmontonscottishsociety/highland-gathering
Jun 26-Jul 2	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo	Halifax, NS	www.nstattoo.ca
Jun 29-Jul 7	Kitchenfest - Féis a'Chidsin	Cape Breton, NS	https://kitchenfest.ca/
Jul 1	Embro Highland Games	Embro, ON	www.embrohighlandgames.ca
Jul 1-8	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS	www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca
Jul 6-8	Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Kincardine, ON	www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca
Jul 21	Cambridge Scottish Festival	Cambridge, ON	www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca
Jul 20-22	Orillia Scottish Festival	Orillia, ON	www.orillia.ca/en/visitorillia/festivalsandevents.asp
Jul 27-29	New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Fredericton, NB	www.highlandgames.ca



Member Group News:

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Association of Highland Clans and

Societies:

The AHCS and The 1745 Association are working together to organise a gathering in June 2019 to mark the anniversary of the 1719 Jacobite Rising, and its main event, the Battle of Glenshiel. The battle, at which Rob Roy MacGregor fought alongside MacKenzies, Glengarry MacDonells, Camerons, MacMillans, Murrays and others, took place on the 10th of June 1719.

Clan Bell North America:

The Clan of the Bells newsletter has the list of Games and Festivals at which Clan Bell will be represented. There have been some additions since this list was published, so please "Like" and "Follow" Clan Bell North America on Facebook for updates. CBNA President David E. Bell also wanted to emphasize that we are looking for Bells and Bell descendants who would like to become commissioners to represent Clan Bell at Games, Festivals, and other Scottish and Celtic events. Interested individuals should contact David E. Bell at debellinn@reagan.com or go to www.clanbell.org.

Clan Davidson Society of North America:

Clan Davidson Society of North America hosted its first Clan tent at the Fergus Games. Our Tent Convener (TC) was Doug Young, and he was assisted by Society vice president Logan Dawson. The Clan Tent had many visitors and the Society received several new members. Since Fergus we have recruited 2 additional TC's. We may also have at least 1 event covered in the BC area hosted by an existing TC in California and family in the area. This represents the largest growth our Society has experienced since early in our existence.

Guthrie School of Dance:

Guthrie School of Dance has had an amazing start to the year celebrating Hogmanay with friends and family. This was followed shortly after by seven Burns night performances in two countries, where we connected with Guthries across North America! We also fit in a quick skate at the Toronto Kilt Skate and an afternoon dancing with the Amedus Choir. February brought weekends packed with practices and our next performance run kicked off with a wonderful afternoon at the MacKenzie House for Family Day, followed by the 512 Showcase celebrating Whychwood Barns' 10th anniversary and the Moorhead Celtic Festival and St. Paddy's Day festivities and finally concluding at the Gibson House's Tartan Day Festival April 7th.

We look forward to connecting with you about classes, performances and Clan Guthrie.



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Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc:

Attached is a photo of Judy Gauthier (my wife) and I (Ken) from the St. Andrew's Society Burns Super at the University Club on Friday, January 19th. John McDermott sang several Scottish songs as part of the program as well. It was a splendid event, and in an entirely new venue - for us at least. As well, I'm attaching one of John McDermott and myself - as I am one of his biggest fans!



Clan Logan:

Clan Logan representation at various events has already begun here in Montreal, including a Burns dinner and Black Watch mess dinner. The next event will be the Montreal Saint Patrick's parade, which the Clan participates in each year.

On April 28th, 2018, I (Steven) will be attending the Auld Alliance ceremony (an event that rewards people in the Scottish community who contribute) here in Montreal and I hope to get a trophy or recognition of some sort for Clan Logan. We would like to be nominated for Scottish activities (cat 1) and fellow of the thistle (cat 4).

Clan Logan contd.

