



An Drochaid - The Bridge

Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord

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Frae the Chair



William with spouse Sylvie Thériault at Uxbridge

Frae the Chair

It seems like I've just blinked, and we're putting out another newsletter. Being so late with the Summer edition is certainly the major reason for this. Hopefully, it won't feel so for the next edition towards the end of December.

In between the busy activities with CASSOC, I've been reading some interesting books on the geeky subjects that I'm fond of. One of them is 'The Last Neanderthal' by Claire Cameron. It is a fascinating trans-millennial read that enlightens one about the possibilities of how our ancient cousins fared. This is interposed with first-hand recounting of the hard challenges in modern archaeological research.

Another, in a lighter vein, is "Wit's End" by James Geary. To paraphrase a review, it is an inventive and playful book about the many aspects of wit in all its forms. The best gem I've discovered in it comes from the section on quotes: "No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible." The deeper meaning of which strikes home in this time of rough politics, foreign wars, and our seeming helplessness in addressing problems such as climate change.

What has also contributed to my sense of plain busyness is our effort being put into the Symposium for Growth and Success. Effort that we expect to be well worth it as we get ready to hold the first session, Membership Connections, in

just over a week's time. I'll be moderating for the eight panelists whom we'll tell you more about in an email going out next week as a reminder to register.

In support of the symposium, I poked around with an AI tool to provide some insight into the topics that we'll be addressing. Part of my motivation for trying out the tool was the understanding that it is easy, as a "bodach", to fall behind in adopting new technology and techniques. Definitely an aspect of our motivation for the symposium.

Despite my former background as a knowledge engineer, I truthfully felt somewhat gob-smacked at the results. These would have taken many hours if not days to produce in my regular way of doing research. Nonetheless, I've included the results of my work as an amateur AI practitioner for you to judge. Feel free to let me know what you think of the research results.

To be clear about AI, the term is best understood as *jargon* for various types and levels of technology. What I've been using isn't really intelligent, but it can perform complex language processing on a

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rule-based system. It would absolutely crash and burn if it had to handle most of the contents of the "Wit's End" book. So, for now, let's agree to emphasize the 'Artificial' part of the term AI. Most of our experiences with commercial AI, such as Alexa, Siri, Cortana, and Watson, can be viewed similarly. AI with sentience is still far off (I hope).

Please enjoy the AI 'research' results, definitely register for the symposium, scrutinize the proposed bylaw changes we'll be dealing with at our upcoming AGM, and I look forward to your feedback on all parts of this newsletter.

Cheers,

William Robert Petrie, Clan Gregor
CASSOC Chair and Newsletter Editor
chair@scotscanada.ca



An AI generated fantasy image of Scotland, (AlanFrijns - Pixelbay)

CASSOC Annual General Meeting - November 26th, 2023

Preliminary notice of AGM and proposed bylaw changes

Date : November 26, 2023 **Time :** 3pm

Location : Hybrid : Online through Zoom and location to be determined.

A formal notice will be sent out in early November with details on location and time. The following are bylaws changes being worked on by your Board.



8.4.b change FROM

b. Each member group shall have one (1) vote at the General Assembly, usually the official Delegate of that group.

TO

b. Each member group, in good standing per section 4.1.d, shall have one (1) vote at the General Assembly, usually the official Delegate of that group. A member group not in good standing may attend and be heard at the General Assembly but may not have a vote nor may participate in the election of officers in any manner whatsoever.

4.1.d change FROM

d. the annual fee established at the Annual General Assembly has been paid by the following March first, or by the date specified by the Annual General Assembly from time to time;

TO

d. the annual fee established at the Annual General Assembly has been paid when due in order for the member to remain in good standing. Once the annual fee is due, then a member group who has not paid the annual fee will be deemed to be not in good standing until such time as the annual fee is paid or appropriate action per section 4.2 is undertaken by the Board.

Renumbering of 4.1.e through 4.1.i to allow insertion of new 4.1.e as

e. dues are deemed to be in a state of non-payment if not received within 90 days of being due, or at a date as set by the Board of Directors for all members and/or for a specific member as the Board may from time to time determine.

Rationale for the changes:

1) To correct the problem with the date of March 1. This was based upon an original fiscal year that coincided with the calendar year. The fiscal year was changed a few years ago but the applicable by-law was not adjusted. March 1 doesn't make sense when we renew in September. Having a relative period to pay as opposed to a fixed date allows resilience to future changes and circumstances.

2) We recognize that our fiscal year is mostly different from the fiscal cycles of our members. We also can see that there are times when a member should be able to participate in some benefits and activities of CASSOC even though not being in a position to remit dues on time. We also recognize that having the capability of designating them as a 'member not in good standing' allows for fairness in terms of how this affects members who have paid dues.

The current bylaws may be viewed at https://www.scotscanada.ca/CASSOC_By-Law_22-11-27.pdf

CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success

Coming up soon! Member Connections, Saturday, October 28, 2023, 4 pm ET

With less than a week and a day left before it, we're thrilled with our eight panelists for the first session title Membership Connections. We're also very impressed with the number of organization leaders and board members who will be in attendance as well as be adding to the conversations.

This first session covers the topics of

- Member Engagement, Retention and Growth
- Communications and Social Media
- Marketing

With primary take-away objectives that include:

- identifying proven methods for membership growth and retention
- providing what works for content and timing in communications
- marketing activities that are practical, achievable and are known to produce results

It's not a conference, seminar or talking heads presentation. It is a symposium. A conversation and exchange of what works and ideas for success.

To help prepare for upcoming sessions, we've been doing research on the session topics. Some results from using an AI research tool are provided on the following pages. When reading the research remember that the symposium sessions are not for presenting or talking about what to know for our areas of concern but most importantly for what has been done and is being done by our fellow member organizations. Tactics and action not just observation.

All sessions are going to be moderated, recorded and transcribed. Resources from the panelists and attendees will be shared. **At this time, you have to register in order to get access to the symposium resources.**

Registration is free for all individuals coming from member organizations of CASSOC.

[Click here to register](#)

Find out more at scotscanada.ca/symposium

Due to scheduling conflicts some session dates have changed. The session dates are now as follows:

Member Connections, Saturday, October 28, 2023, 4 pm ET

Volunteers and Events, Sunday, November 19, 2023, 4 pm ET

Heritage, Saturday, December 16, 2023, 4 pm ET

Sustainability, Saturday, January 20, 2024, 4 pm ET

Research - Why do people become a member of an organization

Chairperson's note: An AI research tool was used for the following based upon a general question not really specific to our differing types and forms of structure for our members. Your feedback on this is most welcome by email to chairperson@scotscanada.ca or certainly as part of the conversation at the relevant symposium session.

People are motivated to become members of organizations for a variety of reasons, and these motivations can be both personal and altruistic. Here are some common motivations that drive people to join organizations:

- **Shared Interests:** Individuals often join organizations that align with their personal interests, hobbies, or passions. Whether it's a sports club, an environmental organization, or a book club, shared interests provide a strong motivation to connect with like-minded individuals.
- **Belonging and Community:** The desire to belong to a group, community, or social network is a powerful motivator. Being part of an organization can provide a sense of belonging, which fulfills a basic human need for social connection and support.
- **Professional or Career Benefits:** Many people join organizations to advance their professional or career goals. Professional associations, industry groups, and networking organizations offer opportunities for career development, learning, and job networking.
- **Advocacy and Activism:** Individuals who are passionate about specific social, political, or environmental issues often join advocacy or activist organizations to make a difference and promote change.
- **Education and Skill Development:** Organizations such as educational institutions, training programs, and workshops attract members who seek to acquire new knowledge and develop skills in a particular area.
- **Philanthropy and Volunteering:** Some people join organizations with a focus on community service and volunteer work. These organizations offer opportunities to give back to the community and make a positive impact.
- **Identity and Culture:** Cultural, religious, or ethnic organizations provide a sense of identity and connection to one's heritage or values. People often join these organizations to celebrate and preserve their cultural or religious traditions.
- **Friendship and Social Connections:** Building friendships and social connections is a common motivation for joining clubs, social organizations, and online communities.

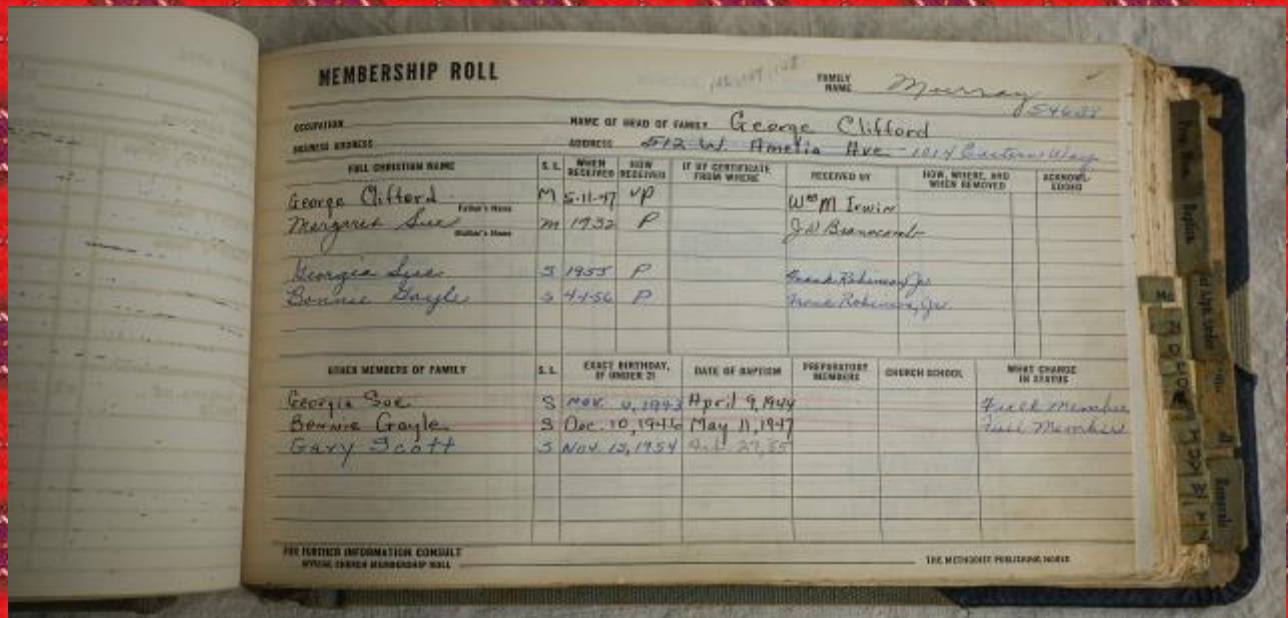
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Research - Why do people become a member of an organization

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- **Personal Growth and Self-Improvement:** Organizations like self-help or personal development groups attract individuals looking to enhance their well-being, self-esteem, or personal growth
- **Recreation and Entertainment:** People may join organizations for entertainment and leisure activities, such as sports teams, gaming clubs, or performing arts groups, to enjoy recreational pursuits.
- **Networking and Contacts:** Membership in business or professional organizations can expand one's network and provide opportunities for making important contacts in a given field.
- **Social Change:** Organizations that aim to address social issues, promote social change, or advocate for specific causes attract members who are driven by a desire to make a positive impact on society.
- **Sense of Purpose:** Being part of an organization can give individuals a sense of purpose and fulfillment, as they contribute to the group's goals and mission.
- **Family and Social Pressure:** Sometimes, people join organizations due to the influence of family or social expectations. They may feel pressure to participate in certain clubs, groups, or associations based on cultural or familial norms.

In summary: People join organizations for various reasons, including shared interests, a sense of community, career benefits, advocacy, education, philanthropy, cultural ties, social connections, personal growth, recreation, networking, social change, a sense of purpose, and family or social pressure. Motivations are personal and diverse, driven by individual interests, needs, and goals.



Research - Attracting youth to engage in volunteer work

Chairperson's note: An AI research tool was used for the following based upon a general question not really specific to heritage organizations. Your feedback on this is most welcome by email to chairperson@scotscanada.ca or certainly as part of the conversation at the relevant symposium session.

This can be challenging, but it's essential to create meaningful opportunities and provide a supportive environment. Here are some strategies to help attract young volunteers:

- **Highlight the Impact:** Emphasize the positive impact of their volunteer work. Young people are often motivated by the idea that they can make a difference in their community or the world.
- **Offer Varied Opportunities:** Provide a range of volunteer opportunities, allowing young people to choose roles that align with their interests and skills. Offer short-term and long-term commitments to accommodate different schedules.
- **Make It Fun:** Organize social or recreational activities alongside volunteer work. Young people are more likely to volunteer if they enjoy the experience and make friends in the process.
- **Skills Development:** Highlight the opportunity for skill-building. Volunteer work can be a great way to learn new skills or enhance existing ones, which can be valuable for future employment.
- **Recognition and Rewards:** Acknowledge and reward their efforts. Recognition can be as simple as a certificate, a thank-you event, or letters of recommendation.
- **Provide Flexible Scheduling:** Recognize that young people often have busy lives with school, work, and other commitments. Offer flexible scheduling to accommodate their availability.
- **Use Technology:** Reach out through social media and online platforms, where many young people spend their time. Make it easy for them to find and sign up for volunteer opportunities online.
- **Collaborate with Schools and Colleges:** Partner with educational institutions to promote volunteer opportunities to students. Many schools and colleges encourage or require community service, and this can be an excellent way to engage young volunteers.
- **Youth Leadership Roles:** Create opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles within your volunteer organization. Empowering them with responsibility can be a strong motivator.
- **Clear Communication:** Be clear and transparent about what volunteering entails, including the time commitment, tasks, and the expected impact. Address any questions or concerns they may have.

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Research - Attracting youth to engage in volunteer work

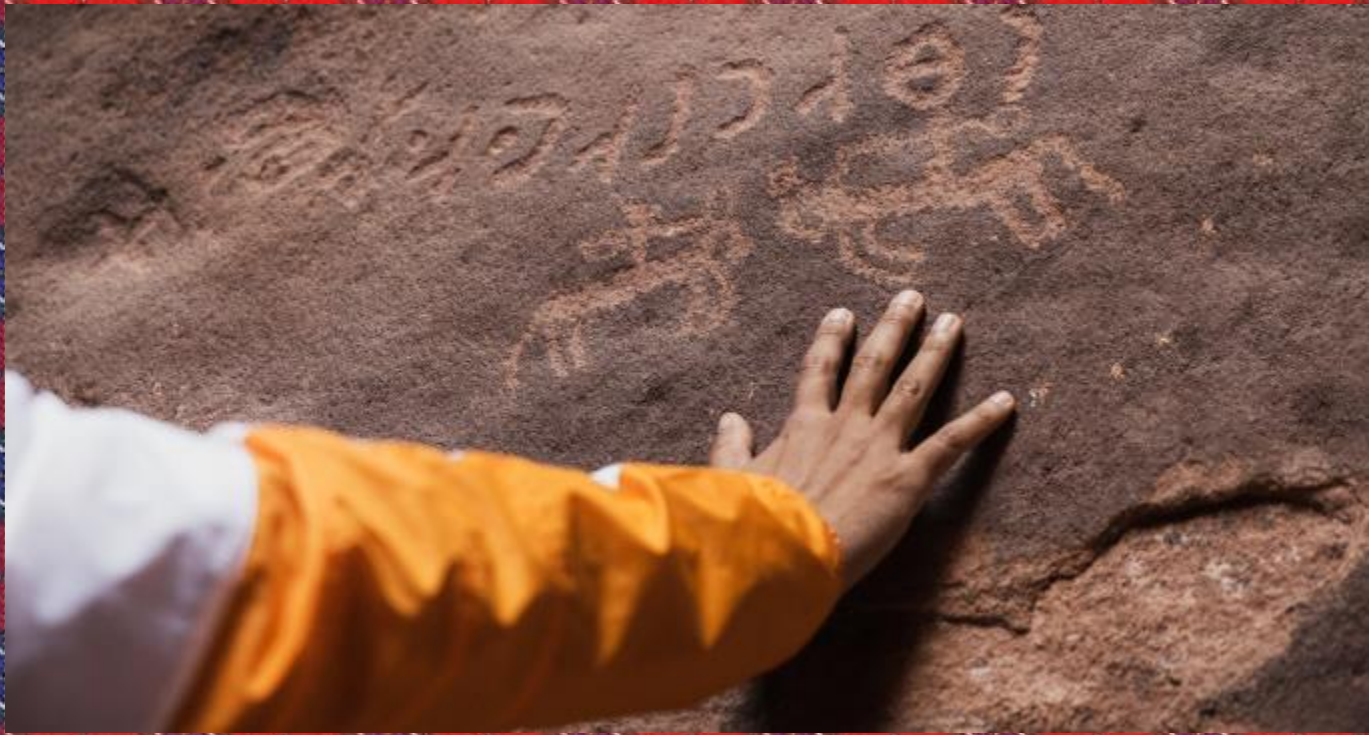
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- **Advocate for Causes:** Encourage young people to volunteer for causes they are passionate about. Passion can be a powerful motivator, and connecting them with causes they care about can lead to more sustained engagement.
- **Mentorship and Guidance:** Provide mentorship and support to young volunteers. Having experienced volunteers or staff members who can guide and support them can make the experience more rewarding.
- **Community and Social Engagement:** Organize events that promote social interaction and community building among volunteers. Feeling part of a larger community can be a strong motivator.
- **Share Success Stories:** Share stories and testimonials from other young volunteers who have had positive experiences. Peer influence can be a powerful motivator.
- **Educational Component:** Incorporate educational elements into volunteer work, helping young people understand the broader context and issues related to the work they're doing.



