

# *Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord*

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Spring 2023 Newsletter

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# Frae the Chair

## Frae the Chair

As much as last year was seemingly normal for our games and festivals, there was still the lingering anxieties about what we needed to do, wanted to do, and were being forced to do about pandemic measures. This year it is looking to be much different. I'm often seeing the 'wear your mask, sanitize your hands and keep your distance' warnings displayed in places of business but evidently everyone is ignoring them. They've become wallpaper and, most likely, have been forgotten to be removed by management. Of course, the doctor's offices and hospitals I've visited are different. But then why would any of us want to expose ourselves to germs in such places where they really are likely to be.

To help kick off what looks like a great festival season, we're taking a multi-pronged approach to best serve our membership and Scottish Cultural Heritage.



CASSOC will be doing a road trip of at least 12 highland games and festivals across Canada. Starting with Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival in May we'll be showing the large banners with a poster for each member of CASSOC. We guarantee that your group will be seen in every event we attend and more so. Check out the article on the road show later in this issue.

The upcoming Spring meeting will be focused on our member groups attending highland games and festivals with a panel discussion and helpful tips on how best to succeed. Be sure to let us know what highland games and festivals you're planning to attend when you register.

A wiki is in the works to provide a centralized location for how-tos and answers on attending events and more as the wiki develops.

We're revising our web and mail strategy and domains in order to better serve all of our current and future members as well the visiting public. Starting with adopting a simpler and more identifiable domain name [Scotscanada.ca](http://Scotscanada.ca), we'll be gradually transitioning our web services to a mobile ready and membership area capable database driven functionality. Unfortunately our web maintainers for the legacy website at [www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca), Jo Ann Tuskin and Pat Tuskin, have declined to continue onto the new web platform. We thank them for the great work done with the legacy site and look forward to receiving their wisdom with the new site version.

This means however that we're asking for help in maintaining the new version website so if you've knowledge and resources or wish to learn this wonderful content management technology then let me know by email at [chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca).

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

In this issue as well is an article on our successful though not straight-forward tartan registration. The new tartan is the background where used for the issue and featured as the banner on the table of contents.

Special thanks to Andrew G. McMurtry our Kennedy Society of North America Delegate to the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada for CASSOC article in the Kennedy Gazette Winter 2022

A special welcome to our two new members, Clan Watson Society and the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games. Niagara is our first highland games and festival member in the US which, as a perspective, is not that exceptional in that many of our clans and family members are US based as well. Please consider attending Niagara, it is a great event in wonderful location and not really too far across the border.

We look forward to meeting Clan Watson at the upcoming highland games that we're attending.

BTW: I had planned to write a rant based upon an excellent article titled "STRATEGY IS A MESS - HERE'S HOW YOU TIDY IT UP " but I'm just out of time and out of space. Perhaps for the next issue which may be sooner than usual.

In closing, I've been reminded by family that it's now been since the winter of 2019 that I've been chair and on my own editing this newsletter. I've always been adverse to the concept of president for life and this applies to being editor or any other key role. My ask of you, our members, is to send us your thoughts on how best to deal with our common succession challenges.

See you at the games and festivals, looking forward to good chats and comradery.

Cheers,

William Robert Petrie  
Clan Gregor  
chair@scotscanada.ca



[January 2023 Edition](#)

[March 2023 Edition](#)

[February 2023 Edition](#)

[April 2023 Edition](#)

## Join us for our Spring General Meeting 2023 Festival Season Special Sunday, May 7th at 3pm

### Featuring

A Forum on Members attending Highland Games and Festivals  
Speakers will include

Dave Radley, past President of Fergus Highland Games  
Erin Roberts, President of National Capital Highland Games  
Beth and Philip Banks of Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival  
and your CASSOC Directors

### Topics covered will include

- Why should members participate in Highland events
- Why should Highland event organizers have members participate
- What goes right and wrong with planning, participation and follow-up
- A checklist to help with members attending Highland events

The last topic will include an introduction to CASSOC's new Answer-book Wiki with how to get access, navigate and, if you wish, become a contributor.

Registration in advance is required for attending the event through Zoom.  
Streaming will be done to Facebook for view-only attendees.

[Click here to attend through Zoom](#)

***Click the above link by May 6, 2023 in order to register for attending by Zoom***

Watch for more details on our Website, Facebook and Group Pages  
Or contact [events@scotscanada.ca](mailto:events@scotscanada.ca) for more information at any time

Note that a separate official notice will be sent out by email around two weeks prior to the event and that this is not a business meeting. No votes will be recorded, no registration as delegate or alternate is required.

Want to know more about being a panel participant? Contact [chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca)

## Independent goldsmith and kiltmaker

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

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



### ABOUT

Find out more about House of Cassady

LEARN MORE

### INTERESTED IN CONTEMPORARY ART JEWELLERY?

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

VISIT THE GALLERIES



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

Visit the Kiltmaking Services Page to find out more.

I WANT A KILT!





# About CASSOC

## **Founded in 1976, CASSOC's purpose is:**

To advance Scottish Cultural Heritage in Canada, such Scottish culture be defined to include, but not be restricted to, traditional Highland, Island and Lowland cultures, whether in Scotland, Canada or wherever Scottish Culture may be expressed;

To foster the organization of and co-operation and communication between Scottish federations, clans, societies or groups through the initiation and co-ordination of projects and undertakings;

Membership in CASSOC is open to any and all organizations which promote or encourage some aspect of Scottish tradition or culture, represent a link between the Scottish people and their descendants and relations in Canada, or seek to develop an understanding of the role Scotland and its culture has played in the development of Canada and its history.

## **Patrons:**

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

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

## **Meetings 2023:**

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

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

AN DROCHAID – The Bridge is the newsletter of CASSOC and will be published in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter editions. Items for publication should be submitted to the Editor, [editor@scotscanada.ca](mailto:editor@scotscanada.ca)

## **Guidelines for submissions are:**

Submissions due by the first of the month of the season for the edition, word/text readable format is preferred. A grant of right of use for publication and posting on the web is implied.

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

Publication of material is at the sole final discretion of the newsletter editor. Format, length and content may be adjusted by the editor as deemed necessary

CASSOC, the editor and agents assume no responsibility nor liability for submitted content in terms of factual correctness or right of use. All submissions will be published with the implied or explicit attribution of source.

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

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



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**Editor's Note:** *We reached out to Bill Lennox about the planning we were doing for the CASSOC spring meeting. Bill graciously replied with the following which, while we're sharing it here, we hope he can add to during the actual meeting.*

I am Bill Lennox a Board member of Clan MacFarlane Worldwide. My passion is to share the rich history of not only Clan MacFarlane but of others clans as well. To that end I share a rich history with Clan Buchannan, Clan Bruce, and Clan Galbreath. As I attend highland games I go to their respective tents greeting them sharing our mutual history. I am always welcomed into their tents. I find there are similarities among all of the clan tents. Below I give you my perspective.

As I have attended many highland games and social events I have found the common thread is family and friendship. Connecting and/or reconnecting with fellow clansmen and meeting new members of the clan and the septs.

One of the most enjoyable aspects I enjoy in hosting and attending highland games and social events is sharing the history of the clan with those who do not know what our clan is about. Also exchanging history with other clans that share a common history. Learning and gaining new insight into the mutual history we as Scot's share. Which is in my opinion is unique to our Scottish culture.

Preparation is key!

I host tents at highland games for Clan MacFarlane. A banner above the tent to show where our tent is located. Inside the tent tables are arranged to be inviting to visitors. We want them to feel welcome to step inside and visit. Pictures of our clan history, books, and maps to answer the many questions that arise. Chairs are placed around the tent to invite members and guests to stay and simply visit. A wee bit of Scottish hospitality is offered. A quest register i.e. sign in book to record our guest visits and at the end of the games the list is forwarded to our membership chair for follow up with a letter thanking them for stopping by. New members are contacted and welcomed into our clan.

Everyone who comes to a highland games or social event has expectations. Especially those who are coming for the first time. I would say in my experience most of the time we meet and even exceed quest expectations. Our members great and have robust conversations with everyone who visits. There are occasions when we simply do not have enough information to answer questions. However, emails are exchanged and attempts are made to respond at a later time.

One thing we do that I think is a highlight to a visitor is extending an invitation to join us in marching in the parade of Tartan's at the opening ceremony. It is to them a time to express their pride in the clan and to feel welcomed into the clan.





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

**September 16, 2023**

at the

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

in

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

*(not far from Niagara Falls)*



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

<https://www.niagaraceltic.com>

The MacFarlane's Gathering

Send the fiery cross swift o'er the dark glens and fountains  
Kindle the beacon on dreary Ross Dhu  
Let hundred blaze high on the Arrochar Mountain  
The flowers of MacFarlane will soon be in view.

Bid the pibroch sound bravely through gloomy Glenfruin  
Though MacGregor be backed by the proud "Sider Roy"  
He marches to battle, he marches to ruin,  
We'll welcome him there with the shout of "Loch Sloy".

When the clan is insulted - for honour's their darling  
They will die at the hearth if they cannot prevail  
For never a clan like the clan of MacFarlane  
Tread the glen of the Saxon, or hill of the Gael.

When round by the side of Benlomond they're wending,  
Their proud, stately march fills the bosom with joy;  
While the pibroch its wild stormy measure is blending  
With "This I'll defend", and the Shout of "Loch Sloy".

MacFarlane steps forth in the bloom of his vigor,  
His sons march behind him like a bright ridge of flame;  
Now welcome to battle, ye sons of Clan Gregor  
MacFarlane descends to the field of his fame.

Bid the war pipe resound through the wilds of Glenfruin  
Let the claymore in strength sweep round and destroy  
MacFarlane will fail, or MacGregor meet ruin  
On, on to the battle, my heroes, "Loch Sloy".

