



# *An Droichaid - The Bridge*

## *Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord*

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# Frae the Chair



## Frae the Chair

It was a flichterin' or a hearing, that distinct draw of a deep breath readying for resolve, that made me look up at the young woman in front of the booth. **'I just want to belong'** were her words to me as encouragement to keep searching in our books for her family name. With those words it was clear in my heart that this is why we're doing the road show, why we're helping booth visitors connect with their clan, family and Scottish heritage. This is what is making all of the effort worth-while.

In this wonderful country we live in, diversity has a very special place and, contrary to some thinking, it is what defines our Canadian culture. It has been said in many ways that to be human is to want to be loved, to be useful, to believe with hope and most importantly to belong with others. We're addressing both diversity and a sense of belonging with our support for Scottish Heritage through our booth initiative.

'To belong' also explains the slight unease I have when, more often than one expects, a search ends with the words that someone isn't part of a clan or family, that they are just a 'Scot'! I always try to soften what may be taken as a disappointment with tone of voice and smiles. I'll also likely echo the sentiment that 'most Scots were never part of the "clan system"' and, by extension, that most of the over 5 million Canadians of Scottish descent are just 'Scot' as well. This is something that CASSOC in its evolution, its future, needs to grasp.

For more on Scottish clans as explained by Wikipedia visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish\\_clan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_clan) and, remember, you are responsible for filtering what you read. But at least in the case of Wikipedia you also are able to edit and update to bring us closer to truth.

What we are doing at the booth for the road show is valuable in itself for helping our visitors connect our Scottish heritage, however, this has also been a way for CASSOC to provide needed benefit to our members. We constantly see visitors taking pictures and accessing the URL with the QR code to continue through finding out more about a member. We've run out of brochures for members a few times with them being picked up by those curious about joining the clan or family

In running the booth, we've attempted to use a counter for the number of visitors but found that we're just too busy most of the time. Several times there'd be lineups to access the tent or get served at the table. I myself began experiencing an effect that I'd not had since my singing Motown/R&B days. This being almost unable to talk from vocal cord exhaustion the days following Glengarry, Montreal and Fergus events.

Another remarkable thing about the booth is that we never fail to have someone show up immediately after just one poster is put up. Whether before the event actually is open to the public or not. Now, because booth visitors would keep coming at the end of the day if a poster was still there, these are now the first items to be taken down for the booth. We'd never get closed up otherwise.

(Continued on page 3)

# Frae the Chair

*(Continued from page 2)*

As a reminder, the roadshow has now been to Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Georgetown Highland Games, Greater Moncton Highland Games, Kingsville Highland Games, Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Cambridge Scottish Festival, Uxbridge Scottish Festival, Glengarry Highland Games, Montreal Scottish Festival and Highland Games, and North Lanark Highland Games. With few exceptions, we've had new members at each as a result, thus our recent growth of 14 new members. Plus there's more potential members in the pipeline. At the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival in Lockport NY, I'll be doing my best to convince US-centric organizations that we can help with membership for them here in Canada.

## Renewals this year

As your billing contacts know, we moved the dial for CASSOC's automation by using a formal accounting system to generate invoices as well as receipts for payments received. As with many transitions to technology this hasn't happened without some 'bugs'. In our case there was a transcription error which resulted in an incorrect postal address for the option to mail a payment. Even though real 'cheques' are seeming to be going away due to the efforts of our banking institutions, some of you will still want to mail cheques and forms. If so, please use the correct postal address found on the page <https://www.scotscanada.ca/membership/infoform> and as follows.

Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada  
78 - 24 Fundy Bay Boulevard  
Toronto, Ontario M1W 3A4 Canada

## Recipes and genetics

I was struck by a curious thought when reviewing 'So you want to trace your roots' from Mary Garrett, Clan Cameron Ontario Branch. I can see similarities between the flow/change of our genes and what can happen to recipes we inherit and pass down through the generations. I've tweaked some of my grandmother's recipes for such as pie pastry and butter tarts. I've made variations on a Betty's Hotcakes and others recipes from a Taste of Georgia cookbook I treasure. Some of the changes survived, been kept and already been passed on to others to use. Others didn't do so well and, in plain genetic terms, are now extinct.

This process is likely at play in the other threads of continuity in our culture. Such as language, card games, dance, music and ....? Your thoughts and feedback on this are most welcome!

I'll close with what the preceding, hopefully, has both explained and helped soften. This being the lateness of the newsletter which, frankly, comes from me just doing too much. The irony is that I did a rare opening of an email yesterday from a blogger, Josh Spector, on this topic. Rare because I do feel overwhelmed but his tagline of 'The Cure for Overwhelm' still hooked me into opening the article. The summary was a single sentence of "'The reason you feel like you've got too much to do is because you're doing too much".

I'll get to figuring out how to fix my 'overwhelm' when I've some free time to think about it



Cheers,

William Robert Petrie, Clan Gregor  
CASSOC Chair and Newsletter Editor  
[chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca)

# CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success



## The CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success

In reaching out to Clans and Societies via a recent survey, we've learned that there is an interest, and need, in sharing our successes and best practices. We also learned that there are many shared challenges.

Join us for this Symposium, hosted by CASSOC, as we focus on the growth and success of our Scottish Clans and Societies. This is an opportunity for us to learn from each other. There will be panelists who will share their organizations' successes as well as an **open and interactive forum** so we can hear your ideas and answer your questions.

Here's a quick look at what your Clan and Society executive members can expect in the four sessions, each of which is anticipated to run (virtually via Zoom) for 2.5 hours. **Registration will commence in September.**

### **Member Connections, Saturday, October 21, 2023, 4 pm EDT**

We all want to succeed! So, how do we grow our memberships? What is the key to retaining members? And how do we effectively engage our members? What role does communication play, whether it's in person, by email, social media or virtually? Marketing and public relations is another key component of growth, retention and engagement. And we can't forget the importance of social interactions with our members.

### **Volunteers and Events, Saturday, November 18, 2023, 4 pm EST**

We all have enough volunteers, right? Wrong! This was identified by our survey respondents as one of our biggest concerns. How do we recruit, on-board and manage our volunteers? How do we avoid volunteer burn out? How do we encourage our members to host Clan and Society tents at Highland Games and Society events and encourage our members to attend? Do Commissioners/Conveners/tent hosts have a guide to ensure they are successful?

### **Heritage, Saturday, December 16, 2023, 4 pm EST**

Genealogy and DNA are two strong drivers that inspire people to join our organizations. Has using genealogy and DNA increased membership? Do you have a robust heritage and history knowledge centre that is available to your members? Do you have merchandise that allows your members to celebrate and promote their history and heritage? What strategies work?

### **Sustainability, Saturday, January 20, 2024, 4 pm EST**

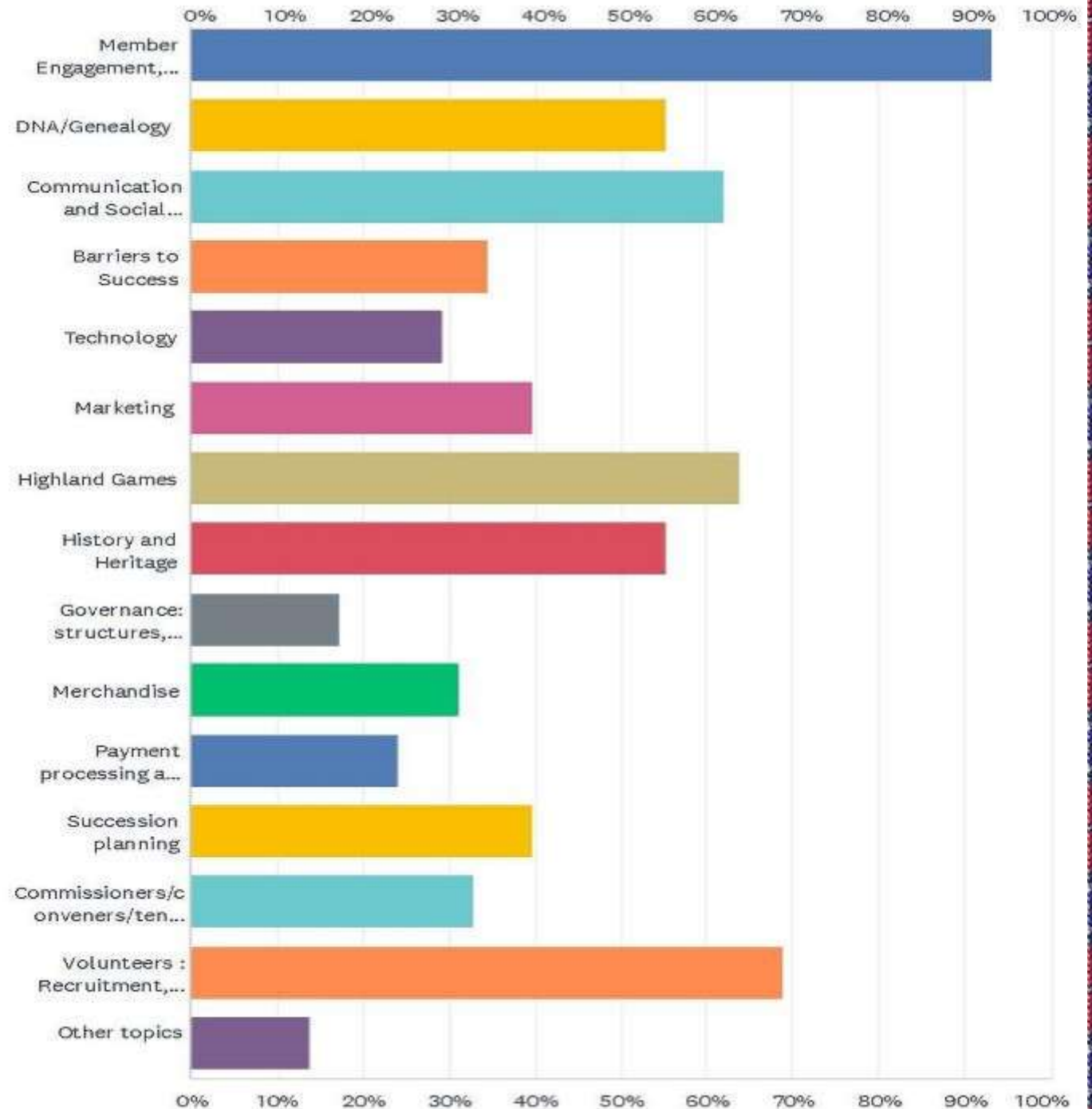
When we retire from positions of leadership, we want to leave our organization better than the day we stepped forward. How do we do this? By focusing on succession planning; identifying barriers to

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

success for our organization; using technology for efficiencies and communications; and creating a robust system for payments processing. Another important discussion point is governance. Do you have the optimal structure, policies, procedures and practices in place?

Below is a visual summary of the responses for 'topics of interest'. Over 60 respondents contributed and all provided input into this portion of the survey!



# CASSOC Road Show - Update

**Come greet us at the CASSOC's booth at the remaining upcoming games, festivals and events for this year.**

Date	Event Name (Members are highlighted in green)	Location
Fri Sep 8 to Sun Sep 10	Festival Celtique de Québec	Quebec City, QC
Sat Sep 16 to Sun Sep 17	<b>Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival &amp; Highland Games</b>	Lockport, NY
Sun Dec 31	Hogman-eh! 2023, Scottish Society of Ottawa	Ottawa, ON

Our goals with the road show are many fold.

1. To provide recognition and representation to each of our members at an event so that if a member can't attend, there's still a way for the public to find and connect.
2. To attend every games/festival member's event in some way.
3. To have representation for CASSOC across as much of Canada as possible in alignment with our mandate to promote Scottish Culture and Heritage.
4. To be part of the celebration of our Scottish Heritage in an active and engaging way. Being there is how we can truly understand how to help our members and our community.
5. To aid booth visitors to identify their clan and family heritage, direct them to our members and/or further steps to take in their exploration of their Scottish Heritage.

As may be seen on the following pages with images from the games we've attended, we've evolved to using 3 9'x5' banners for display of our members. This has worked out very effectively while reducing the complexity of setup and the amount of materials being transported. On the next page is an image of the general process and resources being used for the booth.

The banners include clan and administrative maps of Scotland, the list of CASSOC members and a list of all recognized clans and families. These also are very popular with booth visitors and we're exploring ways to have large maps of Scotland integrated into the tent display but not reducing the impact of the member poster images. We are often complimented on the presentation by booth visitors and event organizers.

From the lessons learned about wind and rain, we've also changed to using a single 10'x20' commercial grade tent that is much more sturdy and water-ready than the simple pop-ups we started with.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

Our thanks go to John and Barb Duff for sourcing this upgrade.

We've also found that handouts for our members are very popular and certainly helps with those looking for more information from members who are not at the event themselves.

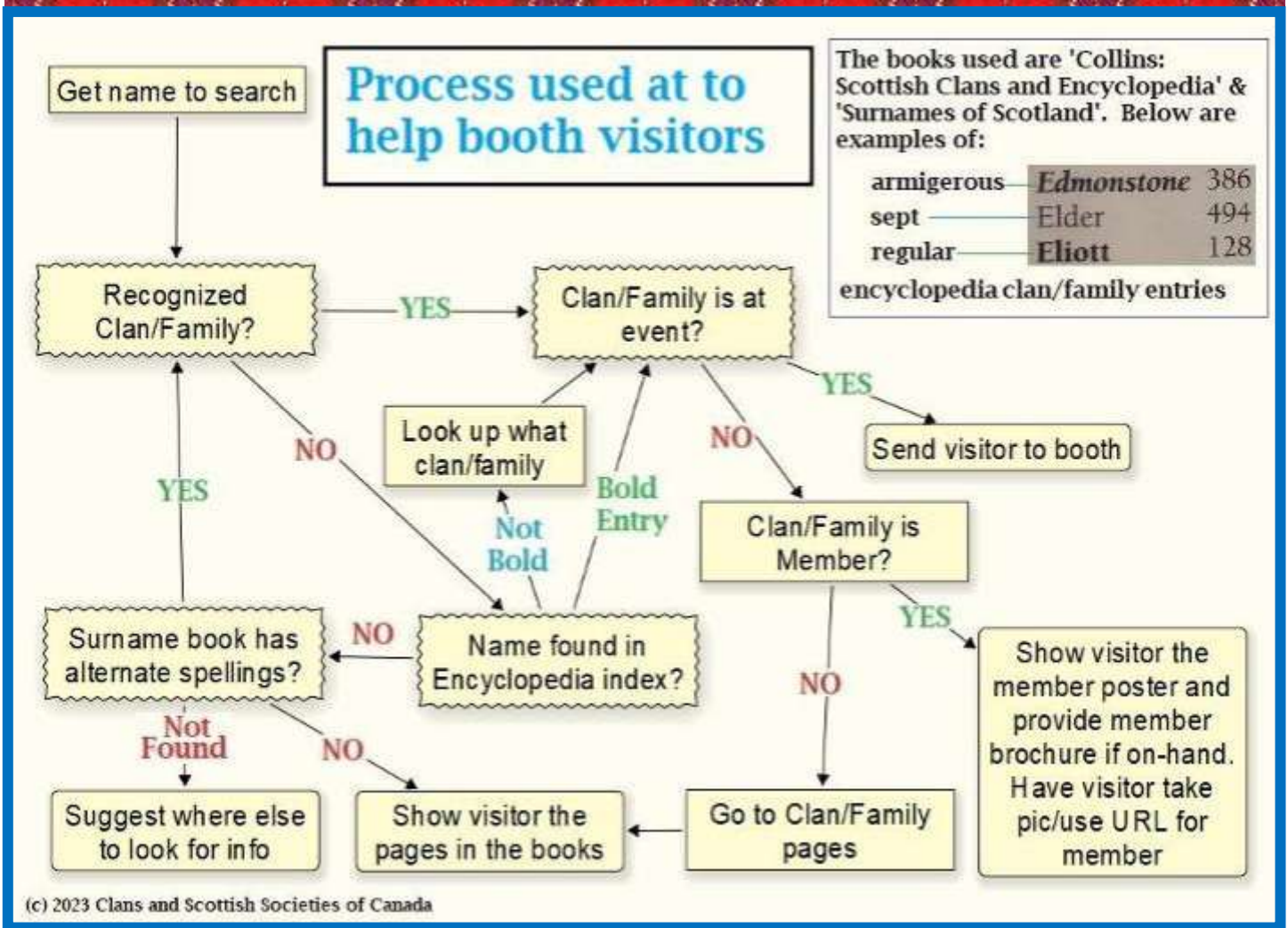
**If you have material that you'd like to have available to be handed out at a road show event but you're not attending then let us know and we'll arrange some way for us to have it on the CASSOC table. Please feel free to step in to help with CASSOC's representation at any event or opportunity.**

We're always open to your ideas and suggestions on how to improve initiatives such as these.

William Petrie

CASSOC, Chair and Newsletter Editor

*Editor's Note: A special thanks to Sylvie Thériault, who has applied her Clan Gregor editor's skill to sorting, assembling and labeling the images for the Road Show on the following pages.*



# CASSOC Road Show - Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival



First game on the CASSOC's road tour was The 160th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival. Preceding the festival, the Victoria Highland Games Association hosted an evening of Celtic music at the beautiful Craigflower Community Centre.



This was CASSOC's first iteration of the visitor tent; open concept, small table inside at the front, and individual laminated posters of the members in alphabetical order sitting on a mesh wall.

The intent was to allow the visitors to flow through from one side of the tent to the other.



