

An Drochaid - The Bridge

Comhta ri Cheile - Together with Accord

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Frae the Chair



Frae the Chair

Season greetings and best wishes for a healthy, safe holiday for you. We all know it's a challenge and becoming tiring but the end, far out as it may be, is in sight.

My special thanks goes to all who participated in our virtual AGM last month. It worked far beyond expectations and this raises the bar for us going forward in providing access to membership across all of Canada. We'll meet this challenge with the same success that we're winning with everything else.

I've paraphrased the following quote from Theodore Roosevelt which I feel applies to so many of us nowadays. We're here together in this arena battling the pandemic, circling, protecting those in more need and taking our lumps in the process.

It is posted by my workstation because it's my go-to read when something doesn't work or I accidentally stumble into a social media cesspool.

Please enjoy this wisdom and let me know what you think about it.

Based upon *The Man in the Arena* by Theodore Roosevelt

It is not the critic who counts;
not the one who points out how the strong stumbles,
or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.
The credit belongs to the one who is actually in the arena,
whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly;
who errs, who comes short again and again,
because there is no effort without error and shortcoming;
but who does actually strive to do the deeds;
who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause;
who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if they fail, at least fails while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

All the best for you and your bubble these festive and exceptional holidays. Remember we will see this through!

Yours Aye,
William Robert Petrie - Clan Gregor
chairperson@cassoc.ca

Online Sessions : Hints and Tips by William Petrie

From participating in the Scottish North America Community Conference as a moderator and technical assistant, I've put together some hints and tips to help all participants have better online experiences. Not all may apply to your role in a webinar or meeting and, of course, there'll be differences for other platforms from Zoom such as Google Meet but the general principles will still help.

Joining a webinar/meeting

- Test your connectivity in advance if you're not sure about it working
- Optimize your internet connection, use a wired connection if available
- Avoid other demands on bandwidth such as gaming and streaming by others
- Mute phones and other sources of noise distractions
- Have an id that is readily recognizable or let others know what you will use in advance

General tips

- If not an active participant, feel free to mute audio and consider stopping your video.
- Use chat, if available, to communicate with other participants, panelists and the host.
- Minimize light sources behind you that will result in your face being shadowed
- To reduce the glare on eyeglasses, tilt them slightly off up from your ears
- Stick to timetables. There may be aspects that you are not aware of such as
 - Critical technical aspects such as equipment run time limits
 - Comfort timing of breaks for known and unknown participants

Your Video and Audio

- Meet the gaze by looking at the screen when speaking
- If using a cell phone or tablet, have it parallel to your face
 - If you have to look down then the others are looking up your nose!
- First ensure that you are not muted when you go to speak
- Speak loud, be appropriately close to the mic, camera, phone or tablet
 - Software has difficulties when the level of voice to background noise is poor
- Avoid off camera clicking sounds such as a loud keyboard
- Watch for unintentional shaking movements of the camera/phone/tablet or PC
- Habitual check the chat and/or Q&A regularly for notifications from others

When sharing screens and presentations

- Full screen or slide show mode to maximize the image for viewers
- Minimal font size should 18pt but also consider if the audience may be mostly mobile?
- Move the mouse/pointer off of the slide if not being used to highlight
- Avoid multiple sizes and font types

Seventh Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Canada-wide “Kilt Skate” is Going Ahead! Adjusts to Pandemic Conditions

Toronto : Saturday, February 27, 2021

Nathan Philips Square : Time : TBD

and/or

Your Home Ice!

COVID won't stop Canadians from celebrating Scottish heritage by skating in kilts and tartans this winter.

The Seventh Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate will go ahead with a new twist – a “Home Edition.”

“This year, we want kilt skaters to use their home ice advantage,” says Don Cummer, Director National Kilt Skate for the Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO), which organizes the pan-Canadian event each winter. “The public health protocols may well prevent us from gathering in large numbers as we have in the past, but we can still skate on the backyard rinks, the neighbourhood rinks, and the frozen ponds and streams down the road. Add them all up and this may be the biggest year yet for kilt skating in Canada.”

The kilt skate phenomenon began in 2015 and this year, in addition to CASSOC in Toronto, eight other cities are participating in the Great Canadian Kilt Skate:

Montreal QC North Glengarry ON Ottawa ON Fergus ON

Winnipeg MB Saskatoon SK Lethbridge AB Calgary AB

CASSOC has reached out to Toronto City Hall to tentatively book the above date but we know, based upon previous contacts, that the city may not allow or confirm any bookings under the current constraints

As with the other cities we're asking you to plan, as a fallback and/or alternative, ways to celebrate as individuals and families within the pandemic protocols.

Seventh Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate

As Don Cummer says “Our faces may be masked but our knees will be bare. This Covid winter, we’re encouraging kilt skaters to stay safe. Skate at a safe distance. Get out with your family. Follow the rules. Have a good time. Oh, and send pictures to #kiltskate2021.”

Individuals and families are encouraged to post photos and video on social media of their mini-event. In fact, these posts will help their community vie for the title of “Kilt Skate Capital of Canada” awarded each year. By using the hashtag #kiltskate2021 and adding the name of their city, their photos and videos will be added to the tally of participants. Photos and videos can also be emailed to kiltskate@ottscot.ca.

The Scottish Society of Ottawa hopes to compile a video from the submissions and we in the GTA hope to win the title “Kilt Skate Capital of Canada”

“Year by year, the kilt skate phenomenon has grown across Canada and internationally,” says Cummer. “We’ve always relied upon local organizations to host community events. But the pandemic has made us do things differently. This year, we’re going to see hundreds, perhaps thousands, of individual and family events from one end of the country to the other.”

The latest information on the kilt skates can be found at www.kiltskate.com, at www.cassoc.ca and at the website of the Scottish Society of Ottawa - <http://ottscot.ca>.



The Great Canadian Kilt Skate 2020 - Toronto

Steel City Rovers - Christmas Eve Reverie



Christmas Eve Reverie

Steel City Rovers

Strange and lovely laughter down the hall.
Tucked in tight I lie awake enthralled.
Too young to join the fun.
I grew and they were done.
Christmas Eve. Bittersweet Reverie.
Reverie. Reverie.

Ever so nostalgic, I imagine it to be
Men and Women, old and wise and worn.
Sharing secrets through to Christmas Morn.
A toast, the host decrees,
A fine collection we.
Christmas Eve. Bittersweet Reverie.

There was one less table setting at the meal.
I found out what exactly wasn't real.
And every year I yearn.
I wish I could return.
Christmas Eve. Bittersweet Reverie.
Reverie. Reverie.
Ever so nostalgic, I imagine it to be
Somewhere now exactly as it was.

Where I could just drop by there just because.
Just to hear them laugh out loud.
And maybe make them proud.
Christmas Eve. Bittersweet Reverie.

Strange and lovely laughter down the hall.
Tucked in tight they lie awake enthralled.
Too young to join the fun.
They'll grow and I'll be done.
Christmas Eve. Bittersweet Reverie.
Reverie. Reverie.

Ever so nostalgic, I imagine it to be
Men and Women, old and wise and worn.
Sharing secrets through to Christmas Morn.
A toast, the host decrees,
A fine collection we.
Christmas Eve. Bittersweet Reverie.

Watch the video at
<https://youtu.be/1t90LaAe7-s>

Steel City Rovers - About the song

This year, we in the Steel City Rovers have released a brand new music video for our song, Christmas Eve Reverie. There is a common thread in seasonal art, such as music and film, to pursue the true meaning of Christmas. Though there are many wonderful answers to this search, one powerful aspect of this particular time of the rolling year is the passing of the torch of tradition from one generation to the next. Members and appreciators of CASSOC are already enthusiastic about the value of heritage and I believe that this wonderful attitude of celebrating the past with vitality simply shines at Christmastime.

Throughout my childhood, we would make the trek to my maternal grandparents' house at Christmastime. A woman of proud Scottish heritage, she was equal parts severe and magnanimous. We would thrill at the way their home would be decorated and her skill with a turkey was unmatched as far as my young palate could discern. My grandfather would play host with a booming laugh, clever wit and judiciously revealed twinkle in his eye. The entire scenario was an annual experience of familial magic that I could speak about at length. As I grew, time passed and so did they.

The memories linger, but the most powerful is that of lying awake in bed, having been sent there at a proper time, and hearing the adults carry on well into the night; their laughter growing impossibly more boisterous as the evening progressed. I now understand the inspiration that fine company and fine spirits can be, but as a child I was captivated and mystified. These echoing peals of happiness lingering in my mind led me to write this song. Once I had finished the very final lyric, I grieved for my grandparents in a rich and beautiful way that I had not been able to before.

It was odd to feel very fully both child and man in that moment, but I felt a deep appreciation for the lives that my grandparents had led and how their lives had led to mine.

There is a famous game of deciding who you would most like to have dinner with, out of anyone who is living or dead. Some say things like Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, Lincoln, Einstein! But for many of us, it is a loved one now gone from this Earth who holds a special place in our hearts that we would love to connect with once more in order to share a few more sweet moments of company.

I believe that this is one of the most important characteristics of the practice of embracing traditions; not simply generally, but specifically. We play a particular tune, we gather in a certain way, we participate in a cultural event, we cook a secret recipe, we wear a symbolic garment, we display heirlooms. In this I see a great parallel between my love of my Scottish roots and my love of Christmas. I am not just reaching out to the past, but it is reaching out to me. Living in this moment, these habits help me to feel that I am participating in the great unfolding story of which we are all a part.

It is the hope of myself and the Steel City Rovers that you are able to celebrate this Christmas in a joyful and meaningful way. It truly is an extraordinary year and is not what any of us had planned, but I am feeling relatively cheerful all the same, because after all, the first Christmas had its share of discomforts and adjusted expectations! I am grateful for the opportunity to write to you today and to wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas.

