



Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord

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Frae the Chair

Greetings,

Contrary to my usual long-winded blether (in the true Scottish sense), here's my apology for a short message and apology for a similarly short newsletter. There's more that could be added to the following pages but we're just out of time.

I'll be manning the CASSOC booth at the Scottish Society of Ottawa's Hogman-eh! Celebration on December 31st so details about it need to get out to those who may be interested in attending.

One of the articles I'm most regretting not having time for is the combined visit to Stone Mountain Games in Georgia and drive through the Blue Ridge up to the SNACC conference in New York. These will be gotten to in an upcoming edition.

For CASSOC, the Stone Mountain Games were significant in that we visited over 50 clans and families. Some are members of CASSOC, some were US affiliates of members who knew nothing about us and others were totally new to us.

Best of all were the lessons learned about the broad spectrum of size, organization and, importantly, needs of heritage organizations. Important input to initiatives that CASSOC is undertaking as a result of board decisions and the recent AGM, another 'to be covered' event in the future.

Of course, one of the key joys of visiting the booths was the universal warm welcome we were given. All had a hospitality back area for the booth and, certainly, as you can see from the above photo of a MacGregor in the midst of the Colquhouns, it was recognized that we are bound in purpose and camaraderie by our common history of struggles in the homeland.

Seasons greetings to all, have a successful New Year and enjoy the Hogmanay tomorrow night.

Lang May Yer Lum Reek

William Robert Petrie
Clan Gregor
chairperson@cassoc.ca





Mackenzies in Canada joined kin from overseas in celebrating the arrival of a new member of their clan chief's family in November.

'*Se gille a th'ann* – it's a boy – came the news from our counterpart organization, the Clan MacKenzie Society of Scotland and the UK, as clan chief Cabarfeidh and Lady Eve announced the arrival of their new grandson. Congratulations are extended to Colin, Viscount Tarbat and his good lady Julia, on the safe arrival of their son Roderick.

In other news, the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada is undertaking a redesign of its website and online store offerings. The aim is to refresh the look and feel of CMSC's online offerings with new branding, linking its web and social media pages with recognizable visuals that speak to the society's roots and purpose across the board.

Like many clans and Scottish groups across Canada, CMSC welcomed the return of in-person highland games and festivals in 2022. The clan was represented at events including Victoria, Regina, Montreal and Ontario games at Fergus and Maxville.

the  *North American Edition*  
the Scottish Banner
 41 Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com *A' Bhratach Albannach*

Click above to access the December Edition

ScotlandsPeople 1921 Census



ScotlandsPeople 1921 census

Who will you find?

Search scotlandspeople.gov.uk



ScotlandsPeople



National
Records of
Scotland

Introduction

This brief is intended to give you some key facts and figures about Scotland in 1921 as well as information about some interesting finds we have discovered in the census records which are now open for searching for the first time.

While the statistical information has been known since it was published in the years immediately after the census was taken, the personal data has never been seen before. Where possible we have included current figures for comparison to the 1921 statistics.

If you would like to include some of the discoveries we have made in your coverage we can make copies of the census records available for you to include. You should attribute the images Crown Copyright courtesy of National Records of Scotland.

Facts from the 1921 census report

1921	Most recent comparisons
Population 4.8 million	5.4 million (12% increase)
Median age 29.6 years (half older and half younger)	42.2 years
3.4% aged over 70	14%
77.3% were living in urban areas	82.5%
99.5% born in the UK	90% born in the UK
3.47% of people aged 3 and over could speak Gaelic	1.7%
8% of households in a one room home (12 % in Glasgow)	0.6% of households live in a one bedroom home (1.5% in Glasgow)

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Background

War fatalities left a big gap in Scotland's population. In 1921 there were 187,213 more females than males. That's 27 females for every 25 males but it affected younger ages more due to the disproportionate number of younger men who died in the war. There were 19% more 25 year old women than men of the same age. The 1921 census report says that some of the gap can be attributed to earlier emigration out of Scotland. Estimates put Scottish war casualties between 100,000 and 135,000 although some of these men may have emigrated but returned to fight in a Scottish regiment.

Scotland in 1921 was also recovering from the Great Influenza Pandemic, commonly known as the 'Spanish Flu Pandemic'. A report by the Registrar General showed that between 1918 and 1919 17,575 people died with influenza listed on the death certificate.

The county of Lanark which included Glasgow had grown fast during the industrial revolution. In 1921 it was ten times the size it had been in the 1801 census.

Glasgow itself had more than a fifth of the country's population at over 1 million people.

Scotland's housing system was radically different. As many as 90% of homes were rented. The 1921 census was the first to record no-one living in a windowless house. This was the era of "homes fit for heroes" and the census found more homes under construction than at any previous census. Scotland's first post-war social housing project, the Logie Estate in Dundee, had already been put up and the residents are enumerated for the first time in their new homes. It is likely that conditions were a lot better than where they had left but our researchers are still finding large families in modest homes including Norman McLaren, lone parent to a two year old girl following the death of his young wife from influenza, living with his mother and six adult siblings in a three room home on the new estate.

The 1921 census also captured some fun times too. The 1921 Open Golf Tournament at St Andrew's was not yet in full swing but the town's hotels were already filling up with famous golfers and their media entourage. The census page for the Links Hotel includes winner John "Jock" Hutchison who was born in St Andrew's but emigrated to America and played on the USA team. His employer is listed as the Glenview Golf Club, Chicago, Illinois.

Delivering the 1921 census

In Scotland the work of delivering the census was led by the Registrar General who relied on a network of registrars and enumerators to get census forms called "schedules" out to every household, filled in and returned. The information from the schedules was then copied into enumeration books by hand. It is images from the pages in those books that customers can find on ScotlandsPeople.

The census of 1921 was taken on 19 June. This meant that on the night of the census some areas popular with tourists had artificially large populations. Concern about strikes in the coal mining in-

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dustry had led to the army stationing groups of soldiers in collieries and our research has found that part of Denbeath Public School in Methil was a temporary Barracks for 156 soldiers. Among the officers is the Honourable John Dewar who in addition to having a distinguished military career was Director of Public Companies at whisky giant Dewar's. The 1921 census records reveal that at the Blackrigg colliery number three in West Lothian, a shale mine, a Company of soldiers were 'protecting the colliery and not living in houses'. These 21 Privates, three Lance Corporals, one Sergeant and one Lieutenant would all appear to be Army Reservists as all their occupations and employers are detailed. We can see an electrician, a box maker, a gardener, and a tailor who worked for O Clark & Co, Thread Mills in Paisley. More mines across the county had soldiers stationed there during 1921 including Cowie Colliery in Fife and Bowhill Colliery Cardenden. The Royal Navy and Royal Marines were also involved with 650 personnel stationed the East Fortune Airfield in East Lothian.

St Kilda's lost community

The 1921 census records 73 people living on St Kilda, mostly crofters and hand loom weavers. The island would be evacuated in 1930 making this the last time an indigenous community to part in a national census. Today there is a military base and owners, The National Trust for Scotland, have staff based there part of the year. You can read more about life on St Kilda in this article on the NRS website

[Stories from St Kilda | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/stories-from-st-kilda)

Opening the 1921 census

Making the personal data of a census available is an unusual undertaking in that it unites two teams of workers 100 years apart. The Census Act of 1920 ensures that once the statistical information has been created from household data the personal information like names, relationships and ages must be kept confidential for 100 years. Only at that point can it be opened for members of the public to view.

To give people an efficient way of searching, digital copies have been taken of every page of every enumeration book and then every handwritten name transcribed into a computerised index. Quality review work has also been undertaken to improve accuracy.

With a ScotlandsPeople account people can search for their ancestors or other people of interest at no charge with just names and an idea of where they might have been living. There's a fee to view the images. An account also offers website users handy ways of storing their finds in timelines so key information can be found quickly. The more information about where someone was living the better the chances of finding them. While there are no guarantees that a person is listed it is likely that they will be included if they lived in Scotland at the time. There are online guides full of hints and tips for users. Using the census is a great opportunity to turn detective and NRS invites everyone to tell them: who will you find?

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/1921-scottish-census-released>

Update from Andrew MacCulloch (kiltskate@ottscot.ca)

It is awesome to see LIVE kilt skates happening again. So far, we know of scheduled skates in:

- Brampton, ON (Gage Park, February 11, 2023)
- Concord, NH
- Calgary, AB
- Fergus, ON
- Glengarry North, ON
- Moncton, NB
- Montreal, QC
- NYC, NY
- Ottawa, ON
- Winnipeg, MAN

We also have a new skate launching on the Plains of Abraham in beautiful Quebec City. Wish me luck LOL! We hope to have a few more skates to announce and more details from all communities shortly.

Editor's Note

CASSOC **members** are eligible for matching funds contributions of up to \$250 for local skate events. For example, the Brampton, Ontario event is being run by Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter and it has applied for matching funding for park rental, piper and refreshments.

Contact events@cassoc.ca for more details on funding requirements and eligibility



Clan of the Bells



Meet William Clark Bell New CBNA Commissioner for Western Canada

Clan Bell North America member Deacon William Bell holds a Master's in Health Administration with a specialty in Long Term Care. He has a life-time of clinical experience in health service, specifically serving the unmet needs of older adult populations. He is retired from a career in psychiatric nursing and health services administration. In 2010, William was ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate in the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

Deacon Bell and his wife Wendy have lived in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, Canada for the past 26 years. They have three adult children, two grand-children, and an exuberant English Labrador. Both Bill and

Wendy are retired. They volunteer their time and talents in two supportive living residences, a soup kitchen, and the local Food Bank.

Email: bell.family@shaw.ca Text: (780) 318-1948

Check out Bill's website at
www.celebratetheharvest.ca.

He is available for comments, questions, and conversations through this internet site. He is looking forward to this opportunity for dialogue with members of CBNA.