Anyone interested and who wants to send in a nomination for me can do so by going to the Quebec Thistle Committee site and clicking the nomination button. Clan Logan can use any help it gets. If I can get a hold of something from the ceremony, it would make a great article for Our Valour magazine (Clan Logan's membership journal)

June 16th: BC Highland Games, Coquitlam

June 23-24th: San Diego California Highland Games

July 1st: Montreal Canada day parade

July 6th-7th: Fredericton New Brunswick Games*

Antigonish games, Nova Scotia* (July)

August 4th: Maxville Glengarry Games

August 6th: Montreal hHghland Games

August 7th(to be determined): Quebec Celtic Festival in Limoilou(they are not sure of their dates this year!)

August 10th- 12th: Fergus Scottish Festival

September 17th: Saint Andrew's Society fish and chip event

December 1st: Saint Andrew's Ball at Marriot Chateau Champlain Montreal



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Clan MacFarlane Worldwide:

Our President, Preston McFarland and our Archeology member Peter McFarlin previously discovered many Muniments in a chest stored in the basement of a Library Archives in Scotland. These MacFarlane documents were copied by Preston and Peter and require translation. This will take a while and we are looking for some volunteers. Preston stated that one of the best parts of our 2017 AMM was the professional and expert contacts they made at the University of Guelph, which may help with this.

In 2017, CMW sponsored Creag a Phuirt "The Alms-House" archaeology dig, on the shore of Loch Lomond and this was a great success. We believe that the Alms-House was built by King James in the 16th century and were able to produce a detailed report on the project. Dr. Heather James did an excellent job documenting the dig.

In 2017, donations were made to the Arrochar Heritage and The Three Villages in Scotland. These two organizations have done a great job in sharing the history of Clan MacFarlane and we're pleased to be able to support them. We also supported Jennifer Knox and her son John Davis-Knox, who compete in the athletics events at several different games. We wish them success as they represent themselves, their ancestry, and CMW in 2018.

During the CMW Board of Directors' January 2018 meeting, it was approved that we provide information and updates to our members via a new method. Starting in 2018, the newsletter "Loch Sloy" quarterly will be discontinued. A popular publication, we decided that information that should be available on a more timely basis.



Instead, CMW will provide 2 different methods of delivery. The "LOCH SLOY" (monthly) will now be the new monthly newsletter that will provide dates and additional information about Clan MacFarlane Worldwide activities such as games calendar, listing of Directors and Executive, as well as a few bits of updated information. It will be posted to the website: <http://www.clanmacfarlane.org> and be available to anyone, as well as our Facebook page.

All the articles that were published in the former magazine will now be published at our website in a new blog format that will allow our users to search through articles they wish to read. When something new is published to the website, the members will be provided with an abstract of the article or teaser of the information. We feel that when the editor is ready to retire, it will be much easier for a new volunteer to take on this project for Clan MacFarlane Worldwide.

In 2018, our AMM will be at the Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival at Estes Park in Colorado, September 6th – 9th. There is a Bus Trip to Scotland planned for CMW in 2019. Keep an eye on our CMW website as plans progress.

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Macfie Clan Society of Canada:

Barbara and I were able to attend the 20th Clan Parliament of Clan Macfie in Stirling, Scotland in Sept. 2017. It was wonderful to meet up with so many Macfie's from around the world. Unfortunately, our Clan Commander has some re-occurring vertebrae issues and his health is not very good at the moment. He was not able to attend our Parliament sessions and we all hope for a positive recovery.

We are not very heavy in membership as we are looking at ways to increase membership here in Canada. As a clan, we need to think how best to reach out and keep our Clan Macfie membership alive and well. If you have any ideas to help support membership or move towards more information/stories being published on-line, please let me know.

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada:

The Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada is busy reviewing the listings of upcoming highland games and Scottish festivals across the country this year and arranging for the Clan MacKenzie to be represented at as many of them as possible. The listings will continue to be updated on our website.

As reported previously, the Clan MacKenzie Society's member newsletter Cabar Feidh is published exclusively online now and distributed to our members via our website. In addition, all of our membership applications and renewals are handled through our website as with the sale of Clan MacKenzie merchandise, books and charitable donations.

In late 2017, the Society learned of a small MacKenzie graveyard in Manitoba that has fallen into disrepair and Mackenzies across Canada are being asked to help save it.

Clan MacKenzie contd.