To summarize: Attracting young volunteers requires a thoughtful approach. To engage them effectively, emphasize the positive impact of their contributions and offer diverse opportunities that align with their interests and schedules. Make the experience enjoyable with social activities, and highlight skill development benefits. Recognition and flexible scheduling are essential, while leveraging technology and collaborating with educational institutions can expand the reach. Empower young volunteers with leadership roles and ensure transparent communication. Encourage their passion for causes and provide mentorship. Foster a sense of community, share success stories, and incorporate educational components. These strategies can help create a vibrant and diverse volunteer base among the youth.

Research - Why is heritage and history important to people?



Chairperson's note: An AI research tool was used to answer this general question. Your feedback on this is most welcome by email to chairperson@scotscanada.ca or certainly as part of the conversation at the relevant symposium session.

Here are some of the key reasons why heritage and history hold importance:

1. **Identity and belonging:** Heritage and history provide a sense of identity and belonging. They connect people to their roots and help them understand where they come from. This can be especially important for individuals and communities with a strong cultural or ethnic identity.
2. **Cultural preservation:** Heritage and history play a crucial role in preserving and passing down cultural traditions, practices, and values. This helps maintain cultural diversity and ensures that cultural knowledge is not lost over time.
3. **Learning from the past:** History offers valuable lessons and insights. It allows us to learn from the successes and mistakes of the past, helping us make informed decisions and avoid repeating historical errors. History also helps us understand the evolution of societies, technologies, and ideas.
4. **Sense of continuity:** Heritage and history create a sense of continuity between the past, present, and future. They help people understand how the world has evolved and how they fit into the broader narrative of human history.
5. **Cultural enrichment:** Heritage and history enrich people's lives by exposing them to different traditions, art, literature, and historical events. This exposure can broaden one's horizons and foster a greater appreciation for the diversity of human experiences.

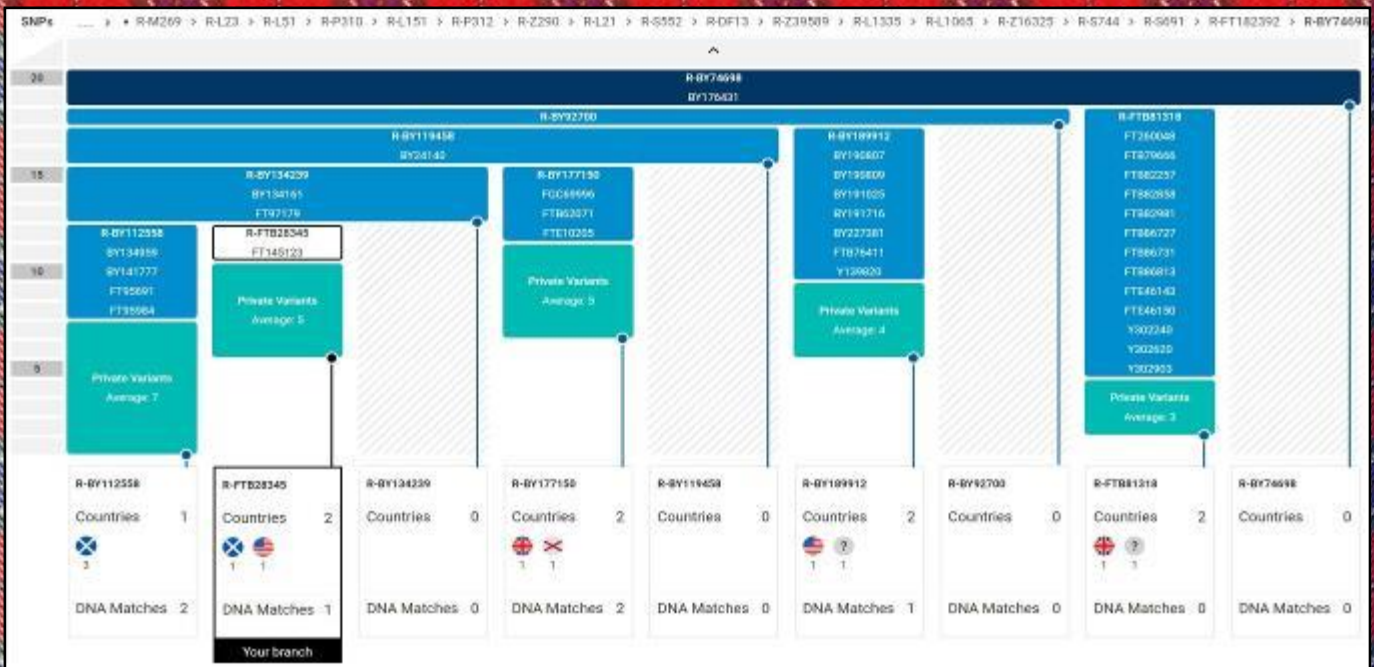
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Research - Why is heritage and history important to people?

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- Cultural pride:** Knowing and celebrating one's heritage and history can instill a sense of pride and confidence. It can be a source of inspiration and motivation, encouraging individuals to achieve their goals and contribute positively to society.
- Tourism and economic impact:** Heritage sites and historical attractions often draw tourists and contribute to local economies. They can be important drivers of tourism, supporting jobs and businesses in the hospitality and tourism industries.
- Cultural diplomacy:** A nation's heritage and history can be a powerful tool for cultural diplomacy, fostering international understanding and cooperation. Sharing cultural elements with the world can promote peace and mutual respect.
- Community cohesion:** Heritage and history can strengthen community bonds. They provide shared narratives, symbols, and traditions that unite people and create a sense of togetherness.
- Nostalgia and comfort:** Heritage and history can evoke a sense of nostalgia and comfort, offering a connection to familiar or cherished aspects of the past. This can provide emotional solace and a feeling of stability in an ever-changing world.

In summary, heritage and history are important because they help people understand who they are, where they come from, and how their societies have evolved over time. They offer valuable lessons, contribute to cultural preservation and diversity, and play a role in shaping individual and collective identities. Additionally, they have economic, diplomatic, and social implications that make them important on various levels.



A personal Big Y Block Tree from FamilyTreeDNA. Click on it to learn more about Big Y Block Trees

Kingsville-Essex Highland Games



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KINGSVILLE HIGHLAND GAMES FINDS A PERMANENT HOME!

KINGSVILLE, ONTARIO, August 31, 2023

The Mission of the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village (CTMHV) is "To preserve the past of Canada's South for the education and interpretation of present and future generations". And what could be more representative of Canada South's history than a celebration of its Scottish & Celtic Heritage. Les McDonald, Chairman of the Board of Directors at CTMHV, is proud to announce that they will be adding the Kingsville Highland Games to the many events that they host on the Amer Townline. According to Heather Colautti, registrar of the Windsor Community Museum, "Scots have been coming to Windsor and Essex County, in large and in smaller numbers, since the days of the North American fur trade in the late 1600s and 1700s, right through to today and are one of the ethnic communities with the longest historic ties to Southwestern Ontario". Reflecting the history of the county, Kingsville had hosted Highland Games for nearly 20 years until they disappeared in 1987.

The Highland Games, now to be known as the **Kingsville-Essex Highland Games**, returned in 2019 and more than 6500 were in attendance for that occasion. The pandemic put paid to the games for a couple of years, but the Committee has been working hard to bring the event back to its former numbers. In 2023 the Board at Jack Miner's Migratory Bird Sanctuary graciously agreed to host the games at Ty Cobb Field when the Town of Kingsville decided to no longer host the event. The Committee will always be grateful for this gesture and are happy to report that more than 3000 attendees enjoyed that location and all funds raised went to support programmes at the Sanctuary. However, the space available at Jack Miner's proved to be too small to house the growth expected given the popularity of this event so, a new home had to be found for the future.

"The Board of Directors at the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village have been overwhelmingly supportive of this initiative" says Doug Plumb, Chairman and Founder of the current Kingsville Highland Games, "everyone is so enthusiastic about this addition to the portfolio of the CTMHV and we are delighted to finally have a permanent home for this great event". The Kingsville-Essex Highland Games will be held at the Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village on June 22nd, 2024 at 6155 Arner Townline, Kingsville.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Kingsville-Essex Highland Games – Doug Plumb kingsvillegames@gmail.com

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Clan Gregor - A Fascinating Connection

What do Sir William Alexander, Menstrie Castle, King James VI/I, Archibald Campbell 7th Earl of Argyle, Stirling, King Charles I, Victoria Park in Halifax, and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia all have in common? As it turns out, the simple answer is a lot!

One of the things that captures my imagination most when looking into our heritage and past, is when a glimpse of the arc of history comes suddenly into sharp focus and reveals the unexpected. It's when we see seemingly random twists and turns of events come together, and in a moment of time and space, shape destiny in unforeseen ways. This is one of those times.

Let's explore the characters and places and see how they are connected.



Sir William Alexander

William Alexander

- Born 1577, in Castle Menstrie, Clackmananshire near Stirling, Scotland.
- Education: Old Grammar School at Stirling Castle Wynd, Tutored by Thomas Buchanan, (brother to George Buchanan, Tutor to young King James VI of Scotland), University of St Andrews and likely Lieden University in Holland.
- Due to his education and place as a young aristocrat in Stirling, he's made Tutor to young Archibald, 7th Earl of Argyll. They later tour Europe and cement a lifelong friendship.
- He is introduced to the Royal Court in Stirling and young King James VI in 1601.
- In 1603, when King James VI of Scotland was crowned King James I of England, William moves to the Royal Court in London and is made Gentleman of the Privy Council and Master of the Household
- He is appointed Tutor and Companion to King James' son Henry.
- Henry later dies of typhoid and Alexander is appointed Gentleman Usher to young Prince Charles
- In 1607 he is granted mineral rights and establishes a silver mine in the Ochill Hills, near Menstrie.
- He is knighted in 1608 and made Master of Requests in 1619 to deal with the expanding international interests of the Crown in North America
- In 1621, King James grants him part of Newfoundland. This doesn't amount to much but is later expanded to include lands to the south that Sir William names Nova Scotia. He proposed and is granted rights to sell hereditary baronetcies for a sum equivalent to 150 pounds sterling.

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Clan Gregor - A Fascinating Connection

(Continued from page 14)

- King James IV/I dies in 1625 and his son and heir becomes King Charles and appoints William Alexander, 1st Earl of Stirling and Viscount Canada
- In 1626 Alexander is appointed Secretary of State for Scotland.
- By 1629 Nova Scotia settlement had begun with the creation of a few baronets.
- In 1630 he is given the title of Lord Alexander of Tullibody and Viscount of Stirling.
- By 1631 with only 85 baronets sold in Nova Scotia, England agrees to return much of the land to the French as treaty settlement.
- Sir William's spending to keep up with the high life of Court, together with unrealized plans for the new world, begin to weigh heavily on his finances. He is deep in debt in spite of his position.
- At age 63, Lord Alexander dies in 1640 in London. In spite of having sold 109 baronetcies, he is declared insolvent and his property seized by the Town of Stirling

Menstrie Castle

- Built by the Alexander family in 1560 as a family keep in the Ochill Hills, six miles to the northeast of Stirling Castle
- William Alexander's father dies in 1580 and his education and the upkeep of Menstrie is given to his Uncle James, the Burgess of Stirling.
- A few miles to the east of Menstrie Castle lies Castle Campbell in Dollar. This is the Lowland residence of the Campbells of Argyle away from their primary one in Inverary. He meets young King James VI there.
- Alexander lives at Menstrie Castle until he moves to London in 1603, only to return very occasionally in the years ahead.
- After Lord Alexander's death in 1640, Menstrie Castle is sold, eventually abandoned and falls into disrepair through centuries.
- In 1957 a local campaign was launched to save the residence core and a small portion of the courtyard. In 1962 two small main floor rooms were dedicated to the purpose of creating a mini-interpretive centre to honour the role Sir William played in the politics of his day.



(Continued on page 16)

Clan Gregor - A Fascinating Connection

(Continued from page 15)

King James VI of Scotland and I of England

- Born in Edinburgh in 1566, infant and only son of Mary Queen of Scots.
- 13 months later crowned King of Scotland in Stirling Castle
- The 7th Earl of Argyle, Archibald Campbell, introduces his friend William Alexander to the Court of King James and they establish a lifelong friendship
- February 1603, Battle of Glen Fruin between Clan Gregor and the Colquhouns
- King James VI immediately issues writ of proscription of Clan Gregor.
- March 1603 the crowns of Scotland and England are united in King James VI of Scotland and he becomes King James I of England.
- William Alexander moves to London to join the King's Court and collaborates with James VI/I on a translation of the Psalms of David.
- 1617 King James makes his only return to Scotland
- In 1621 he grants William Alexander rights to settle what is now Newfoundland and Nova Scotia
- He dies in 1625 leaving his son, tutored by Alexander, to ascend to the throne as King Charles I
- King Charles I goes on to preside over the settlement of Nova Scotia with William Alexander as his Viscount Canada.



**Archibald Gruamach "The Grim" Campbell,
7th Earl of Argyll**

Archibald Campbell, 7th Earl of Argyle

- Born 1575, son of Colin Campbell, he was later tutored by William Alexander at Dollar Castle near Stirling. He and Alexander become friends and tour Europe together.
- Earning the name, Archibald the Grim, in 1594 King James VI gives him a commission to wage war "with fire and Sword" against the Catholic Earls, a task he pursues with vigor.
- Archibald grants Alexander title to all the lands of Menstrie and introduces him to the Royal Court
- Argyle is complicit in the instigation of the Battle of GlenFruin and subsequent efforts to punish Clan Gregor. In 1604 he is largely responsible for the arrest and public execution of Chief Alastair MacGregor of Glenstrae.
- He participates in the Union of the Crowns of Scotland and England in 1603

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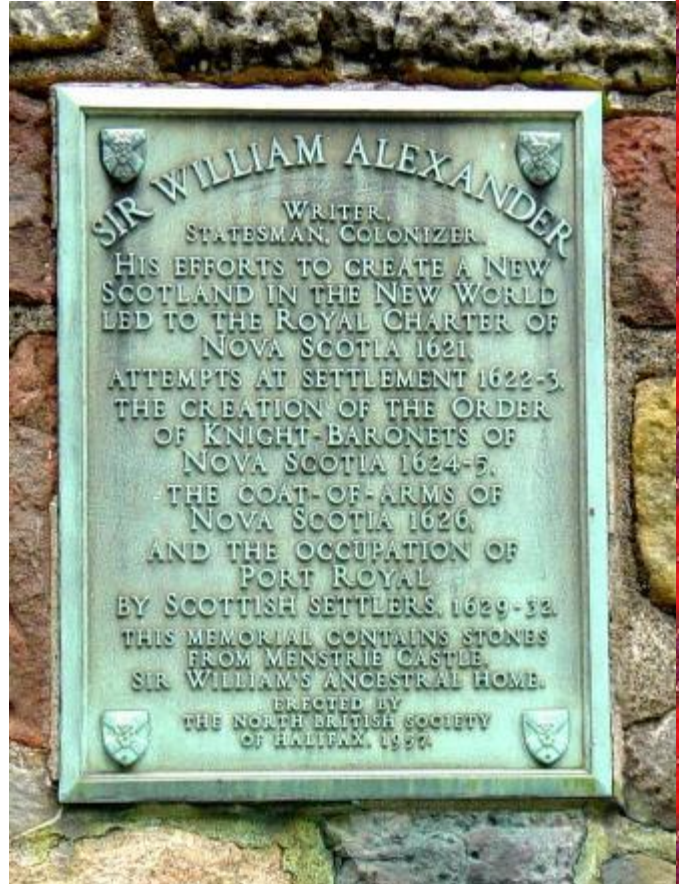
Clan Gregor - A Fascinating Connection

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- In 1619 he surrenders his estates to his son Archibald yr. and announces his conversion to Catholicism. He is declared a traitor in Edinburgh and banned from his country.
- Argyle dies in London in 1638 having abandoned everything apart from his title to his heir.

Victoria Park, Halifax Nova Scotia

- In 1957 a quantity of stones from Scotland, from demolished parts of Mentries Castle arrive in Halifax.
- A cairn (right) is erected to Sir William Alexander and states, "His efforts created a New Scotland in the new world and led to the Royal Charter of Nova Scotia in 1621 and the creation of the Order of Knight-Baronets of Nova Scotia in 1624, the Coat of Arms of Nova Scotia in 1626, and the occupation of Port Royal by Scottish settlers in 1629."