Bill is author of the recently published "Celebrate the Harvest:

A Guide to the Spiritual Needs and Religious Life of Older Adults"

Available through:

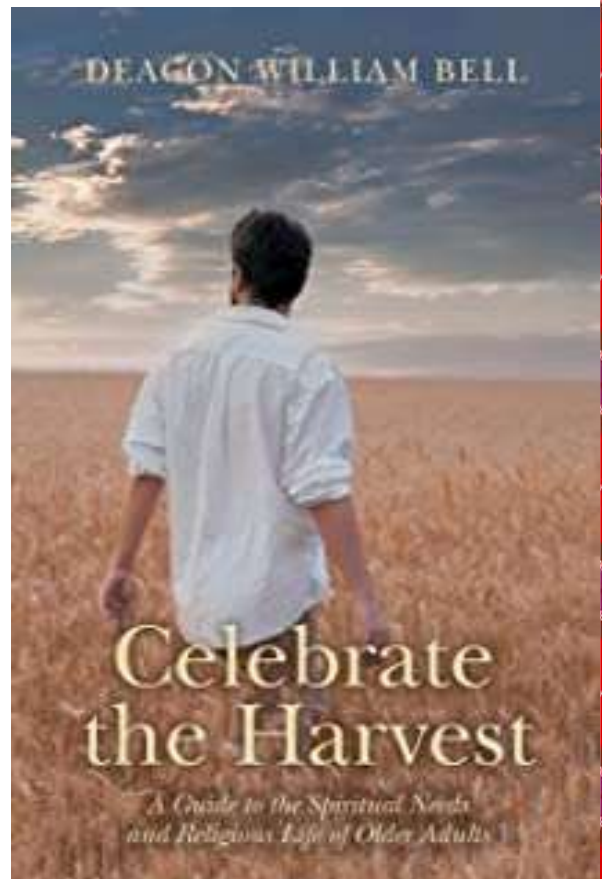
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Scottish Prisoners of War DNA Project (submitted by Stephanie Bell-Clements Adams)

In 2001, a Y-DNA Project was begun that may be of interest to descendants of Ninian Beall. As family lore has it, Ninian Beall was one of the thousands of Scots who were taken prisoner after the Battle of Dunbar by Oliver Cromwell's army. Many of these Scottish Prisoners of War were transported to the New World, including Bermuda and Barbados. As of the date of this article, the Beall surname has not been added to the SPOW project surnames list.

According to the SPOW website: "The Scottish Prisoners of War DNA project was formulated to research and discover the fate of Scottish prisoners taken after the Battle of Dunbar (1650) and the Battle of Worcester (1651) of the English/Scottish Civil Wars.

Many of these imprisoned Scots were transported to the American colonies of New England and Virginia. This Y-DNA project is also open to those who believe they may have a Dunbar or Worcester ancestor who was transported to Bermuda or other destinations in the New World from 1650-1655. These prisoners were indentured into service for several years. Most of these men survived to be released from this indentured servitude, and those who survived were able to settle in the New World to work their own land in time...

This project will be of interest to people who have tested Y-DNA (for themselves or a family member) and who are, or believe you may be:

- descended from Scottish prisoners transported to New England on board the Unity (1650)
- descended from Scottish prisoners transported to New England on board the John and Sarah (1651)
- descended from Scottish prisoners who may have been transported on other ships or to other colonies (1640s-50s)
- descendants from other Scottish exiles from the Commonwealth or Restoration (1650s-60s) e.g. Covenanters

Genetic matches from Y-DNA of descendants of the above are also welcome to join the project, especially those still living in Scotland or whose ancestors emigrated from there in more recent times - one of the goals of the project is to try to pinpoint possible places of origin for the transported prisoners in Scotland." For more about the SPOW DNA Project go to

<https://www.familyreedna.com/groups/scottish-po-ws/about/background>

Clan MacNicol Society of North America - New Member



Clan MacNicol Origins

Clan MacNicol history goes back over 800 years in the Hebrides and Western Highlands. Sources are in dispute as to whether the Clan is of Norse or Irish origin, with the noted historian David Sellar making connection to the Norse House of Ivar and earlier sources following O'Hart's Irish pedigrees placing the MacNicol as descendants of the Irish Ui Neil dynasty.

The Name MacNicol

The name MacNicol means "son of Nicol." The name father of the Clan is thought to be a Nicail (a popular Scandinavian name equivalent to Nicholas) or a Krycul (the letters "n" and "r" can have a similar pronunciation in Gaelic) who flourished in the 13th century.

The name is first recorded in the early 14th century in reference to John MacNakyl, who was among the leading men of the Hebrides, but was increasingly Anglicized to Nicolson or Nicholson by the late 17th century. Today our members bear dozens of different surnames including MacNicol, Nicols, Nicolson and numerous spelling variations of each.

History of Clan MacNicol

Regardless of whether our origin is Norse or Irish, the progenitor of Clan MacNicol was likely a prominent individual in the mid-13th century with holdings throughout the Hebrides and specifically on the Isle of Lewis. The first chief on record is John MacNakyl who was listed among the leading chiefs of the Hebrides and was courted by Edward II as a potential ally against Robert the Bruce. However John Barbour's poem *The Bruce* credits the MacNicol as having a major role in the Scottish campaigns against the English in Ireland in 1316.

In the next generation it seems the MacNicol lands passed to the MacLeods through an heiress. The male line settled on the Isle of Skye on the lands of Scorrybreac near modern Portree. During the 16th century, MacNicol of Portree was listed among the members of the Council of the Isles. MacNicol were involved in the feuds between the MacDonalds and the MacLeans as well as the Civil War.

The Reverend Donald Nicolson of Scorrybreac is known to have fathered 23 children and is a common ancestor of many Skye families. Although identified as a Jacobite for refusing to swear allegiance to William III, the MacNicol never supported the Jacobite cause directly or openly. However in 1746 the chief John Nicolson is reputed to have sheltered Prince Charles Edward Stuart during his flight from the British. A wine glass reportedly used by the Prince and a lock of his hair have been passed down to the current Chief.

The Clan was heavily affected by the Highland Clearances which forced many clansfolk to emigrate

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Clan MacNicol Society of North America - New Member

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from Scotland throughout the 18th and 19th centuries including the chief who lost his holdings at Scorrybreac in 1826, eventually settling his family in Tasmania Australia.

Reestablishing The Clan

In the 1980s Sir David Nicolson, 4th Baron of Carnock was recognized as the Chief of the Clan Nicolson by the Lord Lyon, Chief Heraldic Authority for Scotland, based on a Nicolson ancestor. Ian Nicolson, the descendant of the chiefly line, was not content with this and petitioned the Lord Lyon for recognition. In 1988, Iain was granted the title Chief of the Highland Clan MacNeacail and Scorrybreac. This allowed clanspeople around the world to rally around their new chief and led to the development of our modern clan organization.

Clan MacNicol Today

Today Clan MacNicol is organized into three branches, North America, Scotland, and Australasia which are all members of the Clan MacNicol Federation. Each branch has its separate membership, leadership, communications, and annual gatherings, but each support the larger Federation which meets every other year on a rotating basis within the three regions.

The Chief of the Clan

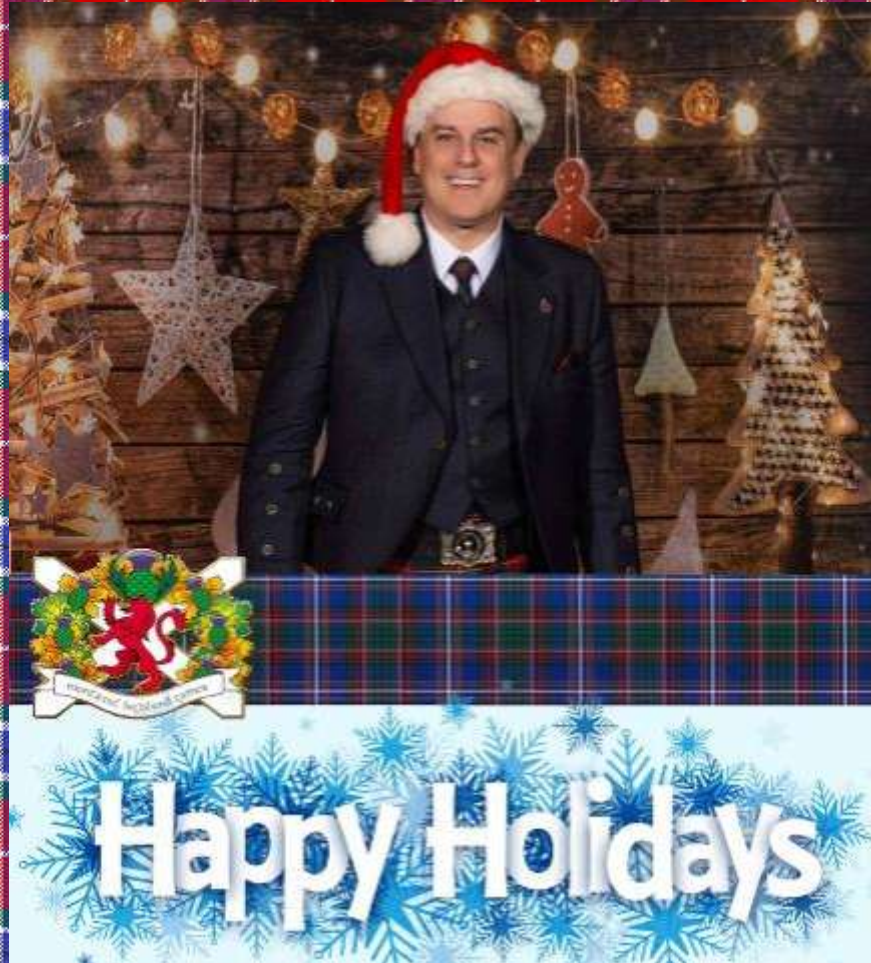
Our current Chief is Iain's son, John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac. He was born in Launceston, Tasmania, Australia on March 20, 1950 and was educated on Tasmania and in California, USA. He is a company director and investor with interest in real estate agencies and property in Northern New South Wales and Queensland.

Scorrybreac resides in Ballina, New South Wales with his wife Jenni. They have two sons: Luke the Clan Tanist was born in Canberra in 1979, and Adam was born in Pambula in 1983. John became the 34th Chief of Clan MacNicol upon the death of his father, Iain, in October 2003.



John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac, Chief of the Highland Clan MacNeacail and his wife Jenni.

Montréal Highland Games - New Member



On behalf of everyone at the Montréal Highland Games, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Holi-day Season!

I want to personally thank all participants, Clans and non-profit organizations at this year's games! Without your involvement, we couldn't have given our visitors such a wonderful experience!

Please remember that your contribution is greatly valued by all of us. I look forward to serving you all again in the new year as your Clans and Communities Director. I want to continue and build more memories with all the various organizations that give their time and who commit to our event to make it one of a kind. Let's get back together in 2023!

Au nom de tous les organisateurs des Jeux Écossais de Montréal, j'aimerais vous souhaiter à tous un merveilleux temps des Fêtes!

Je tiens à remercier personnellement tous les participants, les clans et les organismes sans but lucratif

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Montréal Highland Games - New Member

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venus aux jeux de cette année! Sans votre implication, nous n'aurions pas offert à nos visiteurs une expérience aussi merveilleuse! N'oubliez pas que votre contribution est grandement appréciée par nous tous. J'ai bien hâte de vous servir à nouveau au cours de la nouvelle année à titre de Directeur des Clans et Communautés . Je veux continuer et construire plus de souvenirs avec les différents organisations qui donnent de leur temps et qui s'engagent dans notre événement pour le rendre unique en son genre. Retrouvons nous en 2023 !