- Ryan McKenna, Steel City Rovers

The American Rogues

Visit <https://www.theamericanrogues.com> for music, dates and more on their upcoming album "Hammer"



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Tartan Flat Cap



Cashmere Baby Gift Set

Games, Festivals and Other Events

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

Please verify status with the event organizers for any of the following

Dec 31	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Montreal, QC	www.kiltskate.com
Dec 31	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Saskatoon, SK	www.kiltskate.com
Jan 25	Cobourg Highland Games Traditional Burns Supper	Cobourg, ON	www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
January	Scottish Society of Ottawa OttScot Festival: dancing, cooking, cartooning, and Gaelic language lessons, travelogues, a book launch, storytelling, trivia and more	Ottawa, ON Online & hybrid	www.ottscot.ca
Jan - Feb	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate Home Edition	Online & hybrid	www.kiltskate.com
Jan 16	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Ottawa, ON	www.kiltskate.com
Jan 21	The Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies and St Andrew's Society of Toronto "Dancing Devils and 'Cutty Sark's': Witchcraft and Magic in Robert Burns' Supernatural Scotland"	Online 7:30-8:30pm ET	www.uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish
Jan 23	Scottish Society of Ottawa Gala Burns Supper	Online & hybrid	www.ottscot.ca
Jan 23	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	N. Glengarry, ON	www.kiltskate.com
Jan 23	St Andrew's Society of Toronto Burns Virtual Whisky tasting	Online	www.standrews-society.ca
Jan 25	Cobourg Highland Games Traditional Burns Supper	Cobourg, ON	http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/
Jan 27-31	Halifax Celtic Festival "At Home with the 2021 Halifax Celtic Festival"	Online	www.facebook.com/hfxcelticfest
Feb 7	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Calgary, AB	www.kiltskate.com
Feb 7	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Fergus, ON	www.kiltskate.com
Feb 27	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Toronto, ON	www.kiltskate.com
Feb 28	The Great Canadian Kilt Skate	Winnipeg, MB	www.kiltskate.com
Mar 6 - 17	Irish Real Life Festival	Kitchener - Waterloo Region, ON	www.irishreallifekw.com
March	Celtic Festival Vancouver	Vancouver, BC	www.celticfestvancouver.com
March	Ottawa Irish Festival	Ottawa, ON	www.carnifest.com/ottawa-irish-festival-2021
May 21-23	SK Highland Gathering & Celtic Festival	Regina, SK	www.saskhighland.ca
May 27-29	Mosaic – A Festival of Cultures	Regina, SK	www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/info/mosaic-a-festival-of-cultures.html

June 12	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
June 18-20	Greater Moncton Highland Games	Moncton, NB	https://monctonhighlandgames.com
June 18-19	Cobourg Highland Games	Cobourg, ON	www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
June 25-26	Caledonia Celtic Festival	Caledonia, ON	www.caledoniacelticfestival.com
Jun 26	Kingsville Highland Games	Kingsville, ON	www.kingsville.ca
June	Red Deer Highland Games	Red Deer, AB	www.reddeerhighlandgames.com
Jun 26	Perth's World Record Kilt Run	Perth, ON	www.perthkilt.run
Jun 26– Jul 3	Royal NS International Tattoo	Halifax, NS	www.nstatattoo.ca
July 1	Embro Highland Games	Embro, ON	www.embrohighlandgames.ca
July 2-4	Almonte Celtfest	Almonte, ON	http://almonteceltfest.com
Jul 3	Penticton Scottish Festival	Penticton, BC	www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca
July 16-18	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS	www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca
July 16-17	Cambridge Scottish Festival	Cambridge, ON	www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca
July 23-25	NB H. G. & Scottish Festival	Fredericton, NB	www.highlandgames.ca
July	Uxbridge Scottish Festival	Uxbridge, ON	https://uxbridgescottishfestival.com
July 30-31	Glengarry Highland Games	Maxville, ON	www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
Aug 1	Montreal Scottish Festival & H. G.	Montreal, QC	www.montrealhighlandgames.com
Aug 6-8	Goderich Celtic Roots Festival	Goderich, ON	www.celticfestival.ca
Aug	Folk Fest Saskatoon	Saskatoon, SK	https://saskatoonfolkfest.com
Aug 13-15	Margaree Highland Games	Margaree Valley, NS	www.caledoniacelticfestival.com
Aug 13-15	Fergus Scottish Festival & H. G.	Fergus, ON	www.fergusscottishfestival.com
Aug	Miramichi Scottish Festival	Miramichi, NB	www.miramichiscottishfestival.com
Aug 28	North Lanark Highland Games	Almonte, ON	www.almontehighlandgames.com
Sep 4-5	Canmore Highland Games	Canmore, AB	www.canmorehighlandgames.ca
Sep	Calgary Highland Games	Calgary, AB	http://www.calgaryhighlandgames.org

CelticLife

INTERNATIONAL

Fáilte!

On behalf of our publisher, Angus M. Macquarrie, please enjoy this complimentary copy *The Best of Celtic Life International 2020!* Feel free to share with those in your community!

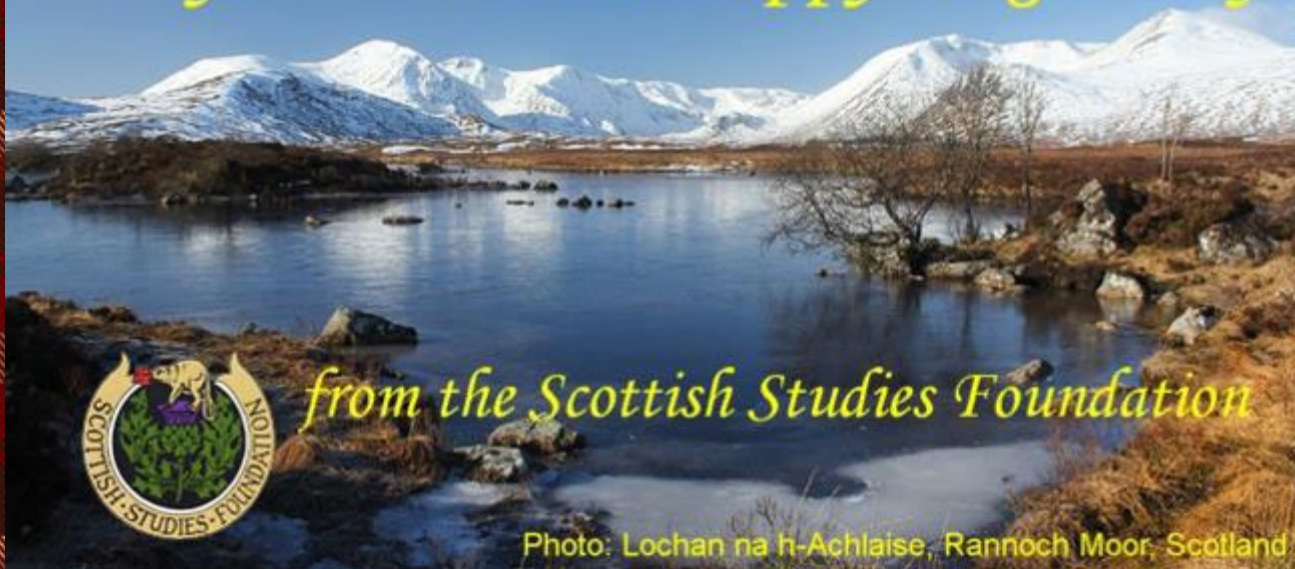
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FLIPBOOK <https://online.fliphtml5.com/iznnk/xajh/>

Slainte!

Scottish Studies Foundation

Merry Xmas and a Happy Hogmanay



Hogmanay will usher in a busy schedule of activities at the University of Guelph, and opportunities for deepening our contacts with much-valued CASSOC partners. The Centre for Scottish Studies has successfully adapted to conditions which have required faculty and staff to teach and research remotely. Though offices are empty, and access to campus is highly restricted, learning continues, often in exciting and innovative ways. Our undergraduate students continue to fill courses in Early Medieval Celtic History, and enrol in winter offerings that include specialised seminars in Scottish Tourism and Travel History, as well as courses that are organised around designing an exciting online exhibit of our priceless medieval Scottish land charters, which are exceptional sources for the study of Scottish economic and cultural history.

We are lucky that our collections boast such strengths, to which the Archival and Special Collections staff have added over the course of the year, allowing undergraduate students to work with digitised copies of rare works, and graduate students to develop in-depth research programmes when travel to Scotland is impossible. Thanks to the generosity of the Saint Andrew's Societies of Toronto and Montreal, internships will allow graduate students to take leadership roles in the online charters exhibit. At the same time, we have been developing an active roster of Zoom events, including an October lecture on travel and tourism history that drew registrants from as far away as Europe and Japan! On January 21, Dr Sierra Dye, our postdoctoral scholar, will deliver a lecture on "Dancing Devils and 'Cutty Sark's":

(Continued on page 13)

Scottish Studies Foundation

(Continued from page 12)

Witchcraft and Magic in Robert Burns' Supernatural Scotland". The Zoom event is co-sponsored by the Centre for Scottish Studies and the Saint Andrew's Society of Toronto. Later in the spring Professor Timothy Shannon of Gettysburg College will deliver a lecture on receipt of the Frank Watson Book Prize for his study *Indian Captive, Indian King: Peter Williamson in America and Britain* (Harvard University Press, 2018), and Professor Tanja Buelmann of the University of Strathclyde will deliver the McKenzie Lecture.

The Scottish Studies Foundation continues to be a stalwart supporter of our activities, and the Centre values the connections we have developed with CASSOC.

We warmly invite you to participate in our virtual activities, and look forward to the time, not far from now, when we can welcome you back to our beautiful campus and raise a toast to the reunion of old friends.



We send our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday season.

Kevin James
Scottish Studies Foundation Chair
& Professor of History



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Report from the Scottish Studies Foundation

Report from David Hunter, President, Scottish Studies Foundation

Dear CASSOC members,

I do hope you are all coping well at this unprecedented and difficult time.

Throughout a year of upheaval due to the unusual circumstances of a global pandemic, the Scottish Studies Foundation continues to be the privileged recipients of your generosity, vision, and partnership. For well over two decades, the Scottish Studies Foundation has been integral to the robust graduate programs, intensive research and learning, and the coveted international reputation in the field of Scottish Studies at the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph, so thank you for your encouragement and generous support. You can find out more about what's been happening at the Centre in the latest Annual Endowment Report which has been posted on our website at www.scottishstudies.com

Having completed the funding of the Digital Archive Room at the University of Guelph, our focus now shifts to the funding of in-course scholarships specifically aimed at assisting students at the undergraduate level. Tying in with this, the Department of History and the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph recently announced the establishment of a scholarship to recognize the accomplishments of Professor Elizabeth

Ewan who is due to retire from the Department of History at the end of 2020. (More details can be found at www.scottishstudies.com)

As professor of Medieval and Early Modern Scottish History at the University of Guelph, Elizabeth Ewan is a trailblazer in the history of medieval and early modern Scotland and a scholar of international repute who is an authority on Scottish gender and women's history. So far, the response to this initiative has been extremely gratifying— donations are still being accepted and are still coming in and we are cautiously confident that this scholarship will be in place in time for Elizabeth's retirement. We firmly believe that helping Scottish Studies students with the cost of tuition should be seen as an investment; for it is the youth of today that will help keep the Scottish tradition in Canada alive in the future.



Professor Elizabeth Ewan

(Continued on page 15)

Report from the Scottish Studies Foundation

(Continued from page 14)

Editing of volume 45 of the scholarly journal *International Review of Scottish Studies* has been completed and will be mailed to our members shortly. In the judgment of world experts, the IRSS has become an established journal of record containing original research which has been subjected to rigorous and time consuming peer review to provide critical feedback from authorities worldwide in order ensure the accuracy of its content—all of which is mandatory for academics wishing to publish.