In order to help raise the money needed to repair the historically-important Little Britain Cemetery (south of Lower Fort Garry), the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada is matching donations up to \$1,000 until the end of June 2018. More information is available on the CMSC website at <http://www.clanmackenziecanada.ca/mackenzie-grave-site-manitoba-needs-help/>.

Clan MacLeod Society of Canada:

Our local societies across Canada have many activities planned for the spring. Please see our national website, <https://www.clanmacleod-canada.com/>, for events in your area.

The Clan MacLeod Society of Canada is pleased to bring you a new Canadian Clan MacLeod Tartan. With its white and red design, this is also an excellent tartan for highland dancers. Please email National President, Judy Tipple at jmtipple@gmail.com if you are interested in ordering.



Every 4 years, MacLeods from across the world gather at Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye for a week of social and heritage activities. This year marks the 18th Parliament which will be held from July 21-28. A pre-Parliament trip will take place on the islands of Harris and Lewis during the week before Parliament, exploring places of interest to MacLeods. You can check out <http://www.clanmacleodparliament.org/> for a full itinerary of the week.

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Clan MacNeil:

Clan MacNeil is moving ahead with some great additions to the executive team. We will be attending six Highland Games throughout the summer. Just check out our web site for the dates and games in your areas and make sure you visit the clan tent, we love to hear your story. We have had a big increase in memberships by some fantastic work and new ideas from our executive members on Facebook and Twitter. We are also improving our website to be more user friendly and having a pay feature for memberships on the site. Our site is clanmacneilincanada.ca.

Our Chief, Rory Macneil, has invited all the MacNeils worldwide to attend the Gathering of the Clan on the Isle of Barra, starting Friday, August 3rd to Monday, August 6th, 2018. The program will include a Ceilidh, Island Tour, Castle Visit, Genealogy Talk, Formal Dinner and much more.

One item of note : Our quarterly newsletter now has a name, "A' Charrraig Dhubh," The Black Rock. The Clan MacNeil Badge is centred by a "Black Rock."

Clan MacRae Society of Canada:

This year the Clan MacRae is starting on Aug. 7th – 8th in Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Then we will take our Gathering/Social to Guelph & Fergus on Aug. 8th – 12th . Our itinerary is full and concentrates on Lt. Col. John McCrea (100 yrs. after his death), who wrote "In Flanders Fields". A Banquet and Ceilidh are planned for the Saturday evening.

We are having a very Special guest at our AGM in Guelph/Fergus. The Constable of Eilean Donan Castle in Scotland is going to be able to attend in August. Her name is Miranda Van Lynden.

We invite any of our MacRae family (by whatever spelling) and Septs of the Clan to join us during our 6 day event. You may choose all of the events or some of them, whatever you wish. If you are interested or just curious and would like information on the events planned, please contact Barb or John Duff at barbb-duff@gmail.com or phone 905-387-5541. We will email the information to you with dates, costs, etc.

The Clan DNA project is growing and our members have made many connections along the way. I urge those trying to find family to submit your DNA to Family Tree DNA and the Clan Macrae project.

We are hosting a tent at Georgetown, Cobourg, Cambridge, Kinmount, Maxville/Glengarry, Glengarry/Maxville, and Fergus.

Clan Munro Association:

Clan Munro Association - Canadian and US Branches - will be holding a joint Gathering in Halifax, Aug 30 – Sep 2, 2018. Highlights of the Gathering include a tour of the Halifax Citadel, a bus trip to Lunenburg (a World Heritage site), and a Gala Banquet. For further information contact Gathering18@clanmunro.ca.

Clan Sinclair Association of Canada:

It's a bit premature to be thinking about spring, but the Annual Toronto Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, March 25. Please mark that date on your 2018 calendars for now, and more details will follow.

The Clan Sinclair USA will be holding their AGM and Gathering at the Loch Norman Highland Games at Historic Rural Hill in Huntersville, North Carolina, April 20-22, 2018.

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Cobourg Highland Games Society:

The Cobourg Scottish Festival and Highland Games will be celebrating 55 years this year on June 16th! We are inviting all Clans to come to Cobourg this year. Please fill in your information on our Clans page on our website <http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/clans> so we can hold a spot for you!