**Author Unknown, but featured on page 245 of  
"History of the Clan MacFarlane by Cynthia Maria Little – 1893."**



# North of Hadrian's Kilts and Celtic Clothing



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778-406-2243

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

## Come greet us at the CASSOC's booth at the following games and festivals

Date	Event Name (Members are highlighted in green)	Location
Sat May 20 to Sun May 21	Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival	Victoria, BC
Sat June 10	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON
Sat June 16 to Sun June 17	<b>Greater Moncton Highland Games</b>	Moncton, NB
Sat June 24	<b>Kingsville Highland Games</b>	Kingsville, ON
Sat July 8 to Sun July 9	<b>Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games</b>	Kincardine, ON
Sat July 22	Uxbridge Scottish Festival	Uxbridge, ON
Fri Aug 4 to Sat Aug 5	Glengarry Highland Games	Maxville, ON
Sun Aug 6	<b>Montreal Scottish Festival and Highland Games</b>	Montreal, QC
Fri Aug 11 to Sun Aug 13	<b>Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games</b>	Fergus, ON
Sat Aug 26	North Lanark Highland Games	Almonte, ON
Fri Sep 8 to Sun Sep 10	Festival Celtique de Québec	Quebec City, QC
Sat Sep 16 to Sun Sep 17	<b>Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival &amp; Highland Games</b>	Lockport, NY

Our goals with the road show is many fold.

1. To provide recognition and representation to each of our members at an event so that if you can't attend, there's still a way for the public to find you and connect to you.
2. To attend every games/festival members event in some way.
3. To have representation for CASSOC across as much of Canada as possible

We'll be setting up either a rack display or our three 8' by 5' banners with a poster for each member. The rack display, shown below, has worked very well but is not easy to travel with for long distances. For games where the rack display won't work, we'll use the large banner configuration that worked

*(Continued on page 13)*



*(Continued from page 12)*

well in Ottawa for the Scottish Society of Ottawa's Hogman'Eh last year.

An exceptional solution to attending our most western member, The Red Deer Highland Games, has been worked out for this year. We just can't do the travel in time between Moncton on June 1th and Red Deer on June 24th so we'll be sending out a large feather banner, a new style binder/book with pages similar to the posters and a set of CASSOC handout cards. Kirstin Hunter, a member of CASSOC's board of directors will be handling the setup of this at Red Deer. We will be working out how to do something similar for our member the Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games on June 17th which conflicts with the same weekend dates as the Greater Moncton Highland Games. Please come see us at any of the events and sign the visitor log.

If your group is attending an event not listed above and you'd like to have the same setup as we're doing for Red Deer, please contact us at [roadshow@scotscanada.ca](mailto:roadshow@scotscanada.ca). We'll need about 4 weeks advance notice to produce and ship you the materials.

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

We're always open to your ideas and suggestions on how to improve initiatives such as these. Please reach out and/or share with us at the upcoming Spring meeting forum on Highland Games and Festival attendance.

William Petrie

CASSOC, Chair and Newsletter Editor



# Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada Tartan Registration

The process we began last spring for having a tartan for CASSOC that is its own has been completed. To recap, at the Spring meeting last year we undertook a CASSOC tartan design challenge hosted by Emily Redman of ScotlandShop. The result was four excellent candidates which we then submitted to the membership as an online poll for selection.

The resulting winner was then formally adopted as the official CASSOC tartan by an amendment to our bylaws. A preliminary check for similarity with existing designs was done and there did not appear to be a conflict so the next step was registration with the Scottish Register of Tartans. Seemed simple enough once working through the wording and nuances of the application form. However here is response we received.

*"Dear William,*

*Thank you for your application to register the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada tartan.*

*Unfortunately, the design has been deemed to be too similar to the 'Nicolson of Lewis' tartan already on our register so we would not be able to proceed with the application in its current form.*

*Would you like to make some changes, either by changing the size of the stripes and order of the colours, or by including other colours, and send us a revised design? Alternatively, if you do not wish to make changes to your design then we can send you a refund of the registration fee at this stage.*

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

*Best wishes, Sarah - Scottish Register of Tartans"*

What immediately came to mind when reading this was, as advised in the Hitchhiker's Guide, "don't panic".

After a discussion with Emily about resubmission strategy, some tweaks were made to the design based upon the recommendation above. The key concern, we believe, with the Tartan Register was that matching thread count ratios and basic colours. Thus the following changes were made: The white stripe at the center of the sett was replaced with a black-lined yellow stripe in order to add a colour; The white stripe at the edge of the sett had black borders put on it to alter thread count; The symmetrical aspect of the green and blue stripes was adjusted to have a two thread black stripe added to the blue side in order to have a slight asymmetry different from the symmetry of the Nicholson of Lewis design. Lastly in resubmitting we heeded Emily's excellent advice to confirm what, if any, design conflict issues there would be with the new version.

The end result was the acceptance and receipt of the official registration as shown on the next page. The official registration information can be viewed on the Tartan Register's site [here](#) or click on the certificate of registration on the next page.

A belated Happy Tartan Day!

William Petrie  
Chair and Newsletter Editor

P.S. We wish all the luck to Clan Logan's commissioning of a new tartan for the Clan Logan Society International. Read more about it at <https://www.clanlogansociety.org/post/the-logan-tartan-for-the-21st-century>





## The Scottish Register of Tartans

This is to certify that the following tartan has met  
the conditions of registration set out in  
*the Scottish Register of Tartans Act, 2008.*

# *Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada*

**Registration Number: 13,861**

### **Thread count details**

W/2 K2 R46 G16 W6 K2 B16 K2 Y/2  
(Half sett, full count at pivots)

### **Colour Details**

W=WHITE; K=BLACK; R=RED; G=GREEN;  
B=BLUE; Y=YELLOW;



*Patricia M Todd*

On behalf of the Keeper of the Scottish  
Register of Tartans  
4 April 2023



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games - New Member



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

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

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

## **Clan Village**

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

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

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



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

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



*Honor*

*Explore*



*Celebrate*

*Discover*



*Enjoy a weekend of family friendly fun!*

5 Music Stages w/ 40+ Performers • 2 Event Fields • 5 Regions to Explore  
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Artisans • Wee Folk Shire for Kids • Storytellers • Competitions • Animals



*Discount tickets online!*

*Kids 12 & under Free!*



Find it all and more at

**NiagaraCeltic.com**

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



# The Clan Watson Society - New Member



**Crest:** Two hands holding the trunk of one oak tree sprouting out fresh branches, the hands issuing out of clouds all proper

**Motto:** Insperata Floruit (Flourished Unexpectedly)

**Name Variants:** MacBhaididh, MacQuat, MacQuattie, MacQuhat, MacQwat, MacRowatt, MacUait, MacWalter, MacWater, MacWatson, MacWatt, MacWatters, MacWattie, Vatsoun, Walter, Walterson, Wasson, Waters, Waterson, Watson, Watsone, Watsoun, Watt, Wattie, Wattson

**Septs:** None known

## A Short History

It is unknown exactly when the name Watson was introduced to Scotland, but we start to see it in records dating back to the 14th century. The name is derived from Wat, the diminutive form of Walter, an Old German name meaning “mighty warrior” or “ruler of the army”. Two potential routes by which the name Walter entered the British Isles are either

with Normans in the form of Gaultier or with Dutch or Flemish traders in the form of Walter or Wouter.

In old times, the name appears to have been primarily concentrated around the south east of Scotland and the north east of England. Although not a clan in the traditional highland sense, the Watsons are legally recognised by the Court of the Lord Lyon as an armigerous clan, with the last registered chief being James Watson of Saughton, whose arms were matriculated in 1818. We also have a contemporary account from 1794 stating that his father, Charles Watson of Saughton, was chief of the name in Scotland, although to date we have been unable to locate any records to validate this. James’s last surviving heir, his daughter Helen, married the Lord Aberdour, a member of the Douglas family who became the 18th Earl of Morton. The Douglas have expressed that they are not interested in taking up the title of Chief of Clan Watson and so the chiefship currently lies dormant while the society searches for other hereditary heirs.

Clusters of prominent Watsons are found in several key cities in Scotland from the early to mid-16th century onwards. They are nearly all successful merchants and many of them held civic positions such as bailies and provosts. We are aware of links between some of these clusters – for example, the Watsons of Damhead and Muirhouse were descended from the Watsons of Saughton – and see hints that other clusters were also connected to the Saughtons. Our current working assumption is that the Watsons built a reasonably successful trading and political empire that spread to key cities in Scotland, to London, and as far afield as the Caribbean as the British Empire expanded.

It is considered improbable that the Watson chiefs had a sizeable clan, even though they were recognised as chief of the Watson name in Scotland. Y-DNA evidence confirms our assumption that, as a

*(Continued on page 19)*

# The Clan Watson Society - New Member

*(Continued from page 18)*

patronymic name, the name Watson arose independently in multiple locations across Scotland and England.

The Watsons are considered to be septs of both Clan Buchanan and Clan Forbes. The link to the Buchanans is likely due to a cadet branch of the Buchanans of Leny that became known as the MacWatties, although we do find evidence of prominent Watsons and Buchanans mixing in the same circles in Dunbartonshire. Many folk of the name Watt lived in and around the ancient lands of the Forbeses in Aberdeenshire, which is a possible root of the association of the Watson name with that of Forbes.

The current Clan Watson Society is a somewhat informal initiative that commenced in 2004 with the aim of building links between Watsons (and name variants) across the world to enable collaborative research and knowledge sharing and to develop a sense of community. We welcome all those who were born or married into any of the name variants, or anyone with an interest in our research to sign up on the website or our Facebook group or to follow us on Instagram. We now have several hundred members across the world and are currently seeing rapid growth and are now in the process of formalising the society.



Watson Ancient



Watson Modern



Watson Weathered





## President's Message

When October comes with crisp mornings and bright fall colors, around Atlanta it means the Stone Mountain Highland Games are coming. Lots of old and new friends gather for this event put together by an amazing group of volunteers. This year they even moved the hospitality tent closer to the Clan Bell tent

Earlier this year, Clan MacMillan became aware of my paper debunking their arguments for Bell as a sept and were so embarrassed that they removed these arguments from their website without comment. Avoiding reason altogether, Clan MacMillan now just lists Bell as a sept with no basis at all.

