

# An Drochaid - The Bridge

*Comhlairi Cheile - Together with Accord*

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Summer 2020 Newsletter

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# Frae the Chair



## Frae the Chair

As many of our contributors are pointing out, there's little going on in activities and news with the restrictions in place. But there's light and hope that we're now getting through these challenges.

Plus there's always something new to learn. Such is the case with the rationale for early schedule changes for some games and festivals. It was not that they knew for sure that restrictions would still be in place but that the months of group and individual preparation was not possible for key activities. I hadn't

thought of this and I'm sure many of us were very accustomed to just going to an event with minimum prep. Definitely not the case for everyone else.

Even when the luxury of open social interaction and wide choice is returned, I know I'll have much more appreciation for all the hard work that the organizers, dancers, musicians and athletes have put into their craft. Let's keep supporting them when the opportunities come back.

One of the events affected was the usual CASSOC meeting to be held in the first half of the year for which we were originally to have a wonderful talk on heraldry. However, an in-person meeting was not possible and since we were mandated in our bylaws to hold a general meeting, this posed complex challenges. Options were to switch to an online general meeting or amend our bylaws to be more flexible in handling this type of situation. We chose the later and this you'll be able to see in the by-law updates provided in this issue.

CASSOC now has a Pro Zoom account but we are light in experience on handling a meeting that is interactive, voting and satisfactory to all. For this reason we're running the 'Celebration of Highland Games and Festivals' Zoom event on June 28th. It allows us to work out how to provide recorded content, live input, polling and even breakout rooms for attendees. There will be a stream to our Facebook page but not all of what's going on in Zoom will get through to Facebook. Experience has already shown that Facebook can be sketchy for connections to Zoom.

Gaining comfort with Zoom is important in order for CASSOC to support online attendees in the future. Our November AGM is a good example of where being able to provide both in-person and remote attendance will better serve you, the membership. We're also planning to use Zoom for a 'Forum on the Future of Scottish Clans and Societies in Canada' later in the Summer or early Fall. There be more info in emails about this initiative to help all of us to better connect and engage members, new and existing, young and old.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Celebration or a later event. Get your video and audio tech ready!

Yours Aye,

William Robert Petrie - Clan Gregor

[chairperson@cassoc.ca](mailto:chairperson@cassoc.ca)

# The Bard has Spoken: Tae a Virus

## Tae a virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,  
yer name or ocht about ye  
But lots of things have changed since then,  
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,  
yer feeding like a gannet  
Disruption caused, is so immense,  
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,  
they garnished it wae limes  
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear  
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,  
it's whit they awe advise  
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,  
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye bide  
Nae sneakin oot for strolls  
Just check the lavvy every hoor  
And stock-take, your, loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff  
Noo that's the Jet2 patter  
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh  
And paddle ' doon the watter '

Canary isles, no for a while  
Nae need for suntan cream  
And awe because o this wee bug  
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,  
But have a read, or doodle  
Or plan yer menu for the month  
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about  
A change, it would be nice  
We've beans and pasta By the ton  
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot  
Aye true, a few have died  
Bubonic, bird flu, and TB  
They came, they left, they tried

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen  
As ye jump fae cup tae cup  
But when we get oor vaccine made  
Yer number will be up.

**Written by Willie Sinclair, March 2020**  
**For a video recital by actor Denis Lawson**  
visit <https://youtu.be/utiUtY5AIHE>

# Fergus Scottish Festival - A Wee Online Ceilidh



## Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

VERSION  
2.021

Scotland...  
Without the Airfare!

### A "Wee Online Ceilidh" in honour of our supporters

The Fergus Scottish Festival's regular 2020 festival may be cancelled, but we will still #TartanUp in honour of our patrons this August.

"In March we made the heartbreaking decision to postpone our 75th anniversary celebrations until 2021 due to Covid-19. Since then we have received an outpouring of support from our patrons," says Dave Radley, President of the Fergus Scottish Festival.

As a thank you we will be presenting a small online celebration on the weekend of August 7-9 featuring content from all four pillars: Highland Dance, Heavy Athletics, Pipes and Drums and (of course) Clans.

The Festival is the largest and one of the longest running Scottish Festivals in Canada. In a typical year it would feature over three days of events including the gathering of close to 60 Clans. This year's "Wee Online Ceilidh" is offered as a small salute to our fans.

Details will be posted to our Facebook page @FergusScottishFestival, Twitter @FergusScotFest, Instagram @fergus\_scottish\_festival and on our website: [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com) as they are announced.

[fergusscottishfestival.com](http://fergusscottishfestival.com)

# Kingsville Highland Games



**June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, dust off your kilt and Flock to Kingsville for a fun-filled day of Scottish and Celtic experiences. Enjoy Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Heavy Events, Tug of War, Sheep Herding, Kilted Charity Run, Clan Village, Axe Throwing, Kitchen Party Ceilidh with the Mudmen, Interactive Stage, Lads and Lassies activities, 30+ Vendors, Covered Beer Tent, Parking Shuttles and so much more.

In 2019, after a break of more than 30 years, the Town of Kingsville hosted a very successful Highland Games with more than 6500 in attendance. More than 60 clansmen and women registered in the Clan Village, representing 7 Clans from across Ontario and the USA. In 2021, the Clan Village will be under one large tent and tables and chairs will be available for Registered Clans. If your Clan has their own tent to set up that can be accommodated too.

Follow Kingsville Highland Games on Facebook for updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames/>  
or check out the website at <https://www.kingsville.ca/>

# Caledonia Celtic Festival



## GALEDONIA GELTIC FESTIVAL

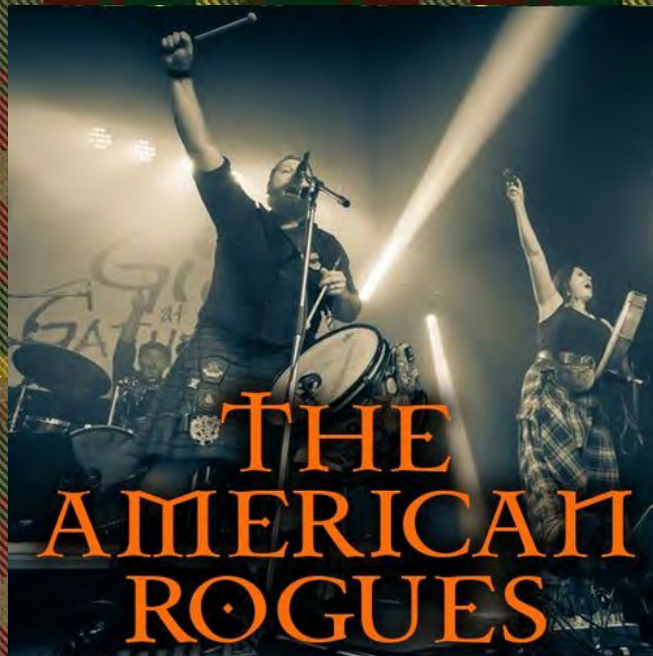
**June 25-28 2021**

FRIDAY NIGHT  
**THE AMERICAN  
ROGUES**

SATURDAY NIGHT  
**TARTAN  
TERRORS**



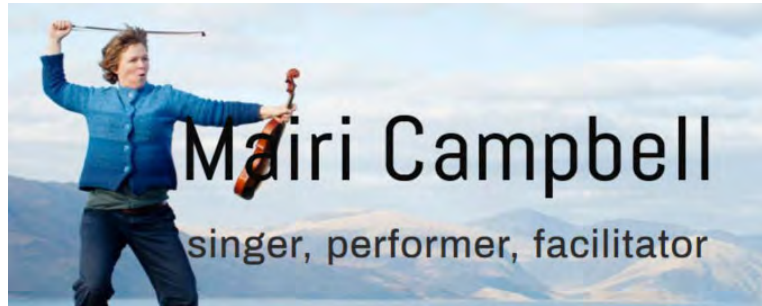
**Caledonia Fairgrounds Caledonia, Ontario**  
[www.caledoniacelticfestival.com](http://www.caledoniacelticfestival.com)



# Mairi Campbell's Ceilidh and Scotland House - Tim Beattie

## Campbell's Ceilidh

A weekly interactive Zoom session of readings and songs, tunes, stories and offerings from all over



*"No one should miss this wonderful gathering with it's live performances from around the world and fun interactions with others. A true virtual ceilidh that is refreshing and soothing for these times. I'm there every week!"* William Petrie

Sundays at 7pm UK time. 2pm Eastern  
[Click here for her group Facebook page](#)

## Scotland House Presents Canadian Tim Beattie

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to enjoy a celebration of musical talent as the **Scottish Affairs Office Canada**, in partnership with the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland** presents an exceptional guitar concert by Canadian **Tim Beattie**

This **#ScotlandHouseSession** will incorporate music from Scottish and Canadian composers, showcasing the excellent cultural connections between Scotland and Canada.

**Tim**, an **award-winning classical guitarist**, is currently studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. His awards include winning the top prizes at the Hamilton International Guitar Competition and the Brussels International Guitar Competition, among many others.



Join us online for Tim Beattie's performance on **1st July @ 1 pm EST**.

Follow us on Twitter [@scotgovcanada](#) for the latest updates and a link for the performance

Scottish Affairs Canada, Ottawa Office (Scottish Government)

# Important Bylaw Updates

The following updates have been made by the Board to the Bylaws. Per the Corporations Act, and as allowed by our bylaws, these changes are in effect until our next business meeting of the membership wherein the changes must be approved or are automatically rescinded. Our AGM in November will be the next applicable meeting for approval.