And so, connecting all these people and places we travel back to Castle Menstrie in Clackmananshire where it all started. In the two small rooms dedicated to telling the life and story of Lord William Alexander, we can begin to understand and celebrate the connections between Sir William, King James VI/I, Archibald Campbell, King Charles I, Menstrie Castle and Nova Scotia. One wall displays portraits of William, Archibald, and Kings James and Charles. Another shows painted armorials of the 109 baronetcies that were ultimately sold in Nova Scotia. The remaining Castle and walls may be modest, but the roles these men played in history celebrated here are significant and far reaching.

Sir William's bold plans for territories in Canada left an indelible mark. Today we have a Province called Nova Scotia, an official coat of arms granted by HRH King James VI/I and an accompanying flag. There remain 100 baronets still in existence. And, perhaps almost magically, stones from Castle Menstrie are now permanently fixed in a monument in Halifax, while in the village of Menstrie, Scotland, the Nova Scotia Garden flies the flag of the Province known by that name in faraway Canada.

Sir William's bold plans for territories in Canada left an indelible mark. Today we have a Province called Nova Scotia, an official coat of arms granted by HRH King James VI/I and an accompanying flag. There remain 100 baronets still in existence. And, perhaps almost magically, stones from Castle Menstrie are now permanently fixed in a monument in Halifax, while in the village of Menstrie, Scotland, the Nova Scotia Garden flies the flag of the Province known by that name in faraway Canada.

All of these things are the result of the dreams and vision of one William Alexander of Castle Menstrie.

Wayne MacGregor Parker

Pipe Band Free Youth Teaching Program - Open House



Saturday Oct 21st 12pm-2pm and Sunday Oct 22nd 12pm-2pm

Free - Emil Kolb Centre at 180 Derry Rd E in Mississauga

The Peel Regional Police Pipe Band is delighted to invite you and your family to come out to learn about our exciting new Youth Teaching Program. Our community has enthusiastically supported our Band and now we'd like to give back by offering free music lessons to any interested youth 18 years or younger. No experience is necessary - just a desire to learn and a commitment to practice.

Those interested will be taught the instrument of their choice (either bagpipes, snare drum, tenor drum or bass drum) by world-class instructors.

Every new student will also receive a free practice chanter or sticks and pad with a tutor book – so it won't cost you anything to get started.

Please join us (on either day) for an afternoon of music, fun, information, and complimentary refreshments.



[Find out more on our FaceBook page for the event \(click here\)](#)



The advertisement has a dark red background with a subtle pattern of stag heads. At the top center, the brand name 'WILLIAM GLEN & SON' is displayed in a light grey font, with 'EST 1869' below it. On the left, a dark red banner with a gold border contains the text: '4 ADULTS' in white on a red ribbon, '5th FREE' in white on a red circle, and 'FREE DRESS SHIRT & KILT SOCKS' in white. To the right of this, 'VALUE OF \$65 SAVINGS' is written in white. In the center, there are three photos: a woman in a blue kilt, a group of three men in kilts, and a man in a tuxedo with a kilt. On the right side, there is a grid of eight small kilt color swatches in various tartan patterns. At the bottom, the website 'WWW.WILLIAMGLEN.CA' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Clan of the Bells - President's Message

President's Message

Scotland's Freedom to Roam: A Journey to Blacket House Tower

When you embark on a journey through Scotland, there are opportunities to see landmarks of Clan Bell history. Some are concerned that the Blacket House tower property is now a private residence. However, there are simple ways to legally visit the seat of our last Bell clan chief even though it is now private property.

If you are able to hike, there are breathtaking landscapes and interesting historical sites on private property that you can visit in Scotland. The Freedom to Roam allows us to connect to our ancestral roots.

Scotland's Freedom to Roam: A Precious Heritage

The Right to Roam is a fundamental aspect of Scotland's outdoor culture. Rooted in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, this legislation grants everyone the right to access most land and inland water responsibly, provided they do so respectfully and with consideration for the environment, landowners, and other users. This law was passed because land ownership is so concentrated in Scotland, making the right to roam necessary for people to freely visit historical sites and outdoor recreation.

This is different than the law in the United States where trespassing laws can be enforced. When you are used to following US law, it can raise concerns that would keep you from seeing important historical sites.

Hiking to Blacket House Tower: A Bell's Historical Odyssey

Located in the Scottish Borders off of road B722 in Eaglesfield, near Lockerbie, Scotland, Blacket House Tower stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Clan Bell. This 16th century tower is steeped in history, destroyed by the English army in 1547 and rebuilt under William Redcloak Bell. For those with the name Bell or anyone interested in our clan's history, hiking to this tower is a must.

The journey begins in the charming town of Eaglesfield, where you can take a scenic hike along the banks of a creek called the Kirtle Water. As you traverse this timeless landscape, remember to respect the environment, fellow hikers, and any landowners you encounter. This is the essence of Scotland's Freedom to Roam.

Upon reaching Blacket House Tower, you'll find yourself immersed in the echoes of the past. The

tower's rugged beauty is a stark reminder of our clan's resilience and the profound connection we share with this land.

Using a GPS app on a smartphone or a GPS device can guide you to Blacket House Tower. Key GPS coordinates for planning a visit to Blacket House include:

(Continued on page 21)



Clan of the Bells - President's Message

(Continued from page 20)

1. The access gate to Blacket House: 55.059978, -3.195075. This gate may not be open, so you may need a hike along the Kirtle Water.
2. Road access to Kirtle Water upstream of Blacket House Tower: 55.062024, -3.178309. This can start a hike along the gentle flowing Kirtle Water and up to a gate for access to the tower ruin.
3. Blacket House Tower: 55.0579931, -3.187278. <https://canmore.org.uk/site/67157/blacket-house>

Limits and Responsibilities: Embracing the Right to Roam While Scotland's Right to Roam is a cherished privilege, it also comes with certain limits and responsibilities.

Here are some key points to keep in mind:

1. **Respect for Nature:** Always leave no trace, take your litter with you, and avoid disturbing wildlife and their habitats.
2. **Respect for Others:** Be considerate of other hikers, landowners, and locals. Keep noise levels down and follow any posted signs or restrictions.
3. **Respect for Property:** Respect fences, walls, and livestock. Close gates behind you and avoid entering enclosed fields with livestock or crops.
4. **Respect for Privacy:** Avoid trespassing on private property or in someone's garden. Avoid the house and the parking lot near the tower, since it is close to the house.

By adhering to these principles, we honor our Scottish heritage and ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the Freedom to Roam.

A Call to Explore and Connect

As we celebrate our clan's history and the Freedom to Roam in Scotland, we encourage all Bells and visitors to embark on hikes to sites of historical interest. Discover the rich tapestry of our heritage, immerse yourself in the stunning landscapes, and let the spirit of adventure guide you.

Blacket House Tower is just one of many gems awaiting your exploration. So, lace up your hiking boots, embrace the Freedom to Roam, and let the land of Scotland tell you its timeless stories.

Safe travels and have an adventure, **Joseph Bell**



Clan of the Bells - Guid Nychburris

Dumfriesshire is one the main areas from which many Bells have emigrated and in which many Bells currently reside, and the bustling town of Dumfries is home to the distinctive Common Riding tradition of Guid Nychburris.

First a bit of history. As many of you know, from the 13th to the 15th century the Scottish border area was torn by war with England and raids by the Border Reiver clans on both sides of the Border. Townspeople had to develop a firm defense of the boundaries of their own towns and common lands to repel the Border Reivers raids and protect their borderlines from other incursions. When James VI of Scotland inherited the crown of England from Elizabeth I at her death, King James began the process of uniting the Crowns of England and Scotland and pacifying the Anglo-Scots Border area.

Even after the Border area became more peaceful, people of the Border towns continued the tradition of riding the boundaries of their towns and lands. These customs transformed into a modernday celebration of local history and legends with the focus on the pageantry of equestrian events, parades, music, song, with traditions unique to each community. These Common Ridings, also known as Riding of the Marches or Rideouts, take place from late spring into summer, with each community having specific dates set aside for their particular celebration. With joy and enthusiasm, the people of the Scottish Borders ride out on horseback to celebrate these Borders traditions. The annual common riding custom of Dumfries is the vibrant community festival of Guid Nychburris - Border Scots for Good Neighbors. During these festivities, the people of Dumfries celebrate their cohesiveness and inclusivity with their history, their traditions, and their future. Guid Nychburris is unique in that the name of their celebration reflects the original reason for the Common Ridings: during that turbulent era of raiding, miscreants and raiders were admonished to be “Guid Nychburris” or face the consequences. The motto on the coat of arms of Dumfries underscores this tough attitude: “A Lore Burne” (Border Scots for “look to the lower burn).” This motto is the old rallying cry of the Burgh of Dumfries signifying “People of Dumfries prepare against outside attack!” The Principals of the Guid Nychburris celebration are as follows:



The Pursuivant leads to the Guid Nychburris Day ceremony.
Photo: Brian McMeeken



The Cornet—leads the Rides and other activities of the mounted groups and has a number of other duties in and around Dumfries (the Cornet is named for the 17th century group of cavalymen accompanied by a cornet player.)

The Cornet’s Lass—The Cornet’s female counterpart who rides next to the Cornet at the head of the Riding group and participates in all the other duties of the Principals in and around Dumfries.

The Lynors—Riders who inspect and verify the boundary lines of the community.

The Pursuivant—The Rider attending the Cornet and carrying the “seisin of earth, stone, and water” which symbolizes that which connects the people to the land and ensures Dumfries’ Royal Burgh status is protected.

(Continued on page 23)

Clan of the Bells - Guid Nychburris

(Continued from page 22)

The Pursuivant's Men—Riders who act as escort to the Pursuivant.

The Queen of the South—A representative of the Burgh of Dumfries in the Community activities other than the Ride. Her title originates from the nickname given to Dumfries in 1857 by local poet David Dunbar.

The Principals were named In March in preparation for the June festivities. The installation of the Principals took place the evening of Monday June 12 at Midsteeple: Robert Wyllie was installed as Cornet; Ellie McKean as Cornet's Lass; Ava Nozratzadeh as Queen of the South Elect 2023. Sebastian Willis Fleming was installed as Pursuivant; Pursuivant's Men were Craig Drummond, David McCulloch, Henry Baggot and Nick Charteris; Lynors were Rory Boyd, Hamish Carr, Todd Clark and Chris Irving. The Cornet's Ball was held that evening. The Cornet's Supper was held on June 15.

Many of the events were unique to Dumfries: Exhibitions such as "The Dumfries of Roberts Burns; "Dumfries in a new light!"; a "Mostly Ghostly tour entitled "Bad Neighbours"; and much more.

From Sunday June 11 to Guid Nychburris Day on Saturday June 17, the citizens of Dumfries celebrated together in a series of daily events which included officials of the town and the Guid Nychburris Principals. On Sunday, the Principals and office holders met at St. Michael's Church for the traditional Kirkin of the Cornet. From St. Michaels they marched through the Town Centre. That afternoon the Riding Principles, with a whole cavalcade of 70 plus riders of all ages, participated in the first of their Ride Outs.

During the rest of the week, the Principals headed various Ride Outs; they visited schools and care facilities around Dumfries, and participated in the parades, musical events, and other celebrations with the whole community.

The festivities culminated on Saturday June 17 'Guid Nychburris Day' with the morning Riding of the Dumfries Marches and entry of the riders into town, the reading of the original 1395 Royal Charter for the Burgh of Dumfries, and the crowning of the Queen Of the South. That afternoon, the "Guid Nychburris" community festival was held at the Plainstones at Midsteeple.

What started long ago as necessary protection of their lands has grown into a reaffirmation by the people of Dumfries of their love for their community, their commitment to being Guid Nychburris, and living their Scottish Border heritage during their unique Common Riding traditions and all year long.

Article by Stephanie Bell-Clements Adams



Dumfries Town Provost, Maureen Johnstone, and her Guardsmen lead the Queen of the South and her attendants to Midsteeple. Photo: Brian McMeeken



The Pursuivant delivers the Royal Burgh Charter of Dumfries to the town Provost. Image: Jim McEwan

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 next General Assembly meeting will be held on November 26, 2023. Format of in-person, virtual or blended is to be determined. A formal email announcement will be issued in early November.

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

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. 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, as well as others such as cassoc-cesedc.ca during this transition. We apologize for any inconvenience.



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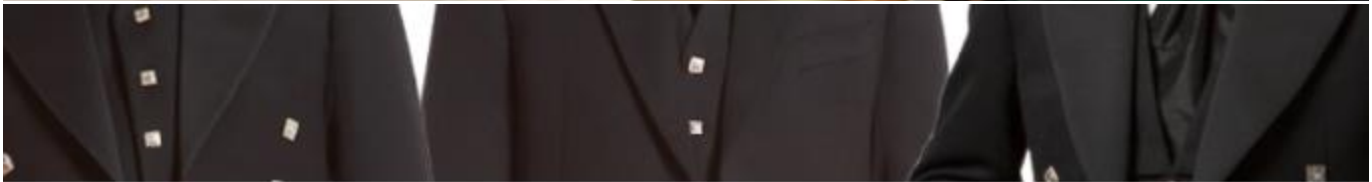
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From the Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies, McGill University:

Voices from the Diaspora: Exploring the Story of Scottish Emigration to Canada

A lecture by Marjory Harper, University of Aberdeen

Friday, October 27, 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Reception to follow

McGill Faculty Club, Billiard room

Please RSVP to Prof. Don Nerbas.

Professor Marjory Harper

Chair in History, University of Aberdeen

Marjory Harper completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Aberdeen, where she has been employed since the mid-1980s. She is currently Professor of History and also a Visiting Professor at the Centre for History, University of the Highlands and Islands.

Marjory's research focuses on British (particularly Scottish) emigration since 1800. Two of her monographs have won international prizes, and she has published around 100 articles and book chapters. Her latest monograph, *Testimonies of Transition* (an oral history of twentieth-century Scottish emigration), was published in 2018, and a revised version was published as an audio book in 2020.

After three decades of teaching in a variety of undergraduate courses, Marjory's teaching activities now focus on the postgraduate sector. Since 2017 she has directed an award-winning online Master's Programme in Scottish Heritage and she has also been involved in developing a training programme for the Scottish Tourist Guides' Association.

Public engagement lies at the heart of Marjory's interests and she particularly enjoys engaging with local communities through public lectures. She also acted as one of three historical consultants to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry and contributes regularly to radio and television programmes such as ***Digging Up Your Roots and Who Do You Think You Are?***



Five Fast Questions with the Hebridean Baker



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 third episode of 63 Percent Scottish is now available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music and everywhere else. It's also available on our website for free:

<https://63percentscottish.com/episode/ep-3-life-in-the-outer-hebrides-with-coinneach-macleod-aka-the-hebridean-baker>

In this episode, I speak with Coinneach MacLeod - known around the world as The Hebridean Baker - about life on the Isle of Lewis.

All the best,

Eamon O'Flynn

MacFie Clan Society in Canada



Clan MacFie was united again from Sept 27-Oct 3 in Scotland. MacFie Clan Societies of Canada, 2 from the US, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and of course the UK took part in a few days of wonderful kinship. The Clan event started with a gathering at a lovely hotel in Clydebank where there were talks on the history of Clan MacFie, DNA and the next steps to elect a Clan Commander. From Glasgow those that had time, were off to Colonsay, the ancient homeland of Clan MacFie, where more talks, activities, dinners and a ceilidh were held.

On Oct 3, we gathered at the Standing Stone (next page) to commemorate the passing of our last chieftain, Malcolm MacPhee, who was killed in February 1623. A mere 400 years ago. Our evening ended with a magnificent dinner in the Village Hall. So many people to thank for the organization of this event. Especially to Vanessa Duffy and Lorraine McFee of Scotland who worked for months of getting dates, food and events organized.

I held the honour of piping at the church service on Sunday, the ceilidh and the commemorative 400th anniversary of the death of our last Chieftan. We hope to have a new Clan Commander next year and then four years time another gathering in Scotland.

Gary MacPhie

President

Clan MacFie Society in Canada



Gary MacPhie and family at the church service

MacFie Clan Society in Canada



Clan Fergusson Society of North America



Sir Adam and Lady Jenny Fergusson visit to Fergus.

Fergus Festival set up some activities for Adam and Jenny as part of Fergus celebrating 190 years of being a town. The activities started with a tour of the “Scottish Studies” at the University of Guelph. We were shown the Jacobite exhibit, which was curated by the students through reading, analyzing, and interrupting the information. We were shown one of the oldest maps of Scotland in its original binding by a Dutch “artist”, as well as a book about Hon Adam Fergusson and documentation about his second wife’s family. The day ended for Adam and Jenny with a parade through Fergus as Festival Chieftain. Due to a comedy of errors, Adam and Jenny were not about to change before the parade.

Friday started with a reception at the Wellington Museum and Archives with Adam and Jenny, Senator Rob Black, Shawn Watters (Mayor of Centre Wellington), Festival volunteers, Councillors (Wellington and Fergus), as well as Joanne Ferguson-Ionson, and me.

After the reception, we were given a tour of the museum by one of their new volunteers, who gave us a history of the building from when it was a place for the destitute and criminals to being a nursing home. The tour ended with a visit to a restricted area in the basement, where we were shown the old boiler system.