The 2022 Guest of Honor at Stone Mountain was Donald MacLaren of MacLaren and Acheslaine, who is also the Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs since 2018. There was also a lecture scheduled at the host Donald MacLaren, Convenor hotel on clans and septs by of the Standing Council of Graeme Mackenzie, who is a Scottish Chiefs genealogist promoting the ridiculous claim that MacMillan has a sept name Bell. Needless to say, I had a few questions I was hoping Mr. MacKenzie would answer.

During Mr. MacKenzie's lecture, Donald MacLaren made a comment from the audience noting that some chiefs think it enhances their importance to have a long list of sept names. It was obvious he thought this was misleading and something that Scottish chiefs did not need to do. I then had the opportunity to ask Mr. MacKenzie what reason there was for MacMillan to continue claiming Bell as a sept. He said a church scribe in the Highlands changed Scots Gaelic names in the parish rolls; in the case of the McMillans, the people who had a MacMillan sept name of MacIllvoyle were later called Bell. When I asked after the presentation about why other Gaelic names, like MacMillan, were not also changed, he had no answer. To my follow-up question, Mr. MacKenzie could not explain why people whose surname was summarily changed would just accept a new surname.

My questions were based on my research into the background of Clan MacMillan claiming Bell as a sept. It seems that around the time of the Battle of Culloden in 1746, there was a bitter dispute within Clan MacMillan. Only one Bell mention is found in parish records just before Culloden; after Culloden, the numbers of Bell names increased dramatically as the McIllvoyle names disappeared. Clan MacMillan attempts to explain the sudden appearance in MacMillan territory of the Bell name as the deliberate policy of a church scribe attempting to change MacIllvoyle to Bell. This MacMillan theory obliges others to believe that 100% of an entire group of Scots would suddenly agree to change their name for no discernable reason. In my opinion, an explanation of a dispute leading to total rejection by these Bells explains the name change very well. It even explains eliminating one Gaelic surname, while not eliminating MacMillan and other Gaelic surnames.

I was glad to actually hear directly from Mr. MacKenzie his explanation (even if that explanation was illogical and contrary to known facts) instead of having to assume an explanation for their insistence

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on Bell as a sept of MacMillan. We agreed to disagree and to remain friends. This claim continues to be misleading, and it is apparent to me that MacMillans want Bell as their largest sept to increase their numbers and attach Bell accomplishment to their MacMillan name.

Later during the Games, I was able to speak at length with Convenor Donald MacLaren and to suggest that the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs adopt a list of disputed sept claims. It was apparent that Mr. MacLaren had thought about this topic at length and identified various definitions and clarifications that would require a lot of work to develop. Mr. MacLaren's experience as a diplomat to the UK in Berlin, Moscow, Caracas, and Kiev, and as Her Majesty's Ambassador in Tbilisi, Georgia showed in his thoughtful discussion and made it a pleasure to meet him.

We have made progress in debunking the MacMillan sept claim, and this may help other clans who likewise had their name claimed as a sept by another clan.

Slainte mhath, Joseph L. Bell

*Reprinted from CBNA newsletter Volume 36 Issue 3*



President Joe Bell, Kathy Bell, and Bob Dedrickson as a Knight Templar



# Clan of the Bells - Scottish Genealogy Resources

**Geneanet** has compiled a list of resources for Scottish genealogy which we believe will be useful for you. This is the first installment in Geneanet's information rich list of connections on the World Wide Web. See below for the links to the resources in bold in this article.

**ScotlandsPeople** is the official site of the **National Records of Scotland** and is an excellent resource for searching government records and archives (see their guide here) and obtaining document images for a fee. There is access to the statutory registers of births, marriages, and deaths; census returns; church records; valuation rolls; and legal records from Scotland's courts of law. Some unindexed record images can be browsed; however, in most cases, there is a pay-per-view system (credits, vouchers) to see a source document after finding an entry in an index. For privacy reasons, births less than 100 years old, marriages and divorces less than 75 years old, and deaths less than 50 years old are only available for purchase as official certificates.

**The National Records of Scotland.** In addition to the NRS (previously known as the National Archives of Scotland) has other sites and resources of interest to genealogists. Start with the National Records of Scotland Family History Guide. **ScotlandsPlaces** has historical maps and other data.

**ScotlandsCensus** has an historical timeline of the census and the NRS' main site has detailed information about each of the censuses (every ten years starting in 1841; 1921 the most recent available).

**Scottish Handwriting** has online resources and inperson classes in Edinburgh in paleography, the study of historical forms of handwriting (the UK National Archives has a useful page as well). Don't miss the NRS' informative guide about the pre-civil Old Parish Registers of the Church of Scotland (births, christenings, banns, marriages, deaths and burials) 1553-1854, which are available at **ScotlandsPeople**.

**The Scottish Council on Archives.** This non-profit organization supports archives at every level in Scotland, including community groups, with helpful best-practices for archivists, advice for historians and genealogists, and an informative family history page. You can download the SCA's handy Scottish Ancestry Guide in PDF format.

- **Geneanet:** <https://en.geneanet.org/>
- **ScotlandsPeople:** [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/) [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/record-guides/record-guides-alphabetical](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/record-guides/record-guides-alphabetical)
- **National Records of Scotland:** <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>
  - [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/birth-death-and-marriage-records/statutory-registersof-births-deaths-and-marriages](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/birth-death-and-marriage-records/statutory-registersof-births-deaths-and-marriages)
  - [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/birth-death-and-marriage-records/old-parish-registers](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/birth-death-and-marriage-records/old-parish-registers)
  - [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/family-history)
  - [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records)
- **ScotlandsPlaces:** <https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>
- **Scottish Handwriting:** [www.scottishhandwriting.com/](http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/)
- **The Scottish Council on Archives:** [www.scottisharchives.org.uk/explore/family-history/](http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/explore/family-history/)

# Clan of the Bells - The Burning of the Clavie



The Clavie burning at the top of Doorie Hill : Anne Burgess CC BYOSA 2.0 Wikipedia Commons

In the Scottish town of Burghead, built on the site of a Pictish promontory fort, New Year is celebrated for a second time every January 11.

This “second” New Year celebration dates from the 1750's when an “adjustment” of eleven days was required to change from the Julian calendar to the modern Gregorian calendar. Riots occurred across the nation with people demanding their 'lost 11 days' back. Instead of getting angry about this “loss” of days, the people of Burghead chose to hold an additional New Year fire festival - The burning of the Clavie.

A barrel full of staves--the Clavie--is set alight and carried around the town. This fiery procession is accompanied by a large crowd of townsfolk and visitors. The Clavie is finally placed on the ramparts of the ancient Pictish promontory fort atop Doorie Hill. The flames are allowed to burn down, and the smoldering embers tumble down the hill.

Gathering and keeping a piece of the Clavie is said to bring good luck for the coming year. The townsfolk also send pieces of the Clavie around the world to émigrés from the Burghead community.

For further information go to:

- <http://www.burghead.com/clavie/>
- <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/the-burning-ofthe-clavie-burghead-scotland>



# Cobourg Highland Games Society



Cobourg Highland Games Society  
Presents

## 59TH COBOURG SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES



**We would like to extend a warm invitation (Blàth Cuireadh) to your Clan to share pride in your Heritage at the 59th Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games on Friday evening June 16th and all-day Saturday June 17th, 2023.**

The Games will be held again at Victoria Park Cobourg, a lovely setting against the backdrop of the Beach on Lake Ontario. Updates regarding activities on the Friday Night June 16h, the Ceilidh and Tattoo, plus added activities can be found on our Facebook page, and main Website.

Please review our Web page for updated parking, and other important information.

Directions have been updated in compliance with current Insurance requirements, and By-Law regulations.

Clan tents will be in the same prime location as last year, adjacent to the main Games entrance on Queen Street. We appreciate your continued feedback, it enables us to continue to improve your experience, and the visibility of vital Clan Heritage, at our Games.

We may have a few tents available for loan, on a 'first come, first served' basis.

I will be dedicated to assist in meeting your needs from 3:00 on Friday for set-up, and all-day Saturday, and will have complimentary iced water and shortbread for you on Saturday.

To register please complete the Form on the Website at <http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/>

If you have any questions, please contact me [tmcneill.myles1880@hotmail.com](mailto:tmcneill.myles1880@hotmail.com) or, evenings only, 289 677 8507.

Sincerely, Terry Myles

Clans Representative Cobourg Highland Games Society

***Editor's note: The full CASSOC road show will not be at Cobourg this year due to the schedule conflict with the Greater Moncton Highland Games. However Terry Myles, a CASSOC board member, will provide representation. We're also hoping to have more CASSOC executive attend. Please be sure to visit Terry of Clan MacNeil as well as let us know if you're attending as well.***

**Editor's note:** *The following email was received from this private London organization in January. We're sharing this and the link to their publication which we feel has some articles of interest. Please enjoy and let us know if you'd like us to continue sharing such in the future.*

Happy New Year from The Caledonian Club in London,

I hope this email finds you and your Society members well, and that you had a most enjoyable Christmas.

It was all go at the Club in December, as you can imagine. Though we did find the time to produce the most recent edition of our Club magazine, which is the reason I'm getting in touch today as I'd like to share the digital version (<https://online.fliphtml5.com/vrxyh/euoa/>) with you in the hope you will find it of interest.

As always it is jam-packed with engaging articles and news stories from in and around the Club. You will also see our special tribute pages to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her sad passing in October – we were touched by the poignant stories and reflections from our Members who gave their own personal accounts of the funeral and meetings with the Queen over the years.

Please do feel free to share with your Members, hopefully they will find it interesting too.

If you have or receive any comments, then please do send them to me as we are always looking to improve the magazine and its content.

Thank you for your kind attention and all good wishes.

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# Enthusiasm & Authenticity - Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil



Arms of Viscount Dunrossil

I was born and raised on “the other side of the pond,” but moved to the US in my late twenties and have now lived in Texas for over thirty years. The longer I’ve been here, the more passionate I’ve become about my Scottish heritage, and that, of course, is the story of the Scottish diaspora. We here often seem to value what Scots in Scotland take for granted.