Please review the changes and let the Board know your views on the changes. A full set of the bylaws with the updates highlighted will be sent to each member delegate. A brief explanation of the change and rationale is provided in underlined italics. Changed are in bold text.

*A complete definition of terms used for CASSOC throughout the Bylaws was missing.*

**ARTICLE 1—DEFINITIONS:** (addition)

**n. “Association”, “Corporation” and “CASSOC” each refer, interchangeably, to the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada.**

*It was not adequately specified who makes the decision regarding commercial membership.*

**ARTICLE 4—MEMBERS** (updates and additions)

f. Commercial businesses that focus on related Scottish Heritage and culture may be considered, **by the board**, for Regular Membership on a case by case basis;

*Guidelines and consequences for the behaviour of members were not explicitly stated.*

4.1 MEMBERSHIP:

**g. Each member shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with civil behaviour both in dealings with fellow members and, in general, publicly. The actions of one or more persons belonging to a member organization are considered equivalent to being actions by the member organization unless that person or persons have been explicitly disallowed by that member organization as a whole.**

**Specifically:**

- no member shall knowingly make false statements themselves, or attribute false or defamatory statements about another member or members, with the intent of disseminating misinformation, or to bring into disrepute an individual or group.

- no member shall exhibit improper behaviour (whether in public or on the internet), whether in statements, opinions, or allegations which are not in the spirit of clan-ship.

- no member shall use public or private forms of digital communication, including various internet platforms, in a manner which is intended to intimidate, defame or attempt to bring into disrepute any member of the Association or the Association as a whole.

- no member shall knowingly allow the public or private dissemination of deliberately inflammatory material against a member or against the Association or any associate organization, either in speech, in print, in video, or any social media platform.

**h. Each member shall adhere to the laws governing intellectual property ownership and copyright in Canada, as well as enforced through treaties which Canada has in place with foreign nations. No member shall knowingly put the Association in a position that it would violate such laws and treaties regarding intellectual property ownership and copyright.**



# Important Bylaw Updates

- i. Each member shall respect the laws and standards of heraldry in Canada including mutual treaties covering such/same with foreign nations and additionally shall adhere, in terms of matters of heraldry when dealing with the Association, to the directives, standards and jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon Court. The Lord Lyon Court being the heraldic authority for Scotland and Scots outside of Scotland.

## 4.2 SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

The Board shall have authority to suspend any member from the Corporation for any one or more of the following grounds:

1. violating any provision of the articles, by-laws, or written policies of the Corporation;
2. carrying out any conduct which may be detrimental to the Corporation as determined by the board in its sole discretion;
3. for any other reason that the board in its sole and absolute discretion considers to be reasonable, having regard to the purpose of the Corporation.

In the event that the Board determines that a Member should be suspended from membership in the Corporation, the Chair, or such other officer as may be designated by the Board, shall provide twenty (20) days notice of suspension to the Member and shall provide reasons for the proposed suspension. The Member may make written submissions to the chair, or such other officer as may be designated by the Board, in response to the notice received within such twenty (20) day period. In the event that no written submissions are received by the Chair, the Chair, or such other officer as may be designated by the board, may proceed to notify the Member that the Member is suspended from membership in the Corporation. If written submissions are received in accordance with this section, the Board will consider such submissions in arriving at a final decision and shall notify the Member concerning such final decision within a further twenty (20) days from the date of receipt of the submissions. The board's decision shall be final and binding on the Member, without any further right of appeal.

The rights of a Member lapse and cease to exist when the membership terminates for any of the following reasons:

- a. resignation in writing, in which case such resignation shall be effective from the date specified in the resignation;
- b. non-payment of dues;
- c. expulsion by a vote of the majority of the member groups present at a duly constituted business meeting, provided that in the case of the proposed expulsion, the person(s) or group being considered for the expulsion **has been previously suspended by the board or otherwise has been given at least 15 days' notice of this action. In either case the person(s) or group shall be entitled to be heard at the meeting in person and with counsel if so desired;**

*A requirement for meeting, other than for the AGM, did not have the flexibility that is evidently needed.*

## ARTICLE 8: MEETINGS OF MEMBERS: (amended )

General Assembly Meetings: may be held, in addition to the Annual General Assembly, as called by the Board; but there must be at least one (1) meeting of the General Assembly annually between January 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>. **This requirement for at least one additional meeting may be temporarily waived or amended, at the discretion of the board, should there be overriding factors preventing such a meeting to be conducted in a safe and/or effective manner.**

# Benefits and Offers

*A reminder about ongoing benefits as well as offers from our members and others.*

## **Communication**

Your reach can extend to over 2000 enthusiasts in our member groups and beyond through our online availability

## **Advertising**

Post your upcoming calendar for events in our quarterly newsletter as well as online. If you've an online presence we'll include the appropriate links.

## **Highland Games, Festivals and other events**

CASSOC provides support a voice for all our members at events so that you are represented even if not present.

## **CASSOC Members Binder**

Your group is represented in this membership binder with such as organization information, tartans, septs and contact details that is available for us and all members to display at events. This is a terrific draw for booth visitors and a starting point for engagement with those new to Scottish heritage.

## **National Representation**

You are part of the national voice for clans and societies in promoting all of our interests with local, provincial and federal contacts as well with international entities such as the Scottish Clan and Ancestry Forum and Scottish North America Leadership.

## **Special Events and Offers**

To provide awareness of Scottish culture and specifically clan groups, CASSOC organizes events such as the annual Kilt Skate. Support and awareness is also provided to other events provided by you as a member. We also provide the means for specific offers such as the discounts that follow.

**Burnett's & Struth** - We're pleased to announce the continuing member benefit of a 15% discount with Burnett's and Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd. For further details on how to use this discount, restrictions and locations, please visit their CASSOC page at Burnett's & Struth.

**St Hilda Sea Adventures** - Provide small ship cruising and wildlife holidays on the beautiful West Coast of Scotland. The cruises, among the breathtakingly beautiful islands, sea lochs and mountains of the Inner and Outer Hebrides, are truly unforgettable adventures for all ages. Members of CASSOC receive a 15% discount during enquiry or booking with the code SHSA-CASSOC.

# Pipers and Speakers

*The following are affiliated with our membership and available for bookings. More details are available on the CASSOC website.*

Piper	Locale	Contact Info
Tait Leslie Goss	Kitchener/Waterloo	Meg Leslie (Mom/Manager) 519-501-0680 megtleslie@gmail.com
Ron Freeman	Hamilton	905-577-0608 ronald.freeman@hwcn.org
Rory Sinclair	Toronto	<a href="http://www.caledoncounty.com">http://www.caledoncounty.com</a> rorygus.sinclair@outlook.com
Steven Sirbovan	Orillia/Barrie/North Toronto	thebagpiper@live.com
Jamie Douglas	Durham Region	416-930-7552 jd_piperboy@hotmail.com
Iain Dewar	Durham Region	idewar@rogers.com
Mike Chisolm	Greater Vancouver Area	604-628-8140 <a href="http://bagpipervancouver.com">http://bagpipervancouver.com</a>
Callum Gauthier	Ottawa / Rideau River / Toronto	613-620-1014 Callum.gauthier5@gmail.com callum.gauthier@mail.utoronto.ca

Speaker	Topic(s)	Contact Info
Christine Woodstock	Scottish Genealogy	Genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com
Rory Sinclair	Scottish History and Culture	<a href="http://www.caledoncounty.com">http://www.caledoncounty.com</a> rorygus.sinclair@outlook.com

# Games, Festivals and Other Events

As of publication, check the CASSOC [website](#) for the latest listings.

**As of time of publication, the following events are not known to be cancelled or postponed. Online/virtual events are provided if known. Please verify status with the event organizers**

Date	Event/Location/Info
JBA	Manitoba Highland Gathering, East Selkirk, MB, <a href="https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/">https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/</a>
Jun 28	A Celebration of Highland Games and Festivals, Virtual, <a href="http://www.cassoc.ca/">http://www.cassoc.ca/</a>
Jul 15-19	Festival of Tartans & Highland Games, New Glasgow, NS, <a href="http://www.festivalofthetartans.ca">www.festivalofthetartans.ca</a>
Jul 25	Sherwood Park Highland Gathering, Sherwood Park, AB, <a href="https://www.aspd.ca/sherwood-park-highland-gathering-july-25-2020">https://www.aspd.ca/sherwood-park-highland-gathering-july-25-2020</a>
Aug	Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games A “Wee Online Ceilidh” <a href="http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/">http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/</a>
Aug 1	Annual Highlands Village Day Concert, Iona, NS <a href="https://highlandvillage.novascotia.ca/what-see-do/la-mor-bhaile-highland-village-day">https://highlandvillage.novascotia.ca/what-see-do/la-mor-bhaile-highland-village-day</a>
Aug 15	National Capital Highland Games Ottawa, ON <a href="https://nationalcapitalhighlandgames.com">https://nationalcapitalhighlandgames.com</a>
Sep 4-13	Kitchen Fest - Cape Breton Island Ceilidh - Colaisdena Gàidhlig Cape Breton Island, NS <a href="http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/kitchenfest">http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/kitchenfest</a>
Sep 9-13	Feile Seamus Creagh - a festival of traditional Irish & NL music, song, dance St. John’s, Ferryland, Bay Bulls, Freshwater (Carbonear) <a href="http://www.nltradfest.com/">http://www.nltradfest.com/</a>
Sep 11-13	Festival Celtique de Québec Québec, QC <a href="http://festivalceltique.com/">http://festivalceltique.com/</a>
Sep 19	Ontario Ancestors - Virtual AGM Virtual <a href="http://conference2020.ogs.on.ca">http://conference2020.ogs.on.ca</a>
Fall	Celtic Island Festival, Toronto Island, ON, <a href="https://stpatrikstoronto.com/celtic-island-2019/">https://stpatrikstoronto.com/celtic-island-2019/</a>
Oct 9-17	NS - Celtic Colours At Home Virtual Experience <a href="http://celtic-colours.co/">http://celtic-colours.co/</a>



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FOOD

COLLECTIONS

DEALS

## A new resource feature for members

One of the most viewed items on our website is our list of Member groups (after the Tartans of Canada and the Events list).