When we finished our visit to the museum, we went to some local shops in the downtown area of Fergus, where the owner (Joyce Reimer) of the Fergus Scottish Corner Shop played a tune on her bagpipes and took a picture with Adam and Jenny.

The festival began on Friday evening with the Tattoo’d in Tradition ceremony, which included signing the document allowing Fergus Scottish Festival to use Clan Fergusson tartans as their own. After it was dark, the memorial caber throw, massed bands, and highland dancers performed before lighting the hearth and the Glass Tiger concert. A copy of the document is shown as figure 9.

For the rest of the festival, Adam and Jenny walked around the grounds and had discussions with different clans, retailers, and Clan Fergusson members, in addition to being “kidnapped” by the Jacobite re-enactment camp to have a wee dram or two.

***By Della Fergusson,
President - Clan Fergusson Society of North American***

Clan Fergusson Society of North America



Figure 1 Thursday night ride for the parade
(Photographer Deb Deziel)



Figure 2 Shawn Watters giving Sir Adam Fergusson a
Trillium pin from his collection
(Photographer Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy)



Figure 3 Left to Right: Della Fergusson, Deb Deziel, Sir
Adam Fergusson, Lady Jenny Fergusson, Senator Rob
Black (Photography Barbara Lustgarten-Evoy)



Figure 4 Wellington Centre Mayor, Councillors, Senator
Rob Black, Sir Adam and Lady Jenny Fergusson
(Photographer Rob Black)



Figure 5: Sir Adam and an old Wellington County Muse-
um and Archives boiler. (Photographer Barbara Lust-
garten-Evoy)



Figure 6 Sir Adam, Joyce Reimer, and Lady Jenny at the
Fergus Scottish Corner Shop (Photo Joyce Reimer)

Clan Fergusson Society of North America



Figure 7 Sir Adam Fergusson signing the document (Photographer Deb Deziel)

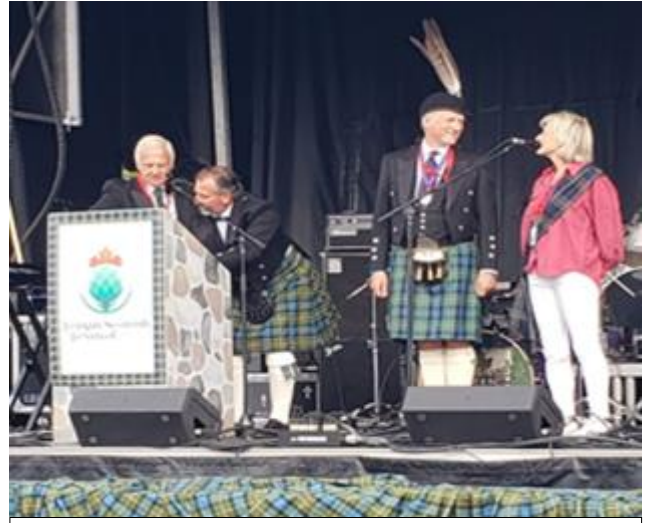


Figure 8 Matt Bennett (Festival President) signing the document (Photographer unknown)

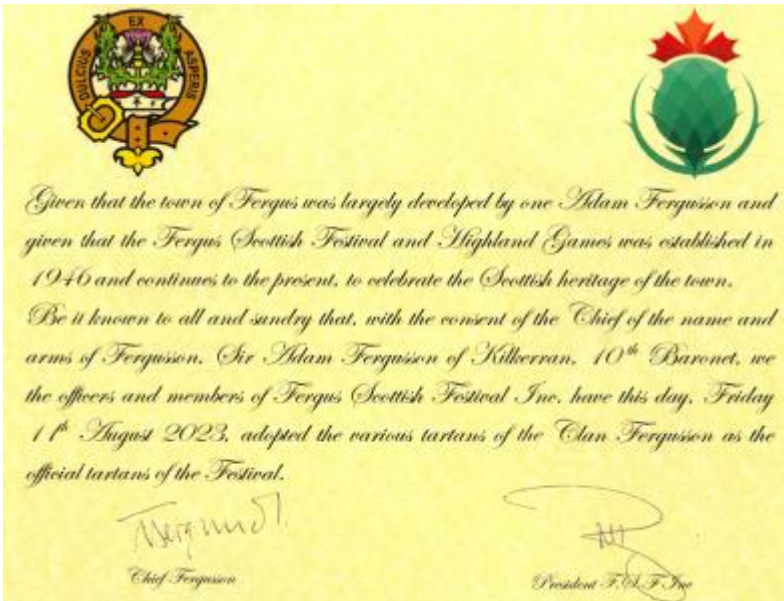


Figure 9 Document that allows Fergus Festival to use Clan Fergusson tartans as their own



Figure 11 John Duff and Sir Adam talking about a military museum in Hamilton (Photographer Roger Ferguson)



Figure 10 Lighting of the hearth (Photo Ryan Joyce)

Clan Fergusson Society of North America



Figure 12 Sir Adam, Lady Jenny, and Fergus band member, who is a Ferguson (Photographer Roger Ferguson)



Figure 13 Sir Adam, Roger, Eric, and Tom Ferguson have a discussion (Photo Christine Ferguson-Fernandez)



Figure 14 Sir Adam and Lady Jenny being escorted from the Jacobite encampment (Photo Cara Burton FB)



Figure 16 Emily Redman with Sir Adam and Lady Jenny at Fergus (Photographer Emily Redman of ScotlandShop)



Figure 15 'On tour' with the Fergus Scottish Festival Chieftain, Sir Adam Fergusson, Lady Jenny, with Fergus author Pat Mestern (Photographer Senator Rob Black)



Figure 17 Senator Rob Black, Sir Adam and Lady Jenny behind the "I Love Fergus" sign. (Photo Deb Deziel)

Clan Hunter Association of Canada



From the Clan Officer, Dale Hill

Greetings to you all. It is hard to believe I have officially been the Clan Officer for Clan Hunter Canada for one full year. It has been a year filled with learning and connecting. I feel privileged to have met and spent time with many members from across Canada and collaborated with Madam Pauline and fellow executive members from around the world. I always enjoy hearing about the varied connections to the Hunter surname, especially from those who can share a date and/or area of their ancestor's landing in Canada.

This summer I was able to attend four Scottish Festivals in Southern and Eastern Ontario, as well as in New Brunswick. In early July, a highlight of the Cambridge Festival was the delicious Haggis pies topped with mashed potatoes.

It was incredible to spend some time in Eastern Canada and connect with members, some who do not have Internet access and continue to receive all communication through the postal system.

A special shout out to those members who had relatives email me, or sent a letter through the mail, so I could connect by phone and we could all gather for dinner on the Saturday night in Fredericton!

In early August at the Glengarry Games, we had the pleasure of meeting long time member, Beryl, who had taken a bus trip down from Ottawa for the day, as well as soon to be new members, Michelle and Brian, who regularly visit Scotland and were excited to join us in the parade of clans.

It was also wonderful to have Don Noels, another member, parade with us during his first visit to the festival. Thank you all for helping us share Clan Hunter pride! We also want to acknowledge Linda Hunter who dropped by the booth on Friday to snap a quick picture with her

(Continued on page 35)



(Continued from page 34)

family and our sign, knowing we would not be attending until the next day.

Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games was another success and we were thrilled to welcome a huge number of members and potential new members to the clan tent. We once again had a great representation in the Parade of Clans. Thank you to everyone for your support and dropping by to visit, even if the tent was a bit congested at times!

We hope you will join us at our upcoming **Annual General Meeting on Sunday October 29 at 3 pm** on Zoom. This is a chance for all members to hear about the work of our Clan association here in Canada and help make decisions regarding the spending of funds to support our work.

Madam Pauline will also be joining us! A link to the meeting will be e-mailed to all members closer to the meeting date. If you have any questions or require the link to be sent directly to your email, please reach out to me at clanhunter.ca@gmail.com and I will make this happen.

If you have any questions or suggestions to help make Clan Hunter Canada an association that you are proud to be a member of, please connect with me directly. I always enjoy hearing from members and can even set up a time to have a virtual chat or phone call if that would be your preferred method of connecting.

I hope everyone had a great summer and I look forward to connecting with many of you at the AGM. Until then, take care.

Dale



Hunters meet up at New Brunswick Highland Games,
Fredericton NB July 2023

Clan Hunter Association of Canada

Celebrating Scottish Heritage at the New Brunswick Highland Games

40th years of Highland Games in Fredericton, NB

submitted by Daphne Clarke

What a wonderful festival full of Scottish spirit, enthusiasm and tradition. The New Brunswick Highland Games took place on the property of Government House which was built around 1826. This is the current Lieutenant Governor's Residence and includes an 11 acre property. The 40th New Brunswick Highland Games took place here on July 28, 29 and 30th, 2023.

The weather was perfect and there was a great attendance at these events. Clan Hunter was immediately greeted with friendly east coast hospitality by the Highland Games Committee and other Avenue of Clans folk. On Friday, we started off setting up our tent and were greeted by Maria and Kenneth Hunter who dropped by to chat and welcome us to Fredericton.

In the evening, Dale, Clan Officer of Canada and I were invited to a formal reception at the Lieutenant Governor's House. Here we mingled with the Fredericton, New Brunswick Member of Parliament, Jenica Atwin, the Provincial Member's of Legislature, David Coon, and Dominic Cardy, sponsors, friends and patrons of the festival.

Dale and I had the pleasure of personally speaking with the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Brenda Murphy about Clan Hunter and our East Coast trip to these games. Her friendly and personable manner made us feel so comfortable right away and she was thrilled we had come to participate in their Highland Games. Throughout the weekend, you could find her enjoying the festivities around the property.

After the formal reception including speeches honouring and celebrating 40th years of Highland Games in Fredericton. We headed down to Barrack Square to catch the concert of Natalie MacMaster and Donnolly Leahy. Unfortunately, a rainstorm came rushing in and we only got to hear three songs before the event was cut short. The Celtic music we heard was fantastic! We were completely soaked but smiling from ear to ear by the time we made it back to our accommodations.



There was a Gathering of East Coast Clan Hunter Members at the 'STMR.36 BBQ and Social Restaurant' in the Delta Hotel. The food was delicious and the conversation was lots of fun. So many stories and laughs were shared. Irma, Vinnie, Barbara, Maria and Kenneth joined us for this fun event.

On Saturday, in the Avenue of Clans, we were quickly greeted by many fellow Hunters and we often heard, "Hello, cousin." There is a large group of Hunter's in New Brunswick and many stories were shared with us

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

about Ancestors especially from the Miramichi area of New Brunswick. Maria and Kenneth Hunter joined us for the day and helped to welcome and educate people on Clan Hunter. Kenneth and Maria eagerly shared photos and stories of their visit to Scotland and the Hunterston Castle a few years ago.

Together we participated in the Opening Ceremonies of the parade. I was honoured to be asked to carry the New Brunswick flag in this parade. At this festival, all the Clan participants are led by three drum Majors and the pipe bands are right behind us as we process up the field. You had to keep on your toes so you didn't get run over by the pipers (hee, hee, hee).

Clan Hunter was represented in all of these parades throughout the festival.

On Sunday, Clan Hunter participated in the 'Kirkin' O' the Tartan' service where Clan Hunter tartan and banners were blessed by Reverend John Martin. Clan Hunter proudly led the clans following the Piper and the Reverend through the grounds of the festival to the 'Kirkin' O' the Tartan.' You can see a video Dale posted of this on the Clan Hunter Facebook Page. It was a lot of fun! As Dale said, "He felt like a celebrity."

Overall it was a great weekend and Clan Hunter was thrilled to be present and part of this special 40th Anniversary Highland Games Festival. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet Clan members from Eastern Canada. Thank you all for the lovely welcome!





the

Scottish Banner

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Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com


North American Edition




A' Bhratach Albannach

September 2023 Edition

October 2023 Edition

Clan Irwin Association



Drum Castle - Celebrating 700 Years

Some members of Clan Irwin Association traveled to Royal Deeside to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Drum Castle being given by King Robert the Bruce to William de Irwyn. Drum is located near Banchory, just west of Aberdeen. It is one of the oldest tower houses in Scotland and has a rich history. It served as the home of Clan Irvine until 1975.

Drum is open to the public where visitors may stroll through the gardens and Old Wood of Drum, where some oak trees date back to the 1700s.

Fast forward to 2023. Alexander H.R. Irvine is the 27th Laird and Baron of Drum. Working closely with Clan Irwin Association, he planned a formal, regimental-style dinner in honor of the 700th anniversary. On August 2, 2023, there were approximately 50 guests who were treated to a champagne reception on the front lawn of Drum, and who were feted with a gourmet dinner in the dining room at Drum. Guests were treated to melodies performed by pipers from The Gordon Highlanders Association Drums and Pipes. During the evening's festivities, our host was presented with several awards.

Additionally, there were other activities throughout the week, some in conjunction with Clan Burnett, also celebrating 700 years.





Alexander Irvine, Chief of the Name and Arms of Drum, Thomas Irvine, The Younger of Drum, Albert Thomson, Herald o' Drum.



At the Aboyne Games, the Lord Lyon read a proclamation in recognition of these two Clans and their friendship through the years.



All the guests on the front steps of Drum Castle prior to the celebratory dinner

The Thistle and the Fleur De Lys - New Member



October 2023

As a new member of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) this first edition for us will explain in detail of who we are, and what we are doing. (Sorry to bore all of those who have read about us previously) We hope to have regular articles for you to learn more and to even question your own history and ancestry.

Firstly, what is the Thistle and the Fleur de Lys? The thistle is of course the Scottish roots, and the Fleur de Lys represents the French and French Canadians. We originally were going to call it "Thistles in the ground" but that may have had some political connotation, so the name was changed to be more inclusive of the two cultures we originally set about to research here in Quebec. We are based in the community of Montmagny, Quebec. (about 45 minutes east of Quebec City on the south shore of the Fleuve St-

Laurent) The "Je me souviens" is the motto for the province of Quebec and means "I remember". In this case we remember the Scots and the early French Canadians who helped build this amazing province and country together. We first started off researching the descendants of the 78th regiment of foot (Fraser's Highlanders 1757-1763) who settled in North America after the "Seven Years War". Ewen Booth is part of the Fraser Highlanders Descendants' Project. Kathleen McKen is the local Commissioner for the Clan MacKinnon Society. She is descended from one of these Scottish soldiers named "Donald McKinnon" who stayed in North America and married a French-Canadian and has contributed to most of the "McKinnons" now in Canada. Ewen is an amateur historian, volunteer researcher and Genealogist. With over 100 family trees under his belt, he has created a public database (Ancestry.ca) that continues to grow with more individual searches. Some of these searches involve more Scots than the Fraser Highlanders and thus it is now expanded to include them as well.

Thus, the new umbrella project to include everybody, including the first "French colonists" to North America.

The articles will cover individual stories, genealogy hints and discoveries, migration, music, geography, and many other anecdotes which are found along the way. The information is not political and is simply "What is found", and maybe open to your own interpretation. Some of the in-

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Ewen and Kathleen in front of their house with a Kiosk.

The Thistle and the Fleur De Lys - New Member

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formation will change what you also have been taught, and we encourage you to open your mind to your own thoughts and research to share it with us and others.

We call this a “Journey” as it started many years ago but became more significant as Kathleen purchased a 1767 family home which brought them to relocate into the heart of “French Canada”. Ewen continues to research the history of the house and former homeowners. This house has turned into a “magnet” for others and will also be included in the articles. When not working full time or researching, Ewen and Kathleen are restoring the house. As volunteers, Ewen and Kathleen do this to teach others the true history of Quebec and Canada. We encourage others to reach out to us, if there is something you wish us to investigate or something we can assist you with. We are always working to partner with others who share the same goals.



The goal is to have a fully bilingual (French and English) web site so that the many descendants of the early Scots in North America who solely speak French, can learn what they have never known, and feel part of this great international community. This will also include 20-minute vignettes on YouTube.

Thank you.

Kathleen and Ewen

Our web site is as of below (Still under construction)

The Thistle and the Fleur de Lys (scotscanada.ca)

Société Clan MacKinnon-Québec



Société Clan MacKinnon-Québec

This late summer, we were able to set up two displays within short order of each other. The first was for the International Accordion festival held each fall in Montmagny, Quebec. For the second year in a row, Kathleen and Ewen set up the display in front of the house and Ewen played the pipes on the street to attract people to the display. This year they were joined by Martin Fraser of Quebec City, dressed in the uniform of a Fraser Highlander and Julien Lacroix-Gaudet, who is a descendant of Christine McKinnon who arrived with her husband Donald Henderson in 1772. Christine is the sister of Donald McKinnon, who's house Ewen and Kathleen reside in.



Julien and his proud family outside the Clan display

The second display was set up at Festival Celtique de Quebec, in Quebec City. Ewen and Julien manned the two day display and met many descendants of the early McKinnons and other Scots to Quebec. Clan MacKinnon-Quebec also purchased a membership with the Clans And Scottish Societies Of Canada (CASSOC). This will give Clan MacKinnon a larger audience in Canada and will give people searching for their heritage a place to look. Approximately 50 business cards were handed out during the event in the hopes that the McKinnon descendants will come forward to be counted. Kathleen was out of commission for the Quebec City event due to a medical issue with a foot.