On the other hand, friends visiting from Scotland are sometimes bemused, even confused, by some of the ways we express that enthusiasm. Sometimes it looks as if what we are doing no longer bears any relation to actual history or heritage and has taken on a life of its own. The challenge facing a heritage group like COSCA is how to channel that enthusiasm, to keep it as authentically Scottish as possible, without it degenerating into mere fantasy. If you want Game of

Thrones, turn on the television.

Balancing the desire for authenticity with the need to nurture and encourage the enthusiasm is not always an easy task. But it is an important one. Scotland is a small but emerging nation, regardless of its legal status within the United Kingdom. To any nation, the concept of soft power, of the way it can spread its influence into the world at large, is an important one, and this is especially true of a country like Scotland. We speak about the five million and the fifty million – the five million who live in Scotland and the fifty million around the world who identify as Scots. Keeping the two groups on the same page, singing from the same song sheet, as it were, matters.

So what are some of the ways we get carried away, where we risk running free from our moorings and sailing off into fantasy land? Some of the more obvious ones concern surnames, clans and families, septs and so on, and the broad area of heraldry and protocol, titles and feathers. It seems we all want to be in a clan and lots of us want to be called a laird or chief and strut around with a feather in our bonnet, brandishing the personal Banner of the King of Scots. Some have invented their own clans and even made up “clan badges” which they’ve registered as US trademarks. Needless to say, the actual clan chiefs find this less than amusing.

Most Scots are not members of a clan, nor were their ancestors. And that’s OK, at least for them. The most common names in Scotland are Smith and Brown. Smith is or was a profession, of course, and there are Smiths all over the country, just like other professions. There is no Clan Smith. Brown is a common hair color, the most common. There is no Clan Brown or Black or Gray (my own hair has

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# Enthusiasm & Authenticity - Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil

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turned from dark brown to gray while I've been here, but my clan affiliation remains the same).

Even patronymics are not all kindreds. Sam, William and Patrick/Peter are all among the most common forenames in Scotland historically, but there is no clan Simpson or Wilson or Paterson, nor ever was. One of the most common forenames of all is, of course, Andrew, after the patron saint of Scotland. There is no Clan Anderson in Scotland either, but one was founded in the US.

What some refer to as “clan creep” and the absurd proliferation of “septs” listed outside clan society tents are symptoms of this earnest desire to identify with the land of our ancestors and the mistaken belief that it can only be through the medium of a surname. We need to do a better job of developing other ways for people to express and cultivate their love for their heritage. District family associations do exist. Caledonian and St Andrew's societies are already part of COSCA too. It might be interesting to see modern guilds for the descendants of traditional Scottish professions. It would be fascinating to explore ways Smiths, Taylors, Wrights or Clarks might still be expressing their ancestral skill-sets in contemporary society.

These are difficult and delicate issues, but they must be addressed, if we are not to continue to diverge. Authenticity without enthusiasm is dry nothing. Enthusiasm without authenticity is rootless and worthless. We owe it to each other to try to identify where the fulcrum is whereby the two can be properly balanced.

To this end, a small group, with participation from the Standing Council, from COSCA and from the Society of Scottish Armigers, is hoping to produce a paper with guidance and guidelines. Scottish law doesn't extend outside the physical boundaries of Scotland, but it is my belief that most members of the Diaspora who care about their heritage care also about getting it right. Scottish law may not apply, but if one knows the right answer, good manners may be enough to ensure that people show respect for their traditions and their heritage. After all, isn't that what we say we're all about?

**Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil**

*Reprinted from COSCA's Claymore Winter Edition January 2023*





# Clan Davidson - The 'Stone of Destiny' returns home!



## THE 'STONE OF DESTINY' RETURNS HOME!

There are a lot of myths, legends, and romantic notions about The Stone of Scone (that's skOOOn, not skOne) or, as you are probably more familiar with it: The Stone of Destiny. The accuracies and the tall tales about the Stone come both from within and from without Scotland's borders, but all have culminated to grant the Stone significant power and authority, regardless of what may (or may not) be truth.

From ancient times, this sacred stone was used as the site object of coronation for kings - likely long before even the reigns of Kenneth MacAlpine and Malcolm I, both Kings of Picts and Scots, removed it from the ground and, after its import, formed it into a type of 'throne.'

Some 42 Scottish Kings are believed to have been crowned between the 9th and 17th centuries using the sacred Stone in its current form. It was positioned at Moot Hill, the center - both geographically and emotionally - of the Perthshire heartland, site of present-day Scone Palace. Scone is thought to have been a place sacred to the Ancient Celts, and is one centered at the junction of two lay-lines (this tidbit for those who give credence to the intersections of lay-lines being 'places of power' around the globe, such as the sites of Stonehenge, Newgrange, the Egyptian and Mayan pyramids, and so on). There are others in Scotland, of course.

One such is in Edinburgh, where a central stone, located in the middle of present-day Edinburgh Castle, has a carved "foot"-hollow, believed to have been used by kings for declarations and validation of

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# Clan Davidson - The 'Stone of Destiny' returns home!



Replica enthroned near Scone Abbey, Moot Hill

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authority. It is said the right foot was placed into the hollow when addressing subjects, and, if the individual's foot matched the form in the stone, it was proof he or she was, indeed, 'Chosen of the Gods.' It is no surprise, then, that the mountain the Castle was built upon, and used as the site of hilltop fortresses for at least a millennium prior to its construction, served as a kind of capitol for Scotland since prehistory. No site, however, seems to have been as important to both the ancient and the 'modern' Scots as Scone.

Scone's importance has never been in doubt. However, what has been (and is) debated is the Stone's origins - how it came to be located at Moot Hill originally. Some have argued that the Stone was brought from the sacred Island of Anglesey (later called Mona by the Romans) in Wales, which was the legendary fortress-home of the Druids, whose members were the religious leaders of all the Celtic tribes from Brittany to Ireland, and as far north as the Hebrides.

Others have claimed that the Stone came from Iona, and was taken from the site where God is said to have appeared to St. Columba. Still others have asserted that the Stone was actually an artifact called 'Jacob's Pillow,' which was brought back from the Holy Land by an Egyptian princess named Scota in the 9th century, and given as a gift to Kenneth MacAlpine to help unite the tribes of the Celts and the Picts into one kingdom.

Stories abound, but lithic analyses done by modern researchers have shown that the material from which the Stone was formed is Perthshire sandstone, which pours a bit of cold water on the fires of

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# Clan Davidson - The 'Stone of Destiny' returns home!

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most legends regarding its extralocal origins. They have also observed the cutting, overall shaping, and wear of the Stone, and suggest that it may have been the thresh-stone (the central stone of a threshold- i.e., a doorway) of an important building before it became the ceremonial piece it is now. And, the first concrete (no pun intended) evidence of it being used for a coronation is from a manuscript describing the ceremony of the crowning of then seven-year-old Alexander III in 1249.



The Throne at Westminster Abbey

Nevertheless, the Stone and its location at Scone were clearly important long before any surviving historical documents make mention of either, and the Stone itself was definitely imbued with power, whether given by human imagination and romanticism or some actual Divine authority.

This is, of course, evidenced by the Stone's reverence over the centuries and into the present day, and is why, in 1296, Edward I of England stole the Stone and took it to Westminster, where he had a new throne fashioned for himself wherein the Stone was placed in a box chamber directly beneath the seat - designed so that the monarch's derriere was positioned ever above the Stone, demonstrating his "dominance" over Scotland as a "conquered land!"

Interestingly enough, this treatment of the Stone begat still other legends, which many believe even to this day, though none have more than scant evidence to support them. One such story suggests that, in fact, Edward (and, thus, all English monarchs since) never possessed the real Stone in the first place! In the tale, the friars at

the Abbey at Scone, upon hearing of Edward's encroachment into Scotland, removed the real artifact and placed it into a grotto for its protection somewhere along the River Tay. They then hurriedly fashioned a duplicate to put in its place. One (and, truly, the only) source of evidence believers use to support the story is that analysis shows the chain and ring attachments - the carrying rings - on either side of the stone and, in fact, the areas of the stone the rings were bored into, are younger than the cuttings on the Stone itself, and fashioned from a different iron alloy typical of the Perthshire region.

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# Clan Davidson - The 'Stone of Destiny' returns home!

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As the story concludes, the friars later forgot where they had placed the Stone, so if this account is true, the current Stone of Destiny is not only a replica, but the true Stone's location has been lost to the ages!

Regardless of its origins, or whether or not it was or is the 'real McCoy' stolen from Scone and taken to Westminster where it has hitherto resided for centuries, the Stone of Destiny and its story is a national symbol of Scotland and of Scottish pride and identity. Its possession by the Crown has been a point of bitterness, contention, and anger among Scots since its theft. So much so that many attempts to steal back the Stone were undertaken since at least the 1600s, though all but one has been thwarted.

In 1950, Ian Hamilton and a group of his friends, all students from the University of Glasgow and all avid Scottish Nationalists, knew

that security at Westminster would be low and London streets all but deserted due to the Christmas holiday. On Christmas Day, they

broke into Westminster Abbey, took the more than 300-lb. Stone (which they dropped and actually ended up breaking into two pieces!), and drove it back toward Scotland in the boot of a Ford Anglia. However, every police car they passed increased their anxiety over being caught and imprisoned, so they didn't initially make it across the border. They stopped, placed it beneath stones within the rock barriers that lined a major thoroughfare in order to disguise it, and furthered their escape northward where they could craft their alibis.



Ian Hamilton, 1951

However, likely during their drive homeward, officers discovered that the doors at Westminster Abbey had been forced and, due to the fact one of the students had accidentally smashed a fixture near the throne, it was quickly seen that the Stone was missing. Immediately reported to Scotland Yard, the story spread, and broke via radio and newspaper within hours of the 'theft.' Upon hearing the news report, people all over Scotland swarmed into the streets. Cheering, chanting, and waving the Saltire, the crowds were so thick in the larger cities that they are estimated to have been larger than any Hogmanay or even Edinburgh Fringe Festival gatherings of the present day - the police didn't even attempt crowd-control, and it's said many officers were among the flag- and banner-wavers!