This year's issue features an outstanding selection of reviews and articles, including work on Lockhart's *Memoirs* and their use by eighteenth-century Whig historians; women, gender, and kirk session discipline in the decades before the National Covenant of 1638; the connection between Danish and Scottish witch trials in the 1590s and the role of the king in the transnational transference of ideas about witchcraft; and a discussion of John Campbell's "Short Papers" in *The London Evening Post*. The issue also includes an announcement of the winner of the Frank Watson Book Prize in Scottish History, as well as honorary mention

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SCOTTISH STUDIES

VOLUME 45: 2020

PUBLISHED BY THE
SCOTTISH STUDIES
FOUNDATION



and "Best First Book."

The current issue is available for download on the University of Guelph's website as an open-access PDF file at <https://www.irss.uoguelph.ca/index.php/irss/index>. (Members of the Scottish Studies Foundation receive a printed copy of the journal.)

(Continued on page 16)

Report from the Scottish Studies Foundation

(Continued from page 15)



The Scottish Studies Foundation is pleased to announce its first “Chapbook Competition” which is open to everyone worldwide. Writers are invited to submit a manuscript of about 2,000 to 5,000 words on a topic with some Scottish connection. The winner will have their work published in the form of a chapbook and will receive \$500 plus 20 copies of the book. Details are on our website at www.scottishstudies.com

This initiative was triggered due to all of our usual in-person events being canceled because of the virus. In trying to think of alternatives—in particular, some kind of activity that might broaden our reach but not be in conflict with what other groups are doing—we came up with this idea which was inspired by the University of Guelph's collection of historic

chapbooks many of which have been digitized and placed online. Chapbooks have a long history spanning several centuries. Sold by street criers, travelling “chapmen,” and by “balladeers” at markets and fairs, they were the main reading material of a majority of the population, carrying news and popular culture of the day. We are hoping that this competition will generate an enthusiastic response from all with a keen interest in Scottish history, culture, genealogy and literature.

Until next time, thanks to each and every one of you for your support. Best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a virus free New Year

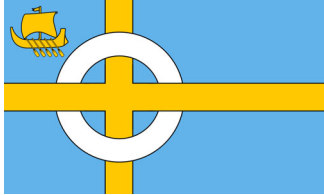
David Hunter President

Scottish Studies Foundation

davidhunter@scottishstudies.com

by Alexander Richards

As published in *The National* newspaper
and reprinted with permission



The Isle of Skye now proudly flies its own flag and that flag was designed by a Munro!!

'The colours of the Skye flag reflect the

isle as a jewel of Scotland'

Constituency MP Ian Blackford has congratulated the 9-year-old designer of Skye's new official flag, saying the young lad had created an "enduring image" of the island.

The blue, yellow, and white flag designed by Skye local Calum Alasdair Munro was unveiled at a ceremony in Portree. Munro's design beat out well over 300 other competitors from all over the world.

The 9-year-old winner, from Kilmuir on Skye, said he has a passion for collecting flags and drew his inspiration from the island's history and heritage. He said: "First, I thought of the Birlinn [a wooden boat used in the Hebrides in the middle ages] and I was thinking about the MacLeods and MacDonalDs and the MacKinnons – the first clans on Skye. I thought about the Celtic Heritage, the Viking heritage and the history of Flora MacDonald. "In my flag, in the Birlinn, there are five oars representing Trotternish, Waternish, Duirinish, Minginish and Sleat. I thought about yellow for the MacLeods and Blue for the MacDonalDs or the MacKinnons."

Constituency MP Ian Blackford said he was "delighted to see the strength of interest in the competition", adding: "Calum should be very proud of coming up with the winning design.



His legacy will be the flag which will become an enduring image of Skye."

The search for a flag for Skye began in May last year when the West Highland Free Press joined forces with Highland Council and destination management organisation Skye Connect to petition the court of the Lord Lyon – the body responsible for recording and protecting all heraldry, flags and national symbols in Scotland.

The competition, which was launched last autumn, had 369 designs submitted from all across the globe. A panel of community representatives then drew up a short list of the six flags which they felt best symbolised the island, and the six were then put to a public vote.

Competition organiser Keith Mackenzie – the editor of the West Highland Free Press – said: "It is a tremendous design but the other thing that struck people is what it meant.

"It pulls together so many elements of Skye. There are notes to Christianity, there are notes to our Celtic heritage, to our Nordic heritage, to the Clans. And also, the colours themselves reflect Skye as a jewel of Scotland.

"We thought it was important, right from the outset, to engage as many people locally as we could.

"The people who came up with the idea and launched the competition were from Skye, the vast majority of the entries came from Skye, the voting was from people on Skye or associated with Skye and we have a local winner as well. "People may like or dislike the flag but I don't think anyone can argue against the process of finding the design."

It is hoped that the Skye flag will soon be as well-known and recognised as other regional and island flags such as Shetland, Orkney, Cornwall and Devon.

Clan Bell North America - President's Message



There and Back Again

This pandemic year has required the cancellation of so many Scottish Games, Festivals, and other more ordinary celebrations and get-togethers and required us to stay at home for seemingly endless hours, I had been craving, as no doubt many of you have been, an exciting adventure. As I found out to my chagrin: Be careful what you ask for - it may not be the adventure you were anticipating.

My "adventure" started when I was at home minding my own business, when suddenly I felt intense pressure in my chest. My wife, Kathy, was elsewhere in the house, but I was able to pound on the floor to get her attention. As soon as she found out what was happening, she immediately called 911, and an ambulance took me to the nearest hospital emergency room. After two CAT scans showed a ruptured aorta, the ER doctors put me on a helicopter to a regional hospital which excels in cardiology and heart surgery. On the way, I was even alert enough to answer one of the EMTs when he asked a co-worker for my blood type. My chest and upper abdomen were deeply bruised from the internal bleeding and transfusions. The bruising and blood loss were so severe that one doctor on the surgical team later admitted to me that they thought I was not going to make it. The pain right after the surgery made me

wonder what it must have been like for Bell knights wounded in medieval battles without the possibility of modern medical miracles.

As I was recovering, I felt a bit like a minor local celebrity because family, friends, and churches around the country were all praying for me. My daughter-in-law is a nurse in the neo-natal ICU at this same hospital, she had alerted many of the doctors and staff about my condition, and many of them were praying for me as well. Some were even praying that the doctors would see signs and wonders with my swift recovery. Perhaps if I had been a bit more sanctified, the doctors would have picked up on some signs and wonders. Instead, the doctors simply noted that my faster than expected recovery made me a "Rockstar Patient." Maybe they were influenced by my entrance to the hospital being accompanied by the "bass riffs" from a helicopter and a chest that was "Deep Purple."

In less than 6 days I was discharged from the hospital, and my recovery has been amazingly fast when compared to other people Kathy and I know. A Marine with whom we are acquainted through Scottish Country dancing in Atlanta had a similar non-emergency aorta resection, and his recovery took two weeks in the hospital followed by two more weeks in a rehab facility. With the aneurysm repaired and no major heart issues discovered, the surgery left me in better shape than before. Lots of exercise with heart monitoring, working with a trainer at the gym, and physical therapy at the Atlanta Falcons Physical Therapy Centers has me in better physical condition than ever. I feel ready for whatever "adventures" arise when the Scottish games restart in earnest in 2021.

Slainte!

Joe

THE AMAZING LIFE OF GERTRUDE BELL

In an effort to bring Gertrude Bell and her astonishing accomplishments to light once again, the Newcastle University Library uses "The digital comics as entry points to original archive.

Gertrude Margaret Lowthian Bell, daughter of Mary and Hugh Bell, was born July 14, 1868, in Washington New Hall, County Durham, England. Bell was a member of a prominent English family, and she became a world traveler, mountaineer, archaeologist, linguist, writer, cartographer, photographer, British political officer and administrator, and, some say, spy. She explored and mapped what was then Arabia, Asia Minor, Greater Syria, and Mesopotamia and gained extensive knowledge about the Middle East and established important contacts with tribal leaders and government officials there.



Her comprehensive expertise made her highly influential in policy-making during the British colonial period in this part of the world.

Gertrude Bell was 57 years old when she died in her cherished home in Baghdad. British archaeologist and scholar David George Hogarth wrote in his obituary of Bell: "No woman in recent time has combined her qualities—her taste for arduous and dangerous adventure with her scientific interest and knowledge, her competence in archaeology and art, her distinguished literary gift, her sympathy for all sorts and conditions of men, her political insight and appreciation of human values, her masculine vigour, hard common sense and practical efficiency – all tempered by feminine charm and a most romantic spirit."

This article relied heavily on the following Websites:

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-the-forgotten-story-of-gertrude-of-arabia-1.5449606>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gertrude_Bell

www.thenation.com/article/iraqs-founding-mother/

<http://gertrudebell.ncl.ac.uk/>

To access special features of the Gertrude Bell comics (red dots and maps) go to <http://gertrudebell.ncl.ac.uk/>

FINAL INSTALLMENT OF THE GERTRUDE BELL COMICS



28th August 1921
 I don't see how I'm ever going to tear myself away permanently from this country – do you!



20th July 1922
 Today the King has agreed to my suggestion that he should appoint me provisional Director of Archaeology to his Govt.



With the calmer atmosphere in the newly-formed Iraq, requests to carry out excavations on the country's historical sites came pouring in, and many unofficial excavations were taking place.

20th August 1924
 I have a letter from Sir F. Kenyon saying that he holds up the Iraq Dept. of Antiquities as the model for the manner in which the division of funds is made.



Half to excavators
 Half to Baghdad Antiquities Museum

4th March 1924
 I had to tell them that I must take the writing scene. I can't do otherwise. Its wrote and it depicts the life of the country at an immensely early date.



In my capacity as Director of Antiquities I'm an Iraq's official and bound by the terms on which we gave the permit for excavation.

Baghdad, June 16 1926
 I had a nice little ceremony on Monday when the King opened the first room of the Museum.

It was open to the public for the first time today and as I came away at 8.30 this morning, I saw some 16 or 20 ordinary Baghdadis going round it under the guidance of the old Arab carter – very gratifying.

Gertrude was found dead from an apparent overdose of sleeping pills on July 12 1926, less than a month after the museum opened. Shortly afterwards, King Faisal named one of its rooms in her honour, and a large brass plaque was commissioned to be hung in the museum.



Darling, I must stop now; however does not condone to the writing of very long letters. Your loving daughter, Gertrude

To see more pages of the Gertrude Bell Comics, go to <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/gertrudecomics/>

Clan Davidson Society of North America



Greetings, fellow Davidson Clansmen of North America... and beyond!