For those who don't know, our next Montréal Highland Games should be Sunday, August 6th, 2023 at Douglas Institute grounds in Verdun.(the date will be reconfirmed at a later time).Please mark your calendars! I look forward to seeing you all again!

Pour ceux qui ne le savent pas déjà, nos prochains Jeux Écossais de Montréal devraient avoir lieu le dimanche 6 août 2023 sur les terrains de l'Institut Douglas à Verdun (la date sera reconfirmée ultérieurement). S'il vous plaît marquer vos calendriers! J'ai hâte de vous retrouver!

Steven Logan

Clans and Community Organizations Director

Montreal Highland Games

Clan Buchanan Society International - New Member



A Short History

Clan Buchanan is one of the most significant and oldest Highland Clans of Scotland, with charters dating to 1217 and roots stretching back to the Picts (DNA shows our presence in the Auld Kingdom of Alba, well before the year 1000 AD). The lands of Clan Buchanan are on the border of the Highlands, to the East of Loch Lomond, in the middle of Scotland, just north of Glasgow. In Gaelic the name of the clan is Canonaich.

The Anglicized name is said to derive from “Mac a Chanonaich” (“The Son of the Canon”) and “Buth Chanain” (“house or seat of the canon”). Fiercely Scottish, our chief at the time refused to sign the Ragman Roll in 1296; and during the Wars of Scottish Independence the clan Buchanan supported King Robert the Bruce by aiding his escape in 1306.

The Clan crest depicts a hand holding a Ducal Cap, which reflects the legend of Sir Alexander Buchanan (circa 1470)

whom killed the Duke of Clarence at Battle of Beauge. Having dispatched the Duke, Buchanan seized the Duke’s jewelled gold coronet, and raising it aloft: rallying the Scottish troops and inflicting significant casualties upon the English. The English troops retreated, giving the victory to the Scots with very few Scottish casualties.

The Chiefs Coat of Arms depicts a black Rampant Lion with red claws; which heralds our connection (through marriage) to the Robert the Bruce; King of Scotland. Our previous chief died in 1681 without male heirs or grandchildren. And along with significant debts and persecution following the Highland Clearances, Clan Buchanan was armigerous for nearly 3 centuries. But, in 2018 John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan was named Chief of the Name and Arms of Buchanan, and has made the clan whole and is leading a resurgence in our popularity, strength and relevance.

Our Clan Mottos is “Clarior Hinc Honos”, which means “Brighter hence the honour”. We proudly reflect the Scottish Diaspora and welcome Canadians to learn more about us at www.theclanbuchanan.com

The CBSI was formed in 1970 as the “Clan Buchanan Society in America” at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The name was later changed to the Clan Buchanan Society International Inc., to reflect our society's expanded purpose and membership. We have membership on most continents, and particularly in USA, Canada, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand.

The wonderful thing about the CBSI is that any person who is of Buchanan descent or one of the 50 Septs and Associated Family Names can join and celebrate their Scottish heritage with many links to Buchanan history, traditions, activities, and genealogy.

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Clan Buchanan Society International - New Member

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The CBSI Motto is “Collegite Fragmenta Ne Pereant” (Gather the pieces lest they be lost)

CBSI members are called Wardens of Clan Buchanan, and we benefit from:

- Pride in actively contributing to the Modern history of the clan
- Regular magazine, the “Buchanan Banner”
- Participation in clan activities and representation at Highland Games and Celtic gatherings
- Connection with clans folk from around the world
- Access to the new, exciting and evolving Buchanan Genealogy database, including advice from a clan Genealogist
- Participation in Archaeology and Archiving projects being undertaken on clan lands in Scotland
- And expansion and promotion of Scottish culture

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129137053793440>



Scott Buchanan - Ontario Regional Director

Clan Fergusson Society of North America - New Member



A Short History:

A. The purposes for which the Clan Fergusson Society of North America (<http://cfsna.net>) was formed in 1972 (and its continued purposes) are:

- 1) To collect, preserve and promote interest in and study of literary, historical and genealogical records and documents and relics relating to the history of the Clan Fergusson and/or Scotland.
- 2) To honor our Scottish heritage and to inspire among our members and descendants, the pride and spirit of our Scottish ancestors and to perpetuate and present and disseminate to the public for the present and future, those traditions, values, qualities and attitudes from the past which have proven to be of sound social benefit.
- 3) To come to the relief of the poor and distressed and to provide for the advancement of education and science.

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Clan Fergusson Society of North America - New Member

(Continued from page 16)

B. The Clan Fergusson Society of North America also maintains and administers the Clan Fergusson Charitable Trust which exists solely for charitable purposes including, but not limited to, the advancement of education, science and the arts. This is accomplished, for example, through educational grants and scholarships and the dissemination of historical and genealogical information.

<https://www.facebook.com/cfsna>



Sir Adam Fergusson - Chief of the Name Fergusson and Honorary President of Clan Fergusson Society of North America

Scottish Studies Foundation



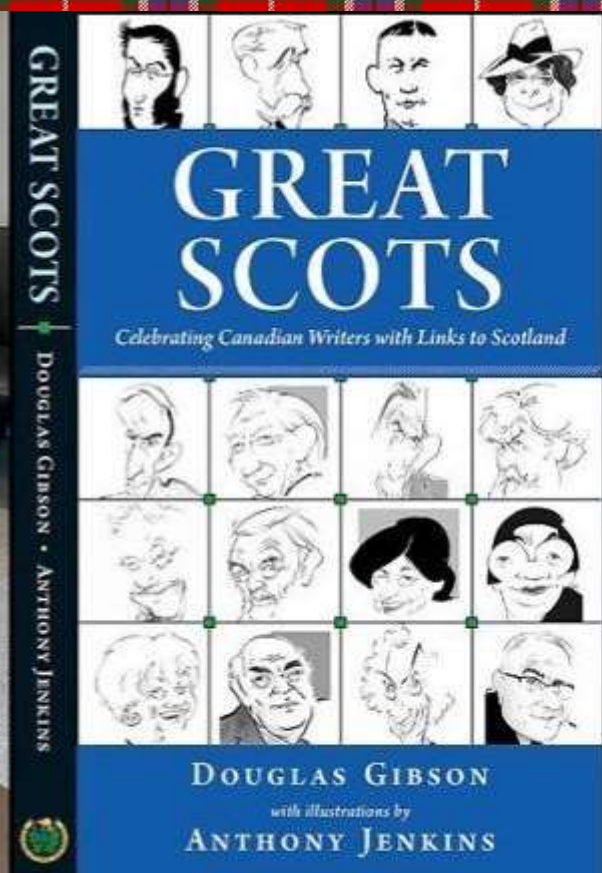
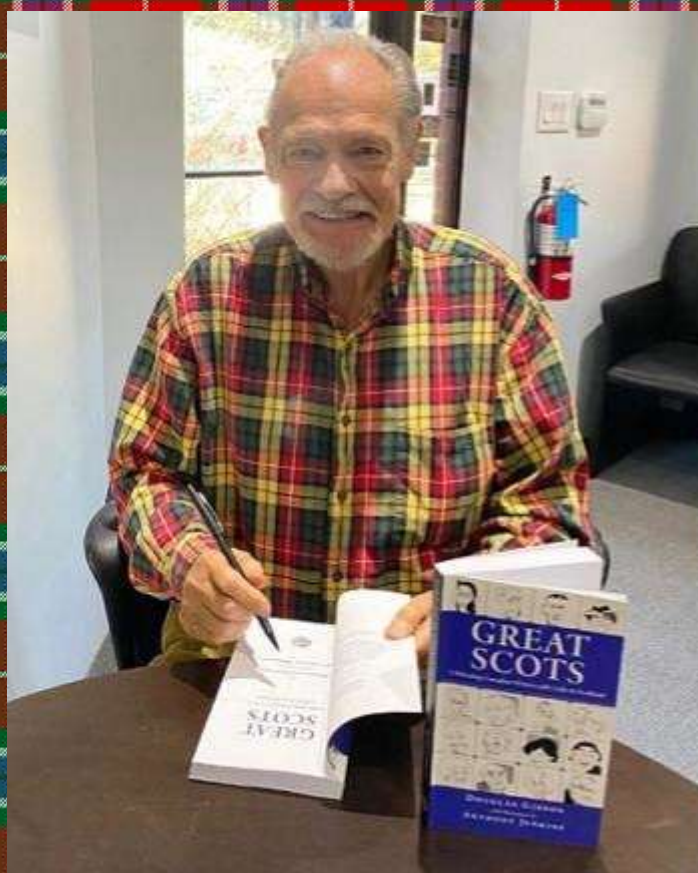
Dear CASSOC members,

Earlier this year, former publisher-turned-author Douglas Gibson donated the rights to have his latest book *GREAT SCOTS: Celebrating Canadian Writers with Links to Scotland* published by the Scottish Studies Foundation to be used as a fundraiser for the Scottish Studies program at the University of Guelph.

We are excited to have received the first batch of books from the printer, all of which have been carefully inscribed by Doug. The book is full of fascinating anecdotes from his research and his career in publishing. It features 35 writers with links to Scotland, from Sir Alexander Mackenzie to Joseph Boyden, and is illustrated by co-author Anthony Jenkins who served as editorial cartoonist, caricaturist and writer with the *Globe and Mail* for four decades.