# CASSOC Road Show - Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival



We quickly discovered that our tent attracted the attention of visitors and was constantly busy.



The assistance from Vice Chairs Paul Elliot (on the right) and John Duff (on the left), helped reduce the amount of time visitors would wait for their questions to be answered.

Later, when the tent was getting crowded, we moved the table to outside to provide more space.  
Nice problem to have!

# CASSOC Road Show - Georgetown Highland Games



On June 10, CASSOC attended the Georgetown Highland Games. The organisers suggested to place the CASSOC tent at the front of the clan area, with the feather banners acting as the beacon for visitors looking for clans.



The setup used two tents, two feather banners, the CASSOC flag, a poster for each member, the Surnames of Scotland book, and the Collins Scottish Clans Encyclopedia book.

# CASSOC Road Show - Georgetown Highland Games



We see that the booth is self serving; people are consulting the books made available on the table and the QR codes are scanned quite frequently.



CASSOC Chair, William Petrie, and clan coordinator for the Georgetown games, Marcie Cardinal.

# CASSOC Road Show - Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival



The CASSOC Road Show continued to the Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival, arriving for the June 17 games. The same setup as Georgetown was used. Temperatures were a bit frisky , reaching only a high of 12 degrees. This didn't deter the dedicated visitors from coming to the tent.

Unfortunately , near the end of the day, a gust of wind mixed with rain lifted the tents, taking the neighbouring Gregor tent along fore the ride. Members from other clans were quick to the rescue and everything was put away in record time.



# CASSOC Road Show - Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival



William Petrie, R. Doug Macfie, and his son from Macfie Clan Society in Canada



Mel Fitton of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association leading the clan parade with the haggis .

# CASSOC Road Show - Kingsville Highland Games



June 24 brings us to Kingsville, Ontario. The two CASSOC tents are on the right of the entrance gate



From the lessons learned from setup delays and the tents overturning in Moncton, the display was switched to the three 5' x 8' banners with members of last year poster images. These were banners originally printed up to help with travel situations and were first used successfully in Ottawa for Hogman'Eh! 2022.

New members have individual posters placed on a separate mesh wall along with a list of all the members and the clan/administrative maps of Scotland.

# CASSOC Road Show - Kingsville Highland Games



Participants from the 5k kilt run/walk event drop by the tent.



# CASSOC Road Show - Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games



July 8-9 brings us to the shores of Lake Huron to the Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games. As in the previous games, a constant flow of people is seen at the CASSOC tent.



You can easily lose your voice over the weekend when you talk to several hundred people.





# CASSOC Road Show - Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games



Alex Petrie helping a family finding out about their Scottish roots.



Board member Robert MacKenzie and Chair William Petrie at Kincardine

# CASSOC Road Show - Cambridge Scottish Festival



On July 15, The Road Show travelled to Cambridge, Ontario to attend the Cambridge Scottish Festival who have subsequently become our newest Games and Festival member!

The event was an excellent opportunity to highlight the 'What Scot Are You?' banner with it being placed as the beacon for the clan village.

The warm up area for the bands was originally placed immediately in front of the clans as shown to the left. However a more suitable location was found for this once we pointed out the issue that booths would have with conversations.



The booth setup is working very well, although we noticed that the poster QR code needs to be moved to another position. Quite often visitors aimed at the QR code in the above poster thinking it belongs to the lower one they were actually interested in.



# CASSOC Road Show - Uxbridge Scottish Festival



July is proving to be a busy month for Highland games. July 22 finds the CASSOC Road Show in Uxbridge, Ontario at the Uxbridge Scottish Festival.

By this time, new 5' x 9' banners have been made with all members included and the following changes

- Clans and family are on two posters side by side at the back
- Businesses, societies, and Highland Games are banner at the side of the tent.
- The QR code is smaller and moved to the right hand corner of the member poster beside the member name.
- Lists of all members and all clans/families have been included. Maps of Scotland are on the banners as well.



# CASSOC Road Show - Glengarry Highland Games



August begins (August 4-5) with the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario. The banners have made the tent setup easier and faster. The acquisition of a 10 x 20 has also greatly reduced the amount of time re-quired to set up. The tent is setup at the entrance of Gate B, across from the clan area.



Something interesting has started happening at the games. CASSOC is being asked to participate in, and often lead, the clan parade as shown to the left at Glengarry.

# CASSOC Road Show - Montreal Highland Games



We leave the Glengarry Games on the Saturday to setup for the one-day Montreal Highland Games , August 6th. The tent is setup up right at the entrance gate and at the beginning of the clan alley.



Montreal doesn't disappoint! A steady flow of visitors come through the tent.



# CASSOC Road Show - Montreal Highland Games

Getting ready for the Clan Parade



# CASSOC Road Show - Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games



The Road Show continues in August with the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games (Aug 11 - 13).

As a rule we try to setup the CASSOC tent the day before or well before the games start. This picture is taken on the Friday before public access to the festival and visitors are already entering the booth.



Knowing that attendance at the Fergus games is much greater than other games, we try to recruit as much help as possible from members. Here we have Phil Banks from the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival giving a hand, while clan and family members are participating in the opening ceremonies.



# CASSOC Road Show - Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games



David Carrick, President of Clan Kennedy, with Alex Petrie and William Petrie are attending to the visitors.



The location of the CASSOC tent at games has required consultation with games organizers to ensure that the tent would be placed in the best location possible. We usually requested to be at an entrance or the beginning of the clan area. At the Fergus games, the tent was placed next to the VIP tent and behind the field stands.

# CASSOC Road Show - Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Here's some of the board members we managed to take pictures of. It was noted that there was definitely quorum for us to hold a board meeting!

Secretary - Jo Ann Tuskin (on right) with Munro booth guest



Director - Steven Logan (on right) with Sylvie Thériault

Vice-Chair - John Duff and Director - David Carrick



# CASSOC Road Show - North Lanark Highland Games

Our last game in August took place in Almonte, Ontario for the North Lanark Highland Games on Saturday, August 26.

Michael Petrie helping a visitor with research at the booth.



Again the booth had non-stop visitors. We learned that it's OK at times to step away and let the visitors figure things out. To help with this, a laminated print of the 'research' process diagram shown back on page 7 was provided for both booth visitors and attendants.



# CASSOC Road Show - North Lanark Highland Games



Michael Petrie, Lloyd Strachan of our newest member Clan Strachan, and William Petrie



North Lanark definitely was one of the events where we had to take down the banners first in order to stop booth visitors from coming in even after the closing ceremonies and other clans having left already.



L'INCONTOURNABLE FESTIVAL CELTIQUE FRANCOPHONE – 17<sup>E</sup> ÉDITION

# FESTIVAL CELTIQUE DE QUÉBEC

8 AU 10 SEPTEMBRE 2023 • VILLE DE QUÉBEC

*Editor's note: Quebec is not a member of CASSOC however we are planning to have the full CASSOC road show there this year and thus the entry in this newsletter. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well. Click the banner above for their website. You may also contact them at [info@festivalceltique.com](mailto:info@festivalceltique.com)*

# Clan of the Bells - President's Message



## President's Message

Sometimes you are fortunate enough to encounter one of the Bells who is making a difference in people's lives. One of these big-hearted people is our new member, Lee Bell. Working for Hands in 4 Youth (HI4Y), Lee is devoted to this non-profit organization which was founded in 1924.

Hands In 4 Youth (HI4Y) is a non-profit organization founded in 1924 by a group of teachers, social workers, and businesspeople to provide enriching summer camp experiences to deserving young people from communities with limited opportunity and choice. The organization runs sleepaway camps, day camps, and after-school programs for children and youth in the New York City Metro area.

Lee Bell has been working as an Executive Director at Hands In 4 Youth for 13 years. In 2010, the organization considered shutting down, but Lee believed their 220-acre facility in West Milford, NJ could be economically viable and continue to provide important services to the community. He has experience in executive planning, administration, communications, and marketing, gained through his work in both the public and private sectors. His expertise has been critical in driving growth, improving operational efficiency, and enhancing the overall performance of the HI4Y.

According to their website, Hands In 4 Youth's theory of change is based on the belief that every child deserves access to high-quality educational opportunities that prepare them for success in school and life. They believe that by providing young people with opportunities to develop their skills and interests through hands-on learning experiences, they can help them build confidence and resilience while also fostering a sense of belonging and community.

This forward-looking organization provides a range of services including summer camps, afterschool programs, and leadership development opportunities for young people. Their summer camps offer a wide range of activities including swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, sports, and more. They also offer afterschool programs that provide academic support as well as enrichment activities such as music lessons and dance classes.

Hands In 4 Youth also has facilities for adult retreats, one of which could be used for a future Clan Bell Annual General Meeting.

Slainte,  
Joseph L. Bell

Reprinted from CBNA newsletter House of Bell Volume 37 Issue 1



# HANDS IN 4 YOUTH

[www.hi4y.org](http://www.hi4y.org)

# Clan of the Bells - What's in a name?

## What's in a Name

We are changing the name of the newsletter from “Clan of the Bells” to “House of Bell” to celebrate over 37 years of Clan Bell newsletters. This should give us a stronger emphasis on family and the newsletter as a place to encourage interest in the Bell family.

Over the years, the name of our organization has changed with the times. We have been called Clan Bell Descendants, Bell Family Association, Clan Bell International, and most recently, Clan Bell North America. The newsletter has also changed names with the newsletter being called names like The Three Bells, Bell-A-Peal, Nabelich (which means “The Bells” in Scots Gaelic), Border Bells, Clan of the Bells, and now “House of Bell.”

There are some purists in Scotland who want to limit the use of the term “Clan” to apply to Scottish families with patriarchal chiefs, which functioned as an economic unit and as a military unit made up entirely of clan members. As a result, some families that have long been considered Clans are now called a “House” or some other label. The purists do not even accept a family being listed as a Clan by the Scottish Parliament in the 1587 Act that list 17 border clans, including Clan Bell, as unruly clans. Clan MacAlpine is now considered a “house” even though they are descended from Kenneth McAlpine who founded the Scottish kingdom in 843 A.D. In addition to the House of MacAlpine, there is also the House of Gordon, House of Boyd, and others, so we would be in good company and more clans are likely to be changed to a House.



The Memorial of the Clan of the Bells (1864) says that “it is a fact connel were a very brave and warlike race of men,...and the Bells of Kirkconnel being valiant men, were always sent upon the most hazardous enterprises, especially on the borders, where sometimes much blood was shed and great booty was carried off from the enemies of the country.”

Perhaps more research will assure that Bell remains a Clan, but the outcome is not certain. Adopting the name House of Bell not only recognizes the possibility that Bell might eventually be considered a house, but also gives us a focus on building as a family.

- Submitted by Joseph L. Bell

# Clan of the Bells - Bell Women Dedicated to Their Clan

## Bell Women Dedicated to Their Clan

When Bell was confirmed as an Anglo-Scottish Border clan, not a Sept of Clan MacMillan, it was a time of great excitement and enthusiasm for Bells in North America. Into this crucible of clan reawakening stepped Virginia Bell. Today at 99 years young, Virginia has seen a lot of trends come and go, but one thing that has been a constant in her life since 1985: dedication to Clan Bell.

Virginia first connected with Clan Bell through author, publisher, newspaper columnist, and writer/editor of a contemporary Bell newsletter. Irving Bell. Irving organized a trip to Scotland for Bells in 1985, and Dorothy (Dot) Stevenson, who had lived in Scotland, led this seminal trip during which Virginia toured the Bell homeland in the western Southern Uplands of Scotland. This area covers the historic Counties of Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Wigtownshire. During this memorable tour of wonderful Scottish sights, they visited Blackethouse, the Pele Tower home of the last Chief of Clan Bell, William Redcloak Bell, and they viewed numerous Bell burial sites at several cemeteries in the Middlebie area.



Virginia Bell, Frieda Shomake, and Dot Stevenson representing Clan Bell at the Sarasota Highland Games 2007



Ma Bell's Tavern

Two years later, Virginia and some of her companions from that first trip revisited Scotland. Dot Stevenson was again their guide, and during that tour they stayed in St. Andrews right next door to another reminder of the Bell influence in the area "Ma Bell's Tavern"! As you can see from the picture below, Ma Bells is still in business, though it seems that at least part of the façade has had a make-over.

In 1987, Virginia met Dot Stevenson's sister, Frieda Shoemake, from Deland, FL. That same year, the Scottish heritage Society of Sarasota Florida organized the first Sarasota Highland Games. The intrepid duo of Frieda and Virginia decided to sign up for a clan tent to represent Clan Bell. Their dedication to representing Bells

*(Continued on page 33)*



# Clan of the Bells - Bell Women Dedicated to Their Clan

*(Continued from page 32)*

at the Sarasota Highland Games continued for 20 years, with help over that time from a wonderful group of volunteers: fellow Floridians Dot Stevenson, Wanda and Herb Bell, Matt Bell and his grandsons, Annie Bell from Texas, Beverly Crust from Chattanooga, TN, and Dan Bell from Wilmington, NC. Virginia regrets that she and Frieda are no longer physically able to represent Clan Bell and her Clan no longer has a presence at the Sarasota Scottish Games.

Over the years Virginia participated in Bell Gatherings in Lakeland, CO, Salt Lake City, UT, Stone Mountain, GA, and Daytona Beach, FL. She remembers these gatherings fondly as a great way to reconnect with old friends and encourage continued interest in Clan Bell.

Through all the changes that Clan Bell in North America has been through to achieve it's current status as a Border Clan recognized by the Lord Lyon Court, we owe great thanks to Virginia Bell, and her friends Dot Stevenson and Frieda Shoemake for their many years of dedication to promoting Clan Bell in North America and around the world.

*Submitted by Stephanie Bell-Clements Adams*

Reprinted from CBNA newsletter House of Bell Volume 37 Issue 1



Matt Bell with his grandsons at the Sarasota Highland Games 2015



# 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 2023:**

The 2023 Spring Delegate's meeting date is on May 7th, check [page 4](#) and watch for more email announcements.

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 Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter editions. Items for publication should be submitted to the Editor, [editor@scotscanada.ca](mailto:editor@scotscanada.ca)

## **Guidelines for submissions are:**

Submissions due by the first of the month of the season for the edition, 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.

**Websites and Emails:** We are in the process of transition for our web and mail services. Our legacy provider and website can not provide the level of service, stability and functionality we now require. An example is not being able to deliver responsive pages to those scanning member QR codes at event being attended by the CASSOC road show. In combination with the upgrade in service provider and website, we will be transitioning to used a unilingual domain of [SCOTSCANADA.CA](http://SCOTSCANADA.CA). This is simpler while being more representative of the wide Scottish community that our mandate calls for. You will see use of the legacy domain, [cassoc.ca](http://cassoc.ca), as well as others such as [cassoc-cesedc.ca](http://cassoc-cesedc.ca) during this transition. We apologize for any inconvenience.



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# Cambridge Scottish Festival - New Member



***A warm welcome to the Cambridge Scottish Festival as a new member.***

The origins of the Cambridge Scottish Festival can be traced back to Duncan and Janet MacLachlan. Emigrating to Canada in 1954, the MacLachlans were active in the Region's Scottish community.

Duncan helped found the Highland Fusiliers Band, the Kitchener Legion Band and the Waterloo Regional Police Pipe Band, while Janet started Highland dance schools in London, Kitchener, Woodstock and Stratford.

In 1975 the MacLachlans founded the Cambridge Highland Games. In the nearly 50 years since then, the Games have become one of the premier summer events in the City of Cambridge and Region of Waterloo, bringing both colour and pageantry to the area. In 2016 the name was changed to the Cambridge Scottish Festival to reflect its gradual evolution to a week-end event with a wide range of activities and attractions.

The Highland dancers, the massed bands, the heavy events and of course the bagpipes and drums, continue to provide a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends celebrating not only Scottish culture and history, but also the very best Cambridge has to offer.

The Cambridge Scottish Festival Games Day will be held at the traditional venue of Churchill Park and will once again showcase talented pipe bands, dancers, and athletes from throughout Ontario and beyond. Learn more about Scottish heritage in our 'Avenue of the Clans' and our Heritage Tent. Be sure to check out our selection of exhibitors and vendors. Join us in our beer tent for shade, live music, and refreshments. An exciting lineup of food vendors will provide a range of tasty offerings.

If you have any questions, you can reach us at: [info@cambridgescottishfestival.ca](mailto:info@cambridgescottishfestival.ca).

*Note: Cambridge was one of the games the CASSOC road show attended this year in July. To the left is a woman using the roof mounted map of Scotland concept we were testing out with our two original 10x10 tents at the time. We now have a single 10x20 tent that will now be reassessed for the roof map concept.*





***Please welcome our new member - Clan Campbell Society (North America)***

On August 01, 1929 the "Clan Campbell Association of America" received its first member and was formally organized on December 15, 1929. The National President was the remarkable Mrs. Mary Latham Norton of San Francisco, CA. The annual membership subscription in the Association was \$1.00 per year, later raised to \$2.00. The official publication of the Association was *The Highlander*.

After being inactive for twenty-five years since the end of 1947, an organization rebirth began at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 1972. Through amalgamation, growth and expansion arose the eventual organization of Clan Campbell Society (North America) in September 1992 with it servicing the needs of Campbells in both Canada and the United States. More information can be found at [www.ccsna.org/a-short-history-of-the-clan-campbell-society-in-north-america](http://www.ccsna.org/a-short-history-of-the-clan-campbell-society-in-north-america).