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# Clan Davidson - The 'Stone of Destiny' returns home!

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Ian and his friends returned to Glasgow to find this patriotic fervour and readily joined in. He ran home to confront his parents and told them what he had done, completely ready to be scolded or even have them hand him over to authorities. However, during an interview later that year, he reported that his mum and dad had "never been prouder of him in their lives." His father, a Glaswegian tailor and 'working man,' had oft chided Ian - even had been disappointed in him - for "being so self-proud and above [his] station as to attend university," that an apparent wedge had been forced between them. Now, however, "my Da was kissing and hugging me; telling me he was never so pleased with anyone, or prouder than anyone he had ever known."

The scandal and its ensuing manhunt permeated British headlines for months. Riding the seemingly newfound wave of Scottish patriotism, Ian and his co-conspirators returned to England, whereupon they dug up the Stone, anointed it with Scotch whisky, and finally made it across the border and into Glasgow where the Stone was repaired by a sympathetic mason, and hidden in the basement of a factory outside of the city. Ian, his friend Kay Matheson, and the others then drafted an anonymous letter to King George VI wherein they offered to give back the Stone in return for the promise it would be officially repatriated to Scotland, and only to be loaned back to the Crown for future British coronations. Their terms were not yet to be met, and the manhunt continued. In fact, so thorough was the investigation that Ian and all of his friends were eventually questioned by detectives from Scotland Yard, though never formally charged. Later, the group removed the Stone to the altar at the ru-

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Aaaand ... the crowd goes wild! Edinburgh, 1950.

# Clan Davidson - The 'Stone of Destiny' returns home!



Scotland Yard retrieve The Stone from the Abbey of Arbroath, 1951

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ins of the Abbey of Arbroath, covered it with a Saltire, and reported its location to authorities.

Arbroath, covered it

The British government, after repossessing the Stone, and though hailing the 'theft' (oh, the irony!) as a "grievous act of theft and vandalism," announced that it would not be pressing any charges, fearing that any arrests made and charges enacted would "necessarily serve to incite martyrdom and possible acts of retaliation." Therefore insured of their freedom, Ian and his friends then handed out statements of confession of their involvement to reporters in Glasgow; no legal action was, indeed, ever taken against them (who knew the English could keep their word...). Ian passed away on October 3, 2022 at the age of 97, but said in an interview, just prior to his death, that "[it] was the single best thing [he had] ever done in [his] very long life, and hopes that one day soon, the Stone of Destiny would be Scotland's - and only Scotland's - once again!"

Many pieces of legislation have been drafted over time for its return, more since Ian and his friends took back the Stone. But, all were defeated until 1996, when Queen Elizabeth II finally followed up on the mandate Ian Hamilton and crew had penned to her father: it was returned - though only on loan from the Crown - to Scotland, to reside in the Crown Room of the Royal Palace at Edinburgh Castle.

However, after much pressure from Holyrood, the Scottish National Party (SNP), and petitions with millions of signatures from Scots around the world, the Crown and the British government have finally agreed to fully and permanently repatriate the Stone of Scone - the Stone of Destiny - to Scotland after its final use by the British for the coronation of King Charles III on May 6, 2023. It will then be temporarily placed for viewing at the newly restored Perth City Hall Museum until it returns to Scone Abbey, within Scone Palace, in 2024 - finally home after 700 years!

Reprinted from the Clan Davidson Thistle Epistle : January 2023



# Family Feud Invitation



Hey CASSOC!

My name is Linds and I'm a Casting Producer for Family Feud Canada. We are currently casting our fifth season, nationwide, and we are excited to invite the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada to apply with their families!!

We're dedicated to finding fun families in every Province AND Territory, and would love for you to share the opportunity with your network!

I've included a link to the application below should your family, or anyone you know, wish to apply. Please let me know if someone you know chooses to apply, so I can keep an eye out: [cbc.ca/familyfeud](https://www.cbc.ca/familyfeud)

We could also do a segment for your newsletter about the audition process to give your community tips for their audition so they have the best shot at getting selected!

Our goal is to provide an authentic representation of Canadian families from coast to coast to coast, and I am hoping you can help us spread the word amongst your networks to help give someone from YOUR community the chance to be seen and win some cash!

Here is a sharable Facebook post, an Instagram post.

Let me know if you have any questions & I look forward to being in touch! My contact is below!

Linds  
Lindsay Christopher  
905-749-0888 / [Lchristopher@zone3.ca](mailto:Lchristopher@zone3.ca)  
Casting Associate Producer, Family Feud Canada  
CBC | 205 Wellington St W, Toronto, M5V 3G7

Stay up to date with all things Family Feud Canada!

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFeudCanada/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/familyfeudcanada>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/familyfeudca>

**[Click here to apply to be on Family Feud Canada!](#)**

# Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games



## Tilt your kilt and book your tickets for the 2023 Fergus Scottish Festival now!

For general information click the logo at left or visit <https://fergusscottishfestival.com/>

The registration fee for 2023 is \$54.00 CAD payable at time of registration. To register your group click the Clans image below or visit :

<https://www.showclix.com/event/fergus-scottish-festival-clan-registration2023BbeXUdC/listing>

Clan registration ensures:

- A tent, tables, and chairs on the Avenue of the Clans
- On-site parking for 1 vehicle
- Two weekend adult passes
- Dedicated refreshments for Clan members
- The opportunity to win the Best Clan award
- Clan recognition on the Festival website
- Recognition of any Clan dignitaries during the Festival



Clan events during the weekend include:

- Clan representation in the Thursday night downtown parade
- The traditional Hearth Lightin' ceremony on Friday night
- The Parade of the Clans during the Welcoming Ceremony on Saturday
- Participation in the Festival Passport program. Bring a Clan stamp for the kids!

Should you consider hosting a tent, we strongly urge you to stay over for Sunday when a more relaxed atmosphere allows time for discussion with visitors and meeting with other clan groups.

Once you have purchased your clan registration, you can purchase additional admission tickets by clicking the "Find More Tickets" button at the bottom of the ticket page.

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



# Comhairle na Gàidhlig - The Gaelic Council

## Dualchas na Gàidhlig: 'S ann leibh-s' a tha e! Tha Planaigeadh do Mhìos nan Gàidheal 2023 air Chois

Fo sgéith Comhairle na Gàidhlig, chaidh Comataidh-Planaigidh do Mhìos nan Gàidheal 2023 a chur air dòigh agus a-nis, tha a' Chomataidh trang ag obair air planaichean a chumas am Mìos suas le subhachas am bliadhna. Tha am Mìos air a bhith ann gu bliadhna o'n a chaidh a chur air bhonn ann an 1996!

Leis an ùrlar, "Dualchas na Gàidhlig: 'S ann leibh-s' a tha e!", tha a' Chomataidh-Planaigidh a' toirt fiathachadh do dh'fhèadhainn is bhuidhnean ann an Albainn Nuaidh gu gabhail an sàs ann a bhith ag aithneachadh 's a' toirt urram do Ghàidheil na h-Albann Nuaidhe; agus a bhith a' cumail suas na Gàidhlig, a cultuir is a h-aithne 's a' mhór-roinn.

Tha a' Chomataidh-Planaigidh a' toirt fiathachadh do dh'Ùr-Albannaich uile gu bhith a' gabhail pàirt ann a' cumail suas aithne bheairtich, chulturail is dhualchasaich na h-Albann Nuaidhe thro òrain, cheòl, naidheachdan, sgeulachdan, dhanns, dhàimh, dhòighean-bidhe, chleachdaidhean, thraidiseanan agus spioradalachd.

"Nam neach a bhruidhneas Gàidhlig na h-Éireann agus a' Ghàidhlig, tha mise a' coimhead air Mìos nan Gàidheal mar

chothrom do dh'Ùr-Albannaich uile aig am bi ceanglaichean a' dol air ais gu Gàidhealtachd na h-Albann, agus gum fairich iad fìor fhàilte gus an cuid dualchais chulturail is aithne àraid a dhearbhadh. Tha mìltean do dh'Ùr-Albannaich aig a bheil dualchas Gàidhealach 'nan teaghlaichean agus 'nan coimhearsnachdan, an cuide ri iomadh neach ùr a tha ag ionnsachadh na cànan. Tha fàilte bhlàth rompa uile a bhith 'nam pàirt do leasachadh ùrachaidh is ath-bhuannachaidh na Gàidhlig ann an Albainn Nuaidh," arsa Ciaran Mac Siúlaí, Co-òrdanaiche Riaghlaidh aig Comhairle na Gàidhlig.

Bidh Mìos nan Gàidheal 2023 a' toirt a-staigh tachartas gus am Mìos a chur air bhog aig a' Phàrlamaid Bhig. Mu'n cuairt air a' mhór-roinn fhéin, théid tachartasan eile a chur air dòigh; bidh mìosachan ri fhaighinn air loidhne le fiosrachadh air na bhios a' tachairt a thaobh na Gàidhlig's a cultair ré a' Mhìos;

*(Continued on page 37)*

## "Saying Yes to Gaelic!": Gaelic Nova Scotia Month 2023 Planning Underway

Under the leadership of the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia, the 2023 Gaelic Nova Scotia Month Planning Committee has been assembled and is busy planning for this year's celebration, held annually in May since its inception in 1996!

With the theme, "Saying Yes to Gaelic!" the Planning Committee is inviting individuals and organizations in Nova Scotia to join in the acknowledging, honouring and celebrating of Nova Scotia Gaels and Gaelic language, culture and identity in the Province.

The Planning Committee invites all Nova Scotians to participate in celebrating Nova Scotia's rich Gaelic cultural identity and heritage through song, poetry, music, story, dance, kinship, foodways, customs, traditions and spirituality.

"As an Irish as well as a Gaelic speaker, I see Gaelic Nova Scotia Month as an opportunity for all Nova Scotians who may have Gaelic connections and origins that go back to Scotland to feel very welcome and affirm their unique Gaelic cultural heritages and identities. There are thousands of Nova Scotians who have Gaelic heritage in their families and communities as well as many new language learners and all are warmly invited to be part of a growing movement of Gaelic renewal and reclamation in the Province," stated Kieran Walker, Administrative Coordinator for the Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia.