Gaelic Society of Toronto:

The NEW YEAR'S PARTY was held on Sat. Feb. 3 at the Estonian Cultural Centre, 958 Broadview Ave, west side, north of the Danforth. There was a wonderful buffet, table and floor games, a raffle, and entertainment. Visit our website in March for updates. www.gaelicsocietytoronto.com

The YOUNG PIPERS CHAMPIONSHIP took place on February 8 at the Moss Park Armouries and was open to pipers aged 21 and under. We were especially privileged to have Pipe Major Ian K. Mac Donald of the Toronto Police Pipe Band as our judge this year. Ian K., as he is known, became the World Champion in 2016 when he was awarded the historic Double Gold in Inverness, Scotland. Full details of this event are published on our website.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is the largest, longest continually-running three-day event celebrating, promoting and honouring Scottish culture and heritage in Canada. With annual attendance nearing 20,000, the 73rd annual Festival (August 10-12, 2018) offers programming that illuminates the four pillars of traditional Scottish culture: Highland Dance, Heavies Competitions, Pipes and Drums, and the gathering of over 40 Clans. Local and international musicians, including Scotland's own Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Albannach, enliven the festival grounds as well as the businesses, pubs, and theatres in Fergus, Ontario's charming downtown core. We've got something for everyone, from heart-thumping Celtic music, to traditional artisans, educational workshops, McKiddies fun, and all the best of Scotland...without the airfare!

Visit www.fergusscottishfestival.com for more information.

Latest Newsletter Link:

<http://mailchi.mp/fergusscottishfestival/happy-valentines-day>



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Scottish Studies Foundation:

Details here; <http://www.scottishstudies.com/520-spring-colloquium-2018.htm>



Once again, the crew of the *Empire Sandy*, Canada's tallest sailing ship, will be hoisting the sails to get the Scottish Studies Foundation's annual cruise underway on Sunday, September 2, 2018 (Labour Day Weekend). Details here: <http://www.scottishstudies.com/940-empiresandy-2018.htm>



Scottish Studies Foundation:

Members of the public and university communities are invited to attend the Scottish Studies Roundtable series organized by the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

The Roundtable Series presents seminars which take place throughout the academic year (September - April) and, occasionally, during the summer months. Speakers are scholars of Scottish history including graduate students from the Centre and the University of Guelph, faculty members, local researchers and visiting scholars from universities around the province, around the country and around the world.

The next seminar will be on Tuesday, March 13, from 14:30-16:00 when Dr. Patrick Wadden, Assistant Professor of History at Belmont Abbey College will present: *THE FIRST KINGDOM OF THE ISLES: History and Identity on Scotland's Western Periphery*, 980-1060

The location: MacKinnon Building, Room 311

As always, light refreshments will be provided at the event and there are no fees associated with attendance. The event is open to the public and all are welcome.

For more information please contact:
Scottish Studies Office
MacKinnon Building, Room 253
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1G 2W1
Tel: 519-824-4120 ext 53209
Email: scottish@uoguelph.ca



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Taylor's Tartans:



Taylor's Tartans is a home based business in rural New Brunswick that sells product made out of our provincial tartans. While our specialty is our custom flat caps, we also make neck ties, self tie bow ties, suspenders, scarves and pet bandanas. From Newfoundland to British Columbia we would love to make your tartan accessories. Check us out at www.taylorstartans.com.



Tartan Day is on the Horizon

October 21, 2010

Minister Moore Officially Declares April 6 as Tartan Day

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire - Oct. 21, 2010) - The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced today that the Government of Canada will now officially recognize April 6 as Tartan Day.

"A tartan represents a clan, a family, and a community, and is an enduring symbol of Scotland that is cherished by Canadians of Scottish ancestry," said Minister Moore. "Many Canadian provinces and other countries already celebrate Tartan Day. As well, through Tartan Day, Canadians will have an opportunity to learn more about the various cultures that comprise Canadian society."

Tartan Day originated in the late 1980s in Nova Scotia, where it was declared an official day by the provincial government. It then spread across the country, with many provinces joining in. This marks the first time the Day has been recognized by the federal government.