As many of you may not know, our membership spans the globe. One of the most prestigious Davidson Clansman is Dr. Lindsay Davidson, resident of Krakow Poland. Lindsay has made his living for many years teaching and playing the bagpipes... yes, in Poland (as well as other places around the world). Lindsay is co-Founder and Head of the Embassy International School in Krakow [<https://embassyschool.pl/>].

He also has the distinction of being the first person in the world to finish any higher education degree majoring as a 'piper (University of Edinburgh). He later completed a PhD in Composition, traditional teacher training as a Primary school teacher and a Master's degree in Education.

Recently, I received an email from Lindsay in which he announces yet another innovation in the field of bagpipe teaching. But I'll let Lindsay's email speak for itself.

Dear Dave

Over the summer I set up a quite different thing... a virtual pipe band in the hopes of attracting more people to Clan Davidson and also giving those who are already members and play pipes something extra to enjoy.

Basically, it is a set of tunes, played by the computer at a high pitch and low pitch, at normal speed, half speed and quarter speed so that people can play along and get better. When we meet together we will have a whole collection of tunes we will be able to play together. Most of the tunes (not all) are compositions from the 2009 Clan Davidson Collection.

<http://teachyourselfbagpipes.co.uk/cdvpmain.html> is the website and as an example one of the tune sets is below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhKLi5jHbUA&list=PLI7FeqT_N1dMCFn8IQ8ZfdZYeVo a9DdY&index=93

There are a few people already taking part. There are free lessons for those who join in (obviously time zones play a part here but I have a method for that, which is actually better than live Skype sessions I think, and this other method is what I use for my university teaching).

Maybe this would be interesting news ...

Kind regards,

Lindsay

I hope Lindsay's kind offer resonates in the hearts of many of our membership and y'all get wi' the program!

Yours, Aye!

Dave Chagnon, FSA Scot
Clan Chief's High Commissioner for North America
Sennachie Emeritus
Clan Davidson Society of North America
www.clandavidson.org

Join us for a limited streaming of

The Pipes of Christmas
The Pipes of Christmas

22nd Annual Concert



STREAMING ON [YOUTUBE.COM](https://www.youtube.com)
December 24th & 25th

With many traditional St Andrews Day, Christmas and other productions cancelled, lights have gone off in theatres and halls across the world. This year, we want to bring our concert to you.

This online concert is a **special fundraising event** to support our cultural outreach and scholarship fund. All donations are greatly appreciated via pipesofchristmas.com.

Full details at
pipesofchristmas.com



Brought to you by
the Learned Kindred
of Currie

Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter



Holiday Greetings to all of Scottish decent here in Canada.

As we draw down the curtain on 2020, we think it's fair to say that this has been a year like no other. Throughout we have often reflected that we are grateful to live here in Canada free from so much of the world's strife. It is with hope and even thanks for the challenges we face that we engage in the full-time job of working to become better persons in the world. We will get through these times.

Unprecedented is probably the most frequently used word to describe 2020, particularly when referring to the "C" word. Yet as we reflect on 2020, history suggests that there will always be disruptive events that deeply disturb us. How we respond is our challenge. Therein lies the gift.

The truth is the journey of our souls will al-

ways bring us to our knees. It might be disease, poverty, loss of physical activity, bereavement, natural disasters or anything that overwhelms us and is beyond our ability to fix. We struggle, we feel helpless and then we pray. If we experience relief from whatever caused us to pray, why then we are grateful our prayers seem to have been heard.

Yet the unanswered prayers may be a greater gift. To endure and live through extreme trials can change us. Our thoughts may change from being rigid and inflexible to being thoughtful and considerate. The heart can break open revealing compassionate feelings to those who think, speak and act differently from us. As we soften the soul receives a new life that is more gentle and kind.

There is no doubt that 2020 has been hard. But the miracle is that, in spite of how it looks, things will change for the better. This is especially true if we do our part in every small way we can.

If easy times are departed, it is that difficult times may make us more in earnest; that they may teach us not to depend upon ourselves. If easy belief is impossible, it is that we may learn what belief is, and in whom it is to be placed.

F.D. Maurice 1854

There was a time when a tiny Babe was born in a stable fulfilling the promise of a Savior being born here on earth, one that would change the world for good and for all times.

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Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter

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Did believers in the Messiah think their times were unprecedented? Did they experience an immediate turnaround? Did the world get noticeably better? Humanity continued to have wars, disease, disasters, horrors, cruelty and more. Our ancestors fled oppression in search of a better life here in Canada. Looking across the arc of time we ask where is God the Messiah in all of this?

The answer lies in believing that it is by every generation experiencing these struggles that we have the opportunity to overcome them. It is in the doing of our part that the promise can be fulfilled. It is by choosing to

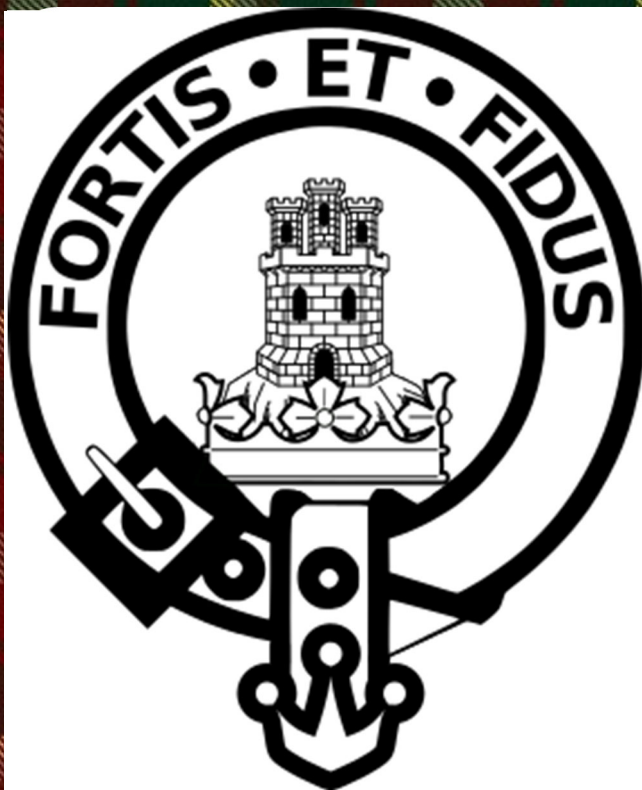
be kind instead of cruel, merciful instead of vengeful, benevolent instead of selfish or forgiving instead of holding a grudge that the Savior is born over and over again in each of us. The earthly conditions may not change but how we are in them will change. This is the promise of the truly unprecedented miracle of Bethlehem.

Our best wishes for a merry Christmas and jolly Hogmanay to all clansmen across this wonderful country of ours. May we share a wee doch and dorrie at an open Highland Gathering in the near future!

Wayne MacGregor Parker

Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter





Bagpipe, Kilt and Caber (The Story Behind the Story)

Vlad Tepes III was a nobleman who ruled the Carpathian mountainous landscape of Central Romania from 1456-1462. Locally he was a hero because of his nobility, his father's reputation, and his defense of the homelands against incursions by the Ottoman Turks. However, his handling of criminals, political rivals and captured Turks was brutal and sadistic. His preferred method of dealing with those he considered "useless" was impalement. At times, the road to his castle was lined with poles on which the impaled bodies of his victims hung. It is believed that he may have killed 40,000 to 100,000 civilians and another 100,000 Turkish soldiers in this

manner. It earned him the nickname, "Vlad the Impaler".

Vlad Tepes's father, Vlad II, was inducted into the Order of the Dragon, a military order of knighthood for selected nobility for their actions defending the cross and fighting enemies of Christianity, specifically the Ottoman Empire. Vlad proudly wore the Order's emblem, a red cross with yellow flames radiating from each of its four tips and had a dragon image stamped on his principalities' coins. The coins were known as "dragons" which in Romanian is pronounced "dracul".

In 1453, three years before Vlad Tepes III began his reign, King James II of Scotland conferred the title Earl of Erroll on Sir William Hay, chief of Clan Hay. For generations before, the Hay family had controlled their extensive lands along the North Sea from the Old Slains Castle, some 26 miles north of present-day Aberdeen. The Old Slains Castle was abandoned in 1597 and a new castle, referred to as New Slains was built on a rocky outcropping about four miles further north on the shores of Cruden Bay. It has been added to and remodeled several times, the last in 1837. The roof was removed in 1925 to avoid taxes.

In downtown London, a short distance from Big Ben and Westminster Abbey is a 2,100-seat auditorium known as the Lyceum Theatre. It has been there in some form since 1765 and has seen the likes of Madame Tussaud's waxworks, Shakespeare's plays, a circus, a chapel, operas

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and lately the Broadway production of *"The Lion King"*. For twenty years, from 1878-1898, an aspiring Irish playwright worked at the Lyceum as the business manager and personal assistant of the owner/actor Sir Henry Irving. The gentleman, Abraham Stoker, was born in 1847 in Dublin, Ireland, attended Trinity College, where he participated in multiple sports, was named University Athlete, received a BA degree in 1870 and a MA degree in 1875. He began writing reviews of plays and caught the attention of Sir Henry who befriended and hired him.

Like many urban workers, Bram, as he was known, travelled north to Scotland for his holidays (vacations). On one such venture in 1893, he took a walking tour of Cruden Bay and fell in love with the place. He made the thirteen-and-a-half-hour train trip from London to Cruden Bay each August until 1910. While there he spent his time researching and writing. He was 64 years old when he died in 1912.

During his research, Stoker came across a book written by Emily Gerard of Airdrie, a small town

12 miles east of Glasgow. Her book "The Land beyond the Forest: Facts, Figures and Fancies from Transylvania" was based on two years she spent in the mid-1880s in Romania with her husband, an officer in the Austrian army. (Note: "Transylvania" is Latin for "across/beyond the forest"). Her book provided information on local superstitions that included the vampire myths.



Bram Stoker

Thus, armed with an account of vampires, background on Transylvania (the land of Prince Vlad Tepes) and an imposing cliffside castle (New Slains), Stoker began to write. He used his friend and boss from the Lyceum, Sir Henry Irving, with his sweeping gestures and gentlemanly manners as the model for the villain in his book. He explored the interior of Slains Castle and described some of its unique features as part of the home of the book's namesake. Additionally, he modified the name of Vlad III's dragon coins for the name of his villain – Dracula!!!

Until next time, may your kilt keep its pleats and your sporran stay full!! © RG

Clan MacRae Society of Canada



Winter has set in now and Christmas is less than two weeks away. As I try to review the year past and reflect on the clan happenings, I find it difficult to find words to write about. Similar to most other Clans and Societies the government stopped large gatherings all over the world and so our Clan MacRae activities and gatherings were cancelled and curtailed during 2020. I have to say that 2020 has been a year like no other in my life time and probably most of yours.