Gaelic Nova Scotia Month 2023 will include a public launch at Province House with others planned around the Province, an online calendar of Gaelic language and cultural activities and events, and a promotional poster with an accompanying educational pack with information on Gaelic Nova Scotia.

Quotes:

*(Continued on page 37)*

# Comhairle na Gàidhlig - The Gaelic Council

(Continued from page 36)

théid postair-adhartachaidh le pasgan foghlaim 'ullachadh, agus fiosrachadh mu Ghàidheil an Albainn Nuaidh na lùib.

Ás-earrainn:

'S e fiathachadh ro'n choimhearsnachd Ghàidhealaich anns a' mhór-roinn a th'ann an "Dualchas na Gàidhlig: 'S ann leibh-s' a tha e!" gu bhith a' deimhinneachadh a dualchais Ghàidhealaich àraid ge bi na dòighean a tha freagarrach gus siod a dhèanadh. Cuideachd, 's e cothrom a th'ann a bhith a' toirt misneachd do dh' Ùr-Albannaich uile gu aithneachadh na Gàidhlig, gus urram a thoirt dhi, is gu gabhail an sàs ann a bhith a' cumail suas na Gàidhlig is a cuid ealain is sheanchais mar a bhios iad seo a' cur ri beatha na h-Albann Nuaidhe ann an caochladh dhòighean."

- Iomhar MacDhòmhnuille, Ceannard, Comhairle na Gàidhlig

## Fìorasan Aithghearr:

'S ann an Albainn Nuaidh an aon roinn a-mhàin anns an t-saoghal, taobh a-muigh na h-Albann, na h-Éireann is Eilean Mhanainn, far an deach aithne na Gàidhlig is a dualchais culturail bho ghlùin gu glùin ann an teaghlachan is coimhearsnachdan.

Tha Cunntas-sluaigh Chanada ag aithris gu bheil 257,205 do dh'Ùr-Albannaich, air neo 27 a-mach á 100, aig a bheil sinnsearachd bho Ghàidheil na h-Albann.

Stéidhichte air fiosrachadh o'n Chunntas-Shluaigh 2016, is sin air a thrusadh o'n choimhearsnachd a' leigeil ris aig an àm sin gu robh, bha mu 2000 luchd-bruidhinn na Gàidhlig ann an Albainn Nuaidh. O'n uair sin, tha mìltean do dh'Ùr-Albannaich air a bhith an sàs ann am prógraman na Gàidhlig ann an sgoiltean, stéidheachdan, agus coimhearsnachdan. Tha iomadh Ùr-Albannach a bharrachd ann a tha an sàs ann an gnìomhan culturail, m.e. ceòl, òrain, agus dannsa, aig a bheil buin anns a' Ghàidhlig.

Cuir fios gu:

*Ciarán Mac Siúlai*

comhairlenagaidhlig@gmail.com

(Continued from page 36)

"Saying Yes to Gaelic!' is an invitation to the Gaelic heritage community of the Province to affirm its unique Gaelic identity in whatever ways that is appropriate to do as well as encouraging all Nova Scotians to acknowledge, honour and engage in celebrating the Gaelic language and its cultural arts and expression as these contribute in numerous ways to Nova Scotia life."

- Edward MacDonell, President, Gaelic Council of Nova Scotia

## Quick Facts:

Nova Scotia is the only jurisdiction in the world outside of Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man where a Gaelic language and its cultural heritage and identity have been passed down from generation to generation in families and communities.

Statistics Canada cites 257,205 or 27% of Nova Scotians are descended from Scottish Gaels.

Estimates based on 2016 census data and information compiled from the community indicate that, at that time, there were approximately 2,000 speakers of Gaelic in Nova Scotia. Since then, thousands of Nova Scotians have been involved in Gaelic programming in schools, institutions, and communities. Many more Nova Scotians are involved in cultural activities such as music, song and dance that stem from the Gaelic language.

Contact:

*Kieran Walker*

comhairlenagaidhlig@gmail.com



# Georgetown Highland Games



Dear Clans, Families and Societies,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to participate with your group at the Georgetown Highland Games, which are to be held on Saturday June 10th, 2023 at 8:30am at the Georgetown Fairgrounds located in Georgetown, Ontario. We will be celebrating our 48th year and I am excited to welcome returning groups, along with some new faces. I will be responsible for all communications related to participating with your group this year.

All participating groups should be set up by 8:30 a.m. the day of the games (Saturday) with your cars parked in the designated car park areas (directions will be provided by Marshalls on the day). No motor vehicle traffic will be allowed in the area after this time. No cars are allowed to be parked behind the tents. Tents need to remain intact until 4:30 pm. No cars will be allowed to come into the clan alley until that time.

“Clan Alley” and the march preceding the opening ceremonies is an important and colourful feature to the Georgetown Highland Games. There is a parade that will take place inside the park in time for the official opening at 12:30pm. This is not a very long walk and we would like to ask each of you to participate and represent your group. We will be lining up for the parade behind the Cheer garden at 12:00. I will be onsite to direct you all for the event.

A space (15' x 15') will be provided at no cost (without Hydro). Two general admission passes and one parking pass will be provided free of charge to each group. Passes will be mailed to you upon receipt of this completed application by email. The lots will be allocated on a “first-come” basis. Please signify your intentions to attend and any additional requirements on the application (disabled parking for example).

Please respond by **May 14th, 2023** via an e-mail to [marcielamb@icloud.com](mailto:marcielamb@icloud.com) confirming your interest to attend as well as the details required below. If there are any corrections to your contact information please let me know, and I will correct our records. I really look forward to meet each and every one of you in June.

Kind regards,

Marcie Lamb

905-391-2565

[marcielamb@icloud.com](mailto:marcielamb@icloud.com)

Registration requires the following information: Name of group, names of attendees, mailing address, home telephone number, cell phone numbers and email address. [Click here to register](#)

***Editor's note: Georgetown Highland Games are not yet a member of CASSOC however we are providing this information on their behalf because the full CASSOC road show will be at Georgetown this year. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well.***

**PICTOU—Hector 250**, celebrating the arrival of the Ship Hector in Pictou in 1773, is just six months away and plans to commemorate this significant milestone are well underway. The town of Pictou will be alive with the sounds of bagpipes, fiddles, tunes and hammers from September 15 to 17.

Events will include a sailing regatta, Bluenose II in port for deck tours, original play *The Voyage*, Gaelic and Indigenous culture and music, the Hector Ceilidh and the Hector Tattoo. A major component of the weekend will be the unveiling and first opportunity to see the restoration progress on the Hector. Visitors will be able to step aboard the ship, which is currently on blocks in the yard, and experience the below deck atmosphere and walk along the newly finished upper decks. Members of the Restoration team will be on hand to explain the process of the restoration. The relaunch of the Hector is planned for 2024 when outfitting components and underwater systems are in place.

The Charting Our Course campaign, which is funding the restoration, has raised over \$1.8 million for the ship, and community and corporate support will help us achieve our target of \$2.5 million to complete the project. Once fully restored the Hector will be able to do tours of Pictou Harbour and will be the only tall ship in Canada powered by solar energy and many 'green energy' features.

The Society is also leading a major project which will see a complete update and renovation of the Interpretive Centre. The facelift includes a new roof and public areas, innovative and interactive displays and a more thorough telling of the partnership of the Scottish settlers and the indigenous people of Pik'tuk. The entire site and ship will be fully powered by solar panels and will be a leader in using green technology in public spaces.

Further details can be found on the Ship Hector Facebook page or [www.shiphector.ca](http://www.shiphector.ca)

Media contact:

Vern Shae - Project Manager - (902)759-3845


Wes Surrect - Chair, Ship Hector Society (902)396-7272



**SEPTEMBER  
15-17, 2023**  
Hector Heritage Quay  
Pictou, NS

**HECTOR 250**  
1773-2023 • PICTOU, NS

**Ship Hector Tours**  
**Gaelic Language and Culture**  
**Indigenous Music and Culture**  
**Hector 250 Ceilidh**  
**Hector Tattoo**  
**Bluenose II in port**  
**Sailing Regatta**  
**Church Services**  
**The Voyage Play**  
**Pipebands**

 Ship Hector/facebook  
Follow us on Facebook for updates





## Greetings from the Chair

It's early April 2023 and hard to believe another year has almost gone by. And what a year it's been! While no one knows how history will ultimately record the effects of a global pandemic and the widespread unrest of the past several years, one thing is certain; the joy of opening up and lifting of restrictions has been welcomed in earnest. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in Highland Games and Clan gatherings held in towns and cities throughout our country during 2022. Here in Canada the Scottish diaspora turned out in record numbers. And these were most welcome and joyful occasions!

Clan Gregor Canada was well represented in a number of games and festivals this summer. We experienced firsthand what amounts to a revival. There was a noticeable sense of awakening as people turned out in

record numbers. Largely the result of a protracted period of isolation when folks had time to fully explore family and roots, many came with questions and a yearning to understand. It's as if Canada is at long last willing to openly embrace its distinct brand of Scottishness. Some came longing to hear the sound of the pipes once again. Some to take in the dancers, heavy athletics or enjoy a bite of haggis or a meat pie with shortbread sweets. Regardless, all had one thing in common: it was summer, they felt the call of the Clans and they were allowed to gather once again. The blood is strong!

Festival organizers often request immediate feedback to gauge success. Here is a sampling of some of the many Clan responses circulated this summer in the wake of the return of Games. They tell a story of success and togetherness.

A hearty thank you to your team. Exceptional service, accommodation and professionalism were the hallmarks of this year's festival. Truly it was balm to the soul to be "back in the Game(s)" again. I daresay there was a lot of healing going on and renewed hope for the future.

We live in a whacky world where much of what we know and trust has been turned upside down. We have all recently experienced trying times and yet somehow, the tradition, the pageantry, the colors, sights and sounds of the Games have brought us back together and ready to face new challenges. As a result, the touchstone of Clan and the Highland Games helps us to find again the tenacity and vigor of our forebears to embrace the future. This is a gift.