This very personal book, often involving Canadian authors that Doug knew well, is a lively and im-

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Douglas Gibson proudly signing the first batch of his new book

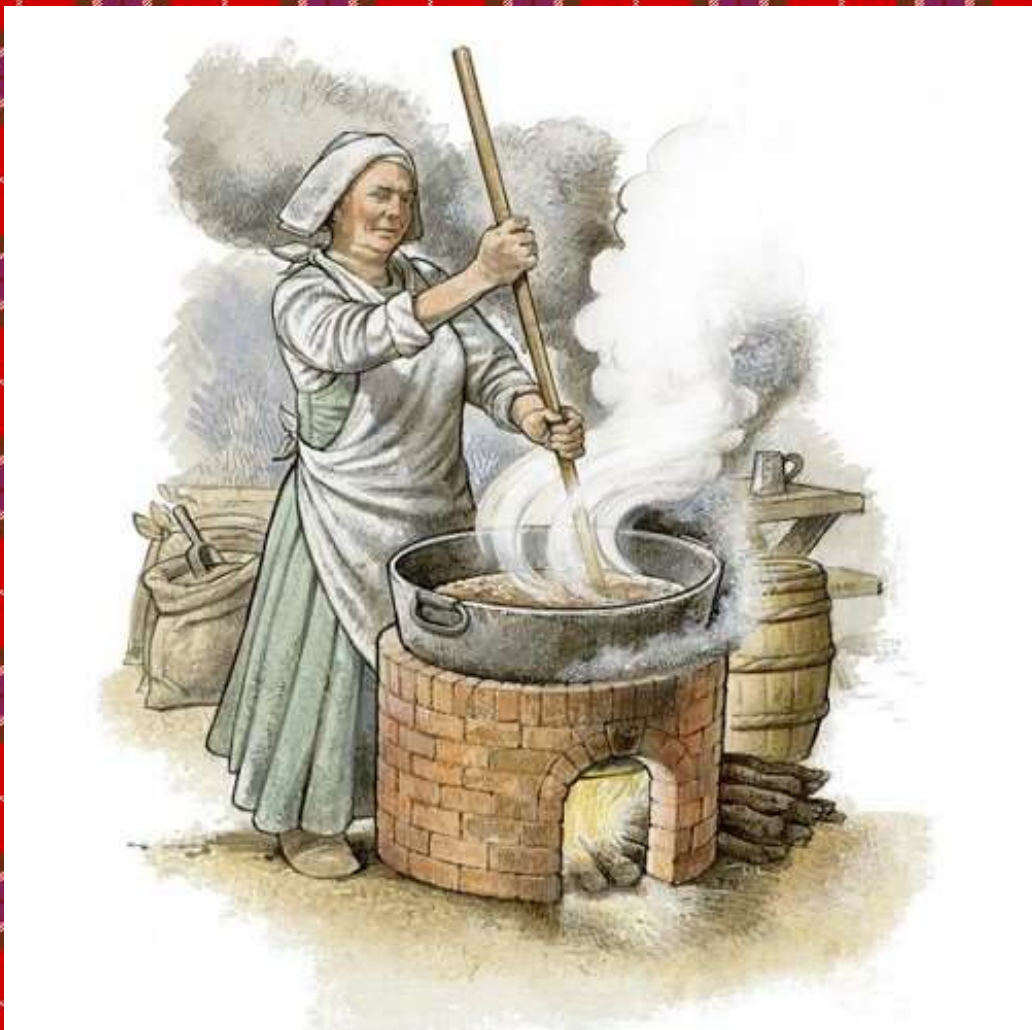
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portant one. It is striking that several of the writers featured, like Sir Alexander Mackenzie and John Galt, wrote important books set in Canada, long before Canada existed as a country. Douglas Gibson's career as a Scot — raised in Ayrshire, educated at St. Andrews, and the winner of a scholarship that brought him to Yale, then to Canada in 1967 — has led him to an astonishing 40-year career as a major Canadian Publisher and eventually a proud member of the Order of Canada.

Please visit our website at bit.ly/3U5jsui for more information and to obtain your signed copy of this captivating new book — a great gift idea for the upcoming festive season.

We are continuing our popular series of online Zoom Talks with the next in the 2022-2023 series scheduled for January 14, when Dr. Elizabeth Ewan will present *A Brewing Storm: Alewives in sixteenth-century Inverness*. Elizabeth recently retired as Professor of History and Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

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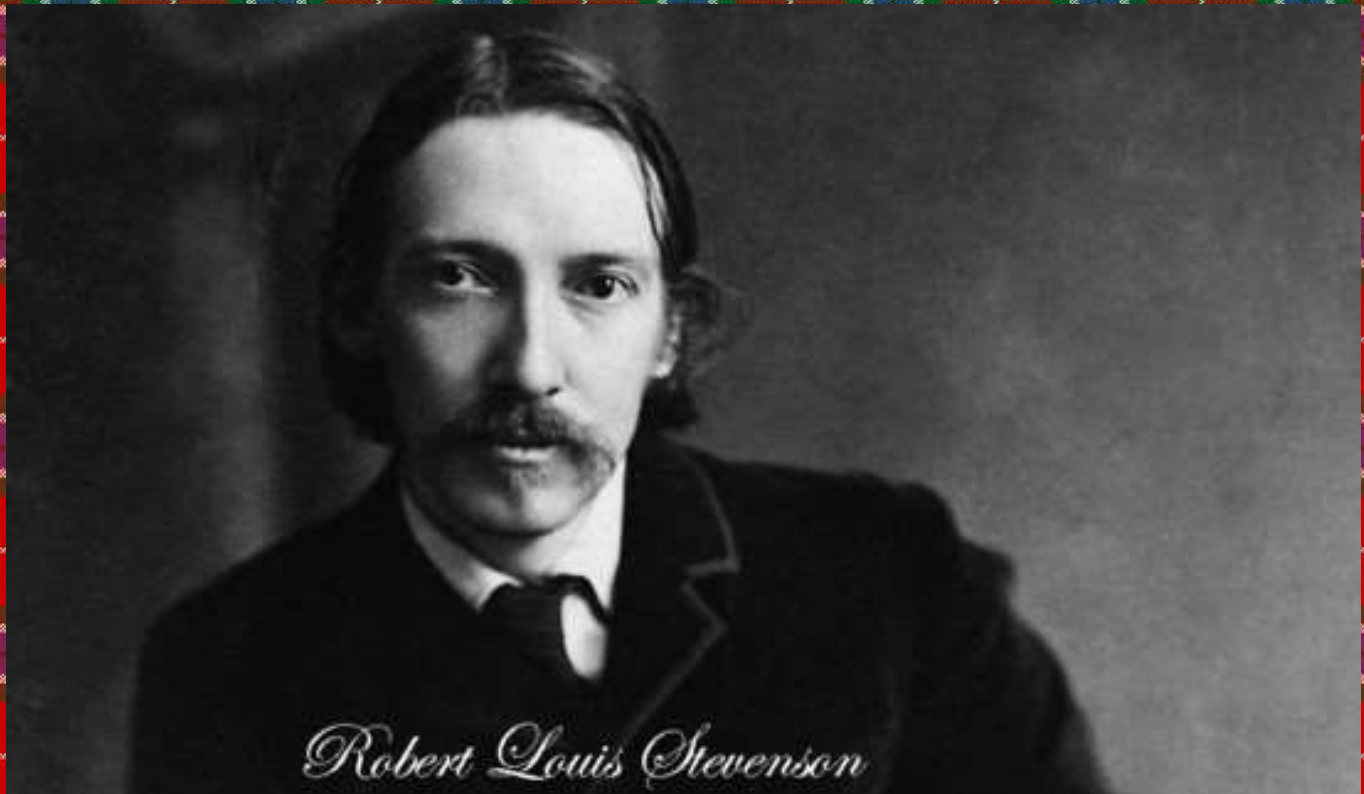
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Her talk looks at the lives of the brewsters and alewives as they appeared in the surviving town court records of Inverness, 1556–86, and examines what they can reveal more generally about women's contributions to urban society.

On February 11, fellow board member, Dr. Kate Ashley (Acadia University), will be giving a talk based on her latest book, *Robert Louis Stevenson and Nineteenth-Century French Literature Relations at the Fin de Siècle*, a comparative literary history that looks at French literature from Stevenson's perspective and at Stevenson from a French perspective.

Details on how to register for these events have been posted on our website at www.scottishstudies.com

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Best wishes to you and your family, and thank you for your continuing encouragement, inspiration and generous support

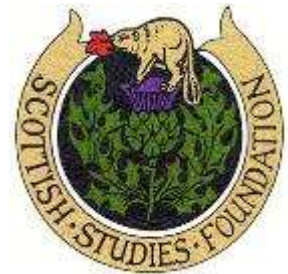
Sincerely

David Hunter

President

Scottish Studies Foundation

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"Auld Lang Syne" (Scots pronunciation: [ˈɔːl(d) lɑŋˈsəɪn]: note "s" rather than "z") is a popular song, particularly in the English-speaking world. Traditionally, it is sung to bid farewell to the old year at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. By extension, it is also often heard at funerals, graduations, and as a farewell or ending to other occasions; for instance, many branches of the Scouting movement use it to close jamborees and other functions.

The text is a Scots-language poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 but based on an older Scottish folk song. In 1799, it was set to a traditional tune, which has since become standard. "Auld Lang Syne" is listed as numbers 6294 and 13892 in the Roud Folk Song Index.

The poem's Scots title may be translated into standard English as "old long since" or, less literally, "long long ago", "days gone by", "times long past" or "old times". Consequently, "For auld lang syne", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for the sake of old times".

The phrase "Auld Lang Syne" is also used in similar poems by Robert Ayton (1570–1638), Allan Ramsay (1686–1757), and James Watson (1711), as well as older folk songs predating Burns. Matthew Fitt uses the phrase "in the days of auld lang syne" as the equivalent of "once upon a time" in his retelling of fairy tales in the Scots language. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Should Old Acquaintance be forgot,
and never thought upon;
The flames of Love extinguished,
and fully past and gone:
Is thy sweet Heart now grown so cold,
that loving Breast of thine;
That thou canst never once reflect
On old long syne.



The St. Andrew's Charity Ball returned on November 26th at the spectacular Toronto Reference Library. It was a welcome return for everyone who had missed the fun and revelry of the Ball over the past two years due to the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Please enjoy browsing through the [photos](#) from the Ball and watching our [recap video](#).



St. Andrew's Charity Ball 2022

CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL THE PHOTOS
FROM THE BALL



JANUARY 20, 2023 6:30 PM

Annual Burns Dinner

The St. Andrew's Society looks forward to holding our traditional Burns Dinner after two years of pandemic cancellations. This annual event runs...

[Read More](#)



JANUARY 25, 2023 11:30 AM

Burns Statue Celebration

Everyone is welcome to celebrate of the birthday of Scotland's national bard. There will be piping, haggis, neeps, tatties, singing, and good cheer!...

[Read More](#)



FEBRUARY 25, 2023 1:30 PM

Intro to Curling Social

The St. Andrew's Society is running another Intro to Curling Social on Saturday, February 25. This event is geared towards beginners and will fe...

[Read More](#)



APRIL 6, 2023 7:00 PM

Tartan Day Pub Night

The St. Andrew's Society is pleased to announce an evening of Scottish-Canadian hospitality. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 in advance for ...

[Read More](#)

Scottish Society of Ottawa - Hogman-eh!



Hogman-eh! '22 Live at Lans- downe and Live Streaming

Dec 31, 2022 4pm - Jan 1, 2023 1am

The biggest celebration of Hogmanay outside of Scotland is happy to be back in person. We're excited to announce our line-up and launch our ticket sales for this year's Hogman-eh! celebration!