Family groups are so important during these hard times, having support and reflecting on the positive things. Hopefully, some of you have had time to look at your family traditions and share them with your children. Maybe some of you have joined a genealogy group or have had time to work on your family genealogy (linage) or made your genealogy a bit more organized. Many musical groups have created a YouTube, or music video to keep connected and to provide hope for their fans. For sure, many of you have learned to have a ZOOM meeting during the pandemic and our MacRae Board had a virtual meeting for our

AGM this past April. A number of our members and those with MacRae ancestors and relatives took the opportunity to work on their genealogy during times of lock down and home isolation during the pandemic. Thus, our Genealogy Facebook page has been active even if not much else has been going on. Our webmaster (Sharon) started to get members involved by doing a MacRae recipe book with a festive feel and it has turned out just beautiful.

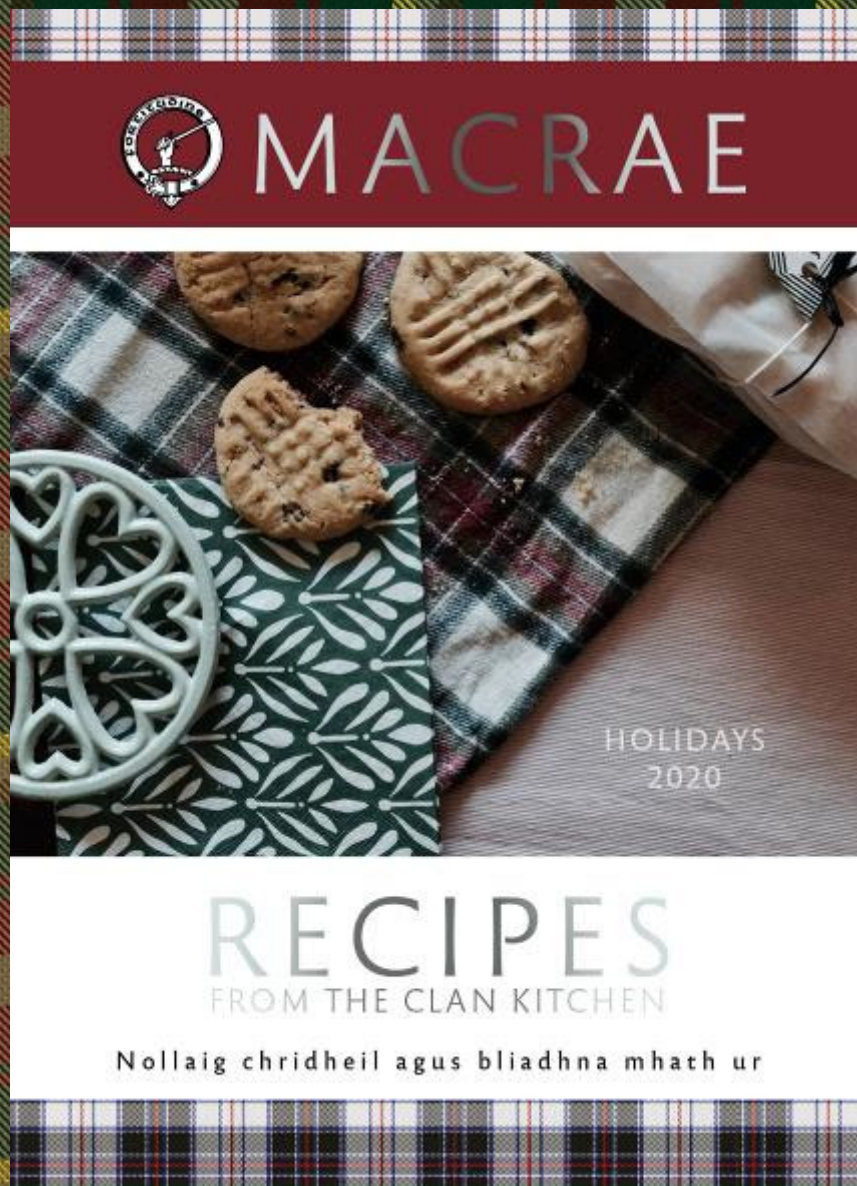
John and I have joined many virtual meetings with groups this year with CASSOC, AGM for the MacRaes, the "2020 Scottish North American Community Conference" with the focus on "How Can We Ensure the Ongoing Bonds of Scottish North American Friendship" to gain some insight for Highland Games and worked on a Digital Gathering called "A Celebration of Light Around the World" which I thoroughly enjoyed.

There is no doubt this pandemic has had a profound effect on our Festivals, Highland Games, the Celtic music world, athletics and fundraising. In preparing for 2021, it presents its own difficulties. We don't know if or when the government will allow large/mass gatherings or musical concerts or how the economy will be. When will travel be safe?

Clan MacRae members as we expect many others are longing for the return of Highland Games, Festivals, Clan Gatherings and Concerts when unrestricted safe travel returns. So, during this Christmas season when most of us will not be able to join our families as we normally would, please stay positive in the hope that all will be able to be together next year sometime.

The silver lining amidst the clouds of 2020 has been despite our physical distancing-

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there has never been a time in history when we have connected with one another so easily and quickly. With the social media options at our fingertips, and technology in communications, we continue to talk and share with those loved ones around the world, like never before. With this way of sharing, we are staying connected now and for the future of things to be.

Whatever you decide to do this Christmas season it is certainly a year of change from the norm. The Clan MacRae Society of Canada would like to reach out and wish you all a Safe, Healthy and Peaceful season. Stay connected with those you love and lets all work together for a better tomorrow.

God Bless you all,
Barb Duff – Director

Clan Logan Society of Canada



Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada 2020 AGM by Steven Logan

(French version follows/ la version française suit)

For the very first time, Clan Logan participated in The CASSOC AGM meeting that was held on Zoom November 29th, 2020. This yearly meeting allowed the CASSOC board to come together with various other members of the organization. We were amazed with the attendance. A good number of clans were present at this meeting including Clans Munro, Gregor, MacEwan, Stewart, Chisholm, MacLeod, Gordon, Maclellan, Lachlan, MacAulay, Macfie, Ramsay, Elliot, MacRae, McDuff, MacFarlane, Lachlan, MacFie, Carruthers, Pringle, Mackenzie, MacLennan, the Clan Forbes Society, MacDougall and Logan. Let's also add the Westman Scottish Association, The Scottish studies Foundation, The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association and the Caledonia Highland Games. We even had Emily Redman from our ScotlandShop who attended live from Edinburgh Scotland.

We participated in this meeting by supplying the Treasurer's report for the year and by taking part in the discussions since we are part of the board.

All the member clans came together to discuss the issues that really matter to us. How do we promote Scottish culture in Canada and make it accessible to everyone? How can we generate funding for our activities and be more visible across our country? What do we need to do to reach out to different groups of people and get them involved in Scottish activities? The Great Canadian Kiltskate has become the Kiltskate Home Edition this year due to covid-19. Instead of having a huge gathering of skaters in a given place, they are asking people to be proud of their Scottish heritage and to go skating in small groups in various places across Canada.

How can CASSOC help promote that message and encourage people to participate?

William Petrie, the Chair of Cassoc, also shared with all attendees news that the Canada-Scotland Friendship Group was reconstituted on Parliament Hill. This group is a nonpartisan committee consisting of over 40 Members of Parliament and Senators, chaired by MP John Barlow (CPC), with executive committee members represented by MP John McKay (Lib), MP Marie-France Lalonde (Lib), MP Daniel Blaikie (NDP), MP Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Bloc), MP James Cumming (CPC), and Senator David Wells. The topics they elaborate on include the upcoming election in Scotland, partnerships between Universities, agriculture, trade and economic partnerships as well as learning more about how Scottish Parliament functions. It's all about strengthening the bond between Canada and Scotland.

Clan Logan really enjoyed this AGM because it allowed everyone to come together and ready tackle key issues that are important to us all. It was also an opportunity to build and reinforce our clan relations and maintain our visibility.

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Rencontre annuelle du CSEC(Clans et Sociétés Écossaises du Canada) 2020

Pour la toute première fois, le Clan Logan a participé à la réunion annuelle des Clans et Sociétés Écossaises du Canada tenue le 29 novembre 2020 sur l'application Zoom. Cette réunion a permis au conseil d'administration de se réunir avec divers autres membres de l'organisation. Nous avons été surpris par le bon nombre de clans qui étaient présents à cette réunion dont les Clans Munro, Gregor, MacEwan, Stewart, Chisholm, MacLeod, Gordon, Maclellan, Lachlan, MacAulay, Macfie, Ramsay, Elliot, MacRae, McDuff, MacFarlane, Lochlan, MacFie, Caruthers, Pringle, Mackenzie, MacLennan, la société Clan Forbes, MacDougall et Logan. Ajoutons également Westman Scottish Association, la fondation d'études écossaises, New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association et Caledonia Highland Games. Nous avons même eu Emily Redman de ScotlandShop qui a assisté en direct d'Édimbourg en Écosse. Nous avons participé à cette réunion en fournissant le rapport du trésorier de l'année et en participant aux discussions puisque nous faisons partie du conseil d'administration.

Tous les clans membres se sont réunis pour discuter des problèmes qui sont vraiment importants pour nous. Comment pouvons-nous promouvoir la culture écossaise au Canada et la faire accessible à tous? Comment pouvons-nous générer du financement pour nos activités et être plus visibles dans tout notre pays? Que devons-nous faire pour atteindre différents groupes de gens et les impliquer dans les activités écossaises? Le grand Kilt Skate canadien

devient le Kilt Skate Home Edition cette année du à covid-19. Au lieu d'avoir un énorme rassemblement de patineurs en un lieu donné, ils demandent aux gens d'être fiers de leur Patrimoine écossais et d'aller patiner en petits groupes dans divers endroits à travers le Canada. Comment CASSOC peut-il aider à promouvoir ce message et encourager les gens à participer?

William Petrie, le président de Cassoc, a également partagé avec tous les participants la nouvelle que le groupe d'amitié Canada-Écosse a été reconstitué sur la Colline du Parlement. Ce groupe est un comité non partisan composé de plus de 40 députés et sénateurs, présidé par le député John Barlow (PCC), avec les membres du comité exécutif représentés par le député John McKay (Lib), la députée Marie-France Lalonde (Lib), le député Daniel Blaikie (NPD), le député Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Bloc), le député James Cumming (PCC), et le sénateur David Well. Les sujets sur lesquels ils élaborent comprennent les prochaines élections en Écosse, les partenariats entre universités, les partenariats agricoles, commerciaux et économiques ainsi qu'en savoir plus sur le fonctionnement du Parlement écossais. Il s'agit de renforcer le lien entre le Canada et l'Écosse.