Thanks again and the very best to your team. Our Clan looks forward to unbroken years of attendance once again. Slainte mhath. Wonderful weather... Great crowds attending... Lots of Clan interest... Whiskey tasting was tasty... Kirking and lighting went well... And, the Parade of Clan at the Opening Ceremonies had lots of people out on the field... We'll be with you again next year...

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On behalf of our Clan, thank you for a wonderful experience! We were hosting the Clan tent for the very first time and we enjoyed meeting the public and members of other Clans. The crowds were enormous and volunteers were wonderful with their assistance and knowledge. Please pass along our thanks to the wonderful folks who made these days a great success. We look forward to attending next year.

We too experienced very large crowds and a lot of keen interest in Clan Gregor. As a result of these and other efforts our Chapter has added 35 new members so far this year! This is extraordinary and underscores the point. I do believe there is an awakening taking place. Preparing, travel and attendance at these Games is a lot of work for our Council and volunteers. However, the payback is found in the connections and interactions with those seeking or trying to better understand their history and heritage. The smile, the gratitude for connecting the dots, the basic human interaction between people with whom we potentially share DNA and history in a distant time and place is heartwarming and makes it all worthwhile. At the end of the day, it's about people, and belonging is what brought them out in crowds to celebrate. And celebrate we did!

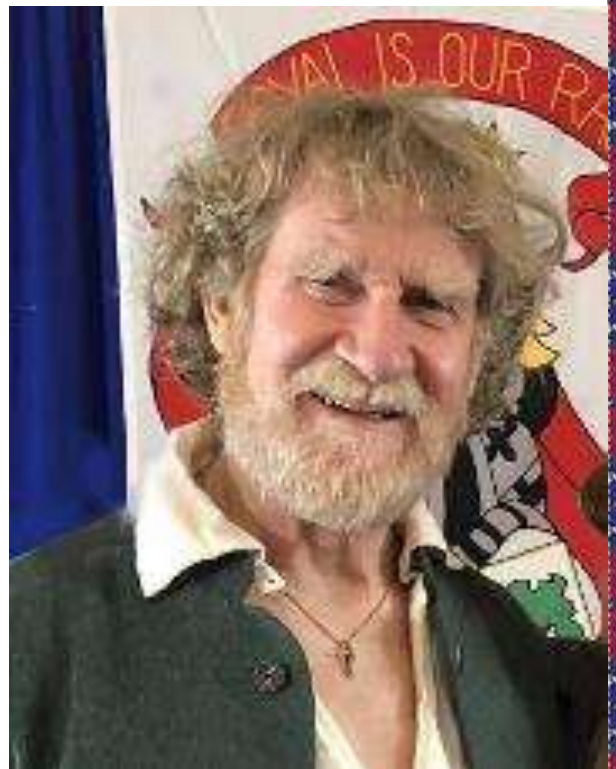
As my wife Vina and I were driving home from the Glengarry Games she made a simple yet profound observation. She noted that at a time when the world is wrestling with cultural appropriation and protectionism, it would do well to consider the Scots approach. In stark contrast, Scottish diaspora so widely scattered by brutal acts of separation and war, is still eager to openly share all that it has. It actively invites all to try the pipes, strap on a kilt, give haggis a go and wash it down with a single malt. She noted that they are open, engaging and forever on the lookout for someone new to share with. Perhaps in a nod to the tradition of highland hospitality, they are more than willing to share, teach and venerate Scottish culture. It means more to them if you are a part of it! This is one of the many reasons why people attend Highland Games, Burns dinners, Hogmanay and a variety of Celtic gatherings. It is the essence of Clan and the things that bond.

And so, I conclude with gratitude. I'm grateful for the chance to connect with so many once again as things open up and the Clans gather once again. I'm grateful for the help and support I receive from Council member June MacGregor Jain and Co-Editors, William Petrie and Sylvie Thériault. Most of all, I am grateful for you, our membership. You are the lifeblood of the Society and the Clan itself.

Wayne MacGregor Parker

Chair - Clan Gregor Society- Canada Chapter

[wayne@mapleleafmacgregor.ca](mailto:wayne@mapleleafmacgregor.ca)





# Clan Gregor Society - Brampton's Great Canadian Kilt Skate

## **Tartan flies high at Brampton's first Great Canadian Kilt Skate** by Tristan Levi

BRAMPTON, Ont. — For many, the combination of brisk winter air and bare knees is the farthest from being an ideal match. But for attendees of Brampton's first Great Canadian Kilt Skate at Gage Park, both ice skates and tartan kilts were proudly worn for a merry day of Scottish-Canadian celebration.

Now going on its ninth year of annual tradition, the Great Canadian Kilt Skate is a cross-cultural, open-to-all heritage event commemorating the contributions Scots have made in Canada and around the world. Since their launch by the Scottish Society of Ottawa in 2015, kilt skates have since become beloved community occasions spreading from city to city across North America. With Canadians from Vancouver all the way to Québec joining in on the festivities, Feb. 11 would mark the day Brampton would finally get a chance to put on the plaid and hit the ice.

"Since the kilt skate this year looked like it would be much more feasible with no pandemic restrictions, I turned to the city of Brampton," says William Petrie, chair of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) and member of the Canadian chapter of the Clan Gregor Society. "I said I'd like to run a kilt skate as Clan Gregor. There would be some support from CASSOC, and that's what we set up."

Serving as a link between Canada's Scottish communities, CASSOC is a cultural organization dedicated to upholding Scottish heritage. In partnership with the Canadian branch of the Clan Gregor Society, an ancestry institution involved in the preservation and promotion of Scottish roots around the world, kilt skating was brought to Brampton for the first time in what is hoped to become a yearly series of events.

"It was just getting people out there and being able to have them wear tartan," says Petrie when asked what he most enjoyed about bringing the kilt skate to Brampton. "Seeing that, yes, there is a strong cultural aspect to the Scottish heritage that is pervasive in Canada."

With the ice of Gage Park glistening brightly under the February sun, tartan-clad Bramptonians enjoyed a pleasant Saturday afternoon skate in weather that could be mistaken for early spring. Alongside free hot chocolate and donuts, scarves and informational booklets about both CASSOC and Clan Gregor were provided to rosy-cheeked visitors.

"It turned out really well," says Petrie. "I was very pleased to have a lot of involvement from my own family. A good number of my kids showed up, and my wife was extremely eager to be a key part of the whole event."

As laughter and the sound of blades against ice rang out throughout the day, a sense of community and camaraderie was fostered between both Scottish and non-Scottish guests.

"I hope that they experienced a strong spirit of fellowship," says kilt skate organizer and blog writer Don Cumber. "Everyone together is doing this strange and eccentric thing—skating in a kilt, or in tartan. It's easy to get into conversations with others—including strangers and newcomers—when you kilt skate."

"That, to me, was the most important," adds Petrie. "It wasn't the Clan Gregor kilt skate, it was the Great Canadian Kilt Skate."

**Editor's Note:** Tristan Levi is first-year digital communications student at Humber College living in the Brampton area who chose to cover Brampton's first Great Canadian Kilt Skate for a news story assignment. We were thrilled to assist Tristan in his scholastic endeavors and we look forward to more such opportunities in the future.

# Clan Gregor Society - Brampton's Great Canadian Kilt Skate







## From the Clan Officer, Dale Hill

This spring we are planning to host an in person get together for those who are able to join us. It will be held in

April around the Guelph, Ontario area. More details will be shared in the spring newsletter and on Facebook. If you have any great ideas for an online or in person event that you think would be of interest to our members, please reach out to me. I would love to hear from you!

As we look towards the summer, we are starting to plan out what Scottish Festivals and Highland Games Clan Hunter will be able to have a presence at this year. We encourage you to consider hosting a tent at your local festival. If you'd like more information and access to clan materials for display, please contact me by email ([clanhunter.ca@gmail.com](mailto:clanhunter.ca@gmail.com)).

We have some banners that can be lent out and brochures that can be copied to distribute. I am here to help anyone who is interested and promise you that it is a fun and rewarding experience and a great way to meet new people and hopefully connect with other Clan Hunter members or future members.

Wishing you all the best for a healthy and prosperous 2023. I look forward to seeing many of you online and meeting even more of you in person over the coming year.

Sincerely, Dale Hill

## A Scottish Blessing

May ye be the wan who jist talks kind  
When ithers sit an judge  
May ye be the wan who moves richt oan  
When ithers haud a grudge  
May ye be the wan who walks the walk  
When ithers just keep talkin  
May ye be the wan who sends oot love  
In times so tough, they're shockin  
May ye be the wan who loves yersel  
As much as ithers dae  
May ye be the wan who who shines so bright  
Ye scare darkness away

## What Makes a Historian by Laura Collins (nee Hunter)

For as long as I can remember history has enthralled me. As a little girl the previous Indigenous inhabitants of our home inspired my play, stories I was told of previous generations finding artifacts guided my curiosity and historical fiction books brought my imagination to a level of possibility. Then, dreams of archeology filled my future - it is truly philosophically ironic that a young child with many years ahead of them chooses to consume themselves with the past. My interests as a child quickly extended from Indigenous inhabitation, to Greek and Roman Mythology, to Egyptology and Piracy.

Although those dreams were never achieved, throughout my adult life I have continued to fuel my passion of history. Educating myself through literature and worldly travel I have been able to call myself a historian in my own right. Each experience has opened doors to new topical interest. Many historical circumstances intertwine with multigenerational involvement - take for example Mary Queen of Scots and King James, Ragnar Lodbrok and Ivar the Boneless, Akhenaten and Tutankhamun, not to mention God and his son Jesus - the list goes on and on.

These families shaped history, but what of the families that haven't been recorded? Everyday people have molded our history just as well, those who existed in a life of common humility and actually just ... lived. This made me stop and think - what of MY history? This led me to a new branch in my studies, genealogy.

We all have been told from where once we came, every granddad has spoken of times of old - mine was no exception. My grandfather, Robert (Bob) Hunter of Troy, has since passed. His brother Edward G. Hunter, also of Troy, has helped me grasp a better knowledge of our family's immigration to Canada and what became of them afterward.