The Alan Frew Band (Alan Frew of Glass Tiger)

Mudmen

Mariner's Curse

Ottawa Caledonia Pipes and Drums

Ottawa Highlander Pipes and Drums

Reel Ottawa

Marielle Lespérance

and more...

Not only will we have events on the main stage, but we have family fun, Hall of Origins and Climate Café in the Heritage Building.

[See our full offerings >](#)

Tickets

Free Admission

Admission to Hogman-eh! is free until 7pm. After 7 pm admission at the door is \$25 per person. With capacity limitations we encourage the pre-purchase of tickets. When capacity is reached, ticket holders will have priority access to entry.

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VIP Seating Area Tickets

Advanced sale on VIP tickets are available for the next 24 hours to paid Scottish Society members for \$40 per person. Non paid members are \$50 per person. Includes: reserved seating, one complimentary drink ticket (beer, wine or core range Scotch only) , private access to the bar

Please note seats are not reserved within the area and are on a first-come-first-serve basis. We encourage you to leave and enter the area as you please throughout the night. We cannot guarantee the safety of items left behind in the area and strongly encourage you to keep all personal belongings with you at all times.

[Click for a VIP Seating Area Ticket](#)

General Admission Tickets

Purchase of a general admission tickets provides you with access to all entertainment for the evening and gives you priority admittance over on-site gate purchasers. Due to capacity limits there may be short wait-times at the door until capacity allows entry.

[Click for General Admission Tickets](#)

Live Streaming Celebration

For those celebrating at home, we'll be live streaming Hogman-eh!

You can find the info as it's available on our [website](#).

Upcoming Events

Join us for our other upcoming events:

- The Great Canadian Kilt Skate
- Robbie Burns Supper and Ceilidh

For more info visit our website at <https://ottscot.ca>

Àrc-eòlas, Eachdraidh, Diomhaireach, agus Sloinntearachd

(Archaeology, History, Mystery, & Genealogy)

by Matt Dawson, PhDc, FSA (Scot); Sennachie, CDS-NA



As it is that time of year, and beginning with the upcoming Solstice we begin the ancient “Twelve Days of Yule (Christmas),” culminating with Hogmanay and the New Year, it’s probably time everyone knew “the rules,” in preparation, in case you don’t already.

Traditionally, Hogmanay lasted 12 days, though in the more recent centuries, it has become synonymous with ‘New Year’s Eve.’ The Yule Log, typically a very large and somewhat green trunk or branch was hewn from a living tree, then cured, seasoned to perfection, and shaped to fit on a brazier. It was lit, and burned continually from the Winter Solstice until the first day of the new year.

“First-footing” is an ancient tradition derived from the Celtic practice of qualtagh (käl-tok) wherein, during Hogmanay, you bring a gift with you when arriving at the home of someone else. The reason is twofold: first, it is believed to bring one form or another of luck to the household during this magical – and supernatural – time of the year when the Veil is thin, and spirits and faeries share the mortal plane and observe the generosity – or lack thereof – of humans. By bringing a gift during Yule, one ensures the luck and prosperity of the household during the course of the new year, and also earns the giver the gift of good luck, bestowed upon you by the “Little People.”

Secondly, as winter was a cold, unforgiving, and possibly a lean time, the exchange of gifts between households helped to ensure an even and adequate distribution of resources for everyone in a glen or village.



Gifts can be anything today, but in ages past, gifts generally consisted of coin or of food staples like salt, flower, butter, meats, or whisky, and such things as cloth or blankets, or peat, coal, or wood for the fire.

Larders and other stores would, therefore, be flush, and families would be more certain of staying warm within and without during the harsh season.

The hosting homes would provide the Yule Log, food, drink, and music for their guests. However, during the “Viking Golden Age,” the tradition evolved, and “guests” could be good...or bad. The Norse tradition of “wintering

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over” during raiding campaigns meant they would remain in place, and raids would be carried out from the winter camps consistently, rather than the usual practice of carrying out raids, then moving on. In the northern and Island areas of Scotland, people were most vulnerable to raiding, and Norse wintering over was more common. Therefore, someone ‘knocking’ at your door could be a particularly bad omen. To ensure that that sort of bad luck didn’t enter your home

during Hogmanay, especially at the cusp of the new year, the first to enter the home would bring the first gift, and their “character” was weighed.

If that person had dark hair and the proper gift, it was a good omen, and the door to the home would be opened, the guest welcomed, and subsequent guests could enter. But, if the person arriving had fair or red hair, it was a bad omen, and the door would be slammed shut and locked – it could be a Viking!

That tradition added into the older, it then became custom that the first guest of the new year would bring a gift of staples, be of “acceptable identity,” and kick off celebrations. If guests were already in the home, it became practice that one guest would retrieve their gift, leave at the first of the “bells of the New Year,” and would wait until after the last had sounded to re-enter. That way, the “first” guest of the new year would be guaranteed to bring in the good luck by being of “proper stock.”

So, be sure that your first guest at Midnight, 1 January, is of “proper stock,” and if your home is filled with guests on New Year’s Eve, prior to the last bell, remember to kick a darker-haired individual out, and don’t let them back in unless they come bearing gifts!



Not “Proper stock”

Dear Cousins,

So, this is Christmas...

In a world that seems stuck in 'trough mode', it's easy to become cynical and downtrodden. That's particularly true if the weather turns into that nasty stage where it's neither fish nor fowl – just cold, wet and windy.

But that's when Canadians and many other Northern Dwellers, tend to become more hospitable and welcoming. How many times do you get asked by complete strangers whether you're inside or out, "It's another cold one, eh?!". The Brits are great weather talkers too. Thankfully, as it's one of the few topics that seems to traverse class, age and ethnic lines, and while not automatically causing hackles to rise, there's still plenty of scope for ignoring the initial speaker if they look ever so slightly unsavoury.



Trawling the Internet, as you do, I came across a charming song (new to me) about the joys of being Canadian. In typical self-effacing fashion, the song lists many of the reasons why it's cool and dare I say makes one proud being Canadian. It's always a treat remembering that I was born in Winnipeg and speak with a not quite American and certainly not British accent. Follow the YouTube link below if you want to listen to the most up to date version -

to remind yourself, like...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37nGeXn2K9c>

I was chuffed to be asked to play Santa last week at the large, local primary school where I'm a Governor. I'm sure it had nothing to do with my St Nicholas scale girth and more to do with my natural bonhomie. Oh OK, maybe the bonhomie came second. I can't remember ever having played Santa in the past, but I loved it, despite my initial nervousness and having to be nice and kind to people of various ages for more than two hours at a time.

It was quite wonderful speaking to these 5/7-year-old children, in the main, about what Christmas meant to them, what they wanted for presents and how they were going to spend the holidays. All the children were lovely, but it was particularly touching speaking with the kids from refugee families. Some of the kids were shy others more forthcoming, but all were clearly happy, healthy and so lucky

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to be somewhere safe.

Another 'I Love Being Canadian' moment for me, recollecting our attitude to welcoming refugees and immigrants in general. So many of us are first generation born-Canadian, in any case. I'm one for a start.

This time of year is one of the most poignant periods in the calendar for reflection and recalling those people we've lost. Even as I type these words, I start to get a bit choked recalling Christmases spent with my parents and brother Ian in various parts of the world. I remember them clearly, but there's really no-one to share those moments with anymore. My grown-up children show a bit of interest but then quickly get diverted by some notification or the other. It's like the hundreds of photos and letters and poems and leaflets and cuttings and goodness knows what else, that lie in cardboard boxes hidden in select nooks and crannies throughout my apartment. Even I don't look at them anymore, but I guess they act as a physical repository for my now-shaky memory. It's just too good to know that I've got them, rather than dispose of them.

So, when you read this, know that I'm raising a glass of The Glenlivet to you and your family and friends - past, present and future - and wishing you all the fondest of recollections and the best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

With all good wishes for a healthy and happy 2023.

Yours Aye,



The Thistle

O you prickly pear,
You spread your seed so far, I fear,
It brings you naught,
But man's unrelenting scorn.

O you of many bristles,
You are, indeed, a hardy race,
Causing unwary souls to loudly whistle,
And this cannot gain you any grace.

O you of needled spine,
You dwell on many properties,
You do not care where you recline,
Because you believe -
That's where you belong.

O you of purple flower,
You flourish despite
Man's use of sprays
For you, too, were created by God in a day.

O you of innumerable darts,
You are dear to a good many hearts,
For you - "The Thistle"
Are the badge of the Scots!!!

Robert C. Munro

October 2022

Kennedy Society of North America



As 2022 comes to a close, the Kennedy Society reflects on an active year and looks forward to an exciting 2023.

This year closed out with representation at Stone Mountain, Charleston, and Clover, SC. The weather was good for these games, which was especially positive news for Charleston. If you recall, those games had to cancel last year on the morning of the games due to an intense coastal low. Unfortunately, the Laurinburg NC games at the beginning of October suffered a similar fate because of Hurricane Ian. Fortunately, the pipe band championships were able to be rescheduled to Stone Mountain. Another highlight of Stone Mountain was having CASSOC chair Bill Petrie in attendance, as well as his wife, Sylvie!

2023 is upon almost us, and things will get started right away with Central Florida the weekend of January 14-15. This will be the first event of a year in which the Kennedy Society celebrates its 50th anniversary. Although it will be a yearlong celebration, the main event will be at the Smoky Mountain Games in Townsend TN the weekend of May 19-21. Much planning is underway for this special weekend, including a banquet on Saturday night. Be sure to be alert for e-mails as well as information posted on the Kennedy Society website. Another key part of the celebration is our designation as a distinguished clan at Grandfather Mountain the weekend of July 6-9. It was here in 1973 that the Kennedy Society was founded. It promises to be an exciting and active year!

Many thanks to all who have helped out this year, and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! See you next year!!!

David Carrick
President / Society Chief



William (Bill) Petrie and David Carrick at Stone Mountain



Charting Our Course

OCTOBER 2022

Captain's Log

Well, we made it to October! Fiona gave us a bit of a hiccup but after clean up and no power for a few days we came through with only minor damage--the cover was blown off the ship but we have replaced it. Our staff regrouped and worked around town helping harvest some fallen trees from properties--the wood will be used for interior portions of the Hector.



Our summer statistics showed visitors from every province in Canada, 44 of the United States and visitors from 22 different countries from around the world--our farthest visitors were from New Zealand.



All donations are tax deductible and can be made through our website or Ship Hector Society, Box 2015, Pictou, NS B0K1H0 Thank you for your support!