When a site visitor scrolls the list and clicks on a member group's name, a 'page' of information about that group opens. This information is similar to what can be found in our Highland Games Information Binder that is available when CASSOC is able to set up a display table at the Games or Festivals.

We are in the process of creating a printable PDF of this page of information that site visitors can then download, save and print for themselves. As well as the clan crest, tartans, a short history and other information, the page will also contain the web address for the group's website and (if available) Facebook presence. If you scroll all the way down the member group's online page, it will say, "For a printable PDF of this page, click [HERE](#)." We have also put an icon with hyperlink for a PDF at the top. Please try it and see.

Just to let you know, not all the PDF pages have been created yet, but we are working down the list. If you have any questions, please ask.

Please check your group's page on the website to make sure that all the information is correct. If not, please notify [webadmin@cassoc.ca](mailto:webadmin@cassoc.ca).

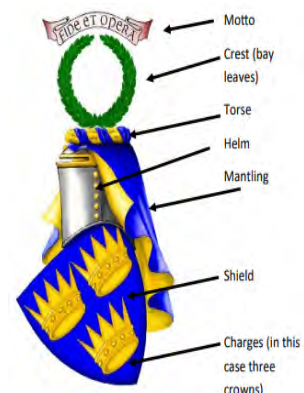
## Court of the Lord Lyon : Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

The Court of the Lord Lyon has launched a simple heraldry course, intended primarily to add to the activities parents can enjoy with their children while at home together. Several weeks of lessons have been posted on the Lyon Court blog. The first lesson can be found at:

<http://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/IsolationHeraldryLesson1.pdf>

The other lessons can be found at

<https://officeofthelordlyon.blogspot.com>



# Membership, Group News and Updates

## Membership Report 24 April 2020

To date, we have 38 Clans, including 5 new members, 5 Societies, 5 Games and 3 Business groups for a total of 51 members.

Member Groups are encouraged to submit news to this regular column in An Drochaid. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month of issue - March, June, September, and December.

## Member Roll - As of date of publication

### CLANS

Clan BELL North America  
Family of BRUCE International, Inc.  
Clan CAMERON Canadian Branch  
Clan CARRUTHERS Society International  
Clan CHISHOLM Society - Canada Branch  
Clan DAVIDSON Society of North America  
ELLIOT Clan Society of Canada  
Clan FORBES Society, Inc  
House of GORDON Canada  
Clan GRAHAM Society Inc  
Clan GREGOR Society - Canada Chapter  
Clan HUNTER Association of Canada  
Clan IRWIN Association  
Clan KINCAID Association International  
Clan LACHLAN Association of Canada Inc.  
Clan LESLIE Society International  
Clan LOGAN Society of Canada  
The Clan MACALPINE Society  
Clan MACAULAY Association  
Clan MACDOUGALL Society of North America  
Clan MACEWEN Society  
Clan MACFARLANE Worldwide  
MACFIE Clan Society in Canada

# Membership, Group News and Updates

International Association of Clan MACINNES

The Clan MACKAY Association of Canada

The Clan MACKENZIE Society of Canada

Clan MACLELLAN of America

Clan MACLENNAN Canada

Clan MACLEOD Societies of Canada

Clan MACNEIL in Canada Association

Clan MACPHERSON

Clan MACRAE Society of Canada

Clan MACTHOMAS

Clan MUNRO Association of Canada

MURRAY Clan Society of North America

Clan PRINGLE North America

Clan SINCLAIR Association of Canada

The STEWART Society, Canada Branch

## **Associations**

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association – NBSCA Scottish Studies Foundation

Ontario Ancestors: THE Ontario Genealogical Society

Scottish Studies Foundation

St Andrew's Society of Toronto

Westman Scottish Association

## **Festivals**

CALEDONIA Celtic Festival

COBOURG Highland Games Society

FERGUS Scottish Festival & Highland Games

KINCARDINE Scottish Festival & Highland Games

KINGSVILLE Highland Games

## **Businesses**

Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd.

Taylor's Tartans

ScotlandShop

# Clan Bell North America - Celebrating Bell Anthropologists

***Diane Bell***



Educated at the Australian National University, Hampshire College, Monash University, and Monash University Faculty of Arts, Diane R. Bell is an Australian activist, author and feminist anthropologist. She has a particular focus on human rights, Indigenous land rights, and Indigenous religions of the Aboriginal people of Australia, environmental issues and on violence against women. She is Chair of the River, Lakes and Coorong Action Group Inc., Writer and Editor in Residence at Flinders University, SA; Visiting Professor at University of Adelaide, SA; and Professor Emerita of Anthropology at The George Washington University, DC. Diane's written works have been awarded a NSW Premier's Literary Award, short listed for the Age Book of the Year Award, the Queensland Premier's History Award, and the Australian Literary Society Gold Medallion.

Article submitted by Stephanie Bell-Clements Adams

***Genevieve Bell***



Daughter of Diane Bell, Genevieve Bell is a cultural anthropologist, technologist and futurist educated at Stanford University and Bryn Mawr College. Her work strives to connect cultural traditions and technological progress. She spent 18 years at Intel in developing the company's capabilities in design research and social science. Inducted into the Women In Technology International Hall of Fame in 2012. February 2017 she joined the Australian National University (ANU) College of Engineering and Computer Science. September 2017, established and became the Director of the 3A Institute; Genevieve is the inaugural appointee to the Florence Violet McKenzie Chair, and a Distinguished Professor at ANU. She is also a Vice President and Senior Fellow at Intel Corporation and the first SRI International Engelbart Distinguished Fellow. She has published over 30 journal articles and holds 12 patents. In the 2020 Australia Day Honours, Genevieve Bell was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, for distinguished service to education, particularly to the social sciences and cultural anthropology.



# Clan Bell North America - President's Message

## Looking Forward to Better Days

First and foremost, we hope you and your families are safe and well. We emphasize this good advice: "Be a barrier, not a carrier."

The COVID-19 pandemic and various necessary state orders to "shelter in place" or "stay at home" seemed to make every day like the one before: another announcement from some organization or business about social distancing; or another disappointing notice cancelling another Scottish game. Good news seemed to be limited to being able to purchase a package of toilet paper in the store or getting a surgical mask from Amazon.

## Time for some positive changes!

The shelter in place orders are being revised in some states now, so the Scottish games may proceed as planned in the coming months. Your Clan Bell has prepared for this welcome change in several ways:

There is a lot of interesting Bell history information on the 2x5 foot vinyl banners we have for our tents, but we did discover some changes we needed to make to be more inclusive. At the games in Montreal in 2019, there were many Bells who only speak French; it was fun to meet them, but the language barrier was a struggle. Our tent banners are now translated into French to support our tents in Canada. We are looking forward to displaying banners in the language of the French-speaking Bells. Accessible informational materials are a great way to welcome these Bells and get them excited about our international Bell family.

The Clan Bell Shop has now moved to Colorado under the management of Marian Bell-Jaeger. Even though the response to the COVID-19 pandemic limits what we can do today, there are things you could order now to get ready for better days ahead.

You can select items to order from the current catalogue at [http://www.clanbell.org/docs/CBNA\\_Catalog.pdf](http://www.clanbell.org/docs/CBNA_Catalog.pdf) and then send an email about what items you want to order to: [Shop@clanbell.org](mailto:Shop@clanbell.org). Your email communication with the shop allows a review of what is in stock, the actual shipping costs, and discounts for our Clan Bell tent commissioners.

Slainte mhort

Joseph L. Bell



# Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter

## My Clan Gregor Society Mentors



In the fall of 1991 I began the journey of exploring my MacGregor roots and heritage with a detailed letter to the Secretary inquiring into eligibility and requirements for membership. A warm hand written letter (yes, with an envelope and stamps!) from Ishbel McGregor arrived a month later confirming my acceptance and advising that a local Gregor would soon be in contact to discuss the Society and potential membership.

As is often the case when seen in the rear view mirror, the rest is history. Within a month one evening there was a soft knock on the door and a stranger introduced himself only as Petrie, sent by Clan Gregor to discuss my interests in the Clan and Society. I was taken by his warm, kind face and generous nature and invited him in. We talked for hours.

**Meet mentor number one.** Norm Petrie, or Petrie as he called himself, was a proud native Scot and a trove of information on all things Scottish and in particular MacGregor. He was patient with my many questions and made things come alive at a time when I was hungry for answers. Petrie believed it was most important that our understanding of Clan heritage be accurate and our celebrations of Scottish customs and traditions respectful of their cultural origins and significance.

He became a very close friend and we would meet regularly and often for hours. Along the way he inspired me to become involved with the Society and the importance of helping to further its purpose through active participation in the local Great Lakes Chapter. He invited me to a local Chapter Council meeting and introduced me to Jean Andelson.