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Photo to the Right : Mr. Normand McCann. His family name got changed from McKinnon a few generations ago in a similar manner to that of how Kathleen's got changed to Mcken. A French parish priest trying to listen to somebody pronounce their name and spell it phonetically. With the large Irish influence after the arrival of many Irish to the area during the "Potatoe Famine" the parish priest sometime used the Irish name, as they were already familiar with them, not realizing they were different. Normand is descended from the same Donald McKinnon who settled in Berthier-sur-Mer, Quebec in 1769 as Kathleen is. His family has been researching the McKinnons of Quebec for an extensive period and have a Facebook page dedicated to their findings.



Le chardon et la fleur de lys

The Thistle and the Fleur de Lys



The new crest used by the Thistle and the Fleur de Lys project. We decided to use the motto "Je me souviens" or "I remember". In this case we remember the history how the French, Scots and others worked together to build the culture we call Canada with the First Nations people.

In the photo to the right is William Petrie from the CASSOC and Ewen. Ewen is not wearing a kilt as he is portraying what the early Scots would have worn in North America. The kilt was still banned for anybody except the military. Two bottles of Drambuie were given out as door prizes. The two winners are "Kevin Girardin" and "Huguette Lapointe"

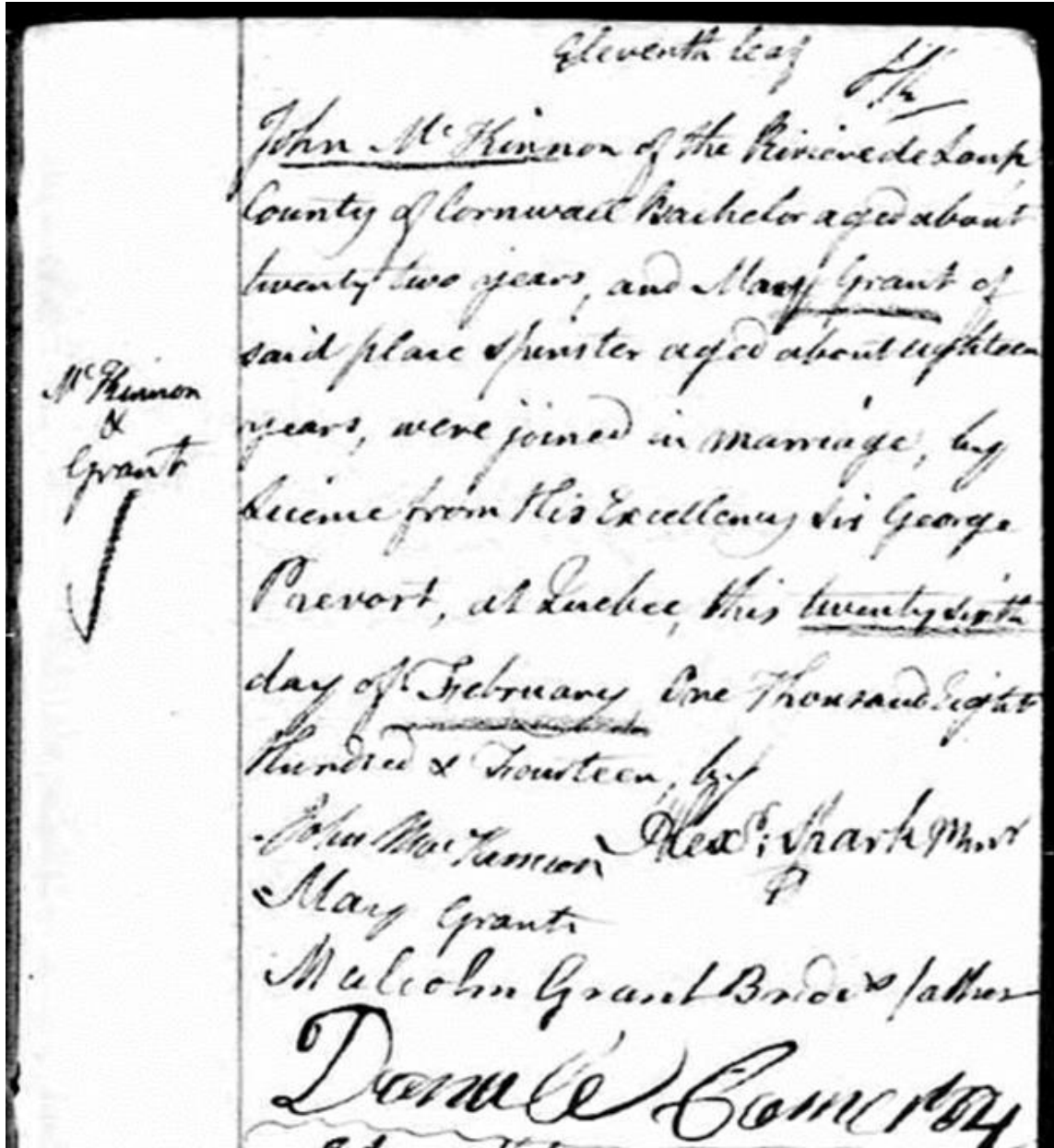


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Société Clan MacKinnon-Québec

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Philippe Dubé, a Clan Mackinnon Society member was found to have descended from a John McKinnon and Mary Grant from Riviere de Loup, Lower Canada. Here is a copy of their marriage record from St-Andrews Presbyterian Church in Quebec City dated 1814. Now, if we can only figure out



where John came from...

At the Celtique Festival other descendants of this John McKinnon came forward, so it will be interesting to see where the research ends up.

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Near the town of Berthier-sur-Mer, Quebec, a local farmer raises Highland cattle. Here are some pics for you to enjoy. We are considering approaching him for a local clan mascot.



Kennedy Society of North America



As our 50th anniversary year continues, the Kennedy Society has been attending games on a wide geographic scale:

* Fergus in mid-August: Dave and Amy Carrick traveled to Ontario to help Lydia Kennedy represent the Society. Also in attendance were Lydia's mother, Mary Kennedy, and siblings Paul Kennedy, Adele LaFond, Joyce Creighton, and Elaine Goddard - and KSNA delegate Andrew McMurtry. Lydia's family is continuing the legacy of John A. Kennedy, Canada Chieftain for the Kennedy Society. The Carricks took the opportunity to then visit Tobermory, Parry Sound, and Toronto to round out their visit to Ontario.

* Deputy Chief Sean Carrick convened a tent at the Virginia Scottish Games on September 2-3, enduring a very hot weekend!

* Dave Carrick traveled to Lincoln NH for the New Hampshire Highland and Scottish Festival September 8-10, convened by Northeastern Chieftain Nina Kennedy. Also in attendance were Chief First Class Retired Leo Kennedy (and Leah), Nina's sister Jackie, Jackie's daughters and respective spouses, and Jim Kaufman. Nina and Jackie's late mother, Joan Kennedy, was a long time KSNA member and her daughters are continuing the tradition. Unfortunately, the games were affected by Hurricane Lee, with Saturday cancelled due to high winds. Friday and Sunday, however, had excellent weather!

* Dave and Amy Carrick convened the Kennedy tent at the Scotland County Highland Games in Laurinburg NC on Saturday, October 7, along with Sean Carrick. This game continues to grow, with over 50 clans and societies in attendance- as well as 15 pipe bands. The games were complemented on Friday evening with a patrons/sponsors reception and a public "Highland Fling" with a variety of music entertainers.

* Leo Kennedy represented the Kennedy Society at the Scotland, Connecticut Highland Games on October 8, to finish out the New England season. A new feature to this game was a harpist competition and workshop.

The games year will be closing out soon, with Stone Mountain GA (October 20-21), Charleston SC (November 4), and Clover SC (November 11).

Please note that the KSNA AGM will be held April 20-21 at Loch Norman (Charlotte NC). Information will be forthcoming in regards to lodging, schedule, tickets, etc.

David Carrick
Chief/President
[Kennedy Society of North America](http://www.kennedysocietyofna.com)



Amy and Dave Carrick, Lydia Kennedy

Kennedy Society of North America



Amy David Sean Carrick Scotland County



Dave Carrick and Lydia Kennedy at Fergus



Virginia - Sean Carrick, Claudette and Bob Davis



Northeast Chieftain Nina Eppes, longtime member Mary Jo LaFreniere, Chief First Class Retired Leo Kennedy, Society Chief David Carrick



Left to right: Suzanne Canada, Dave Carrick, Frank Canada (Captain), Amy Carrick, and the City of Titusville Fire Dept./Kennedy Society Honor Guard at the Central Florida Games in Orlando.

Clan Logan - Glengarry Highland Games 2023

On August 5th 2023, I had the pleasure of attending The Glengarry Highland Games 2023 in Maxville Ontario. I was picked up from Ottawa by my good friend Donald MacDonald at 7:30 am. We drove an hour to the games in time for Donalds and the Sons of Scotland's band registration/competition at 9. As I arrived, we met up with the rest of the Sons. The Sons have found an empty patch of grass with some trees between the parking and the main grounds of the games where they could practice and tune before heading in. This would also be the meeting point for any emergencies.

Afterwards, I went to explore the grounds. Half way down was the Clan Building. I was walking in when I met my two favorite cousins Steven Logan: Clan Commissioner for Canada as the Vice-Commissioner Laurent. Steven has just created his very own Coat of Arms and got it approved by the Canadian Government just before the games. Steven has the right now to use his Arms freely. He was able to make several banners to bring with him. I was also gifted with a "Clansmen" t-shirt. This tee-shirt uses the Crest version in a belt buckle that any of Steven's Canadian followers can use. Steven has his own t-shirt's with a circlet version with a Eagle Feather indicating that he is an official armiger or Gentleman of the Clan. Notice all t-shirts say "Logan" under the crest, not "Clan Logan" as Steven doesn't represent the Clan and is not a Chief. This is more like a cadet branch of it with it's own history.

At 11:30 all the Clans gathered in an alphabetical line so that we could march out. Later on, I watched the various Pipe Bands compete. There was the Ottawa Caledonians (OCal), Sons of Scotland, Ottawa Highlanders (OHigh) etc. When the competition ended at noon, we had the rest of the afternoon to hang out until the bands had to go back to the main field to perform together and announce the winners in each category. For 3 hours I was hanging in the beer tent and the different food trucks, while the other half was spent with Clan Logan and the OttScots. At 6 pm all the bands gathered around to play out the event. Afterwards around 8 pm we had the announcements of the winners. With everything done it wasn't till 10-11 that we finished the day and then drove home.

All in all, I like coming back to Glengarry each year. Every time it get better and better, making it one of the best events of the entire year!

by Patrick Dionne-Kuno: Clan Logan Representative of Ontario and OttScots Youth Director.



Patrick and friends Jen Hill, Beth Bassillion, Lochie Bassillion and others at the beer tent.

Clan Logan - 2023 Caber Promenade

Each year on the Thursday before the Montreal Highland games, I attend the Promenade of the Cabers which is part of the various festivities linked to our Montreal games. It is always a really fun time but busy and non stop. No rest for the wicked they say but I can't stress the importance of doing as many events as possible for our Clan.

On August 3rd, I wrapped up work and got the Logan Banner out and ready. Vice-President Laurent came and we both left for Parc des Madelinots which is right next door to where I live. At first we thought they had gone but everyone was forming in the closed off Wellington street. Everyone was waiting for the sign to start parading.

Clan Logan was the only Scottish Clan present although invites were sent to others. We marched behind the cabers with the reenactors and paraded down Wellington street going all the way to Verdun city hall. Many people encouraged us, watching the action in the street, from their balconies and in front of their front doors.

When we arrived at destination, there was some Scottish Highland dancing and we could stay around and chat with various volunteers, curious passers by and by those organizing it. I managed to speak with Scott Mackenzie, President of the Montreal Highland Games about our upcoming games and he warmly thanked me for my contribution and implication.

We concluded and went back home afterwards. It was really nice to see everyone. A nice short and sweet event we do each year.

by Steven Logan, Fsascot



Clan Logan - In Fergus..Logans everywhere!!!!

August carries on for the Clan Logan Society of Canada. Although busy, we manage to do another Highland games! This time we went back to the long awaited Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland games that were from August 11th until the 13th.

It all started with the downtown Pride and pageantry parade. We parked at the Fergus Legion as in years past and then took the bus to get to the baseball diamond where the action was. The Clans were there, more so than in years past. We proudly marched down the streets of Fergus Ontario as the locals smiled and watched us. We walked right up to the Legion and then disbanded to go and have a drink there and watch the entertainment. After that, we went to have a bite at the Breadalbane Inn on Saint Andrew's street where we have many memorable memories of years past. Once we ate we headed right back to the hotel so we could be ready for the following days that were going to be quite intense!

In Fergus, we participated in the hearth lighting ceremony, spent time with the Clans and watched fireworks light the sky. Glass Tiger came to put on a show on the main stage and attendees enjoyed that with a drink or two. The following day, we hosted despite the rain and strong winds we got. It all went well and Logans started to appear out of nowhere.

Many Logans! We were visited by the Logans of Ontario we had met in previous years. Then a kind elderly Logan lady came by our tent to see us, proud of having some Logan heritage. To our great delight, more surprises, more Logans. These were the Logans of Saskatchewan. I could not believe it. I was so excited to see everyone. I vividly encouraged the Logans to join us take part in their Clan and even become representatives for us.

Sunday was the last day of the games and things were a little more calm with fewer Clans. Organizer Dave Radley was pleased to see us again and thanked us warmly for coming back and shook hands. This kind man doesn't realize the good he brought our Clan when we won best Clan in Fergus. It was a very important moment in our history that really inspired me to go further.

When you start a Scottish Clan organization from scratch, it's a little daunting at first. When you win a prize and you receive a smile, consideration and you are made to feel valued and important that is very stimulating. I was made to feel special and that feeling is exactly what I want for all my Clans that visit us at our games in Montreal. I am ever so grateful for the wonderful Fergus games, their kind and genuine volunteers, the people there and that feeling of being special even if we don't win best Clan.

See you all next year in Fergus!

by Steven Logan, Fsascot



At Fergus with the Logans of Ontario

Clan Logan - Surprises in Estes Park

For many months now, I have been looking forward to the month of September. From September 8th to the 10th 2023 was held the Long Peaks Scottish-Irish Highland Festival and I had the pleasure of attending for the very first time and represent The Clan Logan Society of Canada. These games were incredible for so many reasons. Estes Park Colorado is a place I have never been to before. I looked forward to seeing the beautiful scenery and most of all, meeting up with all the Logans I could find for the very first Clan Logan gathering in hundreds of years!

I had arrived September 7th and the first few days were tough on my stomach. My landing was difficult and the altitude being in the mountains made me feel a little queasy. My system had to get used to all that but luckily everything settled in time for everything else to happen. The following day, I started to forget all this when President Kevin Logan of the Clan Logan Society International came to get me at the Silver Moon Inn where I was staying.

The event itself was really very nice, had a wonderful gathering and got to meet up and see many smiling Logans. I had a wonderful few days with my Logan cousins. Most of the board of the Clan Logan Society International was there and I was able to spend quality time with so many people. This was much better than just seeing someone on zoom! Seeing people in real time allows to connect and share and get a real feel for the person you meet and have more interesting interactions. I was so hoping to meet up and every time I tried in the past, something prevented it. It's always about being in the right place at the right time so things can happen as they should. It was kind of intimidating at first because in this case, it was a first time meeting

with many board members like Kevin and Linda. Sometimes there's so much to say and talk about that you don't know where to start. So much has happened since I've started with Clan Logan back in 2007. We were all together for a short time but we at least managed to talk about the most important points, the past, the present and where we are heading. Many exciting years lie ahead for Clan Logan.

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Clan Logan -Surprises in Estes Park

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At this gathering, I had the pleasure of meeting up with President Emeritus James C. Logan from San Diego who came down to Estes. I hadn't seen him in person since before the pandemic when I had visited him to help with the Vista games. It was nice to see him again and share. Among other happenings, I met up with Ed Logan and Kathleen, wonderful people. I participated in the Clans parade with Clan Logan and let me tell you.. we had 30 Logans parading all together. The parade itself made me feel like I was home and that people really saw us. This feeling of personal pride in seeing our tartans. There was great strength in numbers and that feeling was very empowering. I remembered all those times that people belittled my Clan, said we weren't one..ohh how very wrong they all are!!