*Celebrating*  
**50**  
years

Join us at the Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 19-22, 2023

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the

Clan Campbell Society (North America)

# House of Cassady - Make your very own Scottish Kilt!



## Unique opportunity to make your very own Scottish kilt!

There's nothing more iconically Scottish than the kilt. They often come in different forms, and variable materials, but there is a long rooted tradition of kiltmaking that has specific methods of construction associated with it. Almost entirely stitched by hand, an heirloom grade kilt should last more than a lifetime (well, unless it's really seeing hard wear, such as pipers and dancers).

Come on a kiltmaking adventure with me, Robin Cassady-Cain. I trained in traditional kiltmaking methods in Scotland at a professional level Kiltmaker's academy on the Royal Mile of Edinburgh.

Almost entirely stitched by hand, on this four day workshop, you will learn how to measure for making a kilt, how to set up the kilt length to "the stripe", and the multiple different steps, using a variety of stitches, that go into making a finished, traditional Scottish kilt.

This adventure will take place in November/December this year at the Contemporary Textile Studio (<https://www.textilestudio.ca/>) in Toronto. The Contemporary Textile Studio Co-operative was established in 2006 by a group of textile artists seeking, among other things, a home for the promotion of textile arts and design. The studio is located in 401 Richmond Street West, a well-known cultural hub in downtown Toronto that is home to many galleries, artist-run centres, and art collectives.



Working on sewing pleats, Hamilton Red tartan



Working on pleat stabilisation, blue tweed

# House of Cassady

## Independent goldsmith and kiltmaker

As a Goldsmith in Toronto, I design and sell handmade original one-off and small production jewellery pieces. In addition, I love to do custom and redesign jewellery orders.

I also offer an entirely bespoke, hand-stitched heirloom kiltmaking service, and am able to undertake minor and major kilt repairs.



### ABOUT

Find out more about House of Cassady

LEARN MORE

### INTERESTED IN CONTEMPORARY ART JEWELLERY?

Visit the Gallery pages to see the collections and learn more about custom orders

VISIT THE GALLERIES



### INTERESTED IN A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH KILT, OR LOOKING FOR ALTERATIONS?

Visit the Kiltmaking Services Page to find out more.

I WANT A KILT!



# Clan Cameron - So... You want to trace your roots



## SO YOU WANT TO GET STARTED ON YOUR GENEALOGY

*By Mary Garrett, Clan Cameron Ontario Branch*

*Editor's note: The following article specifically references tracing one's Clan Cameron roots however the same principles and techniques will work in general for all of us. This article is from 2002 so some references and tools may have changed!*

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

Choose, to begin with, the family you know most about. Check with older family members for family bible records, photo albums, diaries - anything that would give you data about your people. Talk to the oldest members of your family, and take notes..... BUT don't always take this information for gospel. Check, check and check again for accuracy.

Let's take Scotland - bone up on some history telling about the Scots who came to the Americas. In 1713 the sailing ship The Hector arrived from Scotland at Pictou, N.S. with

33 families and 25 unmarried men on board. These were the first people from elsewhere to settle the Province of Nova Scotia. Pictou is known as "the birthplace of New Scotland". Many families were Camerons.

The Camerons supported Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Jacobite Rising in 1745. Following the defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, there was a steady stream of emigrants, mainly to the American Thirteen colonies, wanting to escape English rule and have religious freedom. Later, during the period known as the Highland Clearances, (about 1790 to 1820) great numbers of crofters were forced from their homes in order to provide pasturage for sheep. A large proportion of these displaced families emigrated, with many coming to Canada.

There are many pockets of Cameron settlers across Canada. To name a few: Glengarry County in Eastern Ontario and some of the counties adjacent, to the west. There was a large settlement in the Peterborough area. A group of Camerons from Islay arrived in Oro Twp, Simcoe County, in 1832. Thorah Twp in Ontario County and beside it to the east, Eldon Twp. in Victoria County had many Camerons in early days. (Check a book in the library re Eldon Twp by Rae Fleming) Also for Cameron settlers try Bruce and Huron Counties as well as Middlesex and London area. Then go west to Winnipeg for early Scottish settlements, and on to Alberta.

### WHERE TO LOOK

You must have facts when you begin your research: a date, a place, the name of at least one parent or spouse. Don't go to one of the facilities listed below hoping to find information about John Cameron who lived in Ontario sometime in the 19th century. **Records prior to 1850 are scarce.**

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## **Researching in Ontario**

1. Ontario Archives, 77 Grenville St, Toronto (near College and University) tel: 416-327-1600. For census records, birth, marriage and death certificates, Probate Court records, land grants and patents, etc.

Ontario census returns are available on microfilm for each decade between the years 1851-1891. The 1871 Census is indexed by County, and is also available in a number of public libraries throughout the province.

Civil Registration began in 1867-1869, although a few earlier records exist. Birth, marriage and death records are indexed and available on microfilm (NB: Some restrictions apply to viewing birth records) Photocopies may be obtained for a nominal fee.

2. County Archives throughout Ontario for early newspapers, old maps, local history [consult their Tweedsmuir Histories], etc. Many have the 1871 census reels.
3. National Archives, Ottawa, for military records, Loyalist petitions, shipping lists etc. [Note: few shipping lists prior to 1850]
4. Church Records
  - a. Roman Catholic Records are available in different locations, according to Diocese. Toronto Archdiocese Centre, 1155 Yonge St. 416-934-0606. Telephone to ascertain the location of the records you want.
  - b. United Church Archives 73 Queen's Park Circle. 416-585-4563 . Includes Methodist Church records.
  - c. Anglican Church Archives 135 Adelaide St., Toronto 416-363-6021
  - d. Presbyterian Church Archives, 50 Wynford Dr., Toronto 416-441-1111
  - e. Baptist Church Archives, McMaster University, Hamilton
  - f. Salvation Army Museum and Archives, 2130 Bayview Ave. (opposite Sunnybrook Hospital) 416-4811-6096
5. Latter Day Saints [Mormon] Family History Centres;  
West: 65 Melbert Rd Etobicoke (west of 427 off Rathburn Rd.) 416-621-4607.  
East: 24 Ferrand Dr. (Eglinton and Don Mills Rd.) 416-422-5480.  
A number of towns outside Toronto also have Family History Centres.  
These centres have a wealth of information. General reference books are available for reading.

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# Clan Cameron - So... You want to trace your roots

(Continued from page 41)

Sets of micro-fiche records may be requested from Salt Lake City (for a fee) for examination at the FHC. Scottish Parish and Old Parochial Records are indexed on CD-ROM . You need an appointment to use a fiche reader or a computer.

## 6. Public Libraries

- a. North York Library, 5120 Yonge Street (north of Sheppard; part of North York City Hall) Ontario Genealogical Society collection is on the 6th floor. General reference books are available on open shelves; more specialized books may be requested from the stacks.
- b. Central Reference Library - Yonge St at Asquith Gust north of Bloor) has a genealogical section [929]
- c. Many Ontario public libraries also have genealogical collections and local histories.

7. Guelph University Library has a good collection of Scottish research material to support its Scottish Studies programme.

## Researching in other Provinces, States

Consult sources similar to those listed above: libraries, public and church archives. If you are in the area, visit the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, but don't make a special trip unless you are far advanced in your research. Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana, is famous for its genealogical collection.

## Researching in Scotland

*Much of your preliminary research can be done here at a Family History Centre; don't make a special research trip to Scotland until you have checked all the available resources. You may have difficulty doing further research in Scotland if you don't know where your family once lived.*

**New Register House, Edinburgh, and at Society of Genealogists, London:** for births, marriages and deaths after 1855, and Census returns, 1841-1891. Scottish church records are also available at New Register House.

**Mitchell Library, Glasgow:** for records, maps, histories, etc. of the Strathclyde area.

**Achnacarry Visitors' Centre:** contains records for the estate, and genealogies submitted by other Camerons.

## Genealogy on the Internet

Internet research is not a replacement for the more traditional forms of research (vital statistics, deeds, church and county records, etc.), but an additional source of information.

**A word of caution:** because most of the information available has not been verified against any official records , it is the responsibility of those who use it to verify its accuracy.

(Continued on page 43)

# Clan Cameron - So... You want to trace your roots

*(Continued from page 42)*

## Popular Websites.

a) Roots Web: [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)

They claim to be "the oldest and largest free genealogy site". Their primary purpose is to connect people so that they can help each other and share genealogical research. Although this site has a strictly US flavour, it does provide a great deal of good general information. In addition, it has an Ancestry web site which offers primarily UK database information for sale. You can search for people using first and last names, parents and spouses, as well as by country and approximate year of birth.

Under the "Rootsweb Surname Listing", you can make contact with other people researching the same surname, or leave your name (and e-mail address) so that others can contact you.

b) Family Search: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

This is the official internet site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.[LDS] It allows you to search by surname and by country (province or state). You can search for births, marriages, and deaths. Records available are a compilation from 3 sources - IGI [International Genealogical Index], Ancestral Files, and submitted Pedigree Charts.

c) [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) [www.ancestors.com](http://www.ancestors.com) [www.tartans.com](http://www.tartans.com)

Primarily for linking with others who are researching your name(s). **Note "word of caution"**.

d) Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid: [www.islandnet.com](http://www.islandnet.com)

Contains over 2 million burials from several thousand cemeteries in Ontario (usually the same ones transcribed by OGS)- excludes the larger cemeteries like Mount Pleasant. You can search by surname, cemetery, and by County/Township. Provides basic information only (name and date), and does not provide the lot location or tombstone inscription.

Contains a link called the "Canadian Genealogy and History Links" which in turn links to several hundred sites by Province (generally very specific in their scope). Some examples would include:

- Listings by various archives, libraries and museums
- Key organizations and societies to contact (eg. OGS Branches)
- Birth, marriage, and death listings
- Early Canadian Newspaper Notices
- Cemetery Obituaries
- 1871 Census of Canada - Ontario
- Land Records
- Toronto/York Directories, County and Township Maps, etc.

e) [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) The internet source for primary material for UK and Ireland. Fees charged for some materials.

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# Clan Cameron - So... You want to trace your roots

*(Continued from page 43)*

## Keeping Records

Keep track of the documents/materials you have consulted on each trip to a research facility, with the date, and the result of your search. A series of sheets that can be kept in a notebook works well. [See enclosed sample]

Record the source of each piece of information you find. Don't keep information on scraps of paper which can be lost; you might use a single sheet on which to record the information, its source, the date you found/received it, and comments. [Note that most research facilities require you to write in pencil; you may need to transcribe much of your information]

Decide on a way of organizing your facts and records so that they can easily be located. A filing system by family name and/or place is a good way to begin.

Many are now using one of the many computer programs on the market. If you are planning to purchase one, check that it supports GEDCOM, which ensures compatibility for exchange of information with other programs. If possible before you purchase, talk to others about the programs they are using.

## Charting - Examples of forms which are widely used:

The **Pedigree Chart** records your direct line backwards.

Begin with yourself as #1, add your dates and a spouse if applicable. #2 is your father and #3 is your mother  
#4 is your paternal grandfather and #5 his wife, your grandmother  
# 6 is your maternal grandfather,  
# 7 his wife, your grandmother.

Father's name is always on top, mother's below.

The **Family Group Sheet** is a record of each couple and their children. You can alter it to suit your needs, such as adding a column for children's spouses. A computer program will generate this type of chart for you.

## ....AND FINALLY

Add photographs, letters, wedding and birth announcements, family anecdotes, photocopied newspaper clippings, maps, etc. to enhance your collection of records and charts. Include some written description about the family and family members, and where and how they lived.

Organize everything in a notebook; add an index to the names that appear you now have your family history. Have copies made to share with members of your family, and donate a copy to the Ontario Genealogical Society for their Family History collection.

# Clan Cameron - So... You want to trace your roots

## PEDIGREE CHART

Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

Number 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

<p>2</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>4</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>8</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>
<p>1</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p> <p>Spouse</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>9</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>
<p>3</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>6</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>10</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>
<p>Name and address of submitter:</p>	<p>7</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>11</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>
<p>Phone:</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>
	<p>14</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: MARR: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>	<p>15</p> <p>BORN: PLACE: DIED: PLACE:</p>



# Clan Cameron - So... You want to trace your roots

---

**Husband:**


---

Born:                      in:  
 Married:                  in:  
 Died:                      in:  
 Father:  
 Mother:  
     Other Spouses:

---

**Wife:**


---

Born:                      in:  
 Died:                      in:  
 Father:  
 Mother:  
     Other Spouses:

---



---

**CHILDREN**


---

1	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

2	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

3	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

4	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

5	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

6	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

7	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

8	Name: Born:                      in: Married:                  in: Died:                      in: Spouse:
---	---

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# Clan Paisley - New Member

## CLAN PAISLEY SOCIETY



### Clan Paisley Society – Canada (the twisting and turning path)

It was late September of 2020. Crimson, auburn and orange were ablaze on the hills surrounding Sault Ste. Marie. Further north, and to the west of Canada, the golds of aspen and birch brightened the sullen greens of spruce and fir. The farmers had been reaping the rewards of their summer's toil. The land was giving off its last heaving breath before it slipped into a long winter's slumber.

Our Clan Paisley Chieftain, Westerlea, called me in hopes that I might provide an update on the re-establishment of Clan Paisley within Canada. I confess to feeling a bit of trepidation as I hung up the phone. At that moment it seemed like little progress had been made. It was as if Clan Paisley Society – Canada was more of a pipe dream than a reality. But, I awoke from a deep sleep at 4:00am that night and began to ponder the past year. I eventually, after some tossing and turning, got out of bed to capture my

thoughts. My wife, Lucy, roused long enough to groan an incredulous, "What time is it?", followed up by an, "Are you crazy?". She rolled over and went back to sleep. I considered the validity of her comment.

So there I sat at our dining room table, staring out at the blackness that enveloped our backyard and pondered the past twelve months. The previous fall, Lucy and I were scrambling around in preparation for our daughter Emily's wedding. Organized chaos was erupting. Family and friends would soon be sweeping in from all over Ontario and points further west. A fun sort of pandemonium would reign for the week leading up to Emily's wedding. The big day arrived and when I picked her up for the ceremony she was totally shocked to see me in full Scottish regalia; Paisley tartan of course. It was only fitting to don Scottish attire since her husband Jace proposed to her on the peak of Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh.

They got married on the shores of Lake Superior on Canada's Thanksgiving weekend. Despite the fall gales howling off the lake, nothing could blow away the beautiful smile on her face or the pride in Jace's eyes. With the wedding over, Lucy and I thought life would settle into a quiet winter. How wrong we were. As it turned out, several twisting paths were converging into something called Clan Paisley Society – Canada.

I knew I had Scottish roots based on entries in an old family bible but I had never bothered to delve into my family's history in Scotland. After beginning to explore the many Paisley names and Scottish birth places described in the bible, I decided to poke around on the internet in hopes of learning more about my ancestors. I quickly found the Clan Paisley website and made contact. My, soon to be, Chieftain's response was prompt and enthusiastic. He was quite excited to learn about my family

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connections to Clan Paisley and it didn't take him long to invite me, and any interested Paisley descendants, to join him at the Charleston Highland Games in South Carolina. So, shortly after Emily's wedding my brother John, his wife Brenda, Lucy and I packed up all things plaid and headed to Charleston. We'd never been on a trip together so we were excited to get the adventure underway. We enjoyed the rugged beauty of Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia for the first time. North Carolina and South Carolina greeted us with their famed genteel manner and Lucy and I got to enjoy our first Highland Games. John and Brenda, with a piping son and sword dancing daughter, had been to countless games so they knew what to expect. For Lucy and I though, it was all new and exciting. More importantly, we were embraced by Clan Paisley. I'm sure my Great Grandmother, Helen Paisley, was looking down from the heavens with a bit of satisfaction.



John, Brenda, Lucy and I met so many nice people that weekend. The entire clan greeted us with open arms. The concept and meaning of "clan" seemed to resonate with me. I suspect it was the gathering of my family for Emily's wedding immediately followed up by the embrace of our larger conceptual family; the Paisleys. In hindsight, it was the introduction to one particular Paisley that planted the Clan Paisley Society - Canada seed in my mind. Tom Paisley and I met early on at the Chieftain's villa on Sullivan's Island, outside Charleston. Tom was from Brown's Flat in New Brunswick.

We quickly realized that we had recently retired from similar careers in the forest industry. We shared similar interests like bike riding and soccer; even if I prefer watching to playing it. Most importantly, we both seemed to recognize the importance of our families and their historic relevance to us. It was only a brief encounter, but it did plant that seed

Christmas came and went that year. Sault Ste. Marie was locked in its usual snowy winter. Lucy and I busied ourselves with friends as we organized a benefit for an ailing comrade. By January news started to seep out of China. A mysterious virus was having a devastating impact on the population. By February, the disease was spreading quickly around the world. We did, however, just manage to pull off what turned out to be our friend's massive fund raising effort of over five hundred guests near the end of the month. By March, most of us were in some state of lock down. Winter was not relenting, nor was the virus. It was now being openly described as the Corona Virus pandemic. Lucy and I busied ourselves with home renovations as we awaited a stubborn spring.

It almost seemed a welcome relief when Westerlea called for the first time suggesting a revival of Clan Paisley in Canada. He hoped I might undertake the challenge. Westerlea may have heard the reservation in my response so he was quick to add that Tom Paisley was also willing to co-lead the effort. Based on the immensity of Canada's geography, the idea of an eastern branch and western

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# Clan Paisley - New Member

*(Continued from page 49)*

branch of Clan Paisley in Canada took hold but we were all quite determined to ensure there was only one unified effort under the main Clan Paisley organizational umbrella.