Wayne MacGregor Parker

**Meet mentor number two.** Jean Skinner Andelson was Chair of the Great Lakes Chapter. In fact, in many ways, she was the Chapter. Jean understood people. She masterfully engaged folks with an inspiring blend of storytelling, salesmanship and engagement. Her presentation and infectious way of asking all but assured those listening were almost certain that they simply could not go another day without signing up or becoming involved.

She built up the Chapter through force of personality and consistent contact and messaging. In

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no time she had me first on Council and later in training as her replacement as Chair. During my time as Chair she remained an inspiration, stalwart support and close friend. At some point in our discussions on Clan history, she introduced me to Chapter Historian (and now North American Council Representative) Keith MacGregor.

**Meet mentor number three.** Keith was (and still is) an inspiration to me. Building on the foundation of Clan history from Petrie and Jean, Keith took me on journeys to explore, uncover and understand our history from a wide range of perspectives and original sources. Keith taught the importance of taking a 360 degree look at history through the lens of context and the times and circumstances in which it was taking place. He has an amazing talent for understanding and relaying how specific related events influenced the broad sweep of Gregor history. Keith's background in media comes through in his ability to bring these events to life and in contemporaneous sequence. Under Keith's mentorship I have continued to learn and grow in my understanding of what it means to be a Gregor and what I need to be willing to do to help further the efforts of the Society. Before the 2009 International Gathering Keith urged me to meet and spend some time with Peter Lawrie as another important resource for Gregor history and heritage.

**Meet mentor number four.** Peter Lawrie is Vice Chairman of the Society and one of its most prominent historians. While I knew him best as Editor of our Newsletter, at my first Gathering and subsequent ones since, I have come to know Peter as a scholar and historian. The detailed notes that accompanied our daily coach tours at the Gatherings were largely Peter's work. Every town we go through and every place where something relevant to Gregors (and Scots) happened was detailed and articulated in the comprehensive notes. I have come to appreciate that Peter is precise in his recounting of historical facts and resistant to speculation and unfounded imaginings. This is most useful to me when dealing with the many urban myths and trendy notions of revisionist history that are so prevalent today at Games and other Scottish events. As a Gregor, ignorant Campbell bashing out of context comes to mind.

I respect Peter for his penchant for accurate detail and look forward to continuing to learn from him in these matters. There are others that could be mentioned that have all helped to round out and influence my understanding of my heritage. The purpose in mentioning these four mentors is to illustrate the profound effect we can have on others at a time when they are seeking. Every single person who inquires, comes to our tent at Games, attends a meeting or Gathering is seeking some sense of how they fit in and what it all means. As members of the Society we each have the opportunity to positively assist and affect their journey in positive ways. I am grateful for the time and vision these mentors have given me and am mindful that the most important way for me to honour them is to give their gift back to others.

**Wayne MacGregor Parker**

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# Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter

## Announcing Sister Chapters

Often labouring as a volunteer can feel overwhelming when managing the work of the Society on top of our day jobs and other responsibilities. Sometimes it is important to know that we are not alone. The very essence of Clan is one of utilizing the shared resources and strengths inherent in binding together in common purpose. Here's one success story that can perhaps inspire sharing of resources and assistance to other struggling Chapters. The Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter and the Great Lakes Chapter (based in Ohio) are pleased to announce that we have entered into a Sister Chapter relationship. In this informal arrangement we agreed to share our Newsletters, ideas, best practices, successes and failures in a joint effort to promote and further the aims and objectives of the Society in our respective territories. Two areas of particular focus will be finding and securing new members and the ongoing development and mentoring of future leaders to ensure we have a pool of talented members coming through the ranks.

This summer Clan Gregor Canada participated in this helping hand across the Border exercise. Working together was a meaningful experience that illustrated what the common bond of clan can accomplish when resources and talents are extended and shared. It began in early January when Society Council member and North American Rep Keith MacGregor alerted me that the Great Lakes Chapter was foundering and in search of new leadership and rejuvenated membership. As past Chair of the Great Lakes Chapter from 1995-2003 my perspective was sought by Council. Some names and faces were still familiar and so we reached out. Chair Marcia Ebert was looking to retire and asking for help. With a list of names to contact we began a search for a new Chair and Editor.

After a number of contacts we were most fortunate to have Joseph Greer agree to serve as Chair, Patrick MacGregor as Editor and Marcia Ebert as Treasurer. Canada Chapter Council member Bill Petrie and I agreed to travel to Lorain Ohio to attend the Ohio Scottish Games in late June. Working together at the Games provided a great opportunity to meet with the new leadership, mentor the process of prospect and membership development, as well as re-connect with



*Wayne MacGregor Parker, William Petrie, Patrick MacGregor, Joseph Greer and Marcia Ebert*

# Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter

familiar faces from years gone by. It was a successful day and concluded with a fun group dinner where Marcia was recognized for her past service. In addition it was particularly special to have long serving Great Lakes President David McGregor and his wife Kathi in attendance at the Games and at dinner.

Since that time, Chapter executives have been in regular contact. There have been many useful exchanges. A particular highlight was having Chairman Joseph Greer travel north to spend a very busy day at the Canada Chapter tent at the Fergus Games here in Ontario in August. Joe came to study how we engage prospects and draw them into discussions on our Clan's history with a goal of piquing interest in membership in the Society. As it turns out we were swamped that day and grateful for Joe's help as we booked 10 new members and sold \$230.00 of T-shirts! Canada and United States are proud to share a long and open Border across the vast continent of North America.

In many ways we share similar cultural roots with the largest number of migrants coming from Scotland, Ireland and England. Our countries were shaped by the common values of brave souls who struck out for the new world to build a life based on freedom and self-determination. Today our two Chapters are composed of this diaspora. We share this heritage, we share a common border and now we share this common bond.

There is a stone cairn erected on the Canada/US Border at Fort Erie that simply states, "Dedicated to the longest unguarded border in the history of man. Let this be a lesson in peace to all mankind that brothers can dwell together in unity." This is something to be proud of. Welcome brothers and sisters of the Great Lakes Chapter.

*Yours Aye,*

**Wayne MacGregor Parker**

**Chairman Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter**



**Steven Logan, Wayne MacGregor Parker, Jerry Hanson, Joseph Greer, William Petrie**

# Clan Hunter Association



## From the Clan Officer, Tom Hunter

Greetings Clanfolk, Well, I would love to list off all the exciting things that Clan Hunter is doing this Spring and Summer but to no one's surprise it seems everything is cancelled. Madam Pauline's visit is cancelled, The Fergus Highland Games and virtually all the Games throughout the country are cancelled and over in the UK the International Gathering at Hunterston is cancelled. It is also so very unfortunate that the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown is causing so many folks to be unemployed and so many of our small businesses may not be able to re-open when restrictions are finally lifted. But some wonderful landlords are waiving rent until folks get

back to a regular wage and that is so good to hear.

**It is with this thought in mind that we have decided that we will not be asking for a membership fee from any of our members for the season 2020-2021. If you have already paid your 2020-2021 dues we will automatically forward it to 2021-2022.**

I hope everyone is managing to keep clear of the virus and stay safe. Christine and I are keeping well and are obeying all the rules of distancing and hand washing. We miss being able to hug our grandkids but that is the sacrifice we must make. We do manage to have "long distance" chats on either end of the driveway with our family as they furnish us with groceries etc. We were chatting this week about material for the newsletter and as you can imagine with everyone in lockdown there is little to report on, which made us think... OK so what are folks doing with their time and so to start things off we have a few examples of what some folk are doing and we invite you to send us a photo of your activity for the next newsletter. You can be serious or funny, it's up to you, but we would love to hear from you. I had an email this week from a member who just wanted to know how we were doing. I was really touched and it helped me remember that we are all family. Please stay well everyone and if you can, check in with someone who may be lonely.



**Tom**

# Clan Hunter Association - Clan Hunter in Isolation

There's not necessarily a lot to report on when everyone is staying home. It doesn't look like there will be any highland games to attend this summer. There are no events taking place. Nothing terribly note-worthy. But we are still a clan, a family, so we thought we'd share some



Lynn Hunter Ball ([linseybeecreations.com](http://linseybeecreations.com)) makes amazing crocheted stuffies. Now teaching her English language learners preschool class online, she has still found time to crochet up a zoo!



Dale Hunter has had his mom move in with him and they have been getting out by walking everyday! Daphne is providing virtual ukulele lessons via FaceTime.



Tom (Clan Officer) and Christine Hunter have been filling their days "reading" books. Or at least holding onto them while having a wee doze after a cuppa



Isla has set up a SNAIL house for Sampson, Butter, Florence and Samantha. Does the tank look familiar? If you look closely, you might be able to spot it in her nana & papa's sunroom. But don't worry, it was removed safely, using every precaution—and she did not pinch it while they were dozing

# Clan Logan Society International



## Origin of our Celtic Culture & Gaidhlig Language

By James C. Logan, President

It is generally accepted that the Scots are a part of the Celtic World. One can think of the Celts (pronounced with a hard “C” or “K” sound) as fierce ancient warriors, and as the people with remarkable cultural traits shared with others, including the Scots, the Irish and the Welch, as well as their unique Celtic or Gaelic languages.