Le clan Logan a vraiment apprécié cette assemblée annuelle car elle a permis aux gens de se rassembler et de s'attaquer aux questions clés qui sont importantes pour nous tous. Ce fût aussi une occasion de construire et de renforcer nos relations claniques et maintenir notre visibilité.

Clan Logan Society of Canada

Clans of the Highland's Virtual Saint-Andrew's Celebration by Steven Logan

(French version follows/ la version française suit)

This year, we are unable to gather to celebrate Scotland as we usually would in Canada at our various events. Our prospects for celebrating Saint Andrew's day were very slim until we received an invitation for The Clans of the Highlands virtual Saint Andrew's day Celebration held on November 29th, 2020. The Clans of the Highlands (COH) is an organization of clans active in Southern California. Since The Clan Logan Society International is an active member of this group, the invitation for the event done through Zoom extended to all members of Clan Logan allowing us to participate. This was the perfect occasion for us to meet up with our Logans in the United States as this year, we were unable to come down to San Diego to attend and help the Vista games as we usually would.

As soon as the event started, Your Commissioner got a very warm welcome. Saint Andrew's day really is a time to come together, wear our tartans and be proud of our Scottish heritage. Quite a lineup of events were planned with Scottish dancing, great music

and having a toast together and chatting with other attendees. Clan Murray and Mathieson were present. We were absolutely stunned knowing that at this virtual event, Clan Logan had a strong representation.

Five Clan Logan members attended, Billie Narver, Carol Tackett (Clan Logan Society International Genealogist), James Logan (President of the Clan Logan Society International), Linda Street-Ely and myself. By the looks of it, we predict an even stronger Logan attendance as many people have demonstrated interest for next year's event. It was a wonderful event and really made us feel like we were among extended family. We would like to warmly thank Darleen Weisz from The Clans of the Scottish Highlands.



Picture: James C. Logan, President of the Clan Logan Society International offers a toast.:

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Cette année, nous ne pouvons pas nous réunir pour célébrer l'Écosse comme nous le souhaitons lors de nos divers événements au Canada. Nos perspectives pour célébrer la Saint-André étaient très minces jusqu'à ce que nous recevions une invitation pour la célébration de la Saint-André de l'organisation "Clans of the Highlands" le 29 novembre 2020. Clans of the Highlands (COH) est une organisation de clans actifs dans le sud de la Californie. Puisque La Société Internationale du Clan Logan est un member actif de ce groupe, l'invitation à l'événement est exclusive aux membres et s'étend donc sur l'ensemble du Clan. Voilà pourquoi nous avons pu participer. C'était l'occasion parfaite pour nous de retrouver nos Logans aux Etats-Unis car cette année nous n'avons pas pu descendre à San Diego et assister aux jeux de Vista en Californie comme nous le faisons habituellement et d'aider.

Dès le début de l'événement, votre commissaire a obtenu un accueil très chaleureux. La fête de la Saint-André est vraiment un moment pour se retrouver, porter nos tartans et

être fier de fêter notre Patrimoine écossais. Toute une série d'événements ont été prévus avec de la danse écossaise, de la bonne musique et nous avons pu lever notre verre et boire un coup ensemble ainsi que de bavarder avec d'autres participants. Les Clans Murray et Mathieson étaient présents. Nous avons été absolument stupéfaits sachant que lors de cet événement virtuel, le Clan Logan avait une forte représentation. Cinq membres du Clan Logan étaient présents, Billie Narver, Carol Tackett (généalogiste internationale de la Clan Logan Society), James Logan (président du clan Logan Society International), Linda Street-Ely et moi-même. À première vue, nous prédisons une participation Logan encore plus forte car de nombreuses personnes ont manifesté leur intérêt pour l'événement de l'année prochaine. C'était un événement merveilleux et vraiment nous a fait ressentir que nous étions parmi la famille élargie. Nous remercions chaleureusement Darleen Weisz du COH.

Photo: James C. Logan, Président de la Société du Clan Logan soulève son verre et fait un toast.

Clan Logan Society of Canada

Black Watch Veteran Association Meeting By Steven Logan

(French version follows/ la version française suit)

On December 16th, 2020, the Black Watch veterans Association held their second virtual meeting through zoom.

The dress code was Christmas Elf or Santa Hat. I had the pleasure to attend because earlier this month, I had received the news that my application was officially accepted. A Gentleman membership within the organization was given.

This is quite the privilege considering that in the past, I was able to attend the meetings through the Black Watch family Division that Clan Logan is also involved with. This is a first step towards a greater cooperation together. Making a difference is something all clans try to do but that requires meeting many people in different places and having an idea of how you want to help.

Last year, our clan participated in Christmas celebrations held by the Association at Saint-Anne's Hospital in Saint-Anne de Bellevue Quebec. It was very moving to meet the veterans and see them get a little gift for the holidays and help them to go downstairs to see a Christmas show. Many wear teary eyed at seeing the care given to our veterans, letting them know we haven't forgotten. They really appreciated it. I want us to follow our clan motto "Hoc Majorum Virtus" which means "This is the valour of my ancestors". We need to offer support, compassion and care to our elderly and veterans because we must honour all our ancestors be-

fore that also gave their lives for a cause and those who have worked all their lives to make a positive difference.

This year is very different with the pandemic that hit us, this isolated all our elderly in retirement homes and hospitals, our veterans were no exception. The institutions tightened the rules and this prevented us from giving some much needed holiday cheer. We therefore attended this meeting to meet up with our friends and acquaintances but also to know what was being done this year, if anything, for



the veterans. Clan Logan has been active in December handing out holidays cards to people in retirement homes. We wanted to see if anything could be done for Saint-Anne's Hospital.



Maybe Clan Logan could intervene and help somehow and bring hope. They didn't want to take any chances this year so the people inside the establishment managed to get a little something going with cards and chocolate. At this meeting,

Gord Ritchie, 1st VIP and acting President, told us that COVID-19 hit hard and we sadly lost a few of our veterans. We all cross our fingers that happier times will return. This second meeting was productive as it did, if anything, give us an idea of future projects we can work on together once everything is alright again. Once the meeting was concluded, we wished each other the best holiday season.

(Continued on page 33)

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Picture 1: Gord Ritchie greets members to the meeting

Picture 2: Steven Logan attends meeting for Clan Logan

Réunion de l'Association des Vétérans du Black Watch

Le 16 décembre 2020, l'Association des Vétérans du Black Watch a tenu sa deuxième réunion virtuelle avec zoom.

Le code vestimentaire était Lutin de Noël ou chapeau de père Noël. J'ai eu le plaisir d'y assister car plus tôt ce mois-ci, j'avais reçu la nouvelle que ma candidature était officiellement acceptée. Une adhésion membre Gentilhomme au sein de l'organisation a été donnée. C'est tout un privilège étant donné que dans le passé, j'ai pu assister à la réunion avec la Division familiale du Black Watch auquel le clan Logan est également impliqué. Ceci est une première étape vers une plus grande coopération ensemble. Faire une différence est quelque chose que tous les clans essaient de faire mais cela nécessite rencontrer de nombreuses personnes à différents endroits et avoir une idée de la façon dont vous voulez aider.

L'année dernière, notre clan a participé aux célébrations de Noël organisées par l'Association à l'hôpital Sainte-Anne de Sainte-Anne de Bellevue Québec. C'était très émouvant de rencontrer les vétérans et de les voir recevoir un petit cadeau pour les fêtes et les aider à se déplacer pour voir un spectacle de Noël. Beaucoup ont eu les yeux aux larmes en voyant les soins prodigués à nos vétérans, leur faire savoir que nous n'avons pas oublié. Ils l'ont vraiment apprécié. Je veux que nous suivions la devise de notre clan "Hoc Majorum Virtus" ce qui signifie "ceci est la valeur de mes ancêtres". Nous devons offrir soutien, compassion et soins à nos personnes âgées et

les anciens combattants car nous devons honorer tous nos ancêtres Logan qui ont également donné leur vie pour une cause et pour ceux qui ont travaillé toute leur vie pour faire une différence positive.

Cette année est très différente avec la pandémie qui nous a frappés, celle-ci a isolé toutes nos personnes âgées en maison de retraite et les hôpitaux, nos anciens combattants ne faisaient pas exception. Les institutions ont resserré les règles et cela nous a empêché de donner un peu de joie des fêtes bien nécessaire. Nous avons donc assisté à cette rencontre pour retrouver nos amis et connaissances mais aussi pour savoir ce qui se faisait cette année, autant que ce soit pour les vétérans. Le clan Logan a été actif en décembre distribuant des cartes de vœux des fêtes aux personnes en maison de retraite. Nous voulions voir si quelque chose pouvait être fait pour l'hôpital Sainte-Anne.

Peut-être que le clan Logan pourrait intervenir et aider d'une manière ou d'une autre et apporter de l'espoir. Ils n'ont pas voulu prendre des risques cette année alors les gens à l'intérieur de l'établissement ont réussi à faire avancer un petit quelque chose avec des cartes et du chocolat. Lors de cette réunion, Gord Ritchie, 1er VIP et président par intérim, nous a dit que le COVID-19 a frappé fort et nous avons malheureusement perdu quelques uns de nos anciens combattants. Nous croisons tous les doigts pour que des temps plus heureux reviennent. Cette deuxième rencontre a été productive car il nous a donné une idée des futurs projets sur lesquels nous pouvons travailler ensemble une fois que tout va bien à nouveau. Une fois la réunion terminée, nous nous sommes souhaités les meilleures fêtes de fin d'année.

Photo 1: Gord Ritchie rencontre les membres de l'Association.

Photo 2: Steven Logan représente le Clan Logan

Clan Logan Society of Canada

Clan Logan Board Meeting by Steven Logan

(French version follows/ la version française suit)

On December 19th, 2020, The Clan Logan Society international held its first virtual board meeting through zoom. This board meeting was hosted by the President of The Clan Logan Society International, James C. Logan, and was a resounding success. The participants who attended were James C. Logan, Jon Kevin Logan, Randolph Allan Horne, John Logan Marjoribanks from the UK and myself from Canada. Carol A Tackett, our genealogist was planned to attend but could not be present.

It was nice to get together, see each other and discuss key issues that are very important to us. James presented the membership report and mentioned that the society is doing quite well with people joining, there's an increase of interest in our clan. Randy our treasurer also gave his report mentioning that people have donated to our cause and that the Chief Restoration fund is doing well, people are contributing and giving funds to help us. We discussed the possibility of holding more zoom meetings that could help us

and our members come together more regularly and we have come to a consensus that Clan Logan Heritage meetings should be held which would give our members a chance to participate and meet one another.