Spring finally exuded some needed warmth on a depressingly grim world. As exciting as a new clan appeared, the daunting task of actually organizing it loomed. Westerlea, Tom and I exchanged numerous e-mails. We had several phone calls. We discussed concepts and perspectives. Organizational structure and governance were proposed but the question of how we urged a notion into reality still confronted us. In the end, Tom and I thought two Gatherings would add substance to a Clan Paisley Society in Canada and encourage enthusiasm from our broader families. We planned them for late in the summer hoping the Corona Virus would have run its course by then. We began to contact immediate family and reach out to cousins that we hadn't seen in quite a long time.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, the weather was warming. Our efforts to organize Clan Paisley Society – Canada were being waylaid by an over whelming desire to get outside after being cooped up in the house for five months. There were trails that needed to be hiked or biked. There were fish that needed to be caught and beer that needed to be savored. Summer was upon us.

Unsurprisingly, by early summer, both Tom and I came to the realization that family gatherings were not a plausible idea in the new world of Covid. We decided to cancel our respective events and turn our attention to governance. As the long days and warmth of June entrenched themselves we continued to be distracted by hobbies. I confess, the occasional call from Westerlea and enthusiastic support from the United States branches were the only things that kept me and Tom focused on the task of re-establishing the Clan in Canada. Westerlea, Tom and I recruited my son, Taylor, as Treasurer. Taylor is a chartered accountant and manages an office for an accounting firm. He is based out of Fort Frances in the western part of Ontario. Taylor established a financial structure for the branch.

Within a short time, Clan Paisley Society – Canada was able to accept registration by cash, cheque or e-transfer. Taylor also started to explore ideas for raising funds to support branch activities. That in itself was a challenging task. Luckily, Taylor was a fire ranger for several years so he undoubtedly enjoyed the ominous challenge of adding liquidity to our burgeoning organization.

With two representatives and a treasurer in place, we turned our attention to filling other key roles in our executive committee. We wanted sage advice on our decisions. We felt experienced Trustees would help guide our fledgling organization. Tom knew who to turn to. His cousins, Cyril McFate and Lorraine Popik had vast knowledge of their Paisley family in Canada. They also possessed enough morbid curiosity to see how this Clan Paisley Society idea evolved; not to mention copious amounts of unbridled enthusiasm. Tom and I landed just who we needed; Cyril, a retired Canadian Armed Forces officer to give us structured discipline and Lorraine, a retired school teacher to add intelligence and keep us organized.

With today's countless means of reaching people, our new committee decided one more role would be critical in attracting members to our new organization; a communications officer. No one seemed

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to fit the bill better than my daughter Emily. After all, she had spent her teen years arguing me into the ground on almost every chore I laid out for her. Her ability to debate, her technological savvy and her gift for expressing ideas were the talents we needed. Emily quickly established a Facebook presence for us and jumped into production of our newsletters with our very talented clan member, Judi Pennanen. So, with a talented supporting cast, a governance structure in place and financial accountability, our determined committee developed a constitution and began recruiting members.

It's been four years since that fateful autumn when Tom and I started our hike down the circuitous path toward a Clan Paisley Society in Canada. The Covid pandemic seems like a distant memory. I still confront some of those niggling fears I had about starting a Scottish clan organization in Canada. Much like Covid, they seem hard to extinguish. Three years on, since Westerlea unnerved me with a request for an update on our progress, we're all embracing another brilliant autumn. This autumn though, I feel much more confident. Clan Paisley Society has structure and it has over fifty members. That's pretty good considering two years were lost to Covid. We publish a newsletter annually and our Facebook presence is engaged. We've been to highland games and Tom hosted a Gathering in New Brunswick. Now we are joining Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada.

This morning has revealed the brilliant reds and oranges of the two maple trees in my back yard. A cool, damp breeze is wafting through the patio door and after writing this update, I feel much better about our progress in re-establishing the Clan Paisley Society in Canada. There is still a lot of work to do. We need to attract a broader membership from across the country. There is still need to rouse enthusiasm among our membership and get them more comfortable with participation in our organization. Last night though, I didn't wake up with a squeamish fear that Clan Paisley Society – Canada was still just a pipe dream. With this morning's dawn I recognized all the steps Tom and I took on our hike along that twisting, turning path that has led us to this point..... an extended but welcoming family; Clan Paisley Society in Canada.

Murray Paisley Radford, Clan Paisley Society - Canada



**the**  *North American Edition*    
**Scottish Banner**  
 41 Years Strong - 1976-2017 [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com) *A' Bhratach Albannach*

[May 2023 Edition](#) [July 2023 Edition](#)  
[June 2023 Edition](#) [August 2023 Edition](#)

**Editor's note:** *We're pleased to provide the following recipes and a very Scottish-Canadian events oriented word game from the 2023 Spring and Summer editions of Hunter Halloo. Enjoy!*



## Mince & Tatties

### Ingredients

#### MINCE:

- 1 lb (454 gr) extra lean ground beef
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 1/4 cup dry red wine
- 1 cup beef broth (I use OXO Beef and I use 2 small packages (4.5 grams each) per 1 cup of water)
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and chopped into small pieces (around 5 cm)
- 1 cup fresh, canned or frozen peas
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

#### POTATOES:

- 4 large russet potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters
- 2 medium dried bay leaves (optional)
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/2 tsp fresh ground black pepper

### Instructions

#### **Mince:**

Brown beef in a large skillet over medium-high heat, breaking meat up with a wooden spoon if necessary. Once beef starts to brown add onions to the skillet. Cook for a few minutes until vegetables start to soften, but not brown. Add garlic and cook stirring for 1-2 minutes. Add wine and deglaze pan by scraping the bottom with spoon. Allow wine to reduce and evaporate by more than half.

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*(Continued from page 52)*

Sprinkle cornstarch over beef and vegetables, and stir to fully coat ingredients (and avoid any cornstarch lumps).

Slowly add beef broth, starting with a tablespoon or two and gradually increasing quantity. Once broth is added, bring pot to a boil and reduce heat to low.

Simmer, uncovered for about 20 minutes, until sauce has thickened and reduced slightly. Add carrots, peas and Worcestershire sauce. Cook for 15-20 minutes, until carrots have reached desired tenderness.

Season lightly with salt and pepper.

### **Potatoes:**

Meanwhile, place potatoes and bay leaves (if using) into a large sauce pan and cover with 2-3" of cold water. Add 1 tsp of salt and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to a strong simmer and cook for around 20-25 minutes until tender.

Drain water and let potatoes air dry in the strainer (do not rinse!). Add milk and butter to pan and cook over low heat until butter has melted and milk has warmed. Return potatoes to mean with milk and butter and mash until desired consistency has been reached. Season with salt and pepper

### **Assembly:**

Serve mince over tatties and garnish with chopped fresh parsley if desired.

Source: "Scottish Mince Recipe with Tatties." My Kitchen Love, 4 Oct. 2020, [www.mykitchenlove.com/scottish-mince-tatties/](http://www.mykitchenlove.com/scottish-mince-tatties/).

Click the image below to read what Wikipedia says about Mince and Tatties



## Rumbledethumps

This fantastic, vegetarian-friendly side (though it could be a main, too) is super affordable and makes a nice change from the usual mashed potatoes. The name is thought to come from the sound the ingredients used to make against wooden bowls during preparation.... But who knows for sure?

### Ingredients

- 21 ounces potatoes, peeled, boiled, and mashed, or leftovers
  - 14 ounces swede or turnip, peeled, boiled, and mashed, or leftovers
  - 3 ounces unsalted butter, softened, divided
  - 9 ounces savoy cabbage or kale, finely sliced
  - Kosher salt, to taste
  - Pepper, to taste
  - 1 ounce grated cheddar cheese
- Gather the ingredients.

### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F/180 C/Gas 4. Add the mashed potato and swede to a large mixing bowl and set aside.
2. Melt 2 ounces of the butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the finely sliced cabbage or kale and cook gently for several minutes until softened but not brown.
3. Add the cooked cabbage or kale to the bowl of potato and swede along with the remaining butter and mash together thoroughly. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Potato can soak up salt, so be generous with it to add a good flavor.
4. Place the mashed vegetables in an ovenproof baking dish and sprinkle the cheese on top. Cover with a lid or aluminum foil and bake in the oven for about 30 minutes or until heated through.
5. Remove the lid and cook for another 5 mins or until golden brown and a little crispy on the top.
6. Serve piping hot as a side or main dish and enjoy.



L E Q B A I V Q A D O K C N R Z U B  
C M S K J L H F S T R H A E P A X M  
A B G C I Z M X L A I I N W E N B O  
M R G L O N C O Z B L G M B N T R N  
B O O O E T C Q N J L H O R T I I T  
R G D F P N T A P T A L R U I G D R  
I A E Z E X G I R G E A E N C O G E  
D M R O S R C A S D C N V S T N E A  
G E I E J Y G U R H I D I W O I X L  
E S C D H J V U Q R X N Y I N S Z Q  
L T H Y K Q Z H S S Y N E C R H O V  
S H E R W O O D P A R K W K K H T I

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ALMONTE  
ANTIGONISH  
CAMBRIDGE  
CANMORE  
EMBRO  
FERGUS  
GAMES

GLENGARRY  
GODERICH  
HIGHLAND  
KINCARDINE  
MONTREAL  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
ORILLA

PENTICTON  
SCOTTISH  
SHERWOOD PARK  
UXBRIDGE

# Kennedy Society of North America

Things have been very busy in the Kennedy Society world:

- Tents have been convened in Savannah GA, Townsend TN, Greenville SC, Central WV, Blairsville GA, Cleveland OH, and Grandfather Mountain NC.
- Our 50th anniversary was officially celebrated at the Smoky Mountain Games, with 75 in attendance for the banquet. Members from 18 states and 1 province came.
- Kona Gant was awarded the Society's highest award, the Companion of the Oak at the banquet.
- All officers were re-elected at the AGM: Dave Carrick, Society Chief; Sean Carrick, Society Deputy Chief; Bob Davis, Treasurer, and ; Jo Anne Engelhardt, Secretary.
- Our intrepid Andrew McMurtry did an extensive and encompassing trip to Ayrshire, focusing on Carrick.
- Loch Norman NC has been announced as the site of the 2024 AGM, with the dates being April 20-21.
- The Society was honored by the presence of Jo Ann Tuskin, CASSOC Secretary, at our Grandfather Mountain tent.
- Society Chief Dave Carrick looked forward to attending Fergus in August, with the tent being hosted by Lydia Kennedy and her family.



Many thanks for the support shown for the 50th. It truly was a wonderful time and event, and had quite a mix of members. This mix included our founding member and Chief, John Flowers, brand new members, and everything in between! We are already working on our next 50!

David Carrick  
Chief/President

[Kennedy Society of North America](#)

(Below: group photo from the 50th Anniversary Annual Grand Meeting)







Dave Carrick, Bill and Julie Kennedy at the Ohio Scottish Games.



Kathi and Kona Gant with Dave Carrick at the Ohio Scottish Games.



# Clan Lachlan Society - Visiting Old Castle Lachlan

## Visiting Old Castle Lachlan by Alastair Maclauchlan

The weather was perfect as we set out on our tour of the Old Castle Lachlan on Saturday afternoon.

We walked along a wild-flower-rimmed track from the new castle (built in 1790) out to the ruins of the 15th century Old Castle Lachlan, situated on a promontory on Loch Fyne. The location of the old castle was chosen for defensive purposes and for its good view of the loch... and of the travellers thereon. The more sheltered new castle is situated further inland, away from the elements hitting the old castle, and it certainly offered more comfort, such as 1790s-era plumbing!

We discussed several topics, noting that the castle is located geographically just over the Highland Line, a geological divide which cuts across Scotland. Driving north from Glasgow, you will notice how the geography changes: hills are higher and sharper, there is less arable farming, and the soil is just not as good.



*This face of Old Castle Lachlan has been cleared of the ivy that both held the ancient stones together while forcing them apart. Clearing the ivy is an important first step in Clan Maclachlan Society's plan to preserve this historic ruin. Photo: Cyndi Boman.*

There are differences in wildlife as well. North of the line is the stronghold of the red squirrel, whilst south the invasive grey squirrel is more prevalent. Even the crows look different: the hooded crow with a grey back is more prevalent in the north, whilst south of the line the fully black carrion crow is more prevalent.

The area is rich in other wildlife, and many animals which were once very rare have returned, among them otters and pine martens, previously persecuted but now returned and protected. I have seen a white-tailed eagle in Strathlachlan, a bird extinct in Scotland and reintroduced from Norway to the north-west of Scotland.

The loch itself has always had a population of seals, porpoises, and dolphins. The enormous (but harmless) basking shark is occasionally seen.

In the centuries in which Castle Lachlan was home to Clan Maclachlan, water was the main method of transport, rather than roads, and the hills, rather than lochs, were the borders. For example, the Highland Line at one point in history was the border culturally between Gaelic and English speakers.

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# Clan Lachlan Society - Visiting Old Castle Lachlan

(Continued from page 58)

However, history is rarely static. The hills to the east of Strathlachlan would have been at one point a border between Gaelic-speaking gaels originally from Ireland and the Brythonic celts of the kingdom of Strathclyde (over time the language spoken in a number of these kingdoms was closer to modern day Welsh.)

The defensive properties of the old castle became more apparent as we approached. In times of trouble, people could move into the castle and could defend themselves for a reasonable amount of time, aided by the fact it had a fresh water well. Another advantage of the position is that the castle commands great views of the loch, so the inhabitants of the castle could supplement their income by taxing travelers on the water.

Standing on the point, we could see the lands of neighbouring clans directly across the loch, some of which had also been Maclachlan country but lost. To the south west had been originally Macdonald land as part of the Lordship of the Isles, but latterly taken over by the Campbells.

To the south on the east side of the loch had been MacEwan country, Lamont country south of that, and the north west was Campbell country. Of course, land changed hands regularly through marriage, violence, or charters from the monarch for good deeds (or at least deeds supporting the monarch).

It was such a beautiful day that we stayed a while to observe the view. Then, after a quick walk back via the Kilmory Chapel, the resting place of chiefs of Maclachlan for centuries, we got back to New Castle Lachlan in time for the whisky tasting.

It was a great pleasure to share this tour with a great bunch of people from all over the world.

*Alasdair Maclauchlan grew up just up the road from Castle Lachlan, so he knows the area very well. An amateur historian with interests in wild-life, Karate, punk rock music, and painting. He currently lives in Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, where he works for VisitScotland and the National Tourist Board. He invites clanfolk who visit the Edinburgh area to contact him for a special guided tour of the Prestonpans battlefield.*



Pathway to Old Castle Lachlan on a perfect spring day. Photo: Cyndi Boman

# Clan Lachlan Society - Culloden Revisited

## Culloden Revisited by Adrian Moorman, B&I Branch Clan Member 2816

“Hullo there,” said a cheery man, white-haired and perhaps in his 60s, with hand outstretched, walking up to me through the swelling throng of kilted attendees at last year’s Culloden Memorial Service, April 2022. He was wearing a dark jacket, white shirt and tie and a Culloden district tartan, which I recognised, and he seemed to know me.

“I wasn’t sure if Covid had got you as I haven’t seen you up here for a few years. I even went down to Clachnaharry in Inverness to see if you were still alive!” he smiled.

We shook hands warmly and I was flattered that he remembered me from the last time I had attended this deeply moving and unusual service, in 2014. The service, conducted in both Gaelic and English, pays respects to the fallen on both sides of the iconic 1746 battle, the last to be fought on British soil. Then, equally surprised, I said to him “It’s John, isn’t it?” and was relieved —honour redeemed— when he said it was. I explained to him I had moved south in 2015 to be closer to my father in his declining health and only moved to Aberdeenshire 18 months ago.

“I’m along here again to lay the wreath on behalf of Clan MacLachlan” I explained, “and was asked by the Society chairman if I could cover it as I’ve now moved back to Scotland. “You?” “Same. Clan Chisholm,” he offered. As we chatted and as I looked about me, I recognised one or two other familiar faces. In my roles as B&I Branch Secretary and Chair and later as Clan Society Chair, I had attended the Culloden Service for four or five consecutive years, sometimes with other clans folk who were visiting from other parts of the UK or from abroad. The piper struck up as we talked and he piped us, with the Ministers and invited dignitaries leading the way, snaking towards the elegant Cairn erected in 1881 by Duncan Forbes of Culloden “who also set up the headstones on the surrounding graves of the clans,” according to the metal plate on the cairn.

This morning’s sunshine, quite different from the cold and sleety winds which blew direct into the faces of the Jacobite Line that fateful morning in 1746, was welcoming and lit the bright dress and the flying colours of those assembled. There in procession were tartan-clad clansmen and women, redcoats with bayonets fixed, supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie with white cockades in their bonnets, regional and other national representatives from Italy, Poland and America and of the Northumbrian Jacobites, the Irish Picket, the French Ecosse along with battle re-enactment enthusiasts and other supporters.

It is the kind of event that fosters kinship and, for a brief time, reunites different clans and sometimes, too, the representatives of erstwhile adversaries, regardless of whether their forebears were for the Government side or Jacobite side. Today in this

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Clan representatives march toward the memorial cairn on Culloden’s field.  
Photos: Adrian Moorman.

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event they now gathered in unity to show their respect for all those who had died or been wounded in one of the shortest and bloodiest battles fought at that time, at which it is thought some 700 Jacobites lost their lives in a brief five-minute spell as they charged towards the Government Line, their Bonnie Prince and his army shortly being routed from the field.