Online donations at canadahelps.org



Under the Tarps

Work has continued on the restoration of the Hector despite a few weather challenges over the past few weeks. We have six full time employees and a shipwright who are doing a great job keeping to our schedule.

The main deck is now ready for glassing.. The above photo shows the planking being replaced on the starboard side of the ship.

New roof cover fabricated and installed along with tarps. This should allow us to proceed with deck glassing in the upcoming weeks.



We have borrowed a steam box from Snyder's Shipyard which will be used to shape the plank for the fore and aft of the ship.

We will have a good supply for interior of ship from the wood collected after Fiona and it will be milled on site. We are hoping for a mild fall so we can complete all outside jobs before moving inside the ship and building for the winter.

shiphector.ca

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association



Winter 2022 by Mel Fitton

The end of summer marked the end of the four games and festivals in New Brunswick and the start of planning for the 2023 season by The Gathering of the Scots , Greater Moncton Scottish Association , The New Brunswick Highland Games Festival , and The Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi .The dates and locations will be listed on the CASSOC website as they become available .

The Annual General Meeting of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA) was held in person in Hampton hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Saint John which included reports by thirteen member associations in addition to the regular reports of the NBSCA . A full Executive and Board were returned to office . A traditional Maritime "Lunch" was provided by the host society .

Along with The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick and The Central New Brunswick Welsh Society the NBSCA participated in the Fredericton North Heritage Fair , this gives everyone an opportunity to share resources and assist interested visitors with their family searches .

A recent update to the NBSCA website is a refreshed NB Scottish Place Names with the addition of more place names and enriched content from sources such as Geographic Names of New Brunswick by Alan Rayburn .The database may be searched alphabetically , by county ,or by a word search , also you are able to zoom into the locality via google maps , www.nbscots.com/scottishplaces-map .

It was good to be able to participate in the AGM of CASSOC via zoom along with the in person attendees , I really enjoyed the presentations and discussions , thank you to Bill and Jo Ann for organizing the meeting .

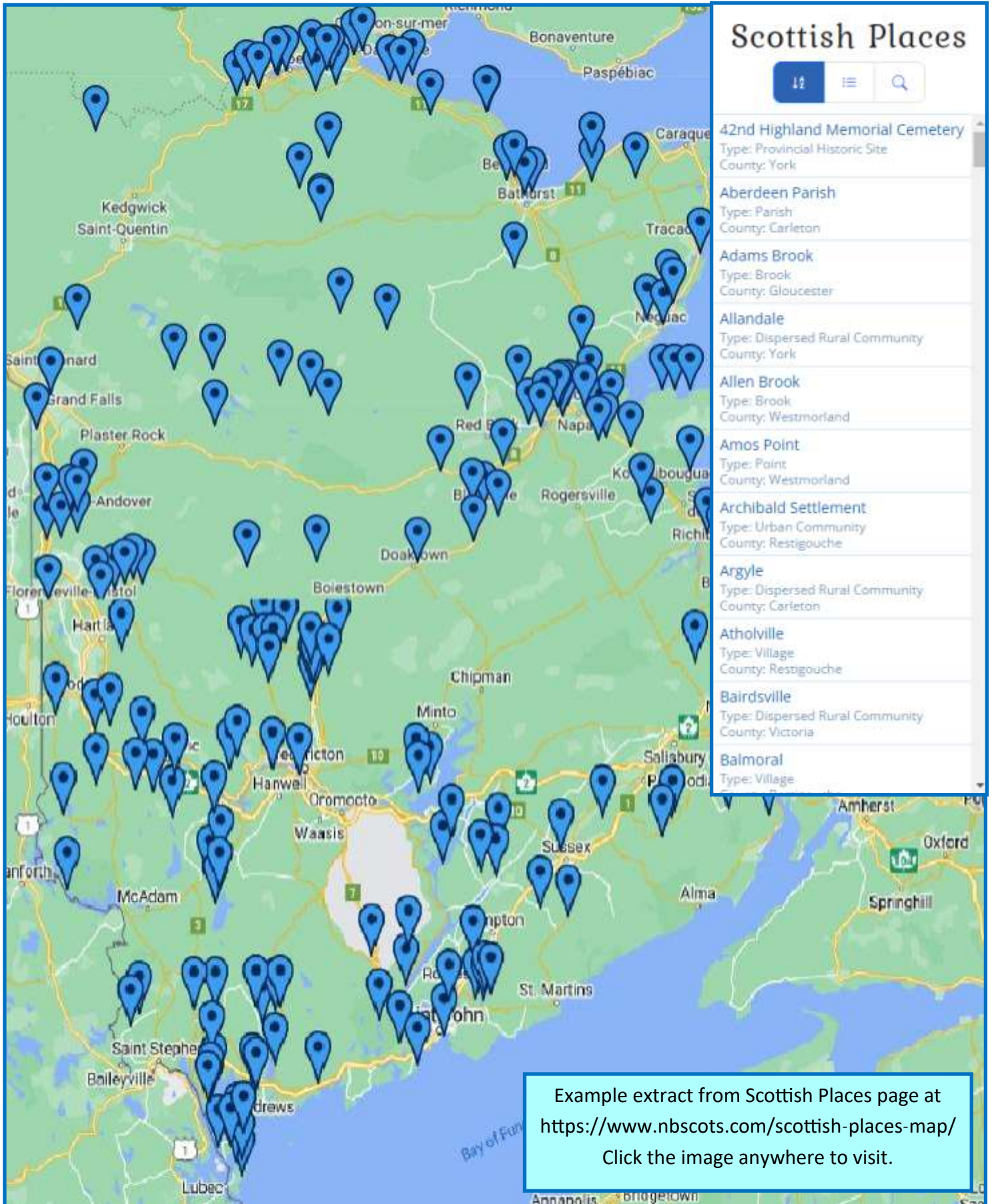
St. Andrew's Day celebrations are being hosted by several associations and societies together with the raising of the Saltire at the New Brunswick Provincial Legislature and Fredericton City Hall by the NBSCA and the Fredericton Society of St. Andrews . A lunch and get together will be held at The Lunar Rogue Pub which is noted for its extensive selection of scotch offering over 700 selections together with a great menu .

Planning for 2023 includes Robert Burns celebrations , Tartan Day which will have it's 30th Anniversary in New Brunswick , School District Heritage Fairs , participation in the games and festivals , the return of the Haggis Café and Scottish Bake Shop , which features our special Haggis recipe and is our only fundraiser .

Mel Fitton

President , New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association



The image displays a map of New Brunswick, Canada, with numerous blue location pins scattered across the province, indicating Scottish places. On the right side, a sidebar titled "Scottish Places" provides a list of these locations, including their names, types, and counties. The list includes:

- 42nd Highland Memorial Cemetery (Type: Provincial Historic Site, County: York)
- Aberdeen Parish (Type: Parish, County: Carleton)
- Adams Brook (Type: Brook, County: Gloucester)
- Allandale (Type: Dispersed Rural Community, County: York)
- Allen Brook (Type: Brook, County: Westmorland)
- Amos Point (Type: Point, County: Westmorland)
- Archibald Settlement (Type: Urban Community, County: Restigouche)
- Argyle (Type: Dispersed Rural Community, County: Carleton)
- Atholville (Type: Village, County: Restigouche)
- Bairdsville (Type: Dispersed Rural Community, County: Victoria)
- Balmoral (Type: Village)

Example extract from Scottish Places page at <https://www.nbscots.com/scottish-places-map/>
Click the image anywhere to visit.

Tradition of the Crazy Hat

As many families do at Christmas time, if they have small children or grandchildren, they get together for the annual picture with Santa Claus.

The Shackelford-Ramsey house is no different. For the past few years, since we have moved by to my home state, we have made the trip to our hometown mall to see Santa. Sometimes there was, screaming, crying, escapes tried and failed, but GiGi got it done.

Anyone who knows me knows I love all things Ramsay/Ramsey and am proud to show our beautiful tartan!!

Gigi has a Ramsay tartan Tam that was purchased thinking I would wear it myself. After getting it home and trying it on in front of a mirror, I decided that was not such a great idea!!

So, beginning at Christmas 2018, the tradition of the Crazy Hat began. Our granddaughter Lauren and great granddaughter Kaydence would have nothing to do with it! (You know women!!)

But our great grandson Kingston went along with it!! So, in the pictures, his first Christmas picture with Santa, he is wearing a red Ramsay tartan shirt and the Crazy Hat! Also, that same year he is in the picture with Lauren and Kaydence in his hat and shirt.

Other pics are the two girls in 2017, before Kingston came along, all of them in 2018, 2019, no Santa photo in 2020 because of covid, and finally the last one Christmas 2021.

The funny part came into the picture as I called it the "Ramsay hat" as we were leaving to go to the mall. Kingston quickly corrected me and said, "Don't forget the CRAZY hat!!"

In the final picture you may notice Kingston's "Batman" boots. He felt that was a nice touch to complete his outfit!

Hoping you all have a wonderful Christmas and looking forward to seeing everyone at upcoming games in 2023!

Slainte Mhath!!

Ronda Ramsey Shackelford

Commissioner Clan Ramsay International



Presidents Letter

As you will read elsewhere in the Ramsay Report a good time was had by at the 50th Anniversary Stone Mountain Georgia Highland Games.

More importantly, several new members of the Clan Association leadership team were chosen, including President-elect Pam McNeil, Vice President-elect Mike Ramsey and Secretary/Historian/Archivist Melanie Ballesteros. Both Pam and Mike are current Regional Commissioners and will keep those jobs as well. They will be inaugurated at the Stone Mountain Games in 2023. Melanie has already begun her new task. We hope many of you can join us for the ceremonies next year. Biographical information on them is in the games write-up.

Each is uniquely qualified to lead Clan Ramsay International and they all expressed enthusiasm for their new tasks. Most significantly for the clan, these three people represent the next generation of clan leadership. In order to keep up with the demands of today's members and attract new and younger members, we need a leadership team in place who are equipped to relate to that demographic.

Those who have led the Clan through our first 43 years, especially Carl Bailey, David Ramsey, Bob Ramsey, John E. Ramsay Jr., Ron Ramsey, MaryAlice Ramsey, our Webmaster, Alice Ramsay and our genealogist, Nancy Miller have done an absolutely marvelous job of leading and developing our Clan Association. They all deserve our gratitude and most of them will continue to serve in their present positions.

Mentioning just the officers by name is in no way a slight of our Regional Commissioners and our growing and influential international contingent led by Laurent Jaunaux and his country leaders in Europe. Without our regional commissioners setting up tents at games, recruiting new members and representing Clan Ramsay at multiple public events throughout the year, we would still be stuck as a local, southeastern Clan Association.