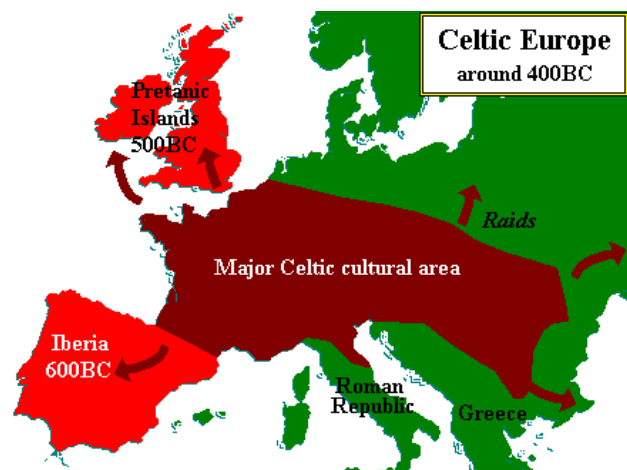
The Celtic languages have a common but very ancient origin – a Proto-Celtic Language. The Proto-Celtic language is a branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Other branches of the Indo-European families include most of the languages spoken in Europe, as well as many of the languages spoken in the Middle East and Indian sub-continent.

There are two prevalent theories about the origin of the Celts/Gaels. The traditional origin is that the Celtic Culture and associated languages originated in Central Europe and spread westward across Europe to the British Isles, and spread eastward to the western parts of Turkey. Archaeology discoveries indicate well established Celtic cultural populations were in the regions just north of the rise of the ancient Greek and Roman Empires.

A more recent alternative theory is that the Celtic Culture and languages originated in

Western Europe, along the western coasts of France and Spain, and spread eastward, and eventually northward into the British Isles. The spread of this ancient Celtic culture/ language (before the eras of the great Greek and Roman Empires) was possibly spurred on by extensive trade, and the need to communicate with customers and trading partners.

Archaeology and ancient historians favor the traditional theory but DNA does not seem to support either theory at the present time. It could have happened either way.



Map produced for The Ireland Story. This map may be used elsewhere provided a link is given to [www.irelandstory.com](http://www.irelandstory.com), the site is non-profit and the map is not modified.

The traditional theory also relies on the writings of ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as the folklore of the Irish, Scots and Welch. Unfortunately, a written Celtic language that might have recorded the history of the Celts from their viewpoint had to await the introduction of Christianity to the British Isles in the 5th Century AD. Early Christian monks developed a written form of Gaelic using the 18



letter Latin alphabet in use at that time. So there are no firsthand accounts from the ancient Celts themselves, only the somewhat biased writings of ancient Greek and Roman historians.

In the traditional origin story, the Celts were ancient warriors that once, maybe 2500 years ago or more, ranged from the Middle East across Europe, from Turkey to Germany, France and Spain, and eventually to the British Isles. The ancient people of Galatians mentioned in the 9th Book of the New Testament Bible, were located in Eastern Turkey from about the 3rd Century BC on -- and according to the Greeks, were Celtic language speakers. They were later annihilated by the conquering Moslems.

History records that the ancient Pre-Christian Era Celtic warriors ravaged and terrified the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. At one time, in 390 BC, they even sacked Rome itself! Traditionally, the Celts were forced westward by the expansion of the Roman Empire and the rise of the Germanic tribes. Eventually the Celts took refuge in the Islands of Ireland and Britain while traces of the Celtic culture and languages slowly disappeared or were replaced by other cultures on the European Continent. The Roman Province of Galatia in Western Spain, during the 1st Century BC, were said to be speakers of a Celtic (or Gaelic) language.

In Scotland, the Scots and other northern

tribes like the Picts, thwarted the advance of the Roman Empire. By 43 AD, the Roman Empire had subdued the Germanic Tribes and added France, Spain and most of England (Britannia) to the Empire. About 83 AD, the Romans started looking to the north of Britan-



nia for valuable minerals, timber and farm lands. In 122 AD, the Romans began building a fortified stone wall, Hadrian's Wall, to keep the barbarian tribes of the north out of Britannia. Hadrian's Wall stretched across the Island for about 80 Roman miles (117.5 km) – which eventually came to be the southern border of the future Kingdom of Scotland. By 142 AD, the Romans, as part of their effort to subdue the tribes in Southern Scotland, built (or rather dug a trench) a fortified barrier, the An-

# Clan Logan Society International

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tonine Wall, stretching 36.5 mi (58.5 km) from the Firth of Forth to the River Clyde. It was to repel the tribes from the north while isolating the tribes of the Scottish Lowlands.

Map from Wikipedia, free online encyclopedia.

Today, the Celtic cultural traits belong to people now confined to the western limits of Europe. They are uniquely known for their music, their arts, their poetry, and their spirit. They include Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, Wales, Cornwall in England, Brittany in Northwestern France, and Galatia in northwestern Spain. They may not share the same language, but the various Celtic or Gaelic languages of each Celtic group share the common Proto-Celtic Language origin.

So why do the Celts sport different languages? All languages evolve over the millennia, and in isolation from each other, the languages of common origin evolve somewhat differently, eventually leading to the many different languages, but with a common source.

Traditionally\*, the Celtic languages are divided into the Continental Celtic (of Continental Europe) and the Insular Celtic (of the British Isles). The Insular Celtic is further divided into the Goidelic and Brythonic Languages.

Goidelic Languages includes the Gaelic Languages of Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, and Manx. They share a common origin but are

considered separate languages in their own right. Brythonic Languages are those historically spoken on the Island of Britain and include Welsh, Cornish and Breton. Breton is included because of a fluke of History when Breton speaking Celts arrived in Brittany in the 5th Century AD, -- Breton is now spoken in Brittany, the north west corner of France.

At early times, the language throughout the Island of Britain, including Scotland was once Brythonic, with the exception of the Pictish tribes. No one knows for sure what the language was like that they spoke, but it could have been a Celtic language. Over time, the various invasions from Europeans replaced the native languages, leaving only Cornish and Breton in the far west, and introduced Goidelic versions of the language to the westward islands of Scotland, and to the north and west of Scotland and Wales. Further evolution of the language produced enclaves of the three Gaelic languages of today.

Why is this topic of interest? It is because our name sake "*Logan*" comes from the Gaelic word "*laggan*" which means little valley or little hollow. So *Clann Lògan* written in Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) translates to the *children of the little valley*. As a Scottish clan, we trace our origins among the Gaelic speaking Celts of the British Isles.

Gaelic was probably the language of our Logan ancestors before the 2nd Century AD. As the Romans retreated from Great Britain, Scotland

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was split up between a number of kingdoms. Notably, the Kingdom of Dàl Riada expanded from Ireland to the western Iles of Scotland. Our Logan ancestors served the Kings of Dàl Riada\*\*, emerging as knights and land holders in the 5th through the 7th Centuries, thereafter, to serve all the Kings of Scotland. In the Lowlands by the 10th Century, the Logans

probably spoke Scots. In the Highlands, in Easter Ross, the Logans may have spoken Gàidhlig, but more than likely they also spoke Scots.

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\* Jennifer Paxton, **The Celtic World**, The Teaching Company Publisher, Chantilly VA 2018.

\*\*Major George J.M. Logan Home, **History of the Logan Family**, George Waterston & Sons LTD, Edinburgh, 1934.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE CLAN LOGAN OF CANADA STEVEN LOGAN

*Clan Logan Society Commissioner for Canada*



LE REGIMENT DE MAISONNEUVE LEVEE DAY 2020  
Steven Logan and Capt. Patrick Barriault



LE REGIMENT DE MAISONNEUVE LEVEE DAY 2020  
Master-Corporal Hughes, Steven Logan and Sergeant Soldevilla



MONTREAL BURNS NIGHT 2020  
Sterling Downey and his wife Melissa Proietti, Steven Logan and Laurent Audar

# Clan Logan Society International



**MONTREAL BURNS NIGHT 2020**  
*Drinking for the quaich (from left to right): Marilyn Meikle, Melissa Proietti, Sterling Downey, Jeff McCarthy and Scott MacKenzie*



**ST. PAUL'S BURNS SUPPER 2020**  
*Benoit, Lynn, Laurent Audar, Steven Logan, & Isabelle Laflamme*



**WOMEN'S DIVISION & REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY 2020**  
*Regimental parade, Lt. Colonel Bruno Plourde (far right) gives orders.*



**BLACK WATCH HIGHLAND DINNER 2020**  
*Our table enjoying the music given by The Black Watch Pipes and Drums!*

# Clan Munro Association of Canada



Along with all other groups, CMAC had been looking forward to a summer of meeting old friends and making new friends at the various Highland Games and Festivals. However, this was not to be because of the pandemic. We have fond memories of last year and are looking forward to renewing these friendships and gatherings next year. CMAC is also continuing with its newsletter four times a year.

Currently, Clan Munro Association, USA Branch, has plans for a Gathering in Branson, MO, for the weekend of 9-11 Oct and Jo Ann M Tuskin and others would participate in this as representatives of Clan Munro Canada.

# Clan Munro Association of Canada



## Frae the President's Pen

Dear Cousins,

Well, it's been a tumultuous few months, hasn't it? I hope you and your families are coming through this challenge relatively unscathed. For those of you who have experienced illness or have lost loved ones, please accept my heartfelt sympathies.