Tricia Locke Logan presented the new Clan Logan Society International tartan called " The 21st century Logan tartan". This tartan was one everyone picked in a list of submitted ones. It just happens that the creator is none other than President Kevin Logan. When he created this tartan, he asked me about colours. I did tell him my representative for Ontario Patrick Dionne Kuno would like some white as he is fond of dress tartans. So this winning tartan takes his likes into account. I tend to prefer more vibrant tartan colours but this is great. The colour scheme for the 21st century Logan tartan is nice, quite refined. The new tartan is meant in no way whatsoever to replace the current Logan tartans, it's just a tartan all Logans can adopt if they want for the Clan Logan Society International and it is a stunner! Tricia Locke Logan had done a great job with the tartan contest and presented the winning tartan with great ease to an eager crowd. I was so proud of cousin Trish. She has done a fantastic job taking care of business and I pay tribute to her commitment and implication for her Clan. She even went the extra mile and made sure we had good food to eat for the gathering so we could have a bite together! What a great example of implication! We all went to the restaurant together after the games and had a social hour. It was so special to spend time with my family.

The saddest part of the experience is knowing that it came to an end. A few days go by so fast when you have so many people to meet and places to see. I concluded this event by going to the military tattoo with Kevin Logan and Lisa. What a nice way of concluding things. I had never seen a tattoo before and this was so beautiful to see, all the military tradition and Scottish dancing. After that, Kevin gave me a ride back to the Silver Moon Inn and we said our good-byes. I was kind of sad as I was left wondering when we'd meet again. It felt like I had just met interesting family members and had to let them go on their way. I really do believe that everything happens for a reason and know in my heart this won't be the last time we meet up.

by Steven Logan, Fsascot



The board from left to right: President Emeritus James C. Logan, myself, Vice-President Linda, President Kevin and Social Media Coordinator Tricia.

Clan Logan - Montreal Highland Games

After the Maxville Glengarry Highland Games each year, I host the Montreal Highland Games at Douglas grounds in Verdun. August is always a busy month, and as the Clans and Communities Director, I dedicate my energy to this role throughout the year, hoping to make a difference for the Montreal Highland Games.

This year, I gathered a total of twelve Scottish Clans as Director, three more than the previous year, setting a new record for our games. I'm fortunate to interact with various organizations and meet people associated with each booth through my involvement in events. New Clans like Clan Young, Clan MacLeod, Clan MacFarlane, and Clan Hamilton joined us. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve people I know, and the Clans are a blessing. Thank you for your belief in me.

Laurent, our Vice-President, put in time and effort to host and greet visitors. We had a special visitor, Duncan Cooper (shown on right), who proudly wore a Logan tartan kilt and tie as he was part of the Scottish Government group hosting our games and had Logan ancestors in his family.

Gulnar Moussa from the Central Montreal Lions Club and members from my Royal Canadian Legion branch 4 showed us great support. Many individuals from various organizations took the time to say hello, even while they were busy volunteering at our games.

I introduced the Clans during the opening ceremonies, and Claire Boissel from Clan Logan surprised us by participating, wearing her Logan sash, and spending the day at the Logan tent. I also presented the Clans and led the Clans parade, which seemed to be enjoyed by all. Clan Young won Best Clan, and Clan Mackenzie was awarded Chieftain of the day.

When we wrapped up, we were tired but satisfied with a job well done. We even hosted Dr. Gillian Leitch, the historian of the Montreal Saint Andrew's Society, for a stayover. After a long, hot day, it was a relief to return home, have a drink, and chat over a cup of tea. This year's games were a huge success, and I'm excited for the 2024 games, with new groups and Clans expressing interest in joining us.



Clan Munro Association of Canada

Frae the President's Pen:

Dear Cousins;

There we were, basking in the warm sun of late summer when abracadabra, the world changes in a fortnight. The nights are longer the days are cooler. But this isn't like the first time this has happened. It comes around every year and if you're lucky, so do the other three seasons. And to paraphrase Ecclesiastes, "To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

In other words, I hope you are all able to enjoy what's happening, right now, wherever you may be. I'm currently on the east coast of North Yorkshire and the skies are decidedly greyer, and the temperatures are greyer still.

It's no wonder that so many Scots not only found homes in Canada but flourished! Looking at the photo above of Faskally Loch, it could have been taken in so many parts of Canada, including Algoma – such an inspiration to the Group of Seven.

Looking at the names of these important figures in Canadian visual art, it's easy to see the links with

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Faskally Loch, Pitlochry (Image: Getty Images)



The Red Maple – AY Jackson
(courtesy National Gallery of Canada)

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Scotland – Harris, Macdonald, Jackson, Carmichael, Johnston – all thoroughly Scottish surnames.

The Scots, like the Irish, have always fought above their weight when it came to art and literature and it's no surprise these cultural gifts arrived in Canada alongside the new arrivals.

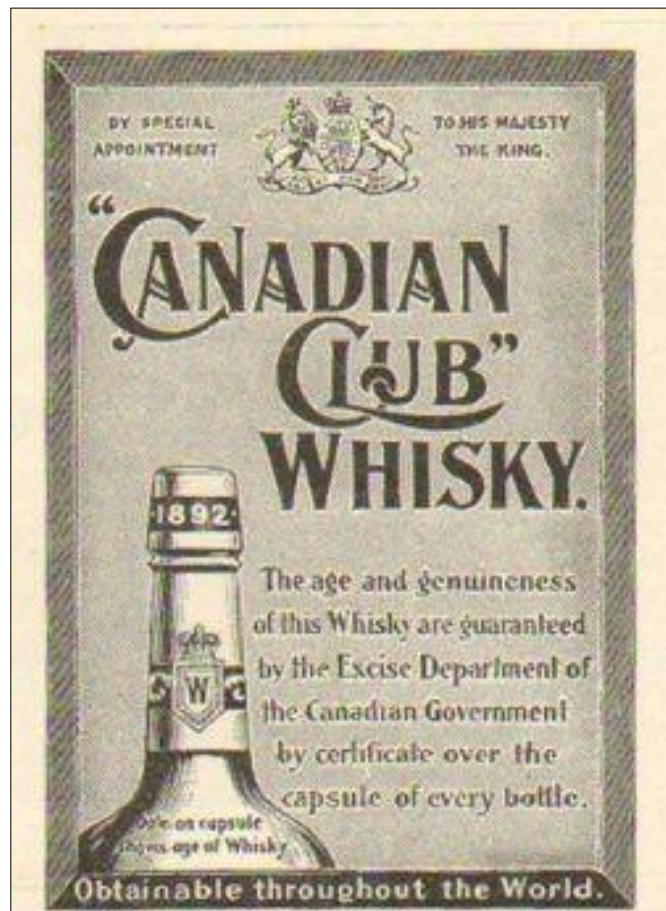
Along with art and culture, other talents arrived with the Scots and the Irish, notably the distilling of whisky. A number of sources, including the Canadian Encyclopedia, list James Grant as Canada's first whisky maker – in Quebec City around 1786.

In Scotland, there is much talk of the new laws being introduced to address their challenging drug abuse problem. It's not as extreme as the fentanyl epidemic in the US but it is still in need of urgent attention. Scotland is following Canada's lead in demanding decriminalisation for personal supply of recreational drugs, such as Cannabis. In mid-September laws were passed in Scotland for there to be free clinics where addicts can inject in sanitary conditions. Authorities expect a massive drop in fatalities and hospital visits from drug users as a result. (Drug Law Reform Proposals, 07/07/2023 – The Scottish Government website)

I've just come back from shopping and already one or two of the stores are putting out Christmas paraphernalia!! I won't rant and I won't swear but come on, it's only September!!

Anyway, I hope you all have a lovely few months ahead and that you stay healthy and happy, as best you can.

Yours Aye,



Advertisement from the 1930s.
copied from Pinterest Sept. 2023

Clan Ramsay - President's Letter



Congratulations to our Clan Chief, The Earl of Dalhousie, formerly the Lord Steward of the Royal Household, who has been made a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, by King Charles. The Knight Grand Cross is the highest grade of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Royal Victorian Order is an order of knighthood established by Queen Victoria in 1896. It recognizes distinguished personal service to the British monarch.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Highland Games October 20-22. These are especially important games for us because we will inaugurate three new officers: Pam Ramsay McNeil from Indiana as President, Mike Ramsey from Texas as Vice President and Melanie Caldwell Hudson from South Carolina as Secretary/Historian/Archivist.

All three of these new officers have tremendous energy and have exhibited a strong commitment to Clan Ramsay. I believe the future of the Clan is in good hands!

Plus, these are always good games! Come if you can to welcome your new officers and join us for a grand time!

Ora et Labora

Dick McGraw, President Clan Ramsay International



James Hubert Ramsay , Chief the R. Hon.
The Earl of Dalhousie, GCVO



Breast Star of Knights/Dames
Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order

Clan Ramsay - Pieces of the Puzzle: Part 2

Finding a common ancestor in Scotland through DNA

Phillip Gregory Ramsey is another member of the FTDNA Ramsay, Ramsey, Rums Project. He has recently submitted his Big Y test request, and we are waiting to confirm his relationship with Bruce and Robert.

In the previous article, I highlighted the relationship between Bruce and Robert, and Greg lists his earliest known ancestor as the exact same person as Bruce, namely Charles A Ramsey, b. 1780.

With Bruce and Robert proven to be related to the same man who formed SNP E-FT63485, Greg will reinforce the relationship and help he and Bruce confirm they are related closely to Robert Guy Ramsay, and that common ancestor in Maybole, Ayrshire.

Greg traced his line to Charles' son George Washington Ramsey. Bruce traced his line to son William Hamilton Ramsey. Bruce was the first of this group to test his DNA at the Big Y level, which measures up to 700 STR (short tandem repeats of selected segments of DNA) markers, as well as SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms - mutations). When two or more people share a SNP, they are proven to be closely related genetically.

Next came Robert Guy Ramsay, who lives in Newcastle upon Tyre (new member -Welcome, Robert), who had been matched up with our "Norman" branch of Ramsay/Ramsey at lower levels of STR matching, but who received the identical SNP of E-FTD63485 as Bruce. This proves Bruce and Robert share a common ancestor back in Scotland. When? The best current guess is from the early to mid 1700s, as we currently can't connect Charles, b. 1780 from Mifflin Co, PA, to Robert's earliest ancestor John Ramsay, b. 1726 from Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland. So, Greg became a candidate for an upgrade to Big Y, to help bridge the gap between Mifflin Co. PA and Maybole, Ayrshire.

While we wait for Greg's Big Y results, we'll keep looking for the common thread among these three, as they share genetic codes with another thirty or so Ramsay/Ramsey DNA Project members. The most likely outcome for Greg's results will be either, joining Bruce and Robert at their current E-FTD63485, which will further reinforce their common ancestor being from Maybole, or, Bruce and Greg will form a new, more recent SNP, getting closer to knowing the time when their ancestor branched away from Robert's.

If you have already submitted a Y-DNA test, and would like to participate in the Ramsay/Ramsey Project, you can join at <https://www.familytreedna.com/public/Ramsey?iframe=ycolored>

We have started a special Clan Ramsay DNA testing fund, to help with the cost of purchasing DNA kits. A committee will be formed to decide which requests will be most beneficial to the most members. If you are interested in being on this committee, let the Clan officers know.

If you are interested in DNA testing, and would like information on how Submitted by to get started, feel free to email me at [snsmike@prodigy.net](mailto:snmike@prodigy.net).

Mike Ramsey Texas Commissioner

**For additional information on this topic please refer to Part 1 of Pieces of the Puzzle in the Summer 2023 edition of An Drochaid.*



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Membership Report

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
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
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.
Clan Leslie Society International

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Membership Report

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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 61)

Membership Report

(Continued from page 60)

Societies

Greater Moncton Scottish Association
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association
St Andrew's Society of Toronto
Scottish Studies Foundation
Scottish Society of Ottawa
The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys
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-Essex 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
ScotlandShop
Taylor's Tartans
William Glen & Son Canada Ltd

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA)

The summer season continued with our participation at the New Brunswick Highland Games Festival at Government House in Fredericton which celebrated it's 40th Anniversary.

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA) along with our Celtic cousins the New Brunswick Irish Canadian Cultural Association and the Central New Brunswick Welsh Association welcomed visitors to our joint information and display tent . We have found that this cooperative approach works very well given the interrelationship of our organizations . We are able to share our research resources and provide a “ one stop “ visitor experience .

For the first time since 2019 the Haggis Café and Scottish Bake Shop our only fund raiser returned to the games to a terrific welcoming from visitors , competitors , and games volunteers . The main menu attraction was the Haggis which is made by the NBSCA in Dumfries at a local maple sugar camp , The Dumfries Maples where the wild haggis roam the Dumfries Highlands ! Also on the menu was scotch eggs , scones , shortbreads , bacon butties , and Irn Bru . The bilingual menu is attached to this report .At the end of the second day all we had left was a few shortbread crumbs , it was a sell-out!

Next was the Miramichi Scottish Festival sponsored by the Highland Society of New Brunswick At Miramichi , the Society was established in 1846 .The weekend started with a Tartan Candlelight Banquet which was well attended and featured The Ode to the Haggis , introductions of the Clan Tartans present , awards , the passing of the mull , and entertainment . The next day was an Old-Fashioned

Family Picnic at Wilson's Point Historic Site adjacent to the North and South Branches of the Miramichi River where Scottish settlers arrived in 1765 and established a settlement . Today the grave sites have been restored along with a recreation of the original St. James Presbyterian Church.

The final day started with a church service followed by an entertaining afternoon at the MacDonald Farm Provincial Heritage Site which featured the Moncton District Pipes and Drums along with highland dancers and singers . The NBSCA hosted an information display on Scottish Heritage and Culture which attracted lots of interest.

(Continued on page 64)



Government House, Fredericton, NB



The Dumfries Maples

NB Scottish Cultural Association

TAIGEIS 's COFAIDH - HAGGIS CAFE

BIADH!

Taigeis 's Buna

8.00

Pai Feòil

2 for 6.00

Hama 's Buna

4.00

Ugh Albannach

6.00

Rola Isbean

2.00

Biadh fuinte

4.00

Sgona

3.00

Bruan Mòr

3.00

Bratach Crispie Rus

1.00

DEOCHAN!

POP ALBANNACH

❖ Im Bru

4.00

Botal bùm

2.00

Cofaidh / Ti

2.00

FOOD!

Haggis-on-a-Bun

Beef Meat Pie

Bacon Butty

Scotch Egg

Sausage Roll

Baked Goods

Scone

Large Shortbread

Rice Krispy Flag

DRINKS!

SCOTTISH POP

❖ Im Bru

Bottled Water

Coffee/Tea

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA)

(Continued from page 62)

I enjoyed the three-part lecture series by the Scottish Studies Foundation and sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto on Scottish Heritage and Culture to be very interesting and informative , I especially enjoyed the "The Scottish Inn " and their relationship to the military campaigns and of course the food .

I am looking forward to the four-part Symposium for Growth and Success hosted by CASSOC , thanks to everyone involved in organizing the symposium.

Upcoming events for the remainder of 2023 include the Fredericton North Heritage Fair with our Celtic cousins , Remembrance Day Ceremonies ,St. Andrew's Day Flag Raising at the Provincial Legislature and banquets, and celebration of the 225 anniversary of the St. Andrews Society of Saint John.

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc; was incorporated as a provincial not-for-profit Scottish Association in 1980 and in addition to our regular individual and family members we have fourteen member associations as follows ; Caledonian Society of Restigouche , Clan MacLean Atlantic , Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew, Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew Pipe Band , Gathering of the Scots , Greater Moncton Scottish Association , Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi , New Brunswick Highland Games Festival , Saint Andrew's Society of Saint John , Scotch Colony History Book Club , ScotDance New Brunswick , Scottish Heritage Fund , Southern Victoria Pipe Band and Kings Landing Historical Settlement. The volunteers in all these organizations including the NBSCA have an amazing commitment to preserving and promoting New Brunswick's Scottish Heritage and Culture

Mel Fitton

President,
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA)



Haggis Café Banner



Wilson's Point



Tartan Candlelight Banquet



Scottish Studies Foundation



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.

Thanks to the generous support of our membership, the Scottish Studies Foundation has made a \$50,000 donation to the University of Guelph to support an undergraduate History Co-op Position in Scottish Studies for the next five years. This is a first for the University and will allow a student to be paid as they work alongside University staff on research and other projects pertaining to Scottish Studies in the History Department. This is a unique and important learning opportunity for students. The work will be designed to enhance students' development, deepen their training in outreach and knowledge mobilization, and highlight their extraordinary capacities as scholars to the wider community as they continue to learn valuable, transferable technical and intellectual skills. Experiential learning like this continues to be a vital pillar of higher education and we are delighted that interviews for the position are now taking place shortly with the successful candidate to be announced in the next few weeks. Also, to further reinforce our support for Scottish Studies at Guelph we have donated \$100,000 to be added to our existing large and growing endowment fund there to provide critical assistance to students and encourage scholarship for generations to come.