Most importantly, we discussed with John Logan Marjoribanks where we are heading and the progress made with the Chief restoration project which is somewhat on hold right now due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has made things virtually impossible to continue doing some research. At this meeting, I was able to share all the latest information about the Clan Logan Society of Canada relating to our events this year and the next, our membership and projects for the future. Jon Kevin Logan spoke about Our Valour Magazine, the website and elaborated on ideas that could add value to the Society and its members. Once the serious business was taken care of, we all enjoyed some conversation, raised our glass and had a toast and wished each other a great holiday season. I have been a part of the Clan Logan Society International for many years and

have been a life member since March 18th,

(Continued on page 35)



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2017. I am really proud of all our board members and the work that is being done for all Logans. We are a team of hard working people who have an important goal, that of getting our Chief in Scotland and making sure we regain our status as a Clan so that the next generation of Logans will have their heritage, ancestry and history protected. Let's continue building together.

Picture 1: James C. Logan, President of the Clan Logan Society International opens the meeting.
Picture 2: Kevin Logan, the Vice-President comments about progress made.

French

La réunion du conseil d'administration du clan Logan

Le 19 décembre 2020, la Société Internationale du Clan Logan a tenu sa première réunion du conseil par Zoom. Cette réunion a été organisée par le président, James C. Logan, et a été un succès retentissant. Les participants étaient James C. Logan, Jon Kevin Logan, Randolph Allan Horne, John Logan Marjoribanks du Royaume-Uni et moi-même du Canada. Carol A Tackett, notre généalogiste, devait participer aussi mais a dû s'absenter.

C'était agréable de se réunir, de se voir et de discuter des questions clés qui sont très importantes pour nous. James a présenté le rapport d'adhésion et a mentionné que la société se porte très bien avec les gens qui se joignent; il ya une augmentation de l'intérêt pour notre clan. Randy notre trésorier a également donné son rapport mentionnant que les gens ont fait un don à notre cause et que le fonds de restauration en chef se porte bien, les gens contribuent et donnent des fonds pour nous aider. Nous avons discuté de la possibilité d'organiser

plus de réunions Zoom qui pourraient nous aider et réunir nos membres plus régulièrement. Nous sommes venus à un consensus que les réunions du clan Logan Patrimoine devrait avoir lieu, ce qui donnerait à nos membres la chance de participer et de se rencontrer.

Plus important encore, nous avons discuté avec John Logan Marjoribanks où nous nous dirigeons et les progrès réalisés avec le projet de restauration du chef de clan qui est en attente en ce moment dus à la pandémie qui a rendu les choses pratiquement impossibles à continuer de faire des recherches. Lors de cette réunion, j'ai pu discuter et partager tous les plus récentes informations sur la Société Clan Logan du Canada concernant nos événements de cette année et ceux de l'année suivante, notre état de membres et nos projets pour l'avenir. Jon Kevin Logan a parlé de "Our Valour Magazine", le site web et des idées qui pourraient ajouter de la valeur à la Société et à ses membres. Une fois que les sujets ont été abordés et que les formalités importantes ont été dites, nous avons simplement discutés amicalement et levé notre verre pour faire un toast et se souhaiter d'excellentes fêtes. Je fais partie du Clan Logan Society International depuis de nombreuses années et j'ai été membre à vie depuis le 18 mars 2017. Je suis vraiment fier de tous les membres de notre conseil d'administration et du travail qui est fait pour tous les Logan. Nous sommes une équipe de travailleurs acharnés qui ont un objectif important, celui d'obtenir notre chef en Écosse et de faire que nous retrouvons notre statut de clan afin que la prochaine génération de Logan aura leur héritage, leur ascendance et l'histoire protégée. Continuons à construire ensemble.

Photo 1: James C. Logan, le Président de la Société du Clan Logan International débute la rencontre.

Photo 2: Kevin Logan, le Vice-Président, discute les progress qui ont été faits.



We now have Canadian Clan MacEwen Society members from coast to coast - Nova Scotia to

Vancouver Island. Our third coast, the Arctic, still remains a challenge.

During this extraordinary year I have been thrilled by the creativity shown by various groups. We have virtual lectures, concerts, conferences, meetings, dance evenings, half-marathons races, Highland Games and many more, all helping us to survive the challenges that we have experienced during 2020.

I am quite sure that we will all welcome the upcoming Hogmanay with hope that 2021 will see a return to non-virtual life where we can experience real Highland Games again.

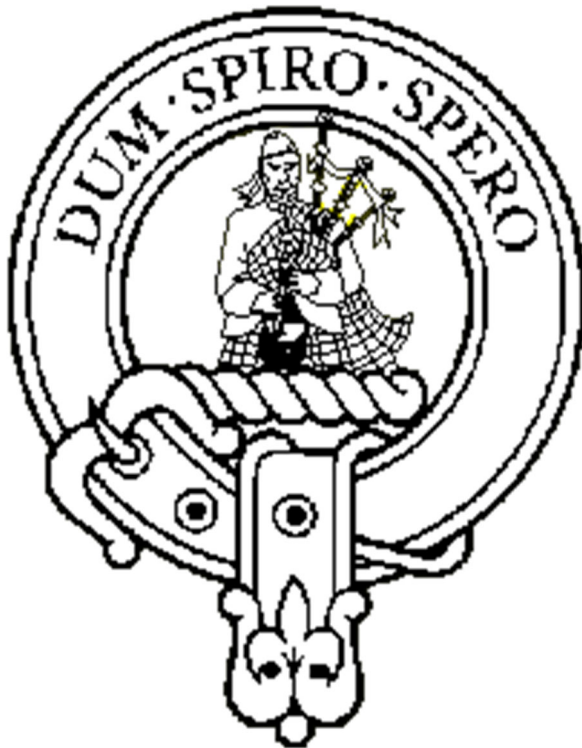
As the snow is starting to fall here in Ontario, I wish you safety, happiness and a great 2021.

Maggie McEwan...Canadian Convener, Clan MacEwen Society

Technology Help

It's not a level playing field with technology access and knowledge. While CASSOC has made advances, we know many of our members are unavailable to take advantage of online meetings such as we've used for our recent AGM. For this reason, we're offering to assist any of our member groups run an online meeting such as their AGM.

Contact us by email for more details.



Greeting CASSOC Clan Members,

Since all of the Highland Games had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 this year, Clan MacLennan has come up with ways to keep our MacLennan Clans folk connected. Many Webinars on "Finding Your Scottish Ancestors" were developed by Clan MacLennan as Zoom

meetings for members around the world during the lockdown months of 2020. They have been co-ordinated and hosted by Bruce MacLennan, our genealogist.

Zoom meetings were generally held each fortnight in three time zones. In the New Year of 2021 we will continue to have MacLennan Zoom meetings monthly with some of our members presenting their research study on a Scottish Parish in 1790 such as Inverness and Applecross where MacLennans were most prevalent.

Clan MacLennan Canada has sent out their usual newsletters to their members and contributed to the Worldwide MacLennan Newsletter.

We wish all Clans of CASSOC a Merry Christmas within your household and a Happy, Healthy, Covid Free 2021.

Cheers,

Barbara MacLennan

President
Clan MacLennan Canada

Clan MacFarlane Worldwide



Clan MacFarlane Worldwide – Year in Review

2020 is coming to an end and not too soon for many. The pandemic stopped large gatherings all over the world and most CMW activities and gatherings were either cancelled or curtailed during 2020. Many of you have probably been at a loss for words as to what to write about for our clan newsletters or other society newsletters that we belong to. It was certainly hard to get our creative juices into gear at times. As I reflect on this past year for inspiration and news with Clan MacFarlane Worldwide, we don't feel like the time has been completely wasted.

During the lockdowns, CMW decided not to waste this time and that 2020 would be an opportune time to actively work on developing our Marketing and how we want to present ourselves. Our By-Laws also needed to be updated to match our objectives and advancements in other areas. The Board members have been constantly working on these and this is still in progress and we hope to be finished soon. CMW wanted to get as much of this work done as possible so that we would be ready when things returned to the "new

normal" in the future. CMW had a successful first virtual AGM meeting this past Spring and continued virtual board meetings all year which kept us up to date and moving forward.

Clan MacFarlane Worldwide was able to host clan tents at Highland Games and Festivals in the southern USA early in 2020 before COVID 19 hit and events kept getting cancelled and later on restrictions lifted in the USA in some areas and several more events were able to go on. All festivals and games were cancelled in Canada due to their later start of festival season and on-going restrictions.

CMW, sadly had to cancel their planned Scotland trip in June, 2020 and this trip was changed to 2022 to allow time for the return of safe and unrestricted travel without any required quarantine period upon arrival in the UK or returning home. The "Kilts and Cowboy Boots Clan Gathering" in San Antonio hosted by Clan Colquhoun and including a total of four clans in April was also cancelled by that city.

Unfortunately, our scheduled Archaeology on our ancient Clan MacFarlane lands in Scotland had to be cancelled, although 21 of our muniment translations have been completed to date. Clan MacFarlane have copies of a total of 110 ancient muniments related to Clan MacFarlane. Some of these are written in Latin, Gaelic, and Old Scots/English. Plans are under way to have the remainder translated over the period of several years.

CMW also created and then presented two Digital Video's for our members to keep them in touch and connected during COVID thanks to the President's great idea. The first one was our "Virtual Games & Gathering" two-hour production in July with, dancing, piping, athletics/heavies, music and education on other

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subjects including travelling to Scotland. The second Virtual video was called "The Celebration of Lights Around the World" (a Christmas 1 hr. 45 min. presentation) which was presented in November to our members around the world. Many people took part to illustrate/show how other countries celebrated Christmas with their traditions. There was also Christmas music from the "Baker Street Victorian Carollers" from Dundas, ON. and celtic music from the Steel City Rovers of Hamilton, ON. This also included a presentation/message from Dr. Bruce Durie and the Lord Lyon from Scotland. Please see the links below if you wish to view the video's.

Digital Games & Gathering.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBwkrDD-c6k&t=111s>

Celebration of Lights:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utvHtrzdQc&feature=youtu.be>

There is no doubt that this pandemic has had a profound effect on our Festivals, Games, Music, Gatherings, Concerts, athletics, fund raising and most of life. As we look forward to the future and 2021, it presents its own difficulties. We don't know if or when the governments will allow large gatherings or musical concerts or how the economy will be. When will travel be safe? We may have many more events that are not allowed to happen in North America.

So, what is the silver lining among all this turmoil? Despite our physical distancing, there has never been a time in history when we have connected with one another so easily and quickly. With the social media options at our fingertips, and technology in communications, we continue to talk and share with others around the world, like never before. With this way of sharing, we are staying connected now and for the future of things to be.

On the positive side, CMW will eventually be able to go back to set up clan tents, our Archaeology will continue in Scotland, we will have an improved marketing strategy, our By-Laws will be up-dated, our trip to Scotland will happen, and our Board members are more educated on holding virtual meetings and new ways of doing things. We have learned new ways to connect with our audiences/members using virtual videos and plan on doing more in the future. What a year it has been. In the future, I am sure that whenever internet connectivity allows, it is expected that virtual attendance will be accommodated for many meetings and events.