Those who attend the usually windswept, heather-grown battlefield and who proceed under pipes and banners from the Visitor Centre to the commemorative Cairn are not necessarily the same folk each year, though many do come to regard it as a regular event, chiefly owing to the special feelings the service engenders. These are today's inheritors of those clans and units, brightly clad, paying tribute to their forebears by their preparedness to turn out, take part in a dual-language gathering and later, in their own time, perhaps, take a quiet walk around the battlefield after the service, reflecting upon and honouring people whom they had never known.

There had been no commemorative Service held for three years and we were reminded by attending Ministers in reflective tone of the recent pandemic and those people lost to it, to those who were at this very moment experiencing loss and pain in Ukraine and elsewhere in other conflicts and all 300 or so of those present were thoughtfully attentive to their words. The piper played a lament and then we heard a sombre Gaelic hymn from a choir of five, singing a cappella, very movingly. They were followed by the wreath-laying part of the service where bouquets and wreath tributes were placed respectfully at the Cairn, in turn, with flowers often in clan colours, the tribute bearer using the microphone to report "Laid on behalf of Clan MacLachlan," for example.

This part is always measured, dignified and modest, and followed by the Blessing, before the piper strikes up again and leads folk in more lively step on a small circuit of the battlefield for those who wish to conclude their day of commemoration. Many will end up back at the Visitor Centre where we started and be tempted to have a coffee before setting off. Others will choose to chat longer to acquaintances or revisit the Centre to refresh their memories on some detail of the battle which might have slipped their mind. Many will have exchanged phone numbers and e-mail addresses with a pledge to call or to forward photographs of the day's event. "See you next year. Take care."

Estimates for the battle at Culloden believe that between 1,500 and 2,000 Jacobites were killed alongside 300 government soldiers. Approximately 3,000 Jacobites were captured overall and 120 were formally executed, mainly deserters. Almost 650 people died awaiting trial, some 900 were pardoned and the rest were transported to the colonies. For those on both sides who had been killed in the full heat of the battle, they all died in less than an hour—one killed every two seconds—about the same time it takes for the commemorative service each year to remember their sacrifice with compassion, respect and humility.



Adrian Moorman stands beside the stone marking the dead of Clan MacLachlan to lay a wreath.

# Clan Logan - An Armiger is Born

## **A Logan armiger is born! by Steven Logan, FSAScot**

Before the pandemic hit I had decided, after a long period of thought, to send a very special request to the Canadian Heraldic Authority of Canada. I wanted to officially apply for a grant of Arms for a long time but chose to wait as I wanted to cumulate more experience doing events and working in my community.

I was terrified of not being worthy of a grant of emblems and I believe that an honour one receives should be rightfully earned. Furthermore, once you do get it, you have a duty and responsibility to continue earning the privilege of using it with dignity and pride.

Before 1988, a Canadian citizen requesting Arms had to apply through the Lord Lyon or other heraldic Offices in the United Kingdom. It was a costly process and these Offices knew little about Canadian symbols so a demand grew in Canada to have our own authority. Then in 1988, Queen Elizabeth issued Letters patent authorizing the Governor General to exercise all powers and authorities lawfully belonging to us as Queen of Canada in respect of granting armorial bearings in Canada. This led to the creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.

To get Arms in Canada, any Canadian citizen must prove to the Government that they have made a notable contribution to the country. I didn't know if I had the eminence to earn this as a grant of Arms is part of the Canadian Honours system under His Majesty The King of Canada, Charles III. Therefore, a grant of emblems is considered a gift given by the King through his viceroy The Governor general of Canada. When a petition is made, there's a set process of how things are done with various steps. Once a person does this, The Chief Herald of Canada approves or rejects the petition.

I had nothing to lose by trying and if it were not successful, nothing would prevent me from trying again in a few years or so. By doing this, I am not saying I am more worthy than anyone else but I do believe my efforts should be recognized to some extent and wanted to let others decide that for themselves. I believe that if you work hard, anything is possible. Many people who get grants of Arms are people who have state honours for their notable achievements such as through the Order of Canada who are accordingly entitled to a grant of Arms.

It took a long time to find out if this would be successful or not. I would hope it could be possible, not just for myself but also to show others, my community and other Logans that what I have done is build something important. This had to be a celebration of years of community service. I wanted something that could possibly inspire others or make them want to seek out a grant of Arms for their own accomplishments. This is not about how wonderful I am but about the cumulation of many years hard work and finding a way, although I have no official rank or status, to make Clan Logan get value. This is partly to help us collectively put our Clan on the map, make people talk and adding more wow factor that can bring on more memberships to us so we grow together and become part of history again.

Clan Logan has had it rough through time with various injustices and events in history that were badly interpreted. Many took advantage of that to belittle us and our heritage and minimize our influence in Scotland. For many years I have worked on changing the perceptions, proving people wrong

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# Clan Logan - An Armiger is Born

*(Continued from page 62)*

about us and have been militant about visibility and actively doing things. I want us to turn a new leaf and build on good things, my personal accomplishments should only be taken as a few good things among others to come with other people.

When I was told that my petition passed, I was over the moon. After years of hoping for some official recognition, It was my turn to get recognized officially and by the Canadian Government itself for what I am trying to do and not just by a give organization in the Scottish community, this was the Canadian Government. Someone somewhere understands why I am doing all this and cares enough to reward me. I have received many thank yous for what I do here and there, but it was never anything official that I could truly document or one day, share with the future Chief of Clan Logan once we found him. Now, no one can undermine my accomplishments in any way and just seeing my coat of Arms will be a visual statement reminding them all that I have done it through my own merit. Those that are happy for me understand and know I have earned it, those that are not will see my heraldry and be reminded that no matter what they tried to do to minimize my own personal worth, they have lamentably failed.

After many years of waiting, delays going through preliminary and final designs and getting heralds and calligraphers to work their magic, I have on June 29th,2023 received a very important delivery from Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor General of Canada. I got a wooden box that was riveted shut. I knew what it was and knew that from the moment I opened that box, I was to become a Gentleman of the Clan. I now have letters patent with the seal of the king of Canada and have a Coat of Arms that will continue to exist long after I have left the world, a true statement of my contribution. A Logan armiger is born! all, Ottawa (Below: The mysterious box I received!)



# Clan Logan - Montreal Canada Day Parade

## Montreal Canada Day Parade 2023 by Steven Logan, FSAScot

On July 1st, I always celebrate Canada Day, This year like many past, I attended the Montreal Canada Day parade. I requested a notice be put on the Clan Logan Society of Canada Facebook page. It appeared but nobody demonstrated any interest to my great frustration.

I did get news that Laurent, our Vice-President was available. He came in Logan colours ready to march and hold the banner and make the Clan proud. We are lucky to have such a generous person invested in his Clan.

We arrived on site for the parade in downtown Montreal and headed to section A. We then saw a gold cart come near us with Caroline Polcsak, one of the organizers of the parade happy to see us. We then headed for section A. When we got there, we were pleasantly surprised to see The Central Montreal Lions Club were also marching and we greeted each other. Gulnar, the new President was very happy to see us. We are very lucky to have the Lions and they are very supportive of our endeavors. We also saw many other organizations waiting to parade, all happy and ready to celebrate our country.

It was nice to march down the street and participate. People kindly waved at us, used their Canadian flags. Right behind us, there was a Chinese group that had many children and adults all wearing their own traditional attire. They were very eager to march and they played their music, blew their whistles and danced. If you weren't awake when you got there to march, you were with them right behind you! It was nice to see so much cultural pride. People from all types of communities, all there, all grateful for our country Canada willing to show how being Canadian has changed their lives. There was some rain so that affected the attendance but people came to look and see everyone. There was a lot of kindness and respect in the air.

Once the parading was done, we stood with our Logan banner looking at people and talking with them. Many people walked right up to us for pictures! We were famous!! I managed to speak with people from the United Irish Societies of Montreal, The 2023 Irish Queen, Samara O'Gorman came to see us and we exchanged and took pictures. there were pictures with us taken even at a distance!

Before leaving the parade site, I managed to get a Hold of City Councillor Sterling Downey, we spoke and in the process got information about another event that could be of interest to us. As then the rain intensified we said our goodbyes, took our banner and walked to the subway to go home satisfied that we had done our duty for Clan Logan giving us much needed visibility. This parade required a lot of work and effort to get done. I would like to thank Vice President Laurent for his much needed help and presence as well as Caroline Polcsak and Nick Cowen, organizers at the Canada Day Parade for making this event a huge success. Without these fine proud Canadians, we wouldn't have such a wonderful parade!

(Image to right : Laurent and I with the Central Montreal Lions Club)





# Clan Logan - OttScots Kilted Curling

The OttScots Kilted Curling 2023 by Patrick Dionne-Kuno

On April 1st 2023, your Clan Logan Representative of Ontario was seen at the annual OttScots Kilted Curling Tournament and Celtic Music Session.

The evening started at 17:00. As we waited for the ice to be prepared, we helped the musicians get their instruments and various other equipment ready to play. We also set up a booth to sell used kilts and other accessories that were handed down to us throughout the years.

Everyone had to pre register before the event to get access to the game. I was not able to pay beforehand, but lucky enough for me, several members were not able to attend therefore, I was able to pay at the door and play.

It was then time for the staff at the Rideau Club to explain the rules of the game and Heather, president of the society, explained the point system. We had the normal points given for the game but also points for oldest/youngest player, best dressed player, best new player and one for the most experienced player. Since I was the youngest player and the best dress player, my team won 2nd place despite us losing are game.

Afterwards at 20:00, we came back inside to enjoy some music as well as some drinks at the bar. The team we were playing against decided to be sportsmen- like and treated us to a drink.

The music was traditional folk and bagpipe songs using small pipes, regular bagpipes and accordion. During that time, I was in charge of selling the kilts and accessories. We are known as the OttScots; we represent the eastern part of Ontario, as well as the city of Gatineau, Quebec . I did sell a kilt in the Quebec tartan to a member who lived in Gatineau, and a matching highland dancing vest and kilted skirt to a new dancer from Glengarry, Ontario

Song continued to be played up to 23:00. We had pre ordered pizza earlier. We had predicted double the numbers of attendees therefore, we bought a lot more pizza than we could eat! We decided to give the leftovers to the homeless in the area.

All in all, I loved being able to play again! I will be happy to come back every year and support this wonderful organization. (Images below : Kilts for sale at this event.; Here I am doing some curling Logan style!



# Clan Logan - OttScots AGM and Breakfast

## **The 2023 OttScots AGM and breakfast By Patrick Dionne-Kuno, Clan Logan representative of Ontario**

On the 3rd of June 2023, your Clan Logan Representative of Ontario was seen at the 2023 OttScots AGM and breakfast. The event started at 9 am at the Heart and Crown in Ottawa's Byward market. I was super happy to know that the restaurant that was picked was only 15-30 minutes walking distance from my home. Once I arrived, I was shocked to find out the restaurant was empty and that there were no servers. A bystander told me that they usually only open at 11. A few minutes passed and a server came by. As she eyes me up and down, (I thought it was because I was cute for a minute) she notices the Kilt and asks "are you here for the OttScots Breakfast and AGM? If so, follow me!" me and the server passed 5 different empty rooms before making it to the private party room in the back. Apparently I was in luck, the bartender told me that we almost reached capacity with how many people we had in that single room, including the outside balcony.

I'm only glad because even though we had a limited setting last weekend at the whiskey tasting (50 people), I was able to see the full OttScots Board of Directors that didn't attend last weekend. It was just me and Donald Macdonald despite me not being able to drink and since it was supposed to be hosted by the OttScots. At the front of the room, there was a table where you went to make sure you attended as well as made sure you were or were not a voting member for the voting of new board members at the end of the event. At the table was also different pins: a Scottish flag intertwined with a Canadian one, a 10 year anniversary pin as well as a Maple Leaf Tartan ribbon which I all put on my matching tartan flat cap. (the national tartan of Canada) At the table was a donation box. As I was cleaning my room during the week, I found 100\$ and decided it would be better used by the society than by me buying junk food and candy against my mothers wishes. Once all of that was done I was able to socialize with people I feel like I haven't seen in forever.

I talked to past and current board members, new people that just came in off the street hoping to join and everything else in between. During the event, we had music from usual band: Ron Roche on guitar, Dave Jonstone on pipes and finally John Young signing who one of are members that is unfortunately blind. I just found out that he is taking Gaelic as well as traditional Gaelic singing lessons. Once done talking, we settled down at are tables for breakfast around 10. The menu they gave us was not very selective, you had the regular full Scottish meal or the vegy Scottish meal for 25\$ each. I was surprised, I thought that the meal would be paid for by the dues from the voting membership which are coincidentally also 25\$. The restaurant was not kidding when they said that it was giant full meals. The meal itself included 2 eggs, 2 strips of bacon, one slice of sourdough bread, 2 bangers (breakfast sausage) ½ cup of breakfast potatoes, (tater tots) 2 slices of thick cut ham and a cup of maple beans. The veg option was the same without the meats. The meals were so huge that we had to

*(Continued on page 67)*

# Clan Logan - OttScots AGM and Breakfast

*(Continued from page 66)*

wait till 11 for everyone to get served. With all the food on the tables, we had to hurry up and get to the AGM presentation since another group booked the space for noon.

The presentation was a slide show presented by Heather Theoret who ended her term this AGM as chair of the board of directors. Before the slide show we played a video of the song Caledonia by Dougie Maclean, the Ottscots theme song that was gifted by Dougie himself when Heather went to Scotland one year. Afterwards we had the expenses report, how much we raised, which members were leaving and staying etc. After applying to the society a month ago, giving two references, a zoom meeting, i was announced as the new youth director!(for ages 13-30) I've got a lot of ideas ahead!

To conclude, I'm happy with my new position with the Ottscots! I will be able to bring new life and really make my own difference. Let me know what kind of ideas would be great. I'm thinking for my first try it would be golf. (Images below : The current board of directors 2023.; Me next to the Ottscots banner)





## **Clan MacAulay Association honours their 25th Anniversary with trivia contest**

On April 25, 2023, Clan MacAulay Association celebrated their Silver Anniversary as an organization. In honour of this milestone, the Clan developed a ten-question trivia contest to engage members and non-members alike around current and past Clan MacAulay history. “We wanted to provide a fun and engaging 25th Anniversary contest to provide members with additional knowledge of the Clan, and offer non members an opportunity to participate, and learn more about the Clan MacAulay Organization”, commented Chief Joan McAulay.

In addition to being a fun activity for existing members, the contest served as a new member recruitment tool. Promoted on the Association’s website and social media platforms, about 60% of the respondents were potential new members. An Adult Annual membership was offered as the prize for the most correct answers. Existing members were offered the chance to give the gift of membership to the person of their choice.

The response received was outstanding with the result of 3 individuals tied with 7 out of 10 correct. We were very pleased that 2 of the 3 winners were not current members of the Association, and our efforts to incentivize non member participation paid off handsomely. Our Membership Engagement Manager will now work with the new members to introduce them to all that Association membership offers.

The contest served to reinforce that our membership is very interested in learning the history, heritage, and culture of Clan MacAulay. We offer a “members only” area on the Clan website which provides extensive resources including Genealogy/DNA testing, and expert advisors available to assist membership with tracing their MacAulay family tree. Members have the opportunity to “meet” and network via frequent virtual events and the Clan Member Directory. Additionally, Clan MacAulay Association has established a Heritage Fund to financially assist worthy causes that promote Scottish heritage, with a particular emphasis on Clan MacAulay.

Every two years, the MacAulay Clan Association hosts a worldwide gathering, and in August of 2024, members will meet in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Planning is well underway and will be announced to membership this summer. “This will be the first time the Clan will gather in North America, and we are very excited to welcome members from around the world to the beauty and serenity of Cape Breton”, stated Chief Joan who hails from Canada. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet old friends and make new acquaintances via the many activities and celebrations taking place during the gathering.

For additional information, please visit our website at: <https://www.clanmacaulay.org.uk/>

# Clan MacBeth - New Member



**Crest:** a dexter arm in armour embowed holding in the hand a sword all Proper

**Motto:** Coniuncta virtuti fortuna - Good fortune is allied to bravery

**Surname Variants:** McBeth, Beaton, Beeton, MacBeth, MacBeaton, McBee, etc.

## Early Origins of the MacBeth family

The surname MacBeth was first found in the Isle of Islay, where legend has it that the progenitor of this Clan is none other than Macbeth (Mac Bethad mac Findláich) (1005-1057), the High Steward of Moray. As his mother was a daughter of King Kenneth III, and he married Grudoch, a daughter of the son of King Kenneth III, he had as much of a claim to the Scottish throne as King Duncan I. MacBeth, therefore, challenged Duncan and defeated him in battle in 1040, assuming the throne.

Known in English simply as Macbeth, he was last Celtic king of Scotland, ruling from 1040 to 1057, when he died in battle against future king Malcolm of the Canmore dynasty.

He is best known through the Shakespearean drama bearing his name. Thespians rarely mention the play by the name and typically call it "the Scottish play" as they believe that by uttering the name brings one bad luck



MACBETH ANCIENT



MACBETH MODERN

# Clan MacEwen Society



In early June, Clan MacEwen Society held a 3-day meeting on their ancient lands on the Cowal Peninsula in Argyll. The meeting included talks, discussions, hikes through the lovely countryside and our 2023 AGM (first image below)

***Maggie McEwan***



Lunch with the Ancestors



It is still summer. Hooray, I hope everyone has found some time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends during July and August. It has been difficult for so many people in Canada, with the wildfires burning across our country. Please take care and stay safe.