(Continued on page 67)



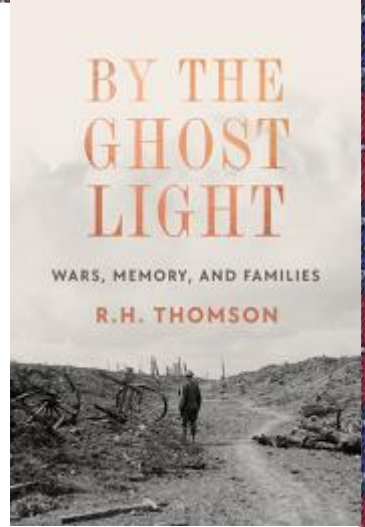
R. H. Thomson in the role of Matthew Cuthbert, the CBC production Anne with an E

(Continued from page 66)

We are also delighted to announce that internationally acclaimed Canadian actor, R. H. Thomson (Robert Holmes Thomson CM), will be this year's recipient of the Scottish Studies Society's Annual Scot of the Year Award and invite you and your friends and family to attend the presentation which will take place on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Arts & Letters Club in Toronto.

R. H. 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. He has won a Genie Award, two Gemini Awards, a Dora Award and a Canadian Screen Award, as well as the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement. He is a passionate advocate for arts and culture in Canada and was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2010.

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 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.



Left Photo: George, Sam, Willie and the Rev. John, the four Thomson brothers who came to Canada around the mid 1870s. A few years after that, they brought their parents out to join them. George (bearded and a bit doleful on the chair on photo-left) is R. H. Thomson's great grandfather who was born on September 13, 1848, in Glasgow, Scotland and died on October 14, 1918 in Toronto. Before moving to Glasgow, the Thomsons had lived in Ayrshire and R. H. recalls that on a family visit to Scotland, a "Mrs Brown" took them to see the small stone croft where she said the Thomsons had lived for four hundred years. Myth or fact, he's not sure, but remembers being an amazed 12 year old.

The Scot of the Year event will be a magnificent evening of fine food, music and dance with a Scots-Canadian flavour in the historic environment of the Arts & Letters Club, designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2007. Tickets for this event are \$200 per

(Continued on page 68)

Scottish Studies Foundation



(Continued from page 67)

person and you can order online or by mail at <https://scottishstudies.com/950-scot-of-the-year-2023.htm>. (The dress code is Highland dress or business casual with a Scottish touch.)

We do hope you will be able to join us for this memorable evening. For more information, please contact Maggie McEwan by telephone at 905-301-5475 or by e-mail at: magmcewan@gmail.com

We are pleased to be able to continue with our popular series of online talks on Zoom with the next one scheduled on Saturday, October 28, at 10 a.m. EDT when Professor Paul Grant will examine the supernatural short stories of Scottish author and past Governor General of Canada, John Buchan.

Buchan, who is known principally for a series of espionage thrillers—most famously, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*—is also the author of a large number of stories that deal with supernatural themes. Given his wide-ranging interests, this should come as no surprise: he experimented with many genres during his career and his fascination with the supernatural is an example of his eclecticism. Nevertheless, his work in this field has only recently begun to receive the attention it deserves. Buchan wrote around twenty supernatural tales from the 1890s to the 1930s, but because they appeared over many years and in various publications, they are generally not seen as a body of work.

(Continued on page 69)

(Continued from page 68)

In Paul's talk, titled John Buchan's Supernatural Fiction, he will address this situation and assess Buchan's contribution to this genre. In doing so, a number of questions arise. How do Buchan's stories of the supernatural compare to those written by his famous Scottish forebears, such as Scott, Hogg, and Stevenson? Did Buchan bring anything new to the genre, or are his tales based on tried and tested scenarios? Does he have particular strengths which distinguish his stories? Finally, we might ask why a man who seemed to embody scientific rationalism was so persistently drawn to the uncanny

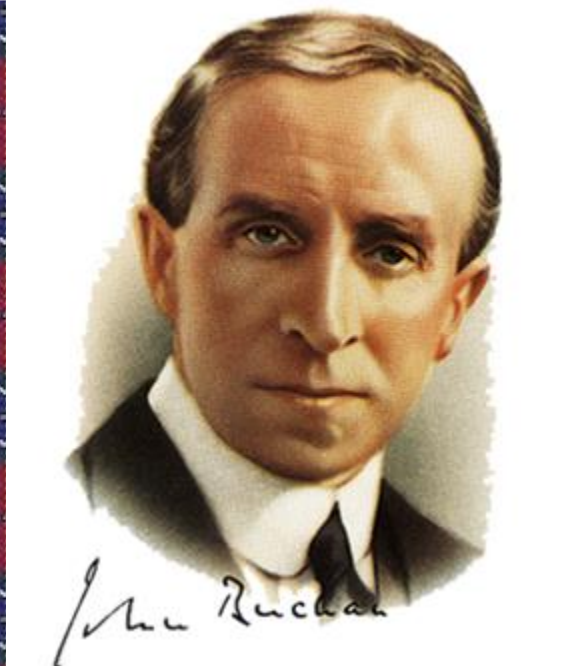
Paul Grant is an Associate Professor of English at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. He has degrees from the University of Glasgow, where he received the A.C. Bradley Medal for the Most Distinguished Graduate in English, and Cambridge University, where he was awarded a Ph.D. for his dissertation on the humour of Russian author Vladimir Nabokov. Paul's main research area is Humour Studies, and next year will see the publication of his labour of love, *Mind and Matter: The Humour of Vladimir Nabokov*, by Edinburgh University Press. But he also has an abiding interest in supernatural literature and has published some academic articles in this field, as well as creative work (one of his poems was longlisted in *The Best Horror of the Year* anthology for 2021).

To register for this event, kindly contact David Hunter by email at davidhunter@scottishstudies.com. You will then be sent the appropriate Zoom login information. Please register no later than Friday, October 27.

Note that you can listen to Paul narrate *Skule Skerry*, one of Buchan's short stories via the following link:

<https://scottishstudies.com/zoom-talk-paul-grant-skule-skerry.htm>

(Continued on page 70)



(Continued from page 69)

As I mentioned in my last report, 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 book is \$30 (including delivery) and it can be ordered via our website: <https://scottishstudies.com/great-scots.htm>

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

The book is full of fascinating anecdotes from his research and his career in publishing. It features 35 writers with links to Scotland, from Sir Alexander Mackenzie to Joseph Boyden, and is illustrated by co-author Anthony Jenkins who served as editorial cartoonist, caricaturist and writer with the *Globe and Mail* for four decades.

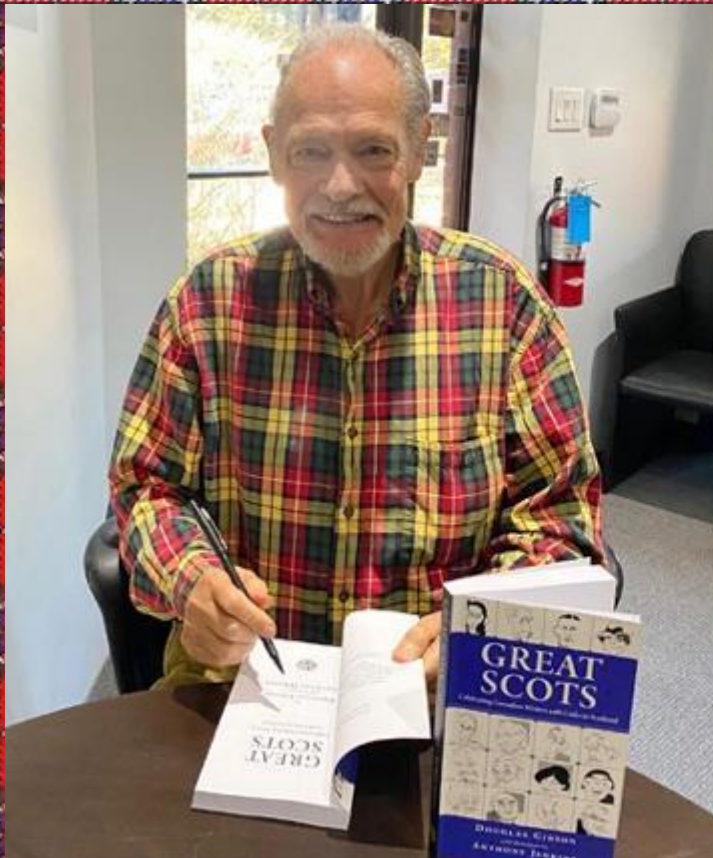
This very personal book, often involving Canadian authors that Gibson knew well, is a lively and important one. It is striking that several of the writers featured, like Sir Alexander Mackenzie and John Galt, wrote important books set in Canada, long before Canada existed as a country. Douglas Gibson's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

Anthony Jenkins, born Canadian, in Toronto, served as editorial cartoonist, caricaturist and writer with *The Globe and Mail* for four decades, while visiting 83 countries during his leaves of absence. His distinctive style of portraiture values the beauty of the line itself, in addition to its capturing a likeness. As a result, the 35 portraits he has created to introduce each chapter of *Great Scots* make the book a superb collection of very memorable art.

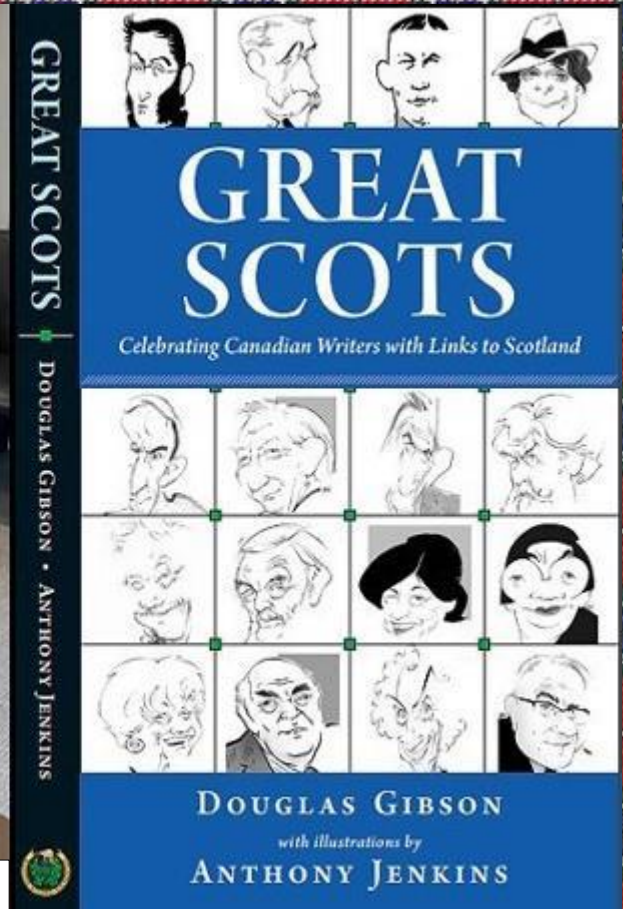
Beautifully designed by Gibson's old friend, the legendary Kong Njo, this major book will delight readers of Canadian Literature at its best.

Please visit our website at <https://www.scottishstudies.com/great-scots.htm> for more information and to obtain your signed copy of this captivating book — a great gift idea for the upcoming festive season.

(Continued on page 71)



Douglas Gibson proudly signing copies of his latest book



(Continued from page 70)

In closing, I wish you and the people close to you all the best as we come to the end of another year.

David Hunter,

President,

Scottish Studies Foundation

davidhunter@scottishstudies.com

www.scottishstudies.com



THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION

St Andrew's Society of Toronto



A note from the President

Now that it is October, we have started accepting new memberships and renewals for 2024. The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto has been celebrating Scottish-Canadian culture since 1836. Members are the lifeblood of the Society and we have a full calendar of events where you can join in.

These include pub nights and curling socials as well as formal affairs like the St. Andrew's Charity Ball and our Burn's Dinner. The 2023 Charity Ball will be back at the Fairmont Royal York on November 18th and tickets are on sale now – for further information, see below. We would love to see you at arguably one of the best formal events in the city!



An annual membership is only \$25 and runs from January 1st to December 31st. These fees allow the Society to support groups working to preserve our culture like Celtic musicians, Highland Dancers and students specializing in Scottish studies.

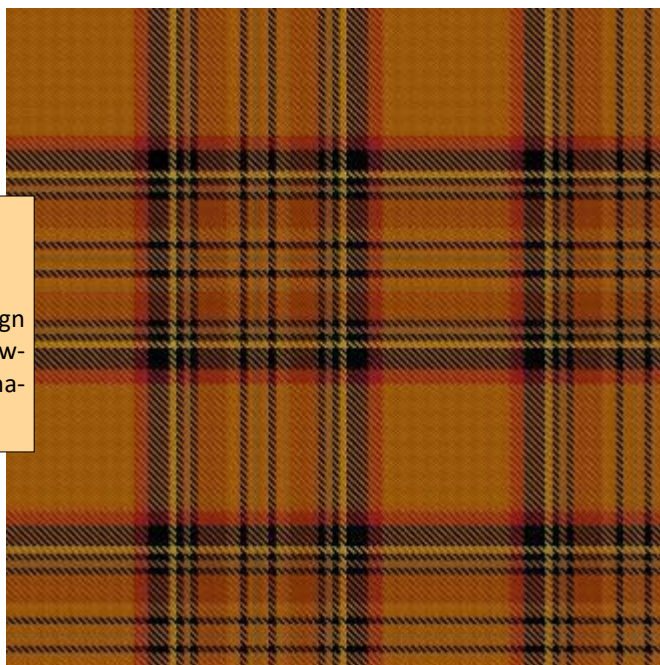
By adding a donation to your membership fee, you are helping us assist grass roots charitable organisations in Toronto that help those in need or transition. We have been providing this kind of support for over 187 years. We are pleased to announce that our grants programme is now open to applicants for 2024.

John Sawyer
President

Tartan of the Month - Royal Pumpkin Spice

Crown Copyright Source: Scottish Register of Tartans

Based on the Royal Stewart tartan, this whimsical design pays homage to the colours and flavours of the Halloween and holiday season, evoking spicy notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, and of course, pumpkin!



St Andrew's Society of Toronto

CHARITY BALL TICKETS NOW ON SALE ROYAL YORK HOTEL SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER

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.

For all information on the Charity Ball, including the dates for our ceilidh dance practices, please visit our website or click on the button below.



*Please note that our ceilidh dance practices start earlier this year - the first one is on Tuesday October 24th from 8-10pm at the Moss Park Armoury (130 Queen St. East)

Purchase your tickets before October 31st to be entered into an Early Bird contest to win a night at the Royal York Hotel!

[Purchase Charity Ball Tickets Here](#)

PAST PRESIDENTS LUNCH

From left going clockwise: Catherine O'May, John Hutchinson, John Sawyer, Doug Gibson, Pat Main, Kathryn Witt, Don Cameron and Graham Desson

The annual Past Presidents Lunch took place last week with seven Past Presidents in attendance along with our current President, John Sawyer. It was a wonderful get together with great discussions about the Society over the years being held.



St Andrew's Society of Toronto



The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and 48th Highlanders of Canada, are beyond proud and humbled that renowned painter Peter Farmer has donated a homage to the Piper for auction at this year's St. Andrew's Society Annual Charitable Ball at the Royal York (shown above). The Committee is so grateful for this generous gift for auction and what this can mean for the many charities we support.

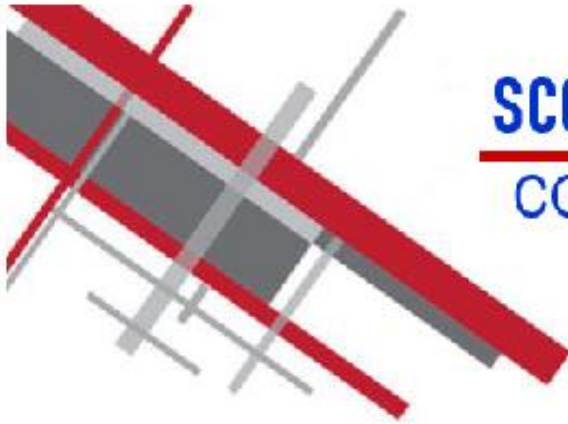
Peter Farmer is a Scottish born Canadian artist. Painting internationally for over 20 years he has exposed his artworks in major galleries across North America. Exposing work at Musée des Beaux Arts, the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) and the MAC (Musée d'Art Contemporain). His work has been purchased and commissioned by private collectors all over the world and by companies like McDonalds, Veuve Clicquot, Ferrari, Ritz-Carlton, etc.

Peter's work absorbs the many cultures and colors in a Future Fauvistic painting style

Scottish North American Community Conference

The Countdown is On!

**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
gov.scot



CHICAGO
SCOTS



AMERICAN-SCOTTISH
FOUNDATION



DETROIT
SCOTS
The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Inc. 1848

**'A Scottish North American Conversation:
How our Culture and History
Empower our Future!'**

**Register NOW for the 2023 SNACC!
December 1 & 2, 2023, In-Person & Online!**

Further details and registration at:

<https://scottishleadershipconference.com>

For further information or to join our mailing list:

snaccvent@gmail.com



To all members of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada

Get into the Digital Directory of Organizations affiliated with Scotland

From the Scottish Connections Team of the Scottish Government

Dear CASSOC Members,

You may be aware that the Scottish Government published its [Scottish Connections Framework](#), Scotland's new diaspora policy, earlier this year.

The Scottish Connections Framework is a commitment to our diaspora, an invitation to engage, and a commitment to deepen our global Scottish community. Our approach to diaspora engagement is inclusive – we welcome those with ancestry or heritage links, our educational and alumni communities, those with Scottish business links, or a wider connection to Scottish culture.