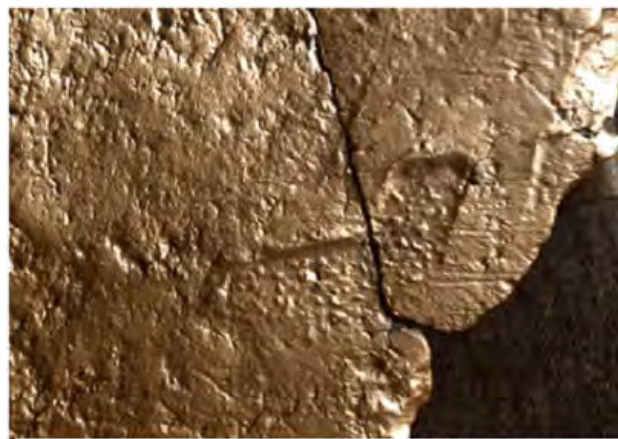
As someone who is confined to quarters due to past indulgences, I am grateful to those friends who drop by with treats or who are regular shoppers on my behalf. This is, of course, the positive side of a crisis. There always seem to be some exceptional people who are driven to great acts of compassion, bravery and hard-working dedication. To all these generous folks, wherever they may be, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing them all a very big 'Thank You'!

Britain is still reeling from the over 40,000

deaths they've experienced due to Covid-19—second only in numbers of Corona virus fatalities to the United States. But there are some shadowy indications that the worst is over, and that life can start to creep towards normalcy. I'd be satisfied if I could visit my grandson in London soon, without the risk of being arrested, though I think the police have been less than stringent in that regard since the PM's most senior aide, Dominic Cummings, was caught driving 260 miles from London to Durham and back, at the end of last month.

I read an article recently on how people in Shetland and Orkney are coping with Coronavirus. Tracing the introduction and spread of the virus on the islands has been relatively easy given the sparse populations there, but this hasn't stopped residents from pulling together to help one another.

Also, on Orkney, in some non-CV19 related news, The Scotsman reported on June 2nd that a trace of what might be the oldest evidence of woven cloth has been found by a



*The impression of the Z-shaped cord and indentations of the fibres on the clay pot. PIC: UHI Copyright: JPIMedia*

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team from the University of the Highlands and Islands, impressed upon a 5000 year old fragment of clay pottery. "It is believed that the impression was made as the potter's clothing pressed into the vessel, with some of the fabric's individual fibres trapped in the clay."

If you ever get the chance to travel to the northern islands of Shetland or Orkney, I strongly recommend a visit. They are incredibly atmospheric, and the islands' rich and colourful history is redolent in almost every nook and cranny. St Magnus Cathedral on Orkney and Shetland's Neolithic settlement at Jarlshof are just two of thousands of sites to visit on these islands.



*Jarlshof Shetland Photo – Otter, CC-BY-SA 3.0*

And this hot off the press – BBC News is pleased to advise that on June 7th a fox cub was released safely from an abandoned wheel, by firefighters in Knightswood, Glas-

gow. The rescue squad used cutting tools to free the cub, who appeared to be unharmed as he ran off into nearby woods.

Globally, we still face huge challenges dealing



*Photo: Knightswood Community Fire Station, June 2020*

with Coronavirus, the impact of the tragic death of George Floyd and the political rumblings that seem to be happening everywhere – oh yes, and there's the meltdown of the world's economy, as well. To quote a line from a cheery little ditty in Irving Berlin's 1932 musical 'Face the Music', "Just around the corner there's a rainbow in the sky. So let's have another cup of coffee and let's have another piece of pie."

May I wish you all a safe and happy Summer.

Yours aye,

**John**



# Clan MacFarlane Worldwide



Clan MacFarlane Worldwide has kept busy this year but almost everywhere had a disappointing season for the Highland Games and unprecedented cancellations during this crazy time with COVID-19. Unfortunately most organizations seem to be in the same situation trying to continue with their meetings by virtual methods the best way they can in order to conduct and continue business and keep in touch with members. Gatherings may continue to be cancelled for some time to come due to restrictions on large groups and safety concerns.

In the meantime, we have continued work on a new website and our marketing committee has continued to work on updated purpose,

mission and vision statements and getting approvals for these from the executive. Clan MacFarlane was able to attend a few games & festivals in the USA earlier this year before COVID-19 changed everything. In Canada where the season starts later no games have been held that we know about. What a disappointment to all after such a long winter of cold weather and more recent lock downs and isolation. Most hoped to get on the road and connect with clan friends and socialize but that was not to be.

Highland Games in Canada as well as all festivals have been cancelled until the end of the year in Ontario at least and most of the other

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provinces and territories also have restrictions that vary. Apparently the USA also cancelled many of their large gatherings but some states may be opening up more although time will tell.

The San Antonio Highlands Game and Music Festival cancelled in April. For that reason our clan was sadly not able to join in the Kilts and Cowboy Boots Clan Gathering experiment with the Colquhouns, MacGregors and Scotts.

<https://www.clancolquhoun.com/gathering-3/>

The Clan MacFarlane tour to Scotland for July has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled for next year. Currently, all of the monthly executive meetings are being conducted through Google chat to keep up with monthly business and this has been working well.

Due to the fact that clans have missed out on games and festivals that we would normally attend during the season, Clan MacFarlane decided to host a 'Virtual Gathering' with our members and friends. Some of the noted speakers and presentations will be coming from Scotland so check it out.

## A message from President: Laurie MacFarland Jackson

Clan MacFarlane Worldwide (CMW) recognizes that due to the cancellation of Highland Games everywhere, feelings of social isolation are beginning to grow. We hope to offer some respite with a Digital Gathering to give you a virtual taste of a Scottish Game, so that we may continue to connect with our Scottish brethren around the globe. Please join us for some fun.

Watch the event recording at

[https://clanmacfarlane.org/public\\_html/events/digital-gathering-2020.html](https://clanmacfarlane.org/public_html/events/digital-gathering-2020.html)

Clan MacFarlane Worldwide presents  
**The Digital Gathering 2020**

Featuring:  
Opening Address by The Lord Lyon • Haggis Making with Elliot MacFarlane •  
Music from Highland Reign •  
Heritage with Dr. Bruce Durie • Travel Scotland with Janet Robertson •  
Highland Athletics with Gretchen Sell-Finley

# Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

## President's Report by Judy Tipple

As I greet you all the spring issue of The Leod Voice is in a race with time to get to you before summer arrives. I trust that everyone has evaded the Corona virus and is able to survive the lockdown and social distancing without severe difficulty. We will have a "new normal" when things open up and regular life begins again. Who knows what that will look and feel like.

It was encouraging to see the Kilt Skate continue again in 2019 connecting Canadian culture with our Scottish heritage. Toronto and possibly other areas took their event indoors to avoid the harsh weather.

In February I attended a symposium in Victoria put on by Simon Fraser University and the University of Victoria titled Coastal Scots: A Scholarly Overview. The symposium explored the lives and experiences of Scottish peoples in the coastal regions of Britain and North America underlining the ways in which the physical environment and Indigenous cultural geographies shaped the history of Scottish communities over the past three hundred years. The most fascinating part for me was to learn how the style and patterns of stitching, knitting and weaving were echoed and modified by early Scottish settlers and the native crafts folk they encountered in the regions of their new homeland.

Similarities and differences of designs and craft forms, of knitting and weaving patterns of Shetland, Cowichan and Cape Breton displayed an anatomy of cultural fusion.

Wendy Wickwire (Uvic) related researching her book *At the Bridge* in which she explores the life and legacy of James Teit (1864-1922), a young man who left the Shetland Isles to come to British Columbia.

As the COVID-19 pandemic keeps many of us

limited in our associations with friends and family we are very much affected by the cancellation of Highland Games and Festivals and have had to find other ways of staying connected. The

Internet and newsletters, both published and online, have become significant communication techniques. It is important to keep memberships renewed in order to maintain these contacts. I will miss meeting good friends at the North American Gathering in Livonia and being able to turn over the President's chain of office to Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese. This reminds me that we are looking for members to step forward to fill several executive roles. The Vice President position will be vacant as will the Treasurer position after our long serving Beth Macleod's retirement. Beth has carried out the treasurer's duties with exceptional efficiency and has organized the records of

CMSC in such a way that whoever takes over will have comfortable shoes to slip into. We can't thank Beth enough for her many years of exceptional service in the Treasurer position.

We are also in desperate need of someone to take over editorship of *The Leod Voice*, if it is to continue. There are countless areas for you to volunteer to help in local societies and I would encourage you to make the contact with a member of the executive and extend an offer to assist.

Becoming involved makes your membership so much richer and more enjoyable.



## What is Life Like in Scotland's Hebrides during the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Judy Tipple



An island off the coast of Scotland would seem like the perfect place to self-isolate during the Coronavirus pandemic. In some ways it is if you are healthy and don't need to come in contact with any other humans. Wandering over the hills and through the glens with only a few sheep to accompany you would be a pleasant way to spend your time. Living alone in a cottage with a well stocked pantry and a robust vegetable garden to supply you with fresh produce, along with a bookcase filled with favourite reading material sounds sublime.

But — oh yes, the garden hasn't been planted yet and last year's produce has all but been consumed. The local grocery is ten miles up the road, a little far to hike to very frequently. The local postie will be happy to take your order and deliver your needs the following week. This self-isolation can't last too long anyway, you think.

The remoteness of the Island would be a barrier to infection until someone arrived with the virus. Then it becomes an impediment for the treatment of patients. Hospital services and equipment are not plentiful in such a situation and this virus spreads rapidly and easily.