The regional Commissioners have each done and continue to do a fabulous job and we are most grateful. They deserve your support. If you don't know who your Regional Commissioner is, go to the Clan Ramsay website and find out and contact him or her and offer your help and support.

It seems to me that as we head into the holiday season, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, we of Clan Ramsay International have a great deal to be thankful for and a great deal to celebrate. Let's remember our clan heritage. And let's be helpful and generous to those less fortunate than we are.

Ora et Labora

Dick McGraw, President

Clan Ramsay International





The Society of Scottish Antiquaries Anniversary Meeting and AGM

by Steven Logan, FSA Scot

Through my life, I have always had an interest in history, historic buildings and the various characters that have helped shape the world as we know it today. I am always fascinated knowing more about old castles, how and why they were built as well as knowing more about artefacts and archeological sites. I have always been disappointed with the fact that we tend to demolish old buildings and try our hardest to get rid of old places and structures. We want "modern"

buildings and use the pretext that older structures are too expensive to maintain so out with the old, in with the new.

I tend to disagree with this way of thinking. I believe some old structures (not all of them) are worth investing in and should be maintained and preserved. One of the difficulties we have today is that our builders know how to use modern materials but less and less of them know how to do things the old way using older techniques. We would need to offer more training in the field of preservation and history which isn't being done. As a result, this means for any historical work pertaining to a certain era, a person must approach specialized workers who are not only builders but also artists who have really studied a given field and these are very expensive and much more difficult to find. By not paying attention to the past and trying to save it, the next generation of people pay the ultimate price and will forget it all. They won't see or experience the past, won't learn to be curious of it or care. They won't realize that all this has contributed to who they are today as people in different ways.

This is why I have decided to join the Society of Scottish Antiquaries. Scotland offers a wealth of history, artefacts and stories to discover about the past and I think it's important to help keep it as this is our treasure, something we can all learn from to become better people. We are Scottish by blood and descent and these old places and buildings have been a part of us through time and our ancestors. I see a difference between preserving the past and choosing to live in it. I think we must live in

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The Scottish Society of Antiquaries host their AGM



Clip of Dr Nela Scholma-Mason FSA Scot - Forgotten Stories

(Continued from page 36)

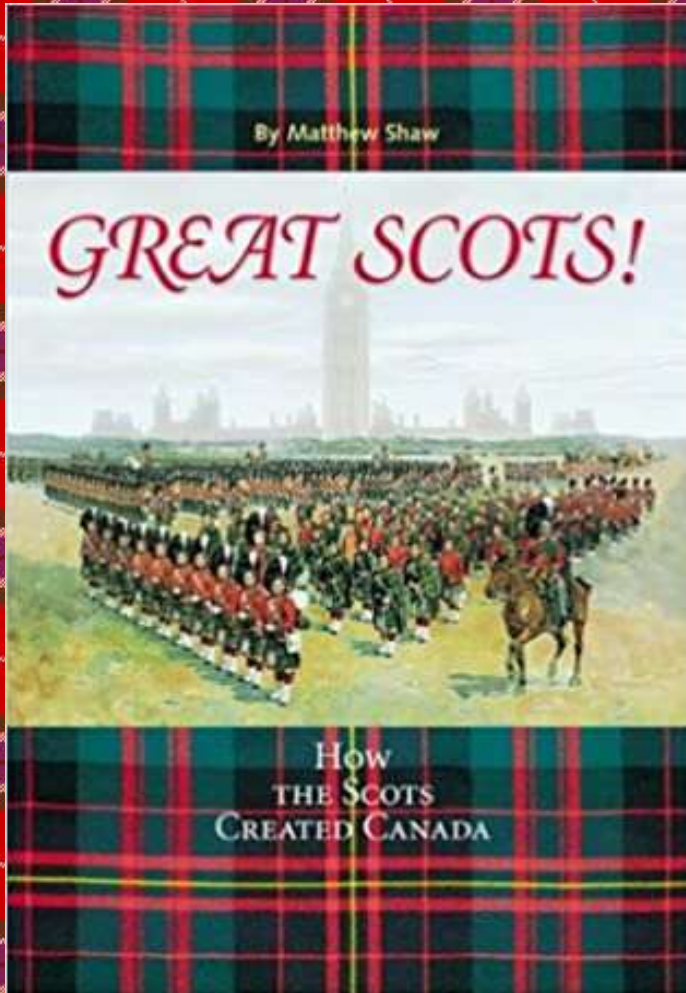
today's world, but we really need to document things more, creating a database of knowledge for others to discover.

On Wednesday, November 30th, The Society of Scottish antiquaries held their anniversary meeting and AGM. It was a perfect day for that considering that November 30th is St. Andrew's day. People could attend by going to Augustine United Church in Edinburgh or on-line had the pleasure of attending this very first zoom meeting with them and met many new people and a familiar face, Robert Mackenzie, newsletter editor of the Clan Mackenzie Canada. He immediately recognized me and Clan Logan's presence. He was very kind and complimentary towards me saying that I am doing very well with Clan Logan in Canada and that he notices my devotion.

The zoom meeting itself was very nice and new Fellows were sworn in, including myself. This means I will now be known as Steven Logan, FSA Scot. Dr Nela Scholma-Mason FSA Scot gave a short talk about Forgotten stories, a brief overview of a short film about the discovery of Taversoe Tuick (Orkney) by Eliza Traill Burroughs in 1898. This short film was written and directed by Nela and produced in collaboration with NESCol and The National Trust for Scotland, funded by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and AOC Archaeology Group. It was very interesting and I learned many things about Eliza Traill Burroughs. Did you know she was the first person to bring cinema to the isle of Rousay in 1901 or that she supported local crafts like spinning, wicker work, woodwork and painting? Once the AGM was done, people who were present in the Church were invited for the reception and buffet lunch.

As I participate with the Society of Scottish Antiquaries, I hope to learn more about Scotland's past but also historic details pertaining to Clan Logan. I believe there are always answers to everything and that it's always about consulting the right database and looking for information in the right places. I am very grateful to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries for this opportunity and warmly thank them for this event.

Clan Gregor - Great Scots Book Review



Great Scots! How the Scots Created Canada
Matthew Shaw – 2003 Heartland Associates, Inc.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Wow. Where to start? This extraordinary little book (218 pages) is most certainly a must read for anyone interested in the role the Scots, and therefore likely their own ancestors, played in the development of Canada as an independent nation on the world stage. I could tell you lots about what this book meant to me but perhaps the best way to do so is in the author's own words. Here, in defence of the bold claim of the book's title, the author begins the Introduction with the following:

At first glance, the title of this book might seem exaggerated, even outlandish. After all, didn't other ethnic groups contribute enormously to building Canada? The answer, of course, is yes. No one can deny that First Nations, the French, and the English had a huge hand in nation building. Moreover, Ukrainians, Chinese, Italians and Germans, as well as countless other ethnic groups also made significant contributions. Why, then, focus on the history of the Scots in Canada to explain Canadian values, culture and identity?

Good question!

From the beginnings of immigration into what we now call Canada the Scots have differed from other groups in a number of important ways. First, Scottish immigrants spread themselves relatively evenly throughout the upper half of North America, unlike other immigrant groups, which often tended to gather in limited geographic pockets. Second, the Scots kept coming and coming.....and coming. Unlike, say the Irish, who arrived in British North America primarily between 1820 and 1870, Scots have poured into the area in wave after wave since 1702. Thus, for three centuries, what we now know as Canada received a constant infusion of ideas and attitudes from Scotland. Finally, individual Scots, far more than from any other immigration group, have aggressively initiated growth and development and placed themselves in positions of power, controlling and influencing key institutions at critical points in the development of the Canadian Nation. The ubiquity, dominance and range of their accomplishments are truly astonishing.

Nine pages later the Introduction concludes with this paragraph:

The various factors, as described above, combined to make the Scots in Canada a dynamic and inexo-

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nable force. It's no surprise, perhaps, that Scots controlled the fur trade, Canada's first large scale commercial enterprise, which set the stage for modern commercial society. Scottish adventurers mapped out the country and laid the foundation for future settlement. Scottish politicians, including Canada's first two Prime Ministers, eight out of ten Fathers of Confederation, and many provincial Premiers, steered Canada's early growth and development and bent the country to their will. Scots dominated commerce, including heavy industry, banking and merchandizing. In fact, three quarters of commercial capital in the nineteenth century was firmly controlled by Scottish magnates. Scottish teachers and academics established educational institutions, including Canada's first universities, along Scottish lines and led Canada's education revolution. In fields such as the arts, the military, science, the labour movement, and the media, Scottish hegemony and influence are no less impressive. When we actually examine the vast range of Scottish achievements in Canada, the title of this book may not seem so outlandish after all. In a very real sense, the Scots did have a disproportionately large hand in creating our country. Their ubiquity in every field of endeavour, the surprising extent of their power and influence, and their lasting impact on Canadian society and culture are truly one of the great and largely unexplored chapters in the story of Canada.

Piqued your interest? Following the Introduction are nine chapters that fully explain the facts. I appreciated that these were well footnoted and not just presented as romantic urban legends:

1. **Blueprint for a Nation**
2. **Shaping the Political Landscape**
3. **The Military**
4. **Scottish Settlements**
5. **The Birth of Banking**
6. **A Revolution in Transportation**
7. **Universities**
8. **Literature**
9. **Conclusion**

Spoiler alert! The conclusion is outstanding. I repeat the assertion that this compelling reading for the Canadian Scottish diaspora. Cultural historians and nationalists in Scotland will likely feel an understandable sense of pride as well. In either case I hope you enjoy this fascinating little book as much as I have.

Wayne MacGregor Parker
Clan Gregor Society
Canada Chapter Chair



Clan Gregor - Fun Facts About Scotland

Every nation has a few things that it's known for. Scotland has more, a lot more than most! Here are a few that might surprise you.

Scotland's national animal is the unicorn

America has the eagle, England has the lion, and Scotland has the unicorn. And while the horned mythological creature may not actually exist, the traits it represents certainly do: Purity, independence, and an untameable spirit are all qualities Scotland has long cherished. Unicorns appeared on the country's coat of arms starting in the 12th century, and were officially adopted as Scotland's national animal by King Robert I in the late 14th century. For many years, the coat of arms included two of the legendary beings, but in 1603 one was replaced by a lion to mark the Union of the Crowns. Fittingly for the then-newly united England and Scotland, folklore had long depicted the two creatures as butting heads to determine which one was truly the "king of beasts."