Thanks to Doug Macfie and son Eric who set up the Clan Macfie Tent at the The Moncton Highland Games in NB, at the end of June. Doug also set up a Clan Macfie tent at the Games in Antigonish, NS in early July. Doug posted some wonderful photos on Facebook. Also, a special thanks to Jan Day Stenseth who set up a Clan Macfie tent at the Penticton, BC Scottish Festival in July. It was her first time doing this

and we are all so proud of her. It was a wonderful day for her. Well done to all. So, the Macfie's went east to west coast this summer.

Barbara and I attended the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario on August 5 & 6 and we were delighted to take part in a Clan Macfie DNA testing presentation. It was all about DNA Y-700 and the importance of all Macfies, MacDuffies, McPhees, etc, to get this DNA testing. It is simply the best we have for men (Y chromosome), and it will help place them into groups of where they have lived in Scotland for the past 1000 years. It was an excellent talk and it also focused on how the Macfie's of Colonsay are a little different to the Macfie's of Lochaber, in terms of DNA. The presentation at the Glengarry Games was given by my Cecil McPhee of Montreal, Sally McPhee Mellick of Australia and Robin McPhee of NZ. Robin and Sally have come a long way and it was great to see so many Macfie cousins at this event. Also, Doug Macfie from New Brunswick brought his U-haul of Macfie items and set up our Clan Macfie Tent. This tent was a delight to young and old as there were dolls, swords, flags, lego, and of course all the books, photos and information on the Sugar Macfie's. Thanks to Doug for this.

Barbara and I also attended The Fergus Scottish Gathering and Highland Games on August 12. We set up the Clan Macfie tent and it was another delightful day. We could hear the pipe bands practicing in the background and see all the highland dancers jumping and practicing as they moved to and from their dance competitions. We had many visitors stop by our Clan tent: including a woman who was born on Colonsay and went to school there. She now lives in Owen Sound, north of Fergus. I met Danny McAfee who runs his own online company called Macfie's Wizard Shop and sells all sorts of amazing gadgets. Finally, our Clan Tent had another visitor. Richard Rankin who plays Roger in the Outlander TV Series. I had to ask for a photo. We met so many interesting people.

Yours Aye,  
Gary MacPhie  
President  
The Macfie Clan Society in Canada  
macphie19@hotmail.com

# Clan Gunn - New Member



CLAN GUNN

## Message from The Chief (extract)

The Clan Gunn is one of the oldest Scottish Clans descended from the Norse Jarls of Orkney and the Pictish Mormaers of Caithness.

Today there are members of the Clan in the UK, France, the Netherlands, South Africa, USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The Clan was originally based on the east coast of Caithness, but from the fifteenth century the senior line settled in the Strath of Kildonan in north east Sutherland; the Robson Gunns had their seat in Braemore in south east Caithness and the third main family established themselves in Cattaig and Dalemore on the upper reaches of the River Thurso.

Iain Gunn of Gunn, Chief, Clan Gunn



William Petrie - Chairperson CASSOC and Rev. Colin Swan - Clan Gunn Commissioner at the Kingsville Highland Games, 2023



# Ship Hector - 250th Anniversary

## 'Canada's Mayflower' brought Scottish Settlers to Nova Scotia in 1773

September 15, 2023 will be celebrated as one of our country's most historic events. It marks the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Ship Hector to the shores of Pictou, Nova Scotia from Scotland. The 189 passengers endured a harrowing 11-week voyage to start a new life in a new land. The voyage was the beginning of an incredible journey that cannot be forgotten.

These early emigrants made enormous cultural, political, intellectual and industrial contributions that helped shape Nova Scotia and the rest of Canada. In 2000 the replica Ship Hector was launched. The ship, the replica site, and the Hector Heritage Quay Interpretive Centre allows visitors to experience the life of the passengers throughout the Quay's displays and onboard the ship.

The site preserves the history that represents the Ship Hector and the relationship with the Mi'kmaq, the Scottish and the community. The Ship Hector Society plans to have the Hector fully restored and rigged for this national historic milestone event.

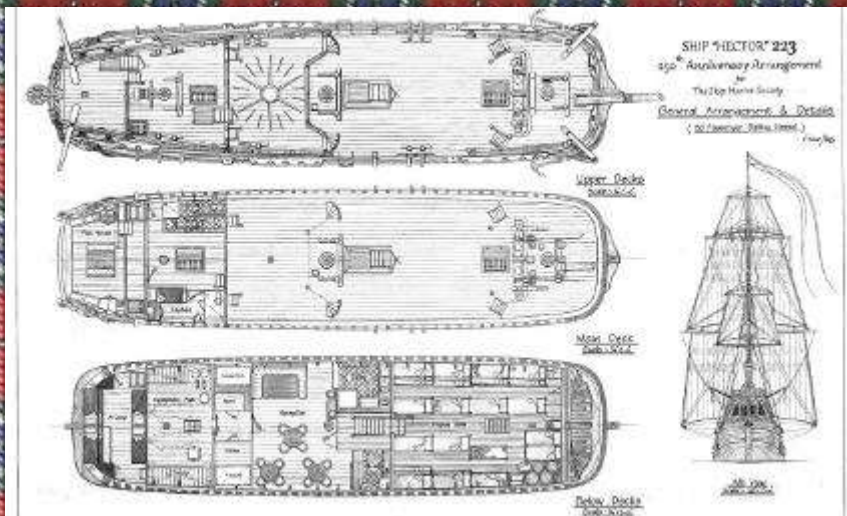
Much work still needs to be done before the planned lift of the ship back into the water next September. A full-scale replica of the ship was built in the 1990s, but 30 years later it needed major repairs.

The vessel was lifted out of the water in June 2020 to start the restoration. Delays due to COVID-19 and supply chain issues have been part of the problem in getting the work done. Then came post-tropical storm Fiona, which killed power to the work site for nearly two weeks. The boat cover that was tied on to protect the ship blew away in the storm.

The Hector ship restoration project will use wood from the trees felled by hurricane Fiona which had passed directly over parts of Atlantic Canada on Sept. 24, 2022. The felled trees being used are between 150 to 250 yrs old, have come from the land where these emigrants settled and will be used for specific areas of the ship.

The Ship Hector Descendant Project began in 2015, in an effort to assist the genealogy community, tourists and interested people to determine if they are related to one of the passengers on the Ship Hector. Many visitors to Pictou have Pictou County roots.

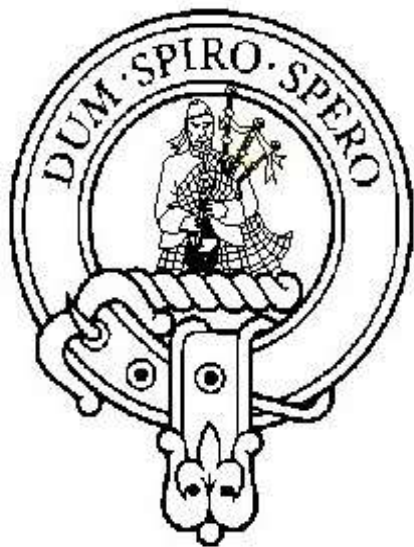
**Barbara MacLennan, Clan MacLennan Worldwide**



Click the image to the left to find out more about the 250th Anniversary Restoration at <https://www.shiphector.ca/campaign-page/restoration/>

# Clan MacLennan Canada

## Clan MacLennan Canada



Greetings CASSOC members,

Clan MacLennan Worldwide has an exciting event next year with a Gathering at Strathconnon, Scotland from July 4th to 8th / 2024 hosted by our Chief Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan.

Thursday will include the Welcoming and Registration and The Genealogy Day with a speaker.

Friday, the Clan will hold the Clan Parliament and later a Ceilidh.

On Saturday there will be a choice to either visit Castle Leod or visit a distillery. The formal dinner will be held in the evening.

On Sunday we can attend a church service in Strathpeffer and meet after church for lunch at Ben Wyvis Hotel for the closing and goodbyes to old and new

friends.

The Monday will offer a walk on the "MacLennan Way" or a visit to a MacLennan Heritage landmark tour of Eilean Donan Castle.

Registration is open for the MacLennan Clan Gathering at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathconnon, Scotland (pictured below) at a special rate. The last Gathering was in 2018 and due to Covid, we could not have our planned Gathering for 2022.

Cheers,

Barbara MacLennan

President

Clan MacLennan Canada





## Timeless Tartan for the Generations

Much more than just kilts! Our tartan clothing and accessories expand to all ages and even includes your beloved [four legged friends](#) too. Every product is made to the highest standard, from the finest authentic wool tartan fabric, making them a timeless investment that will last for years to come and can be passed down the generations with wonderful stories and love.

[EXPLORE TARTAN CLOTHING](#)

**Editor's note:** We've been thrilled to have the company of Emily Redman from ScotlandShop at many of our Roadshow games. Find out more on ScotlandShop's blog at [True North Tartan Tales | The Canadian Tartan Tour](#)

# Clan MacRae Society of Canada



## *CLAN MacRae Society of Canada*

*Clan MacRae has been to the Victoria Games and Georgetown Games starting out this season of Highland Games and Festivals. WE started off with a bang at the longest running Games in Canada “160<sup>th</sup> Victoria Highland Games”, pictured below. It was a great weekend with wonderful sunny weather.*



The Clan MacRae Society of Canada and its Directors have been working on how to get more of the clan itself involved and willing to participate. Below is a summary of thoughts on the subject of a Clan or Society by our *President*. *He wrote this article in our last newsletter that I would like to share with everyone.*

### ***Maintaining a Society by President-Bill McRae:***

I would like to engage in this train of thought with our readers. ***“What is the purpose of a Scottish Clan Society,”*** be it here in Canada, or abroad.

*I would like to think of our societies as organizations formed around fraternalism for a specific purpose. That purpose I believe is to have a systematized body of people as members with a particular common purpose, acting as an organized unit that work together as a network of talented individuals with certain shared beliefs / interests, as in our case a common ancestral name.*

*The function of our society relies upon three critical factors to operate and prosper, the “Membership” side, “Volunteerism” side and lastly the “Business” side. The three are intertwined and all are based on membership.*

*The “Membership” portion of a society relies on people paying an annual fee for being part of that society to help meet its goals and objectives monetarily. The organization also relies on membership to function both internally with a Board of Directors and externally to promote the organization to the greater public to enlighten them on what value the organization can bring into their lives. Membership is not just about what a society can do for the member but also what the member can do for the society itself. Every*

*(Continued on page 77)*

(Continued from page 76)

member of a society comes with special talents, whether it to be artistic, clerical, human resources, technologies, writing/editing or simply travel experiences which a society can benefit from.

Being a “Volunteer” to the organization is what makes it tick, internally and externally, internally to function from the business side and externally to promote the organization and help acquire a greater number of memberships or being active in a way that helps the organization to function. There are many benefits to volunteering; it can increase our self-confidence by giving ourselves opportunities to try something new, it leads to integrity and perfecting innovative skills through using our talents within cohesive teams to make a difference, meet new people, become part of a community and most of all have some fun.

Membership and Volunteerism are the backbone to any society succeeding. This is where members work together alongside one another within the organization to help it to develop a more sustainable way to exist. Without either, the organization will fail no matter how well it is structured and run internally from the business side of things.

Lastly from “The Business Aspect”: To be successful as a society we rely on our membership to volunteer some of their time and talents, sharing responsibility for its duties and obligations, all being returned back to you, the members in a sustainable society.

Clan MacRae Society of Canada is proud of what we can offer to our membership. To broaden greater depth to our organization we would be happy to entertain your interest in becoming a member and to have you as a volunteer, either on our board of directors in one capacity or another and / or to take part in tent displays this up-and-coming Highland Games season promoting our society.

From the fraternal membership side, if you know of a “MacRae” (or any of its various spellings) who would have an interest in deepening their knowledge of their Canadian/Scottish heritage and background through our various deployment options please do not hesitate to enlighten them on the opportunity to join with us through membership. Our Membership Form can be found at - <https://clanmacraecanada.ca/become-a-member/>

Fraternally,

Bill MacRae, President of Clan MacRae Society of Canada



### Mary, Queen of Scots prison letters finally decoded

Experts say codebreakers’ discovery is most significant about royal for more than a century

Click image to read more at : <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/08/mary-queen-of-scots-prison-letters-finally-decoded>



**WORLDWIDE, INC.**

This year (2023), the **Annual Membership Meeting** will be held on

**September 16, 2023**

at the

***Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival  
and Highland Games***

in

***LOCKPORT, New York, U.S.A.***

*(not far from Niagara Falls)*



***HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!***

<https://www.niagaraceltic.com>

# North of Hadrian's Kilts and Celtic Clothing



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Victoria, BC, V9B 0J8  
778-406-2243

364 8th Street,  
Courtenay, BC, V9N 1N3  
250-871-6283



Frae the President's Pen:

Dear Cousins;

Well, the summer's crept up on us damned fast, hasn't it? I hadn't even planned my holidays and the next thing you know it's Flaming June!

Much to report and much to be forgotten, unfortunately. But as I said to my local post office chap this morning, you must focus on the bright, sunny days we're enjoying and the love of family and friends or else you'll get swept up in a morass of bad news and depression.

On Saturday, 15th April, a number of Clan Munro Canada members got together virtually to chat about the future of the association, and just review life, in a general, cosy way. It was most enjoyable, and I look forward to the next time we can meet, which will probably be in early autumn, now. Please join us.

More cheery news is the discovery of a migratory path for humpback whales (image below) discovered off the west coast of Scotland. The whale trail was found after overhearing the massive creatures singing on underwater microphones. There have been more and more sightings of whales, dolphin pods and other larger sea life all around the UK coast. It's assumed this is all down to the effects global warming.

Life in Britain is a real challenge, currently, but that could be true anywhere, I guess. Politically, the Scottish National Party is in disarray because of scandal in the upper echelons. Whether they'll recover in time for the next election is anyone's guess. But the opposition parties, both Conservative and Labour, are delighted as it strengthens their efforts to thwart devolution and promote the Union.

*(Continued on page 81)*



Humpback whale breaching

Image by Thomas Kelley, Unsplash.com



*(Continued from page 80)*

On June 20th, Scotland edged ever closer to securing a place in Euro 2024, the international football tournament, by beating Georgia in a qualifier, 2-0. It's probably not surprising, but Scottish football fans enjoy a much more favourable reception when they travel abroad. Aye, they may enjoy a dram or two before, during and after the match, but they rarely get involved in riotous hooliganism.

A lovely story I came across recently in the Glasgow Herald, features a new project to illuminate four Celtic myths in the style of the Book of Kells. The Book of Kells is a priceless manuscript, created around 800AD, by Columban monks that features an illuminated telling of the first four gospels of the New Testament.

The new project, named Stories on Skins, is being carried out in Tarbat, allegedly where the original Book of Kells was created. Interestingly, Tarbat is located in Ross and Cromarty, not far from Foulis Castle, home to the Clan Munro Chief, Hector Munro, and his family. Stories on Skins is being mostly funded by a £100,000 National Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

On this artistically colourful note, may I take this opportunity to wish you all, and your families, a glorious, healthy and happy summertime.

Yours Aye,



Image : SAMIR ATMANE - Click to access the BBC article at <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckrmj8xv5dmo>

# Clan Ramsay - Pieces of the Puzzle



I have been tracing my Ramsey family back for about a decade, and have added DNA to traditional genealogy methods for the past five years. There are advantages and disadvantages to each, but together, we can fill in a lot of gaps that might be missed by just using one or the other.

I have been helping a few Clan Ramsay members try to find common ancestors, particularly in my own Haplogroup E, a small subset of Ramsey which is considered of Norman origin. There are currently 34 members of my close genetic matches, which have been found to share a common mutation that came from Egypt, Italy, and NE France, to Scotland. We know we share a common ancestor through this DNA information, and our goal is to find that ancestor through his descendants.

Of particular note is a branch of this Ramsay/Ramsey family whose ancestor left Scotland for Australia. Their paper trail is fairly complete up to their earliest known ancestor of John Ramsay and Jean Reid from Lanarkshire.

One of their known family members, Robert Guy Ramsay, has a slightly different family tree, that cannot be matched up with this John and Jean, even though they know they are related, both through traditional methods, and now with DNA. Robert reports an earliest known ancestor of David Ramsay, born 1756, with census information of his father being David, born 1736. This family was in Maybole, Ayrshire.



Add Clan Ramsay member Bruce Raymond Ramsey into this mix. Bruce and Robert recently received their Big Y test results back, and they match with a haplogroup of E-FTD63485. This means they share a common ancestor from around 1800 or slightly earlier.

Bruce, in his family tree, shows an earliest known ancestor of Charles Ramsey, born 1780 in Ireland. No Charles appears in the tree of Robert Guy Ramsay at all, and everyone in Bruce's tree is in the Mifflin County, PA area.

When all we had to go on were cemetery grave markers, census forms, and family Bibles, we might have given up and assumed there was no close relationship. But with DNA, we know for certain these two are very closely related. This gives us confidence to keep looking for missing family members in the old traditional records.

*(Continued on page 83)*

# Clan Ramsay - Pieces of the Puzzle



(Continued from page 82)

Here is a chart from Family Tree DNA that illustrates how branches are formed by two or more people sharing a unique mutation (SNP). In this example, my particular branch is the one on the left, E-FT211043, which I share with my known close cousin. Bruce and Robert are circled with red. As you progress up the tree, the different branches join together as they go back in time. The higher in the tree, the less close we are. The lower, the closer the relationship.

SNPs are formed as two people are found to have the same mutation. This forms a new branch. By adding this genetic information to family trees and other traditional genealogy methods, we can narrow down when these mutations occurred, proving two people are close family, or sometimes disproving it.