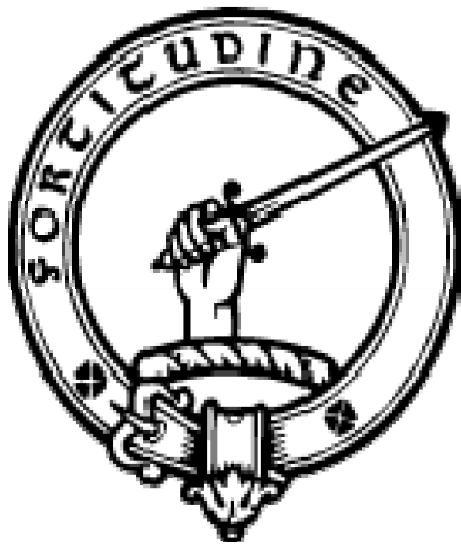
Sadly the virus did arrive on Skye, on April 3; the first case was found in a Care Home called Home Farm, in Portree. I read about the situation about

May 3 when 28 of the home's 34 residents and 26 of the 52 staff, many part time, had tested positive. The SNP MP Mr Blackford, representing Skye and Lochaber said having such an outbreak on Skye was "shocking and worrying". He pointed out that there were no ventilators CMSC Newsletter # 72, Page 4 on Skye and the nearest one was 112 miles away in Inverness. The Army set up a mobile testing site at Broadford as many care workers also work in that community.

The situation on Skye doesn't seem much different from anywhere else in the world during this COVID-19 pandemic. Where we go from here will remain to be seen. A "new normal" in the months ahead may not be recognizable to many of us.

In the meantime, communication is possible using the Internet and the dear old telephone. Meetings are still held via Skype, Zoom, Face-time, etc. But it's not the same as greeting each other with a hug or a hand shake.

# Clan MacRae Society of Canada



The Clan MacRae Society of Canada has had a very quiet year in Canada due to COVID-19. Our group is aging like many others and we need to bring in a few younger members who are more adept with virtual meetings and social media. In Canada most large gatherings have been cancelled until the end of the year. Usually at this time of the year we would be starting to have Highland Games and Festivals but almost everywhere there have been unprecedented cancellations. Unfortunately most organizations seem to be in the same situation trying to continue with their meetings by virtual methods the best way they can in order to conduct and continue their business and

communications with members. Gatherings may continue to be cancelled for some time to come due to restrictions on large groups and safety concerns.

In the meantime, Clan MacRae is still planning on having their AGM with a few members in White Rock, British Columbia, on June 27, at 12:00pm. It will be held at Sharon Clayton's home during the afternoon. If you plan to go to the AGM, please email Owen MacRae at [omacrae@telus.net](mailto:omacrae@telus.net). Fortunately Clan MacRae North America was able to attend a few games & festivals in the USA earlier this year before COVID-19 changed everything.

The Clan MacRae Family Gathering of April 2nd – 5th planned around the San Antonio Highland Games and Music Festival in Texas was cancelled. One event during this very special gathering had planned to honour the fallen heroes of the Alamo. Many of those that fell at the Alamo had Scottish ancestry or were even born in Scotland. Unfortunately, the unique chance to have this special service with attendants to be dressed in Tartan and laying a wreath on Tartan Day during the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath did not happen. **What had made this Gathering unique and special is that we'd honour those who died at the Alamo Friday night and also commemorate the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath. Seemed like divine timing to us. But it was not to be.**

2020 has been a very disappointing year for many so far. I am certain we will be ready to get together after this pandemic to share a dram or two and make up for the great times missed in 2020.

Sgurr Uaran!

# Clan MacRae Society of Canada



The Men in kilts. (L to R) John Duff, Daryl MacRae, Owen MacRae-President, Allen McRae-Treasurer, Bruce MacRae, Ken MacRae, Bill McRae, Charles McRae



MacRaes – All descendants of Rev. Farquhar MacRae. Troy, Trevor, Doreen, Owen, Emmerson, Miranda, Joanne, Cynthia, Bruce, and Ann.

The present Constable of Eilean Donan Castle "Miranda (MacRae) van Lynden is in the middle.

# Clan MacThomas



## Clan MacThomas

*By Grahame Thom, Council member, Clan MacThomas Society*

Thomas, a Gaelic speaking Highlander, known as Tomaidh Mor ('Great Tommy'), from whom the clan takes its name, was a descendant of the Clan Chattan Mackintoshes, his grandfather having been a son of William, 8th Chief of Clan Chattan.

Thomas lived in the 15th century, at a time when the Clan Chattan Confederation had become large and unmanageable and so he took his kinsmen and followers across the Grampians, from Badenoch to Glenshee where they

settled and flourished.

To the Government in Edinburgh, they were known as MacThomas and are so described in the Roll of the Clans in the Acts of the Scottish Parliament of 1587 and 1595 and MacThomas remains the official name of the Clan to this day.

The early chiefs of the Clan MacThomas were seated at the Thom, on the east bank of the Shee Water opposite the Spittal of Glenshee.

In about 1600, when the 4th Chief, Robert MacThomaidh of the Thom was murdered, the chiefship passed to his brother, John McComie of Finegand, about three miles down the Glen, which became the seat of the chiefs.

By now, the MacThomases had acquired a lot of property in the glen and houses were well established at Kerrow and Benzian with shielings up Glen Beag. The time was spent breeding cattle and fighting off those seeking to rustle them, one such skirmish, in 1606, being remembered as the Battle of the Cairnwell.

The 7th Chief was John McComie (Iain Mor) and his deeds have passed into the folklore of Perthshire and Angus, wherein he is generally known as 'McComie Mor'. The legends surrounding this Highland hero abound.

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Today, a large stone at the head of Glen Prosen is known as McComie Mor's Putting Stone. A nearby spring is named McComie Mor's well, while at the top of Glen Beannie, a rock shaped like a seat is called McComie Mor's Chair. During this time the clan extended its lands and influence into Glen Prosen and Strathardle and Iain Mor purchased the Barony of Forter in Glenisla from Lord Airlie.

On the restoration of Charles II in 1660, Iain Mor found himself in trouble with parliament, who fined him heavily. A crippling law suit ruined the MacThomases, and following Iain Mor's death, his remaining sons were forced to sell their lands.

The clan was drifting apart with some going south into the Tay valley changing their name to Thomson or into Angus and Fife where they became Thomas, Thom or Thoms. The 10th Chief, Angus, settled in Northern Fife where his family thrived as successful farmers until they moved to Dundee and became prosperous merchants, at the end of the 18th century, finally buying the estate of Aberlemno near Forfar.

Others moved north into Aberdeenshire, where the name became corrupted to

McCombie as well as the anglicised forms Thom and Thomson. In Aberdeenshire, the principal MacThomas family were the McCombie's of Easterskene, and it is one of their party, William McCombie of Tillyfour, M.P. for South Aberdeenshire at the end of the 19th century, who is today regarded as the father of the world famous Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle.

Patrick Hunter MacThomas Thoms of Aberlemno, 15th Chief, was Provost of Dundee from 1847 to 1853, while his heir, the eccentric George Hunter MacThomas Thoms, advocate, bon vivant and philanthropist, became Sheriff of Caithness, Orkney and Shetland in 1870.

In 1954, the Clan MacThomas Society was formed and 13 years later, George's great nephew, Patrick Watt MacThomas, was officially recognised by the Lyon Court by the historic designation 'The MacThomas of Finegand'. He died in 1970, being succeeded as 19th Chief, by his only son, Andrew MacThomas of Finegand in May 1970.

It was during his lifetime that the Clan's ancient gathering ground (the Cockstane) was purchased, the new bridge over Shee Water named after the family and the Clan's historic links with Glenshee firmly re-established. Tho-

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# Clan MacThomas

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mas, his only son, was born in the late 1980's.

Throughout Finegand's Chiefship, the Clan has always gathered in Glenshee. In the early days, the Gathering was a simple one day event with a small ceremony at Clach na Coil-each (the Cockstane) in the morning, followed by the local Highland Games and a Society dinner at the Spittal Hotel in the evening. After a one night stay and the AGM the next morning, members said their fond farewells.

Over the years, with the full backing of the 19th Chief, much has changed. The Clan Gathering now takes place every three years and has been significantly extended to make the journey to the Highlands of Scotland a much more worthwhile experience.

Next year, Andrew MacThomas of Finegand will have been Chief of the Clan MacThomas for 50 years. To mark this special occasion, a spectacular five day tour of Scotland has been arranged, which will include some of the historical sites associated with the Jacobite Rebellions of 1715 and 1745. This will be followed by the four day celebratory Clan Gathering based in Pitlochry, with activities in Glenshee and Glenisla.

The main sept names of our Clan are Combie, McColm, McComas, McComb, McCombe,

McCombie, McComie, McComish, MacOmie, MacOmish, Tam, Thom, Thomas, Thoms, and Thomson. For Thomas and Thomson, the link to Scotland is a connection with the eastern highland counties.