"By officially recognizing this Day, we encourage Canadians all across the country to celebrate the contributions that over four million Canadians of Scottish heritage continue to make to the foundation of our country," said Senator John Wallace, who recently introduced a bill in the Senate in support of nationally declaring Tartan Day.

Why Clan Heritage Matters and Why We Should Support These Efforts

Recently a member of the Society asked me, "Why so much emphasis on history and why is the clan spending time digging up our past?"

Taken aback, I responded with a pat, "because it's important," or something equally trite. My dismissive reply led to the termination of an otherwise useful conversation with a fellow Gregor who was trying to understand its relevance to our membership in today's world. Opportunity lost. But perhaps this person's question is shared by others of our membership, so I will re-open the discussion.

In the time since I have thought long and hard in search of better answers to similar inquiries in the future. This has helped to crystallize my thinking and resolve to better support the Clan Gregor Society's efforts to uncover and make sense of our history and heritage. We are fortunate and indeed blessed as beneficiaries of the tireless (and often thankless) efforts of the small army of volunteers, supporters, donors and Council leaders that have been actively digging up our past over the last few years and sharing what they have learned along the way. Let's take a look at what has been achieved.

Beginning with uncovering the Dalmally Stones, exploration of the Stronmilchan site, discovering the remains of early iron forges found at Tigh Mohr and now on to the much anticipated future dig at Rob Roys's home at Inversnaid, we are learning about our Gregors ancestors at an unprecedented rate. As a result, together with historic inquiry, DNA research, and even through our gatherings together, we now know more than ever before about our origins and early activities. This knowledge is precious and is helping to build on the foundation of archival materials already in our possession. But it comes at a cost – time, expertise and money must be committed. To date only small handful of donors have funded this seminal research. As a result of their dedication we are building our historical data base, challenging previous assumptions and helping to develop a clearer understanding of our emerging story. It is a truly a work in process and more will be revealed as we proceed down this road.

I am grateful for their work, and so I say "Good Job" to those dedicated to this important endeavor by offering my support. While I can't readily jump on a plane and begin shoveling hard Scottish dirt, I can financially support these efforts. We all can. My challenge to the Canadian Chapter, and indeed to all Chapters, is to find ways to individually and collectively raise funds needed to ensure that this important work continues.

And so I conclude with my answer the next time I'm asked why history and why spend time digging up the past? In my mind the answer should be somewhat theoretical, passionate and even romantic. I'd like to say.....

History is like a landscape. An archaeological landscape that is a cultural construct in which our sense of place is transformed and changed by an understanding of history as revealed through preserved and discovered materials. What we see today is not the site as it once was. A desire to read the story of this landscape of ruins as suggested by the historical record will lead to better understandings – and future discoveries. Archaeology serves to document the past before its traces are completely lost or removed. Nowhere is emptiness more agreeable than in the case of architectural ruins where the appreciation of the effects of the passage of time is accompanied by a certain sense of abandonment and melancholy where the human activity of our Gregor ancestors is imagined and now long gone. What we see today is different but no less intriguing- a visual character that has become complex and diffuse because it evolved as a result of historical circumstances. It comprises fragments from different eras that, taken together, show patterns and emerging pictures from the past. And so an archaeological sensibility that includes research, observation and analysis is needed to look beyond deterioration to appreciate the story of what happened here in the past and its implications to those who follow behind.

A man is truly poor who has no sense of his past, of his ancestor's feats, strife, and accomplishments. Who they were in a sense defines who we are today, and knowing that lends richness to our lives. That's why history matters and why we should support these efforts. Please join me.

Wayne MacGregor Parker

Tartan Day is coming!

April 6th, 2018

April 6 is the anniversary
of the signing of the
Declaration of Arbroath in
1320, the
Scottish declaration of
independence.



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The Next Issue



An Drochaid is published quarterly. Submissions are extraordinarily welcome; articles may be edited for length or content.

The next issue of An Drochaid will be the **June** issue. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, June 1st**.

Submissions can be emailed to editor@cassoc.ca