I will follow up with these two individuals and their family relationships as we learn more. Each new Big Y test reveals information not only about that tester, but all the others who are closely related to them. *To be continued...*

**Submitted by Mike Ramsey**

**Texas Commissioner**



# Munro Bagging with a Motorhome

## The perfect combination for an adventurous hiker

Scotland has it all, from lush green glens to shimmering lochs, snow-capped mountains and a breathtaking coastline. Each year, it draws hikers like a magnet. So much so, that some of them start to... collect hills. 'Munro bagging' has been a national Scottish hobby since the '80's, which has recently gained a wider audience. Outdoor enthusiasts from all corners of the UK and beyond get hooked on summiting one mountain



Girl climbing Ben Nevis, the highest in Scotland and biggest 'Munro' bragging rights

after another. Why is that? Could you become one of them? And what are the perks of Munro bagging with a motorhome? In this article, we will explain the nuts and bolts of hillwalking in Scotland and show you 5 itineraries suitable for beginners.

## What is Munro bagging?

The term 'Munro' is used to describe 282 of the highest mountains in Scotland and all of them are over 3000 ft or 914.4 m. Once you've climbed one, you've 'bagged a Munro'. Many ambitious hikers are very keen and they want to reach the ultimate goal: summiting them all.

The benefits of taking up Munro bagging as a hobby

**Fitness:** hiking is a great workout: an average 6-hour hike burns around 5000 calories!

**Mental health:** immersing yourself in nature helps you to switch off, de-stress and boost self-confidence.

**Social life:** it gives you a chance to connect with other outdoor enthusiasts, e.g. by joining a local hillwalking club.

**Giving back:** multiple charities organise Munro challenges to raise funds for a good cause.

Visit <https://www.camperdays.co.uk/guide/munro-bagging-with-a-motorhome> for more on Munro bagging such as planning, beginners tips, use of a motorhome,



## Easiest Munros: 5 exciting beginner tours

Ready for your first Munro bagging trip? Check out the following five itineraries, which we've handpicked from various scenic corners of Scotland. If you are travelling with a campervan, you may also easily combine a few of them for an extended Highland holiday.

But be careful, you might find yourself getting hooked before you know it!



### ① Ben Lomond, Loch Lomond

Being the most southerly Munro in Scotland, this is a classic first peak to bag. Around 30,000 hikers a year follow its clear path to the top, where they're rewarded with a truly spectacular panorama of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

- ✓ 974 m
- ✓ 12 km/7.5 miles
- ✓ 4-6 hours
- ✓ Panoramic views of the Trossachs National Park
- ✓ Rowardennan Car Park

### ② Schiehallion, Perthshire

Also called 'The Fairy Hill of the Caledonians', Schiehallion is a great mountain to train your rudimentary hillwalking skills. After climbing a relatively easy trail along a broad ridge, you'll reach a legendary boulder field, which can be a bit tricky if it's wet.

- ✓ 1083 m
- ✓ 10 km/6.5 miles
- ✓ 4-6 hours
- ✓ Splendid views across Rannoch Moor to the peaks of Glencoe
- ✓ Braes of Foss car park



# Munro Bagging - 5 Tours

## Easiest Munros: 5 exciting beginner tours



### ③ The Cairnwell Munros, Cairngorms

Once you're ready to bag multiple Munros, there's no better choice than heading to Cairngorms National Park. A huge advantage of this walk is a high elevation starting point and an easy-to-follow path. Within mere hours you can proudly cross 3 peaks off your list!

- ✓ Càrn Aosa 917 m, Càrn a' Ghèòidh 975 m, The Cairnwell 933 m
- ✓ 13 km/8 miles
- ✓ 5-6 hours
- ✓ Views to Glas Tulaichean and Glen Shee
- ✓ Glen Shee Ski Centre



### ④ Bruach na Frithe, Isle of Skye

If you love dramatic coastal views, try bagging one of the 13 Munros on the Scottish islands. They're considerably more demanding, therefore prepare well and only climb in good weather. A popular beginner's choice is Bruach na Frithe, which is considered the easiest peak to reach on the Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye and a real paradise for photographers.

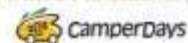
- ✓ 958 m
- ✓ 13.75 km/8.5 miles
- ✓ 5-7 hours
- ✓ Panoramic views of the Cuillin range
- ✓ Lay-by near Sligachan on the Dunvegan road

### ⑤ Ben Wyvis, Easter Ross

Summitting this bulky peak, rising up from the mysterious moorland landscape, is a great introduction to taking your Munro bagging hobby up north. Stick to the main path to protect the UK's largest area of woolly hair-moss, a precious habitat for breeding dotterel.

- ✓ 1046 m
- ✓ 14 km/8.75 miles
- ✓ 4.5-5.5 hours
- ✓ Panorama of northern Scotland: Torridon, Black Isle, Easter Ross
- ✓ Ben Wyvis car park, south of Garbat

You'll find additional tips on planning a Munro bagging tour in the article ['Munro Bagging with a Motorhome'](#).



# Membership Report

The 14 new members since last publication are ***bold, italicized***

## Clans and Families

### ***Clan Baird Society - Canada***

Clan Bell North America

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Clan Buchanan Society International

Clan Cameron Canadian Branch

### ***Clan Campbell Society (North America)***

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 Farquharson 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 Gunn Society of North America***

### ***Clan Hope of Craighall Society***

Clan Hunter Association of Canada

Clan Irwin Association

Clan Johnston/e in America

Kennedy Society of North America

Clan Kincaid Association International

*(Continued on page 88)*

# Membership Report

(Continued from page 87)

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

Clan Leslie Society International

Clan Logan Society of Canada

The Clan MacAlpine Society

Clan MacAulay Association

***Clan MacBeth***

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 MacLaren of North America***

***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 Paisley***

Clan Pringle North America

Clan Ramsay International

Clan Sinclair Association of Canada

***Clan Strachan Society***

The Clan Watson Society

***Youngs of Scotland***

(Continued on page 89)



# Membership Report

(Continued from page 88)

## **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**

***Cambridge Scottish Festival***  
Cobourg Highland Games Society  
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
***Glengarry Highland Games***  
Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Kingsville Highland Games  
Montréal Highland Games  
National Capital Highland Games  
Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival  
Red Deer Highland Games

## **Businesses**

Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd.  
House of Cassady  
North of Hadrians  
ScotlandShop  
Taylor's Tartans  
***William Glen & Son Canada Ltd***

# Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games



The Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games was formed in Autumn of 2001. The two day event draws about 12,000 guests and participants to Niagara County, and has become an important tradition for locals and visitors alike.

Located less than an hour from both Buffalo and Rochester, NY, guests are immersed in the traditions and pageantry of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and all things Celtic! If you haven't attended before, join us this year and celebrate Celtic culture in an amazingly memorable way.

Our Highland Games are run by our famous Paul Krest, one of the founders of our Festival.

## **Clan Village**

Our 35+ clans cheer on their favorite athletes throughout the weekend. The MacFarlane Clan will have many members coming in for their AGM and will make up a large cheering section. Our Saturday pipe bands start our Ceilidh celebration with Bagpipes around the Bonfires. Enjoy our Taste of Celtic from our many food vendors.

All visiting clans receive a 10x10 grounds space and a few complementary passes for workers. We'll also make a donation to your clan for attending, to help with traveling costs. You may bring whatever you'd like for display: costumes, albums, scrapbooks, maps, charts, photos, membership forms, and souvenirs. Please note that clan registration will typically be closed as of mid-August.

Check the website at [https://www.niagaraceltic.com/fest\\_getinvolved.html#participate](https://www.niagaraceltic.com/fest_getinvolved.html#participate) for more information on participation and email [clans@niagaraceltic.com](mailto:clans@niagaraceltic.com) with questions.

22<sup>nd</sup> **NIAGARA**  
**CELTIC**  
**HERITAGE FESTIVAL**  
*& Highland Games*

**September 16 & 17, 2023**  
**Niagara County Fairgrounds**



*Honor*

*Explore*



*Celebrate*

*Discover*



*Enjoy a weekend of family friendly fun!*

5 Music Stages w/ 40+ Performers • 2 Event Fields • 5 Regions to Explore  
60+ Vendors • Highland Games • Food & Drink • Attractions • Pipe Bands  
Pageantry & Ceremonies • Clans • Special Events • History Groups  
Artisans • Wee Folk Shire for Kids • Storytellers • Competitions • Animals



*Discount tickets online!*

*Kids 12 & under Free!*



Find it all and more at

**NiagaraCeltic.com**

**Editor's note: The full CASSOC road show will be at Niagara this year. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well.**

# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ( NBSCA )

The Spring General Meeting of CASSOC , the Festival Season Special was a wonderful way to start the busy summer season of events for the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ( NBSCA ) . The Zoom meeting provided lots of practical and personal advice on hosting membership information displays which we have put into practice .Thank You for an informative session .

Our first venture was at a New Brunswick School District Heritage Fair which attracted sixty student projects , their families , and visitors . The student displays cover a wide variety of interests with awards being presented in different categories .The NBSCA display included items that would be of interest to the students , such as a reproduction of a William Wallace sword , many students were also interested in family histories with a Scottish Connection . Our Association also provides an Annual Award in the form of a plaque to the student with the best Scottish project as judged by a panel of independent judges , this year the winner's project was on the history of curling in New Brunswick . I should add that if I judged everyone would receive an award all the projects displayed the personal interest of each student .

The NBSCA was represented at the Gathering of the Scots 20th Anniversary in Perth-Andover NB , which hosted a special attraction Full Contact Jousting which attracted lots of interest from the media and visitors , this was a first for New Brunswick .The combatants took part in full body armour on horses and on ground fighting .The horses were well cared for with lots of personal attention to their being .Highlights of the opening included the Clan March with 66 clans represented carrying their personal banners provide by the Gathering . The other highlight is the naming the new Keeper of the Castalia Stone which I had the privilege of naming .The recipient Was John Lang who has had a long association with the Gathering of the Scots , a formal presentation was made with former Keepers in attendance followed by food and drink and lots of stories .

The Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival celebrating 17 years invited me to be the Honourary Chieftain this year which was quite a surprise and gave me an opportunity to see the games from a different perspective and to meet many participants and visitors .Two people who I look forward to meeting were Bill and Sylvie , it was so good to meet them in person and to see first hand the tremendous work they are doing in promoting the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada , it's no wonder our membership is increasing .As always the Haggis Ceremony attracted lots of attention with an impassioned presentation by our Robert Burns impersonator , followed by a wee dram of course .Just at the closing of the Games a wind storm hit and toppled the CASSOC display tent however with lots of assistance Bill and Sylvie were able to recover with minimal damage .

This past weekend I attended the Athol House Cemetery Memorial Service on the banks of the Restigouche River, which is a Canadian Heritage River , in Atholville in northern New Brunswick . The service was hosted by the Caledonian Society of Restigouche which dates back to 1898 and is a member of the NBSCA . The cemetery is the oldest in the Restigouche Region and dates back to the mid 1700's.

*(Continued on page 94)*

# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ( NBSCA )



Above and to the right :  
Jousting at the Gathering of the Scots



Presentation of the Castalia Stone  
to John Lang ( Centre ) the new  
Keeper with previous Keepers in  
attendance

# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ( NBSCA )

*(Continued from page 92)*

The Closing Benediction was in Four Directions as follows :

From the East , the direction of the rising sun , we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge. We are grateful for these gifts , O God .

From the South , comes the warmth , guidance, and the beginning and the end of life .We are grateful for these gifts , O God .

From the West , comes the rain , purifying water , water to sustain all living things . We are grateful for these gifts , O God .

From the North , comes the cold and the mighty wind , the white snows ,giving us strength and guidance .We are grateful for these gifts , Our God. Amen .

Upcoming events which the NBSCA will be attending are the New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival at government House in Fredericton ,NB , July 28th -30th . In addition to our membership display tent we will also be hosting the Haggis Café and Scottish Bake Shop , our only fundraiser , on the menu are Haggis , Scotch Eggs , Scones , Sausage Eggs , Oat Cakes , Bacon Butties , Irn Bru , and the list goes on !Next will be the Miramichi Scottish Festival , August 18th-21st taking place at Wilson's Point Historic Site , the MacDonald Farm Heritage Site , and Saint Andrew's United Church . More about these events in the next newsletter .

Mel Fitton

President,  
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association



Toast to the Haggis at the Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival

# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ( NBSCA )

Mel at the opening ceremonies of the Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival



Athol House Cemetery, with the Restigouche River in the background and Province of Quebec



## Report from David Hunter, President, Scottish Studies Foundation

Dear CASSOC members,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for your support, contributions and encouragement.

As I mentioned previously, our focus is now concentrated on providing Scottish Studies students with financial support and in this regard we have just agreed to make a gift of \$50,000 to the University of Guelph to support an annual co-op position for an undergraduate student in the Scottish Studies program to work on projects such as digitizing the

University's unique collection of Scottish books, manuscripts and documents, and to develop unique research while continuing their studies.

The University's Scottish Studies Foundation Digital Archive Room has been put to good use since its launch in 2018 and Scottish Studies students have played a key role in projects such as the Jacobite Exhibit which launched on April 3, 2023, and will be on display until March 1, 2024.

We are also delighted to announce that Canadian actor R. H. Thomson (Robert Holmes Thomson CM) will be this year's recipient of the Scottish Studies Society's Scot of the Year Award. Details of the award event are still being firmed up and will be announced soon. Thomson's career in Canadian television, film, and on stage spans five decades and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the arts, and to war veterans. Thomson is making his debut as an author with his book *By the Ghost Light* which will be published on October 31st. It is a personal look at the wonder of youth, the

*(Continued on page 97)*



R. H. Thomson in the role of Matthew Cuthbert in the CBC production *Anne with an E*



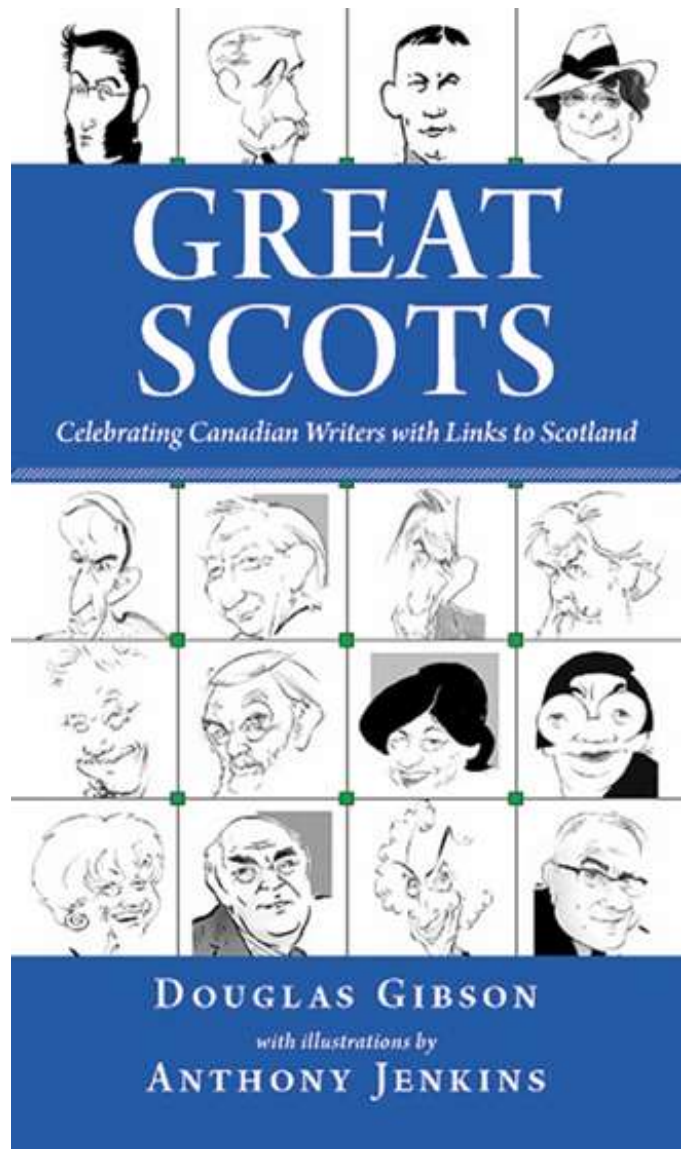
*(Continued from page 96)*

power of art, and how the First and Second World Wars forever changed his family. According to Thomson, the memoir is intended as a call-to-action in challenging the way we approach our history. In recent years, Thomson has also established The World Remembers, an ambitious international project to individually name each of the millions killed in the First World War.

In 2022, Douglas Gibson, former publisher-turned-author and fellow board member, 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. The book is full of fascinating anecdotes from Doug's 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 Gibson knew well, is a lively and important 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. Beautifully designed by Gibson's old friend, the legendary Kong Njo, this major book will delight readers of Canadian Literature at its best. The price of this captivating new book is \$30 (including delivery) and it can be ordered via our website: [www.scottishstudies.com](http://www.scottishstudies.com)

Since 2021, we have had to find ways to replace our normal in-person activities and we are pleased to have been able to provide a series of online talks on Zoom which have been enthusiastically received by our members and supporters worldwide and I thank all of the presenters who have volunteered their time and expertise to share the results of their fascinating research. It has been great to see so many of our members participating in these sessions, especially during the Q & A segments which the presenters have been telling me that they really enjoy.

*(Continued on page 98)*



*(Continued from page 97)*

Over the last 12 months these talks included *Records of a Nation: Identity and Knowledge of the Falkland Islands* which was presented on Saturday, May 28, by University of Dundee PhD candidate Chloe Anderson-Wheatley who is based in the Falkland Islands.