For more information about the Clan MacThomas please go to the clan's website at [www.clanmacthomas.org](http://www.clanmacthomas.org) or email Grahame at [grthom@bigpond.com](mailto:grthom@bigpond.com)

### ***Editor's note:***

***Finegand has been an Honoured Guest of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council in 1982. He is the Standing Council of Scottish Chief's Liaison Officer for Australia.***

Congratulations to Finegand (Andrew MacThomas of Finegand) for 50 years as the Chief of Clan MacThomas. To mark this special occasion, a spectacular five day tour of Scotland has been arranged, which will include some of the historical sites associated with the Jacobite Rebellions of 1715 and 1745. This will be followed by the four day celebratory Clan Gathering based in Pitlochry, with activities in Glenshee and Glenisla. This is subject to the impact of the corona virus pandemic. [www.clanmacthomas.org](http://www.clanmacthomas.org)

Grahame Thom

Clan MacThomas Society, Australia

[grthom@bigpond.com](mailto:grthom@bigpond.com)





Andrew MacThomas of Finegand leads Clan members Strathardle Games 2017



*Claire and Jamie in a marriage scene at Glencorse Kirk near Edinburgh (c) Sony Pictures Television Inc*

For more details click image or visit [https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/tv-film/outlander/?fbclid=IwAR3SB943TyDtpE35lConXh3yK5vxONPaRfCom4bnkLQ3Du9SVlptbW5-pEM&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook\\_global](https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/tv-film/outlander/?fbclid=IwAR3SB943TyDtpE35lConXh3yK5vxONPaRfCom4bnkLQ3Du9SVlptbW5-pEM&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_global)

# Clan Sinclair Association - From the President - Clan Sinclair Canada



## Remember to support each other in these difficult times

And suddenly the world has hanged. It's hard to comprehend the changes that have world in such a short period of time. It has been breathtaking. Perfectly normal activities such as shopping, visiting friends and family, travel, going to the pub for a pint, and even getting a haircut are out of reach. This past weekend was Mother's Day and I couldn't even visit my mother who lives on (Fortress) PEI, due to interprovincial travel restrictions.

In addition to all this dismal news we have experienced the horror of a mass shooting here in NS which took the lives of 22 innocent people. There was a clan connection to this tragedy. As the news was unfolding that morning I received an email from our friend Rev. Bill

Abers from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Bill is a retired Presbyterian minister and he and his wife Sally are members of Clan Sinclair, USA. A friend from his church and his wife had moved to Portapique, NS in 2017. Bill was asking if we had heard any news about the identities. Unfortunately, Bill's friends lost their lives in this horrific event. I expressed the condolences to the Abers of everyone at CSAC.

Our 2020 gathering in Caithness this July has been cancelled as a disappointment to all those who had planned to attend, especially for those making their first trip to Scotland. Having been to Caithness many times I was, along with other Caithness 'veterans' such as Rory and Mary, especially looking forward to showing the 'newbies' around.

As disappointing as it is for us visitors, it is equally disappointing to our host John Thurso, Chief Malcolm, all the Sinclairs of Caithness as well as the hotels, restaurants and pubs. Let's hope this turns out to be just a one-year deferment ... time will tell.

I want to express our appreciation to those who organized the gathering for us. I also want to thank our good friend Jim Sinclair for organizing the Canadian delegation.

Given the severity of the Covid situation, my impression from talking to many people is that they have taken some comfort from the ef-

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# Clan Sinclair Association of Canada

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forts of our Prime Minister and the federal government during this time. It will never be perfect but the PM appears to be very sincere in dealing with this crisis to help Canadians as much as possible. I have ordered a silk Sinclair tartan tie which I will have delivered to the PM as a gift from CSAC. He is "half" Sinclair after all.

I want to recognize several clan members for their efforts on behalf of CSAC. First of all, thanks to Greg Morandi who arranged to have photos from last summer's Winnipeg gathering placed on our website.

I also want to thank my aunt Joan Sinclair for taking on the role of editor of Roslin O' Roslin as well as Toni Sinclair's support in the transition. Finally I want to express our thanks to George Sinclair, our secretary, for his tireless efforts in expanding our membership and being the official "greeter" to new members.

Two practical things I might suggest to keep in mind. First of all, in times of distress, financial scammers increase their activity via email and phone scams and seniors are often the target. And try to keep in touch with family, neighbours, and friends who live alone. This can be a very lonely time for people who live by themselves.

This summer is going to be very different with cancellations and restrictions on public gatherings, including Highland games, music festivals etc. Let's hope it's just a one-year deferral.



*President Roger Sinclair and his daughter Abigail*

We Sinclairs have been in this country since the 1700s and have persevered through previous pandemics, world wars, and economic crises. Look after yourselves, your families and your communities ... we will get through this together.

Yours aye,

Roger

# Scottish Studies Foundation

## Appointment of Chair

Dear members and friends of the Scottish Studies Foundation,

I am pleased to let you know that Dr. Kevin James has accepted the position of Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph effective June 1, 2020.

After completing his BA in 1996 at McGill University in Montreal, Kevin was awarded the Governor-General's Medal for highest standing in the undergraduate Arts program. Still at McGill, he completed an MA in 1997 under Professor John Zucchi and was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for PhD study in the United Kingdom, which he took up at the University of Edinburgh in order to work with Professor R.J. Morris in the Department of Economic and Social History.

Kevin joined the University of Guelph's Department of History in 2000 and has been a great advocate of Scottish Studies ever since. In 2002 and 2003, Kevin was Vice-President of the Scottish Studies Foundation and played a key role in its efforts to establish the actual position of Chair of Scottish Studies at Guelph, which culminated in the appointment in 2004 of Dr. Graeme Morton who served as the first chair until 2013.

Kevin takes over from Dr. James Fraser who took up the position in 2014 but stepped down early this year for health reasons. James



continues to teach and to supervise graduate students in Scottish history at the University of Guelph.

In issuing the announcement about Kevin, Dr. Sofie Lachapelle, Department Chair and Professor in the Department of History at the University of Guelph, stated, "I know I speak for all of us when I say that I look forward to working with and supporting Kevin in his new role as Chair of Scottish Studies, which has been and continues to be a real strength of

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our department. He will now bring his professional and scholarly expertise as well as his extensive experience in community and external relations to the position."

All of us on the Board of Directors are delighted with this well deserved appointment and are looking forward to hearing Kevin's plans and wish him the best of success in this exciting new chapter in his career. He sends you this message of appreciation for your support:

"Thank you for your work over many decades to realize our vision of Guelph as the world's leading centre of Scottish Studies outside Scotland. It is humbling but exciting to be entrusted to carry that mandate forward in partnership with you in the years ahead. Thank you also for your commitment to our community of scholars; please rest assured I will spend my term working to continue to advance the profile and important work of Scot-

tish Studies at Guelph."

The Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph is the oldest and most eminent academic unit in North America to carry out research, graduate training and teaching on Scottish history and Scottish culture, with special emphasis on the history of the Scottish Canadian community. It is thanks to your steadfast and generous support that the reputation of the Scottish Studies Program at Guelph continues to gain an enviable reputation both nationally and abroad, and is helping countless scholars in the pursuit of their academic goals.

So thank you for all your contributions and encouragement. I do hope you keep safe and secure at this challenging time.

Sincerely,  
David Hunter  
President  
Scottish Studies Foundation



Cobourg Highland Games Society  
Presents

**57TH COBOURG SCOTTISH FESTIVAL  
& HIGHLAND GAMES**

**June  
18 & 19  
2021**

# About CASSOC

Founded in 1976, 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.

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.

## **Patrons:**

Charles Edward Bruce, Lord Bruce, DL MA MSc FSA Scot

Major The Hon. Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart, Bt. CVO DL

## **Meetings 2019 - 2020:**

The Delegates' Assembly meeting was last held on April 28, 2019,

The last General Assembly meeting was held on November 24, 2019

The 2020 Spring Delegate's meeting has been cancelled due to the pandemic.

The next General Assembly meeting will be held on November 22, 2020, at the North York Central Library. Toronto, On.

**AN DROCHAID – The Bridge** is the newsletter of CASSOC and will be published in March, June, September and December. Items for publication should be submitted to the Editor, [editor@cassoc.ca](mailto:editor@cassoc.ca)

## **Guidelines for submissions are:**

Submissions due by the first of the month of publication

Word/text readable format is preferred

A grant of right of use for publication and posting on the web is implied

Submitter must be able to legally provide the contents. For instance, please ensure that you have image rights for persons in photographs.

Publication of material is at the sole final discretion of the newsletter editor

Format, length and content may be adjusted by the editor as deemed necessary

CASSOC, the editor and agents assume no responsibility nor liability for submitted content in terms of factual correctness or right of use.

All submissions will be published with the implied or explicit attribution of source.

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

**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.

**[www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca)**

**A Message About Fees**

We're all feeling in some way the impact of the new reality from the pandemic. For some brethren this is bringing on financial hardship. Many member organizations are recognizing this and adjusting their fee requirements for renewals and memberships.

In light of this we're working out a strategy to carry such initiatives forward in terms of the member organization's fee for renewal in CASSOC. Please read the upcoming renewal notice carefully in this regard.

Your input about this matter is very important. Your health is our health. Your spirit provides the foundation for all of our success as a community. Please share and let us all know.

Your Aye,

William Petrie, Chair

[chairperson@cassoc.ca](mailto:chairperson@cassoc.ca)

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# SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

## An Drochaid - The Bridge

Each edition of the newsletter will feature a new image of a bridge submitted by our group members or otherwise sourced

This edition features the **Queensferry Crossing**, a road bridge in Scotland. It was built alongside the existing [Forth Road Bridge](#) and carries the [M90 motorway](#) across the [Firth of Forth](#) between [Edinburgh](#), at [South Queensferry](#), and [Fife](#), at [North Queensferry](#).

Many thanks to all who have provided pictures, please feel free to submit your favourite images of crossings to us. Details and attribution such as license and owner is needed.

An Drochaid is published quarterly.

Submissions are extraordinarily welcome, though articles may be edited for length or content.

Whenever possible, please provide Word, RTF or text formats

The next issue of An Drochaid will be the Fall issue.

Please try to provide submissions by the first week in September.

Submissions should be emailed to [editor@cassoc.ca](mailto:editor@cassoc.ca)

**TAYLORS TARTANS.COM**

Taylor's Tartans is a home based business in rural New Brunswick that sells product made out of our provincial tartans.