In closing, Clan MacFarlane Worldwide wants to reach out and wish you all a safe, healthy and peaceful season. Stay connected with those you love and lets all work together for a better 2021.

GOD BLESS,

John & Barb Duff



President's Message December 2020

Seasons Greetings from the Clan Mackay of Canada!

To say 2020 has been a year like no other is an understatement. In addition to the tragic loss of life due to Covid-19, many have faced serious economic hardship and the emotional effects of prolonged isolation. Christmas will look very different for many of us this year. As Covid-19 cases continue to rise across Canada, it's difficult to find anything positive about 2020. However, as we say an enthusiastic good-bye to this terrible year there is reason for optimism – Covid-19 has demonstrated people's resilience and ingenuity as they try to adapt to life in the new normal. Our health care workers have shown us what true heroes they are. And science has triumphed as a vaccine is imminent – perhaps allowing the return to a more normal life by the Fall of 2021.

Like most of the rest of the world, the Clan Mackay Association of Canada has taken a pause this year. We certainly missed our Clan meetings and our attendance at the Cambridge and Fergus Scottish Festivals this sum-

mer. We hope to be able to return to these activities in 2021. In the meantime, we will have to get our Scottish fix in other ways:

- the Fergus Scottish Festival's Wee Digital Ceilidh
- CESC - History Scotland
- lots of Edinburgh Military Tattoo content on youtube.com;

and there's always Outlander now available on Netflix!

Our 2020 Annual General Meeting will also be going ahead on January 23, 2021 at 1:00 PM ET (Canada and US) on Zoom. Please use the link below to register.

In the meantime, I wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas season. Please stay safe and be well.

Heather Mackay

President of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada

Mackays and Sutherlands ruled! (from the Highland Archive Service)

In normal circumstances, the Highland Archive Service welcomes large numbers of visitors from across the Highlands, and the world, to trace their family history.

Although our four archive centres are currently closed to the public, we are still offering remote family history consultations and research. To tie in with this, for this month's article we're going to focus on two of the most common surnames traditionally found in Sutherland.

Although there are of course a number of frequently occurring names in the county, the area is perhaps most commonly associated with the names Mackay and, of course, Suth-

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erland. In fact, a look at the 1881 census shows that there were over 4230 people with these two surnames in the county – around 20 per cent of the county population at that time!

One of our most commonly-used resources when researching surname origin and development is George Fraser Black's *Surnames of Scotland*, which gives detailed information about early occurrences of Scottish surnames. With regards to the name Mackay, Black states that no one can be completely definite on its origins. He suggests that the name means "son of Aodh", that the original Mackays probably came from Moray, and that they may have been part of the ancient Clann Morgunn.

Black also makes reference to around 40 alternate spellings of the name, from "McCaa" to "Makkcee". In *R R Mclan and James Logan's Clans of the Scottish Highlands*, Logan, who wrote the text for the book, focuses on the reputation of the clan, stating that they were, for many years, "involved in almost continual disputes with their neighbours". Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries many of those conflicts were of a religious nature, the Mackays being staunch supporters of first the reformation and then the Hanoverian cause during the Jacobite risings.



The name Sutherland also has affiliations with the Hanoverian cause. A look at Black's book reveals that this name, which is of course toponymic (named after a place), has remained relatively unchanged over the centuries. The Sutherlands were one of that group of neighbours with whom the Mackays had continual disputes (alongside the Gunns, the Sinclairs and others) and they also have a long history of fights and feuds.

Perhaps the most notable enemies of the Sutherlands were the Sinclairs, with whom they had regular skirmishes and battles, particularly throughout the 16th century. During the Jacobite uprisings the Sutherlands were notable in their support of the Hanoverian cause, with John Gordon, the 16th Earl of Sutherland, appointed Supreme Commander of the loyalist forces in the north during the 1715 uprising. He, and they, were key to the suppression of that rising and

of course the name had become synonymous with military capability.

Black's book has been digitized and can be found online and our family historian can be contacted via genealogy@highlifehighland.com.

We have free short talks on the Highland Archive Centre Facebook page and the High Life Highland YouTube page on Thursdays at 11am.

Clan Munro Association of Canada



Frae the President's Pen:

Dear Cousins,
Scotland does things differently...
I was happily bemused to read a recent article on the BBC website about Christmas lights in the small town of Newburgh (pop. 2171) in Fife, Scotland.

For nineteen years, the town council has provided a child in the local primary school a chance to have their design turned into a town Christmas light design. It will then be joined by all the other winners over the years in a festival of children's festive imaginations. And the results are nothing less than brilliant!



Isla Ferguson's 'Angel' has been in the display for nine years. She was six when her design won the competition back in 2011.

Credit: Fiona Ferguson

Katherine Porter's 'Dancing Christmas Tree' won in 2009.

Credit: Newburgh Action Group



And Jamie Gourlay's 'Angry Penguin' was a hit in 2003.

Credit: Newburgh Action Group

Like so many festive displays and activities, this year's Newburgh Christmas Lights were threatened by the Coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to donations from the local population and a global crowdfunding effort, this year's and next year's light shows will be fully supported.

For the full story, go to:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55131048>

So, another year draws to a close. May I wish you all a joyous, healthy holiday season and a rewarding 2021!

Yours Aye,

Teatime wi' Angus

We hesitate to recommend Scotch whisky for any use other than drinking, but the following recipe is worth parting with some of your precious stock. We suggest that you use a smooth blend with sweet finish such as Macnish or Royal Findhorn.

Highland Bananas

- 1 banana, peeled and split lengthwise
- 1 tsp white flour
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp Scotch whisky
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 scoop vanilla ice cream
- Whipped cream to garnish

Melt butter in non-stick frying pan.

Dust banana halves with flour and sauté in pan until golden brown.

Put into buttered oven-proof dish and bake in the oven at 350F for 10 minutes.

Heat whisky in a small pan over low heat.

Carefully light the warmed whisky with a match, then add the brown sugar.

Cook for one minute over medium heat.

Transfer the banana halves to an oblong serving dish, pour the whisky over the banana and add the scoop of ice cream in the middle.

Garnish with whipped cream if desired.

Serve immediately.

This makes one delicious and elegant serving.

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association

Ruth Jones of NBSCA as sent us the following photos. Theses were taken by her cousin, Irene Robertson, in Scotland. A gracious thought about how we're missing being able to visit. Thank you!



Two photos from the Backwater dam



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association



Reekie Linn



Lintrathen Loch



Arbroath Harbour



BURNS NIGHT WHISKY TASTING

hosted by

GLENMORANGIE
SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



Virtual Burns Night Whisky Tasting hosted by Glenmorangie

Saturday 23rd January 8pm - 9.15pm

Come celebrate the great Scottish Bard and join us at our first ever virtual whisky tasting event! Enjoy an entertaining evening of whisky tasting with Bryan Simpson, national brand ambassador with Glenmorangie. Sample four different blends of Glenmorangie whisky which will all be delivered to your door if you live in the GTA.

\$70 for members

\$80 for non-members

Tickets can be purchased up until Friday January 15th. Event capacity is limited to 40 people so get your tickets today to avoid disappointment! For more information go to

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/burns-night-virtual-whisky-tasting-tickets-96042474627?aff=SASTDec22email>

THE GUELPH CENTRE FOR SCOTTISH STUDIES &
ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF TORONTO PRESENT:

DANCING DEVILS AND
'CUTTY SARKS': WITCHCRAFT AND
MAGIC IN ROBERT BURNS'
SUPERNATURAL SCOTLAND

A VIRTUAL TALK BY DR. SIERRA DYE
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH



TO BE HOSTED ON ZOOM

THURSDAY, 21 JANUARY 2021
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COLLEGE of ARTS
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SCOTTISH STUDIES



Prime Minister wears his Sinclair tie when announcing vaccine approval



There couldn't have been a better time for Justin Trudeau to sport his Sinclair tie than when he announced in the House of Commons on Dec. 9 that the Pfizer vaccine to treat Covid-19 has been approved for use by Health Canada.

Hooray!! The PM had been gifted the Sinclair tie on behalf of Clan Sinclair by our President, Roger.



The PM's grandfather, James "Jimmy" Sinclair (father of Margaret Sinclair Trudeau, the PM's mother), was an MP for Vancouver North, BC and served as Minister of Fisheries (under Louis St. Laurent) from 1952-1957.

Also, the [Sinclair Centre in Vancouver](#) was renovated and renamed after him in 1983.

Founded in 1976, CASSOC's purpose is:

- To advance Scottish Cultural Heritage in Canada, such Scottish culture be defined to include, but not be restricted to, traditional Highland, Island and Lowland cultures, whether in Scotland, Canada or wherever Scottish Culture may be expressed;
- To foster the organization of and co-operation and communication between Scottish federations, clans, societies or groups through the initiation and co-ordination of projects and undertakings;

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 2020 - 2021:

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

The last General Assembly meeting was held on November 29, 2020

The 2021 Spring Delegate's meeting is pending based upon the state of the Pandemic.

The next General Assembly meeting will be held November 2021, at a date, location and/or virtually as the situation permits.

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

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.

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

Membership Report and Updates

Membership Report

We have 39 Clans, 5 Societies, 5 Games and 3 Business groups for a total of 52 members.

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
International Association of Clan MACINNES
The Clan MACKAY Association of Canada
The Clan MACKENZIE Society of Canada
Clan MACLELLAN of America

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Membership Report and Updates

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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 RAMSAY International
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

Benefits and Offers

A reminder about ongoing benefits and offers.

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.

ScotlandShop - Plaid fashion, gifts and accessories designed and tailored in the Heart of Scotland. Authentic Custom Made Scottish Tartan. Made Right In the Heart Of Scotland. World-wide Delivery. Over 500 Tartans. Types: Tartan Fabrics, Tartan Suits, Tartan Dresses, Tableware, Gifts. Members of CASSOC receive a 10% discount when using the code '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@hwcnc.org
Rory Sinclair	Toronto	http://www.caledoncounty.com 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 http://bagpipervancouver.com
Callum Gauthier	Ottawa / Rideau River / Toronto	613-620-1014 Cal- lum.gauthier5@gmail.com cal- lum.gauthier@mail.utoronto.ca

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

Benefits and Offers

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 bridge over the Rideau Canal in Ottawa during Winterlude in Ottawa.
Photo by Ray Germain from Freemages.com

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.

CASSOC assumes no responsibility for content including dates for events.

Please verify by contacting organizers, visiting websites and other sources.

Whenever possible, please provide Word, RTF or text formats

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

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

Submissions should be emailed to editor@cassoc.ca

TAYLORS TARTANS.COM

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