Then on Saturday, June 11, University of Dundee PhD candidate Remigio Petrocelli presented a paper titled *The Italian Community in Inter-war Scotland* which drew on various Italian and British contemporary primary sources including consular documents, MI5 reports and press cuttings, which focused on Italian diaspora and fascist initiatives in Scotland.

On Saturday, September 17, Andrew Jones PhD from Atlanta, Georgia, gave a talk titled *The Revival of Evangelicalism: Mission and Piety in the Victorian Church of Scotland*. In the 18th and 19th centuries church independence was a major issue and when the Patronage Act of 1712 was passed and local lairds were given power to appoint ministers to their local kirks over the heads of their congregations, many parishioners saw this as state interference and mobilized to have this overturned. In 1843, this culminated in what became known as "The Disruption" and in his talk Andrew Jones looked at the aftermath of this event which was a dominant feature of the Scottish political and religious landscape until the 1920s.

This year, on Saturday, January 14, Dr. Elizabeth Ewan presented her talk *A Brewing Storm: Alewives in sixteenth-century Inverness*. This talk looked at the lives of the brewsters and alewives as they appeared in the surviving town court records of Inverness, 1556-86, and examined what they can reveal about women's contributions to urban society. It described the colourful life of Elspeth Barnet, a domestic servant who went on to spend her adult life in the brewing trade.

Then on Saturday, February 11, fellow board member, Dr. Kate Ashley (Acadia University), gave a talk based on her latest book: *Robert Louis Stevenson and Nineteenth-Century French Literature: Literary Relations at the Fin de Siècle* (EUP, 2022). The presentation examined French literature from Stevenson's perspective and Stevenson from a French perspective. It also considered how nineteenth-century French writers and critics approached Stevenson, and how Stevenson became a model of artistic innovation in France.

Most recently, on April 22, Dundee University PhD student Loretta Mulholland presented an overview of the chronology of the life of the Victorian travel writer Isabella Bird (1831 – 1904), one of the 19th century's most remarkable women travellers. Her intrepid global travels and her subsequent travel books made her famous at home and abroad. By 1890, Isabella's fame was established as both a traveller and a missionary advocate. She was made a fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1891 and a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, to which no woman had previously been admitted. She travelled through Canada to Japan, Korea and China, funding on her way three more hospitals as well as an orphanage in Japan. On her return to Britain she published books on both Korea and China, which were illustrated by photographs she herself had taken on her journeys. The talk included details about Isabella's books, her travels, photographs and letters. These are held in the National Library of Scotland (NLS) in Edinburgh, as part of the John Murray Archive.

*(Continued on page 99)*

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Fascinating morsels of information always seem to emerge from these talks. For example, it turns out the Falkland Islands is one of the few places outside of Scotland to have a stretch of water called a loch. It's known as Brenton Loch and it's situated on the isthmus on which the settlements of Darwin and Goose Green are located and which were populated by Scots in the 19th century.

This prompted me to search where else we might find some other lochs — loch being the Scottish name for a lake or sea inlet.

Over the years, I had numerous occasions to be in New York and so became familiar with "The Loch" in Central Park, one of the Park's most peaceful spots. I also recalled coming across a Loch Raven in Baltimore County, Maryland — a huge reservoir that provides drinking water for the City of Baltimore and most of the county. However, I was surprised to find out that there are several lochs on the south coast of the main Hawaiian island of Oahu, named as South East Loch, Merry Loch, all in the vicinity of the United States naval port of Pearl Harbor.

Then in Canada, there is a lake called Loch Garry in Glengarry County in Eastern Ontario, named by settlers of Clan MacDonell of Glengarry, Scotland. Similarly, lakes named Loch Broom, Big Loch, Greendale Loch, and Loch Lomond can be found in Nova Scotia, along with Loch Leven in Newfoundland, and Loch Leven in Saskatchewan.

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Loch Leven, Cyprus Hills Interprovincial Provincial Park, Saskatchewan

*(Continued from page 99)*

Again during the talks, a number of participants suggested some Scottish Country Dances that could go along with the talks. Kathleen McMorrow thought that Liz Ewan could illustrate her talk with the dance tune *The Ale Wife and her Barrel*, based on the 18th-century *Caledonian Pocket Companion*, created by James Oswald. And during Kate Ashley's talk, Robert Lockhart let us know that there was a dance called *Modestine's Romp* — a delightful dance tribute to Modestine, the donkey in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Travels with A Donkey in the Cevennes*.

Also, during Kate's talk, we learned that the first French translation of Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was made in Quebec from a pirated American edition of the book. It was made by Jules-Paul Tardivel, an American of French-Canadian descent, who moved to Quebec, stopped speaking English, immersed himself in French-Canadian culture, and called for Quebec to become an independent French speaking nation.

One more snippet of information — during Loretta's talk on Isabella Bird, we were pleased to hear from Anne Brusby who is a friend of Harmony Richardson from Edinburgh. Harmony was Isabella's Great Great Aunt and she hopes to meet up with Loretta very soon.

I'm so glad that contacts like this have been made and that our Zoom Talks have generated so much fascinating discussion. We are busy planning an exciting line-up of speakers for our 2023–2024 series of online talks. This will include talks on the theme of Scottish travel history which will be hosted by the University of Guelph and which will begin in September. In October, Prof. P.B. Grant, one of our board members and currently an Associate Professor of English at Memorial University of Newfoundland, will be giving a talk on a subject close to his heart: Scottish supernatural fiction. Some time ago, he published an article on John Buchan's supernatural short stories, and he will be revamping this piece for online delivery. To coincide with the lecture, he will be recording a reading of one of Buchan's scary Scottish stories and will have it ready in advance so that listeners can access it through our website.

So once again, thank you for your support, best wishes, and have a great summer.

David Hunter,

President,

Scottish Studies Foundation

[davidhunter@scottishstudies.com](mailto:davidhunter@scottishstudies.com)

[www.scottishstudies.com](http://www.scottishstudies.com)



We're proud supporters of a new podcast that seeks to discover Scotland's past, present and future. The show is called [63 Percent Scottish](#) and tackles everything from whisky and Wallace to Irn-Bru and independence through interviews with people from Scotland. We will share each full-length episode with you – they're all free!

The first two episodes are now available. The [first features renowned academic Dr. Kevin James](#) on his research and impressions of Scottish history and culture. The [second features Owen Innes](#), the host of the Scottish History Podcast, discussing William Wallace's enduring legacy. You can also find them on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) or [Amazon Music](#).

Enjoy!

Eamon O'Flynn

# St Andrew's Society of Toronto



## A note from the President

An interesting aspect of this position is the opportunity to attend events and engage with organisations that support initiatives and activities that align with our cultural and philanthropic interests.

One such event was recently hosted by the Saltire Foundation Canada, a charity that partners with Entrepreneurial Scotland to deliver the Saltire Scholar Program. This program helps high potential Scottish students to access internships in Canada. I had the opportunity to talk to several of this year's Scholars and they were all articulate, talented, motivated and enthusiastic. The 15 year old program is building bonds between Scotland and Canada while developing talent in Scotland and benefiting Canadian companies.

The keynote speaker was Mark Beaumont, one of the original Saltire Scholars and a long-distance cyclist, broadcaster and author who holds the record for cycling a 29,000km round the world route in less than 79 days. He provided the existing Scholars and attendees with some real insights into what it takes to chart your own path and succeed at this level of accomplishment.

If you are interested in being a volunteer or a potential employer, you can find more information here - [www.saltirefoundationcanada.com](http://www.saltirefoundationcanada.com)

John Sawyer  
President



SALTIRE  
FOUNDATION  
CANADA

# St Andrew's Society of Toronto

Tickets for the **St. Andrew's Charity Ball** are now on sale! We can't wait to welcome you back to the Royal York Hotel on Saturday 18th November. Hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and the 48th Highlanders of Canada, our Ball is Toronto's preeminent Scottish event where we celebrate Scottish culture and the Society's philanthropic work.

After a cocktail reception that begins at 6pm, guests will enjoy a four course meal that includes haggis, neeps and tatties. The evening continues with ceilidh dancing to the pipes and drums of the 48th Highlanders into the wee hours. We will also be entertained with a display of Highland dancing by Highlandin6 dancers.

We are thrilled to be returning to the Royal York Hotel where the venue has over 100 years of history with the St. Andrew's Ball. We can't wait to welcome you and your friends back!

- Dinner and Ceilidh Dancing Ticket \$250
- Table packages may be purchased for tables of 8, 9 or 10. The package comes with a table beverage credit for wine or cocktails (\$10 credit per person)
- Ceilidh Ticket (dancing only) \$80

\*Please note that ticket prices don't include Eventbrite fees

For those looking to purchase table packages of 8 to 10 via cheque or e-transfer, please send an email to [info@standrewstoronto.ca](mailto:info@standrewstoronto.ca) for further instructions.

For all information on the Charity Ball, including the dates for our ceilidh dance practices, please visit our [website](#) or click on the image below.



BALL TICKETS NOW ON SALE

ROYAL YORK HOTEL

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

## SAVE THE DATE!

Come join us for the 2023  
Scottish North American Community Conference



# SCOTTISH NORTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 1 & 2, 2023



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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CHICAGO  
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DETROIT  
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The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Inc.

**‘A Scottish North American Conversation:  
The Power of our vibrant Community!’**

**Save the Date for the 2023 SNACC!  
December 1 & 2, 2023, In-Person & Online!**

For further information or to join our mailing list:

[snaccevent@gmail.com](mailto:snaccevent@gmail.com)



# Clan Strachan Society - New Member



**Crest:** A demi-hart rampant Or attired and unguled Gules charged with a saltire Argent and in its mouth a thistle

**Motto:** Non Timeo Sed Caveo (I Fear Not But I Am Cautious)

**Those Families bearing the following surnames:**

Strachan, Strachen, Strahan, Straughan, Strawhun, Strawn, Straun, Straghan, Strane, Stracon, Strahin, Stranahan, Straughan, Straughn, Struan, Strain (see below), Strong, Strongman, Stronger, Strang, Stronge, Strang, Strange, Strangeman (see below). Other derivations are possible.

**Strain Surname History** As a result of genealogical evidence we know that some Strachans from Scotland who emigrated to Northern Ireland (i.e., Ulster Plantation) changed their surname spelling to Strain between the 17th and 19th century. Conversely, we also know that some Strains are of Irish decent, and are not related to Strachan.

The picture is not absolutely clear where the Strains came from - whether they descended from the clan of the Irish chieftain O'Sruitheain of Donegal, or if they came to Ireland from the Scotland. It is also possible that the Strain surname has several different origins and that not all Strains are related.

Given the aforementioned, the Clan Strachan Society therefore treats the STRAIN surname as a derivative spelling of the STRACHAN surname. HOWEVER, out of respect to those who insist they are descended from the Irish Chieftain O'Sruitheain of Donegal and wish to celebrate their Irish heritage, we also recognize and further acknowledge that not all Strains (broadly defined) are Strachans.

**Strong Surname History** (Strong, Strongman, Stronger, Strang, Stronge, Strang, Strange, of Strangeman)

STRONG surname and variations included are similar sounding surnames (e.g., Straughan), etymologically equivalent names (e.g., Strachan), surnames that may have been shortened to Strong (e.g., Strongman, Stronger), and surnames that might be mis-recorded or misperceived as Strong (e.g., Strang). According to one online source, the surname might also be a contraction of Armstrong, also a Scottish surname. Thus, out of respect to those who insist they are not descendant from the Strachan line, we respect that part of your heritage, and acknowledge that not all Strongs (broadly defined) are Strachans.



Modern



Family



Hunting

# Games, Festivals, and other Events

Check the CASSOC website at [www.scotscanada.ca](http://www.scotscanada.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 (CASSOC members are in bold)
Aug 26	North Lanark Highland Games Almonte, ON <a href="https://almontehighlandgames.com/">https://almontehighlandgames.com/</a>
Sep 2-3	Canmore Highland Games Canmore, AB <a href="https://canmorehighlandgames.ca/">https://canmorehighlandgames.ca/</a>
Sep 8-10	Festival Celtique de Québec Québec, QC <a href="https://festival-celtique.com/">https://festival-celtique.com/</a>
<b>Sep 16-17</b>	<b>Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival &amp; Highland Games Lockport, NY</b> <a href="https://www.niagaraceltic.com/">https://www.niagaraceltic.com/</a>
Oct 6-14	Celtic Colours International Festival Cape Breton, NS <a href="https://celtic-colours.com/about/">https://celtic-colours.com/about/</a>
<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>St Andrew's Society Toronto Fall Mixer Toronto, ON</b> <a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/</a>
<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball Toronto, ON</b> <a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/</a>
<b>Nov 26</b>	<b>Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada AGM</b> <a href="https://www.scotscanada.ca/">https://www.scotscanada.ca/</a>

Put in entries for the Symposium ,Clan MacAulay Gathering, Clan Gregor Gathering

## Upcoming in 2024 - Dates will be provided when confirmed

**April 2024** Halifax Celtic Festival Halifax, NS <https://www.hfxcelticfest.ca/>

**May 2024** CASSOC Spring Meeting

Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival Regina, AB <https://www.saskhighland.ca/>

Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival Victoria, BC <https://victoriahighlandgames.com/>

## JUNE 2024

Regina Mosaic A Festival of Cultures Regina, SK <https://www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/>

Gathering of the Scots Perth-Andover, NB <https://www.facebook.com/TheGatheringScots>

Carstairs Heritage Festival Carstairs, AB <https://www.facebook.com/carstairs.ab>

Georgetown Highland Games Georgetown, ON <https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/>

Grande Prairie Highland Games Grande Prairie, AB <https://www.gphighlandgames.ca/>

**Greater Moncton Highland Games Moncton, NB** <https://monctonhighlandgames.com/>

**Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games** <https://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/>

ScotFest BC Coquitlam, BC <https://scotfestbc.com/>

Water Valley Celtic Festival Water Valley, AB <https://www.watervalleycelticfestival.org/>

**Red Deer Highland Games Red Deer, AB** <https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/>

**Kingsville Highland Games Kingsville, ON** <https://www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames>

Manitoba Highland Gathering East Selkirk, MB <https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/>

Edmonton Highland Gathering Edmonton, AB <https://www.edmontonscottishsociety.org/>

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Halifax, NS <https://nstatattoo.ca/>

Kitchenfest Féis a' Chidsin Cape Breton, NS <https://kitchenfest.ca/>

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# Games, Festivals, and other Events

(Continued from page 106)

## JULY 2024

Embroy Highland Games Embroy, ON <https://embroyhighlandgames.ca/>  
Penticton Scottish Festival Penticton, BC <https://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/>  
Antigonish Highland Games Antigonish, NS <https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/>  
Almonte Celtfest Almonte, ON <https://almonteceltfest.com/>  
**Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games** <https://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/>  
Cambridge Scottish Festival Cambridge, ON <https://cambridgescottishfestival.ca/>  
Orillia Scottish Festival Orillia, ON <https://scottishfestival.ca/>  
Uxbridge Scottish Festival Uxbridge, ON <https://uxbridgescottishfestival.com/>  
Sherwood Park Highland Gathering Sherwood Park, AB <https://www.sphg.ca/>  
New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival Fredrickton, NB <http://www.highlandgames.ca/>  
Okanagan Military Tattoo Vernon, BC <https://okanagantattoo.ca/>

## AUGUST 2024

Glengarry Highland Games Maxville, ON <https://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/>  
**Montréal Scottish Festival & Highland Games Verdun, QC** <https://www.montrealhighlandgames.com>  
**Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games Fergus, ON** <https://fergusscottishfestival.com/>  
Goderich Celtic Roots Festival Goderich, ON <https://celticfestival.ca/home>  
Margaree Highland Games Margaree Valley, NS <http://www.margareehighlandgames.com/>  
Miramichi Scottish Festival NB <https://www.highlandsociety.com/scottish-festival/>  
The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival Sedgewick, AB <https://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/events>  
Festival Celtes et Cie de Saint-Malachie, QC <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063674763219>  
North Lanark Highland Games Almonte, ON <https://almontehighlandgames.com/>

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Canmore Highland Games Canmore, AB <https://canmorehighlandgames.ca/>  
Festival Celtique de Québec Québec, QC <https://festival-celtique.com/>  
**Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games Lockport, NY** <https://www.niagaraceltic.com/>

## OCTOBER 2024

Celtic Colours International Festival Cape Breton, NS <https://celtic-colours.com/about/>

## NOVEMBER 2024

**St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball Toronto, ON** <https://standrewstoronto.ca>  
**Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada AGM** <https://www.scotscanada.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**

Through use of posters, banners and binders CASSOC provides representation for all our members at highland games and festivals.

## **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@scotscanada.ca](mailto:events@scotscanada.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.*

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

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Christine Woodstock	Scottish Genealogy	<a href="mailto:Genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com">Genealogytoursofscotland@gmail.com</a>
Rory Sinclair	Scottish History and Culture	<a href="http://www.caledoncounty.com">http://www.caledoncounty.com</a> 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 is the mural of the Last Spike visited during the CASSOC Road Show and felt to represent an important 'bridge' between the west and east of our nation in its youth. A great achievement made possible by important contributions by Scottish immigrants. The mural is located at Craigellachie. The name was in honour of a Clan Grant gathering place in Scotland.

Read more about it [here](#)

An Drochaid is published quarterly for each season.

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

Please try to provide submissions by the first day of the season of publication.

Spring: March 21, Summer: June 21, Fall: September 21, Winter: December 21.

**TAYLORS TARTANS.COM**

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