We recognise that there are already many established and passionate organisations around the world who work to bring together and support these diverse Scottish communities.

To encourage connections with and between these organisations and their members, we are currently developing a public-facing digital directory of organisations around the world affiliated with Scotland. This directory will be launched on [scotland.org](#) later this year, to coincide with St Andrew's Day.

As an organisation with a link to Scotland, we would like to invite you to be a part of this directory. The directory will include your organisation or business name, a short description of your organisation's activity, and links to your website or social media channels. Anyone visiting [scotland.org](#) will then be able to find and reach out to organisations in regions around the world.

If you would like to be included in the [scotland.org](#) diaspora directory, please complete this short [form](#) by 20 October. Our privacy notice outlines data usage on our website.

Later this year, we will also launch a digital service where individuals can register themselves as a member of Scotland's international diaspora and receive information from Scotland. If your organisation would like to hear more about this launch to share with your members, please indicate on the form.

If you have any questions, please contact the Scottish Connections team at diaspora@gov.scot.

Warm regards

The Scottish Connections team at the Scottish Government

Chairpersons Note: Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada has registered already and we strongly suggest that all our eligible members register as well. Click [HERE](#) to access the form.

Clan MacLeod - Quebec Society

By M. Patrice L. MacLeod, *6th of Saguenay*, GJM,
FTC, CO-cMQ, Esq

Our society has adopted 2 new tartans designed by me.

The tartan of the kilt I wear in the image below is the first. The "Pepemau" (It means "Of different kinds of colours" in Innu-aimun, a dialect of the Algonquian language, spoken in Quebec). The second is the "Pepemau Dress".

You can see more about these tartans on The Scottish Register of tartans by following links below each.



Pepemau

<https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=12818>



Pepemau Dress

<https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/tartanDetails?ref=13899>



Clan MacDougall Gathering 2024: Dunollie Welcomes You

The team at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds is delighted to be hosting the next International Clan MacDougall Gathering which will be taking place between Tuesday 30th July and Sunday 4th August 2024, all inclusive. We look forward to welcoming clan members from all around the world, to see some familiar faces from the 2019 gathering and meet many of you for the first time.

This gathering is a fantastic opportunity for the clan to regroup and reconnect in their ancestral home. We are putting together a schedule filled with a wide range of activities so that each participant can tailor their visits to their own personal interests and preferences and make the most of being in this beautiful and historic part of the world. These will include opportunities to visit our beautiful region, the town of Oban and some of the nearby islands as well as learn more about the clan's history and its roots by walking in your ancestors footsteps in key places, sites and monuments of historical importance with ties to the MacDougall clan, as well as moments to socialise and exchange with other clan relatives and explore Scottish culture, take part in whisky tastings and more.

To attend the gathering you will need have registration tickets, which are currently on sale through our website. You will need these to book onto the specific events we have planned for you on each day of the gathering. Most of these will have limited spaces available and so we recommend booking

(Continued on page 79)

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

(Continued from page 78)

them online well in advance as places will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis. We expect to have these as well as a detailed event programme ready for you over the winter months. Tickets and all information can be found on the dedicated page of our website: www.dunollie.org/clan-macdougall-gathering-2024

We are also very pleased to have Fee Shaw return to us as Gathering Coordinator. Fee is the brains behind this operation and has been working with us one day a week for the last few months to plan next year's gathering. She is very experienced in this field having already

planned the 2019 Gathering and spending the rest of her working week working to ensure live performances and large-scale events tour across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Whilst we are working hard to prepare for your arrival and offer the most exciting and memorable event programme as we can, you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Oban (the small town on the west coast of Scotland next to which Dunollie Castle is situated) as well as finding your own accommodation for the duration of your stay. We recommend doing both of these things well in advance as this will help you secure the best deals in terms of prices and choice both.



If you haven't travelled to Oban, Scotland before or if you're wondering what to expect from a Clan Gathering at Dunollie, please contact us on info@dunollie.org and our Marketing and Communication Coordinator, Florence, will do her best to help you know what to expect and plan your trip with a bit of local knowledge.

Best wishes from Dunollie, Scotland

– Florence Medard, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Photos courtesy of MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

Instagram: [@dunolliemuseumcastle](https://www.instagram.com/dunolliemuseumcastle)

Website: www.dunollie.org

Facebook: [@DunollieOban](https://www.facebook.com/DunollieOban)

LAST OF THE FREE

The cover photo of my well-worn and well-thumbed paperback shows how many times I have re-read this gem of a book. Scottish historian James Hunter's wide ranging account spans ten thousand years of Scotland's past, but focuses on the period of history recorded following the arrival of the Romans.

This is the one I go to when I want to get an understanding of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

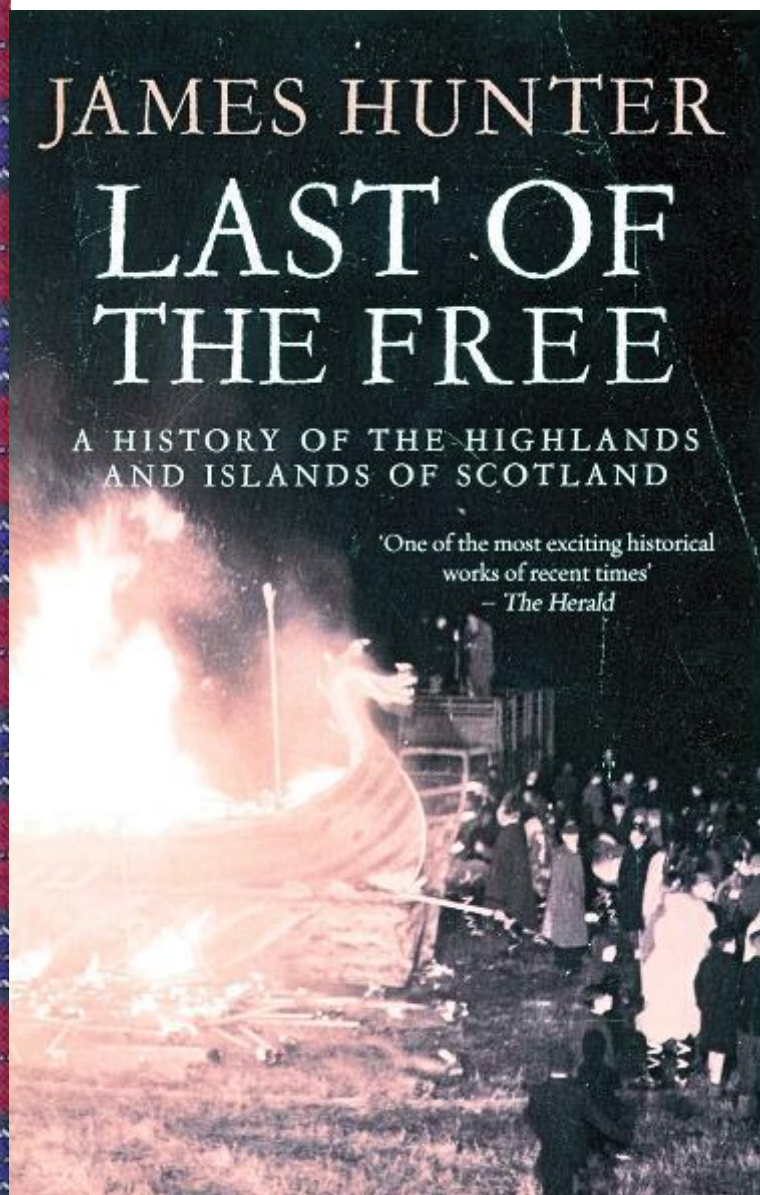
I used to think of Scotland and its history in terms of clans and battles like the ones we see depicted in the media, but then I asked myself: "What was it like before there were clans?" If you want to

know the answer, then I suggest you read LAST OF THE FREE.

That quest led me to the Gaels and the Picts whose ancestral tribes fought the conquering Romans to an uneasy centuries-long standoff that remains engraved upon the landscape by two east-west walls – the Antonine Wall between the River Clyde and the Firth of Forth, and Hadrian's wall of stone about 100 miles (160 km) farther south.

What I like about James Hunter is that he explains with fascinating details why these events happened. For example, the book's title is taken from a Roman account of a defiant speech which their enemy, Calgacus, made to rouse his people to battle against becoming enslaved by Rome – then Hunter explains that Calgacus' magnificent oratory was probably a literary device used by the Roman historian to embellish his

(Continued on page 81)



Clan MacDougall Society of North America - Book Review

(Continued from page 80)

biography of his father-in-law – the victorious General Agricola who defeated Calgacus at Mons Graupius somewhere in the Highlands.

After the Romans retreated homeward three hundred years later, they left behind a Christianized area of former client states in southern Scotland which retained their religion while other western portions of the old Roman empire adopted the pagan beliefs of invading European tribesmen. It was here, near Carlisle, that St. Patrick's autobiography says he was born and, though he became famous for spreading Christianity into northern Ireland, many other proselytizers went unrecorded.

Their monasteries with their scriptoriums preserving and copying manuscripts made Ireland, and nearby locations such as Whithorn, Galloway and the Isle of Iona, into bastions preserving knowledge lost elsewhere during the dark ages of the early medieval period. For the next four centuries, their Christian civilization sent out monks, hermits and missionaries to spread learning and re-Christianize the British and European mainlands.

The evangelical traffic to dark age Europe established major sea trade routes for commerce through the Irish Sea and adjacent Hebrides before the arrival of the Vikings. This and much more are the subjects of the first two chapters – but there are seven more.

Subsequent chapters take us through the era of clans; explaining how clans such as ours and our Clan Donald cousins survived and thrived while resisting waves of outside pressures – until they could no longer withstand the military power of central governments that could afford the powerful new weapons of the gunpowder revolution.

That period was followed by a twilight era of weakened clans ineffectively ruled by a weak central government unable to properly provide for its Gaelic people – had it wished to. Clearance and emigration were thought to be cures for wretched conditions after the valuable fighting men were no longer required for military service against Napoleon. Then, after the 1850s, some efforts to improve

the decimated Highland economy and culture began and the trend has continued to today. If you want to understand the Highlands and Islands then you should read *LAST OF THE FREE*.

Originally published in 1999 and since reprinted, it is still available from Amazon and other booksellers. It is well-worth searching out this wide-ranging, well-told story of Scotland's past and present.

Scott MacDougald
Canadian Vice President





Explore the 5,000 year history of Kilmartin Glen



Early September will see the opening of the newly refurbished Kilmartin Museum in the heart of Mid Argyll. The Museum tells the fascinating story of the historic landscape of Kilmartin Glen, one of Scotland's richest prehistoric landscapes, featuring over 800 historic monuments, cairns, standing stones, stone circles and rock art dating back over 5000 years.

Find out more [about](#) Kilmartin Glen Museum

Must Read Books About Scotland



With its vivid landscapes, atmospheric castles, magical islands, and rich history and folklore, it's little wonder that Scotland has inspired authors for hundreds of years right up to the present day. From fact to fiction, here's VisitScotland's recommendations for great reads to help inspire your next visit.

[Explore nine must read books about Scotland](#)

Scotland by Rail



Many people love travelling by rail, and Scotland is home to some of the most stunning railway journeys in the world. Whether you enjoy a journey spent admiring the scenery just admiring the scenery, fancy revisiting the golden age of the steam train, or are looking for a rail museum where you can learn from knowledgeable fellow enthusiasts, you'll find the right rail experience for you in Scotland.

[VisitScotland's Top 12 Recommended Railway Experiences](#)

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Island of the Month – Shetland

From incredible seascapes, breathtaking beaches, the abundant wildlife to prehistoric sites and a



unique heritage linking to the time of the Vikings, Shetland comprises an amazing groups of islands, offering a unique visiting experience which will live long in the memory of any visitor. From island hopping to the unique experiences of the Up Helly As winter fire festivals, VisitScotland has collected a list of top recommendations for a visit to Shetland.

[Explore the top 15 things to do on a visit to Shetland](#)

Castle of the Month – Thirlestane Castle, Scottish Borders



Just 35 minutes drive south of Edinburgh, Thirlestane Castle lies in the beautiful Scottish Borders. Dating back to the 16th century, Thirlestane is one of the oldest and finest inhabited castles in Scotland, and once hosted Bonnie Prince Charlie. As well as the splendid interiors, visitors can enjoy a programme of events from classic car shows to traditional afternoon teas.

[Find out more about Thirlestane Castle](#)

OWN A WEE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL CLUB



For a limited time, you could really, truly, actually become an owner of a wee Scottish football club. And the best part? You can become an owner for only \$100. The newest club in Scotland, [Caledonian Braves FC](#), play just outside Glasgow in the Lowland League (Scotland's fifth tier) and are building a global ownership community one fan at a time. As an owner, you'll have a ton of perks and an equal vote in club matters. And your Saturday afternoons will never be the same.

WATCH: [Founding Braves owner Chris Ewing's interview on ESPN](#)

To learn more and secure your shares, visit [Wefunder.com/cbfc](https://wefunder.com/cbfc)

Games, Festivals, and other Events

Check the CASSOC website at www.scotscanada.ca for the latest listings.

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

Oct 26 Scot of the Year Celebration, Scottish Studies Society <https://www.scottishstudies.com/>

Oct 28 CASSOC Symposium on Growth and Success : Membership Connections
<https://www.scotscanada.ca/symposium>

Nov 18 St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/

Nov 19 CASSOC Symposium on Growth and Success : Volunteers and Events
<https://www.scotscanada.ca/symposium>

Nov 26 Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada AGM <https://www.scotscanada.ca/>

Nov 30 St Andrew's Society Toronto Fall Mixer https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/

Dec 1-2 Scottish North American Community Conference Washington <https://scottishleadershipconference.com/>

Dec 16 CASSOC Symposium on Growth and Success : Heritage <https://www.scotscanada.ca/symposium>

Dec 31 Scottish Society of Ottawa, Hogman-eh!, Ottawa, Ontario <https://ottscot.ca/hogmanay>

2024

Jan 19 St Andrew's Society Toronto Annual Burns Supper https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/rabbie-burns-dinner/

Jan 20 CASSOC Symposium on Growth and Success : Sustainability <https://www.scotscanada.ca/symposium>

Jan 25 St Andrew's Society Toronto Burns Statue Celebration
https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/burns-statue-visitation/

April 2024

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

May 2024

CASSOC Spring Meeting <https://www.scotscanada.ca/>

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/>

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Games, Festivals, and other Events

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

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

July 2024

July -14-21 International Clan Gregor Gathering and Bi-centennial 2024, Scotland

Embro Highland Games Embro, ON <https://embrohighlandgames.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

Aug 7-9 Clan MacAulay International Gathering Cape Breton, NS

clanmacaulay.org.uk/2024-clan-gathering-announcement

Glengarry Highland Games Maxville, ON <https://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/>

Montréal Scottish Festival & Highland Games Verdun, QC 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 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'.

Pipers and Speakers

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

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

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

CASSOC Road Show - Québec Celtic Festival



A view from inside the large tent. For the most part, visitors came into the CASSOC tent then turned into the clans' tent



The organisers provide a large tent for the clans and societies.
The CASSOC tent fits perfectly on the side, with an opening in the large tent

CASSOC Road Show - Québec Celtic Festival



Ewen Booth, Jacques Mc Nicoll , and William Petrie



CASSOC Road Show - Québec Celtic Festival



With Ken Mackenzie. QC Commissioner, Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada



Visit from Ted and Louise Gunn

CASSOC Road Show - Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival



The Niagara Celtic Heritage festival took place September 16-17 in Lockport, New York. We were blessed with beautiful weather the entire weekend.



Helping at the CASSOC tent are Bob and Sharon Beattie.

CASSOC Road Show - Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival



The clan village started short at the main entrance of festival.
The tents were placed between the field for heavy events and the main stage.
CASSOC, clan Gregor, and Clan MacFarlane were in a row, while the other clans were placed across



CASSOC Road Show - Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival



Bob Beattie meets a fellow Fife native.

And I meet a representative from Clan Clause! Yes, Clan Clause is an actual clan. From what I was able to tell, they look like this gentlemen; a white hair beard with a Santa Claus jacket.



No different then other festivals, CASSOC tent gets a regular flow of visitors.

CASSOC Road Show - Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival



Erica Petrie tending to visitors while others are grabbing lunch.



Self-serving display, as opposed to my tent next door. Need to work on my displays :-)

CASSOC Road Show - Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival



Quite an impressive crowd for the parade. Clans as well as Celtic groups, medieval societies, and other organisations participate.

CASSOC Road Show - Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival



Clans were well represented.



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 Kylesku Bridge in Lairg. It spans the Kylesku Strait and was built over a 2 year period from 1982 to 1984. It's elegant design complements the scenic beauty of the surrounding region of Loch Gleann, Loch Glencoul and Loch a' Chàirn Bhàin. Its construction replaced a ferry service that was often disrupted by bad weather and tides thus the bridge having a very positive impact on tourism and other economic benefits.

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.