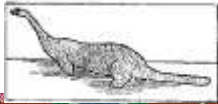
Scottish kings also displayed that fighting spirit, which may be why unicorns were generally depicted in Scottish heraldry as wearing gold chains — only the land's mighty monarchs could tame them. Unicorns remain popular in Scotland to this day, with renditions found on palaces, universities, castles, and even Scotland's oldest surviving wooden warship.



Royals used to test their food for poison with faux-unicorn horns

Neither unicorns nor their horns are real, but that hasn't stopped people from attributing mystical properties to them for centuries. One case in point: European nobility circa the Middle Ages, who used so-called unicorn horns (also known as alicorn) to determine whether or not the meal they were about to consume had been poisoned. The "horns" were actually narwhal tusks in most cases, and were believed to sweat or change color if poison had been detected. Rhinoceros and walrus horns were also used — and all of these stand-ins could cost 10 times their weight in gold. Belief in their powers was widespread for centuries, with no less a monarch than Queen Elizabeth I being a devotee.

(Continued on page 41)

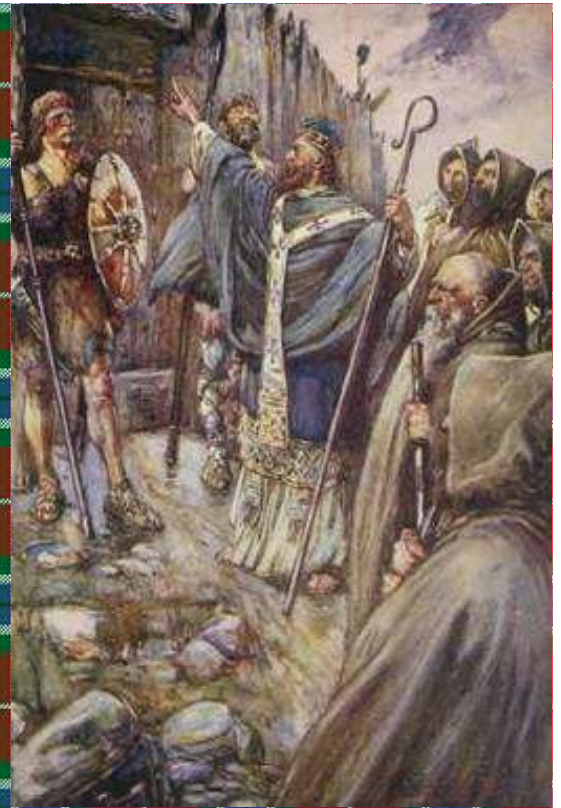


The Loch Ness Monster, As Sketched by Mr. A. Grant From Lieut.-Commander Gould's Interesting Monograph Upon the Subject.

Fun Facts about Scotland

The Loch Ness Monster was first written about in the year 565 CE

The earliest report of a monster in the vicinity of Loch Ness appears in the Life of St. Columba (image right) by Adomnán, written in the sixth century AD. According to Adomnán, writing about a century after the events described, Irish monk Saint Columba was staying in the land of the Picts with his companions when he encountered local residents burying a man by the River Ness. They explained that the man was swimming in the river when he was attacked by a "water beast" that mauled him and dragged him underwater despite their attempts to rescue him by boat. Columba sent a follower, Luigne moccu Min, to swim across the river. The beast approached him, but Columba made the sign of the cross and said: "Go no further. Do not touch the man. Go back at once." The creature stopped as if it had been "pulled back with ropes" and fled, and Columba's men and the Picts gave thanks for what they perceived as a miracle.



Columba at the Pictish King Bridei's fort near Loch Ness

The shortest commercial flight in the world is in Scotland

Just two miles separate the Scottish islands of Westray and Papa Westray, which means that the Loganair flight connecting them can last as little as 53 seconds. A number of locals depend on the eight-seat aircraft to go about their daily lives.



Numbers Don't Lie

- There are 130 whisky distilleries in Scotland
- The word "unicorn" is mentioned 6 times in the King James Bible
- 1707 is the year the Kingdom of Scotland ceased to exist as a sovereign state with the union of parliaments
- 13 percentage of Scots have red hair, compared to 1-2% of the global population

The Great 'MacGregor' Canadian Kilt Skate - Brampton, Ontario



The Great Canadian Kilt Skate

**February 11, 2023
From 1pm to 4pm
Gage Park
Downtown Brampton**

**Wear a kilt,
Sport some tartan,
Get your Scottish On!**



**Enjoy the Piper, Hot Chocolate,
Donuts and great company!**

**Sponsored by Clan Gregor Canada
Chapter with help from Clans and
Scottish Societies of Canada**

Contact william@mapleleafmacgregor.ca for more
Information



CGS Bicenenary Video Link

The YouTube video is now available for the Clan Gregor Society 1822-2022 Bicenenary Celebration held on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Click the image to the right or use the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9aj26TpXfw>





Let's get to know each other!

We see you recently joined the Tartan Clan, however you haven't told us which clans and tartans you love. It would be great to know a bit more about you so we can tailor what we send you and make sure it is relevant to you and your specific clan.

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Tartan Inspired Gift Wrap

Learn some new tricks and add personal touches to make your presents even more special this Christmas with our Tartan gift wrapping tutorial. Rachel from Paper Tiger joined us to demonstrate her top tips.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Membership Report and Updates

Membership Report as of Date of Publication

CLANS and FAMILIES

Clan Bell North America
Family of Bruce International, Inc.
Clan Buchanan Society International
Clan Cameron Canadian Branch
Clan Carruthers Society International
Clan Chisholm Society - Canada Branch
Clan Colquhoun of Canada
Clan Davidson Society of North America
Edmonstone Clan Society
Elliot Clan Society of Canada
Clan Fergusson Society of North America
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 Johnston/e in America
Kennedy Society of North America
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

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(Continued from page 46)

Clan MacLellan of America
Clan MacLennan Canada
Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada
Clan MacNicol Society of North America
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

Societies

Greater Moncton Scottish Association
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association
Scottish Studies Foundation
Scottish Society of Ottawa
St Andrew's Society of Toronto
Westman Scottish Association

Games/Festivals

Cobourg Highland Games Society
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Kingsville Highland Games
Montréal Highland Games
National Capital Highland Games
Red Deer Highland Games

Businesses

Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd.
House of Cassady
North of Hadrians
ScotlandShop
Taylor's Tartans

About CASSOC

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 2022:

The 2023 Spring Delegate's meeting date and format TBD.

The next General Assembly meeting will be held in November 2023. Format of in-person, virtual or blended is to be determined.

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 the newsletter at no cost.

Website (www.cassoc.ca)

This 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.

Newsletter website (www.cassocnews.ca)

This is the online version of this publication with articles from the latest issue, previous issues and incoming articles and items which will likely appear in the next issue. All materials are provided in French and English on a best effort basis.

Games, Festivals and other Events

Check the CASSOC websites (www.cassoc-cesedc.ca or www.cassoc.ca) for the latest listings.

As the date for these events approach, please contact event organizers for up-to-date information.

Date	Event	Location	URL
Dec & Jan	Scottish Society of Ottawa Hogman-eh!	Ottawa, ON	https://ottscot.ca/hogmanay
Jan & Feb	Great Canadian KiltSkate	Various locations	https://www.kiltskate.com/
Jan 24	St Andrew's Society Toronto Burns Dinner	Toronto, ON	http://www.standrews-society.ca/
Jan 25	Cobourg Highland Games Burns Dinner & Ceilidh	Cobourg, ON	http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/
Jan 25	St Andrew's Society Toronto Burns Statue Celebration	Toronto, ON	http://www.standrews-society.ca/
Feb 25	St Andrew's Society Toronto Intro to Curling Social	Toronto, ON	http://www.standrews-society.ca/
Apr 9	St Andrew's Society Toronto Tartan Day Pub Night	Toronto, ON	http://www.standrews-society.ca/
May 4	St. Andrew's Society Montréal Whiskey Fête	Montréal, QC	https://www.whiskyfete.org/
May 20	Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival	Regina, AB	https://www.saskhighland.ca/
May 20-21	Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival	Victoria, BC	https://victoriahighlandgames.com/
May 27-28	Perth's World Record Kilt Run	Perth, ON	https://www.runguides.com/event/1517/perths-world-record-kilt-run
Jun 1-3	Regina Mosaic A Festival of Cultures	Regina, SK	http://www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/
Jun 10	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	http://www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
Jun 16-17	Greater Moncton Highland Games	Moncton, NB	http://www.monctonhighlandgames.ca
Jun 16-17	Cobourg Highland Games	Cobourg, ON	https://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
Jun 16-18	ScotFest BC	Coquitlam, BC	https://scotfestbc.com/
Jun 24	Red Deer Highland Games	Red Deer, AB	https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com
Jun 24-25	Manitoba Highland Gathering	Winnipeg, MB	https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/
Jun 30-Jul 3	Royal Nova Scotia International Tat- too	Halifax, NS	http://www.nstatattoo.ca
Jun 30-Jul 8	Kitchenfest <i>Féis a' Chidsin</i>	Cape Breton, NS	http://www.kitchenfest.ca/

Benefits and Offers

A reminder about ongoing benefits and offers.

Communication

Your reach can extend to over 10,000 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 Activity Funding

To provide awareness of Scottish culture and specifically clan groups, CASSOC supports events such as the annual Kilt Skate. Support and awareness is also provided to other events provided by you as a member.

A matching funding of up to \$250 per member/event is available for not for profit events that a member organization participates in. Please contact events@cassoc.ca for more information on this limited offer.

We also provide the means for specific offers such as the discounts that follow.

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. Worldwide 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'.

The following are affiliated with our membership and available for bookings.

Piper	Locale	Contact Info
Rory Sinclair	Toronto	http://www.caledoncounty.com rorygus.sinclair@outlook.com
Mike Chisolm	Greater Vancouver Area	604-628-8140 http://bagpipervancouver.com
Callum Gauthier	Ottawa / Rideau River / Toronto	613-620-1014 Callum.gauthier5@gmail.com
William Morrison	Western Ontario	226-600-3472 piperwilly@hotmail.com
Jenna Denisson	Greater Montreal Area	514-835-6320 www.jennadennison.com dennison.jenna@gmail.com

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

An Drochaid - The Bridge

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.

Our cover photo, courtesy Robert MacGregor-Demers, of the J. Henri Séguin Bridge on County Road 9 over the Séguin River in Eastern Ontario. It is a tied arch bridge, a sub-type of suspension bridge, built by the Bertrand Construction Company. The plaque on the bridge recognizes the multi-generational role of a MacGregor family from Balquidder in providing a ferry crossing across the river from 1823 until a steel bridge was finally built in 1917.

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.

TAYLORS TARTANS.COM

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