This prompted me to learn my personal story in a whole new way using 23andMe. Based on the results of my ancestry composition, the largest percentage of my DNA came from Scotland, specifically Ayrshire, the seat of Clan Hunter. I knew at this moment that Scotland would be my next travel destination - and very soon.

In October 2021, a spontaneous book of airfare took Cheri (my mother-in-law) and I on an adventure. Upon our arrival in Edinburgh we rented a vehicle, commencing our cross country tour of Scotland. For two weeks we traveled the Lowlands, Highlands and Isle of Skye witnessing breathtaking sights and incredible monuments that I had only dreamed of beholding.

Our tour was drawing to a close in the Southwest, my most anticipated portion of our journey lay just

*(Continued on page 46)*





# Clan Hunter Association of Canada -What Makes a Historian

*(Continued from page 45)*

ahead - the seat of Clan Hunter, Hunterston Castle. As we drove toward the castle, the long lane displayed the beautiful landscape. Fall colours framed the sheep grazing in the alongside pastures. Parking at the castle, seeing it in full with the garden walls opposite felt surreal. It felt quite emotional truth be told to witness the home of my ancestors - in what order of relation did they position into the clan? If only to be witness to their manner of living. Throughout my visit of Hunterston, you could almost see and feel them in their comings and goings.

Janet met us then, she was a wonderful tour guide - she was so knowledgeable, thorough and personal. She really made us feel so involved and welcomed with our private tour of the castle and grounds. She allowed us to take our time and awe, answering the many questions we had regarding the castle's existence.

Progressing from the ground up we viewed the basement, the old hall featuring the gorgeous one-of-a-kind stags horn furniture, the bedroom, the garret, parapet and my personal favourite - the great hall. The great hall is host to irreplaceable treasures such as The Charter, Hunterston Brooch (both replicas), family safe and exquisite fireplace carving of the Clan Hunter motto "Cursum Perficio".

Other personal favourite internal features include the ancient oak beams, doors and especially the staircase. The latter was interesting conversation - Janet was explaining medieval staircases in terms of warfare and how they were designed to favour right or left-handed individuals. This brought us to the topic of my husband and his family clan, Kerr, who were known to be left-handed. The expressions "Kerr-handed" and "Corry-handed" both refer to the well-established tradition of left handedness within the family, making them useful in battle and helpful to the Hunters whom were primarily right.

Post castle we toured the extensive gardens behind the wall - witnessing them in the peak of summer months would have been absolutely beautiful. We were fortunate enough to meet one of the tenants residing in the more recently (in perspective to the castle) apartments adjacent to the castle. Here he explained they plant and tend to a fruit and vegetable garden in which they all take part and enjoy. A personal favourite aspect inside the walled garden was the dog cemetery. As I mentioned previous, Cheri my mother-in-law joined me on my journey, her fa-

*(Continued on page 47)*



# Clan Hunter Association of Canada -What Makes a Historian

*(Continued from page 46)*

ther-in-law (my husband's grandfather) also founded a pet cemetery in Ancaster, Ontario. My son enjoys reading the children's book about the said pets inside the garden walls.

Last but not least, we visited the shop and proudly purchased a most prized possession, a sash of Clan Hunter tartan. After correspondence with Madam Pauline, I was disappointed in departing without making her acquaintance with the fear of never again having the opportunity. Little did I know this would not be the case. As a parting gift for both Janet and Madam Pauline, I brought a piece of my own Hunter heritage - maple syrup from our family farm, Hunters Maple Bush, on Hunter Road in Troy, Ontario from which I am the fourth generation.

The immersive historical experience at Hunterston Castle will remain a notable memory for many years to come. Our arrival back in Ontario was bitter sweet - missing the mountains, sea and culture, I vowed to visit Scotland again.



As the following summer quickly came upon us, I received an email from Dale Hill - the now newly appointed Clan Officer of Clan Hunter Canada. He proceeded to tell us that Madam Pauline was planning her upcoming stay in Ontario, Canada for the Fergus Highland Games in August (2022) and that she would like to visit our farm on her tour around the area. This was very exciting news! I was delighted to learn she had received our maple syrup, furthermore she wished to view our farm and the process in which it is made.

My father Edward C. Hunter, my sons Cruz and Sterling and I anticipated her arrival leading up to that day. My father was unfortunately and regretfully unable to join me in Scotland, he is also a member of Clan Hunter Canada. We felt so honoured at this once in a lifetime opportunity to host Madam Pauline on our farm.

Madam Pauline arrived with Dale, Daphne, and Dale's mother - it was unbelievable to fathom that they were finally here! We began the tour of our farm and the maple sugaring production process from start to finish, tree to table. We escorted them through our bush, pump house and sugarhouse explaining as accurately as possible as we were not currently in production with it being the summer months. Throughout the tour we were able to add in some personal conversation with Madam Pauline and continued to do so afterwards. She is truly a pleasure, very down to earth and was as equally

*(Continued on page 48)*



# Clan Hunter Association of Canada -What Makes a Historian

*(Continued from page 47)*

as interested in getting to know us in return. Again, we felt very honoured to host Madam Pauline, her exceptional and uncommon presence made it so special for us as a family, and again this will to be a notable memory for us all.

Never before having the opportunity to attend the Fergus Highland Games, we made it our priority to accept the invitation given to us from Madam Pauline and Dale to join them in the Clan Hunter tent at the festival coming up that weekend. Madam Pauline was one of few Clan Chiefs to attend the festival from Scotland and being a featured Clan because of her attendance, the tent was foremost amongst others making Clan Hunter a spectacle for festival goers. We were very privileged to meet many other members of Clan Hunter Canada at the tent that morning, making new acquaintances and catching up with others. Time came for the parade of Clans – this was a highlight for our family. Carrying the Hunter flag in the procession, my father Ed, husband Derek, our sons Cruz and Sterling and I proudly walked amongst the Hunter Clan, displaying our unity for all.

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland games provided many interactive experiences for families to enjoy and ours was no exception. The music was fantastic, games and dancing wonderfully entertaining and the exhibits on multiple aspects of Scottish culture, both historical and current, were very educational. Overall, the festival was an absolutely fantastic experience!

We are looking forward to attending every year henceforth. A very warm thank you to Madam Pauline, Dale and all of Clan Hunter - you all have made us feel so welcome in our first year of clan involvement and are looking forward to meeting those we have not yet had the pleasure. My family is eager to attend more clan gatherings, events and festivals in years ahead and hopefully, connect some genealogy.

I feel as though all members of Clan Hunter around the globe are historians like myself. We are all searching for the same common goal - connecting to our ancestors of the past, uniting with those in the present, and of course, creating chapters for the new members of the future. I am so honoured to be a member of Clan Hunter. The welcoming inclusion has made me feel proud of the allegiance to the Clan Chief and 30th Laird, Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston as well as to my fellow members and kinfolk.

**Laura Collins (nee Hunter)**

Reprinted from the Hunters' Halloo Winter 2023



# LEAVING HOME

AR CÙL RIS AN DACHAIGH



## 2023 Centenary Year

of the Historic Hebridean Emigration of 1923/24

To Canada on The Marloch,  
The Metagama, The Canada



The Summer of 2023 will mark this  
**Historic Moment in Hebridean History with:**

Exhibitions, Musical, Art and Literary Events  
culminating with Tattoo Metagama on

**11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

fronted appropriately by  
**78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders from Toronto**



[Click here for more information](#)



Hosted by Western Isles Community Society (local lottery)  
In partnership with the Stornoway Historical Society



# Kennedy Society of North America



## From the Chief

The Kennedy Society of North America is now two games into its 50th year celebration, having convened tents at Central Florida and NE Florida. Upcoming are Loch Norman in April, and then Savannah and Smoky Mountain in May. The AGM and official celebration will be at the Smoky Mountain games, with a banquet at the host hotel on Saturday night. Also noteworthy is that the Kennedy Society has been designated as a “distinguished clan” at Grandfather Mountain in July, the site of its founding in 1973. A full list of games that will have a Kennedy tent, including Fergus, can be found on the Kennedy Society website. All told, there are well over twenty games on the schedule for 2023. Also on the website is a page dedicated to the 50th, including registration for the banquet, the Silent Auction, and for the Friends of the Oak. The Silent Auction and the Friends of the Oak are fundraising vehicles to offset costs related to the 50th, with any remaining funds to be utilized for the overall enhancement of the Society. One of the items on the auction site is a personal tour of Culzean Castle by Archibald David Kennedy (Archie), Earl of Cassillis. Also available are two Gulf Coast condos and various Kennedy related products - including a 16oz Kennedy Modern kilt! Please check the GalaBid site to see if there is something that strikes your fancy. As always, the KSNA Facebook page carries other information related to tents and other activities for inquiring minds! Stay tuned for more news as the year progresses.

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



## ATTENTION ALL KENNEDY MEMBERS FAR AND NEAR!

In order to help defray costs for the 50th anniversary at the Smoky Mountain games, two fundraising campaigns have been developed: Friends of the Oak and an online silent auction.

Friends of the Oak has a three tiered scope:

\* first, for a \$25 donation, this level will offer an anniversary certificate and a commemorative lapel pin. The certificate is signed by our hereditary chief, the Marquess of Ailsa, and KSNA Society Chief, Dave Carrick.

\* second, for \$50, this level will offer the certificate, the pin, and a commemorative coin.

\* third, for \$100, this level will offer the certificate, pin, coin, and a commemorative pottery piece by Susan Kennedy of Swamp Fires Ceramics, Soaps, and Candles.

\*these items will be mailed to their respective donors.

The silent auction, which will end just before the banquet on May 20, will feature framed photos by Karen Kennedy, a beach rental from Chris and Sue Kennedy, and other items donated by members and vendors. Winning bidders can pick up their items at the banquet if in attendance. Those not in attendance will be notified and their item(s) will be shipped.

As previously stated, any remaining funds raised for the 50th will be placed directly back into the Kennedy Society, including for scholarship.

Both of these fundraising campaigns will be able to be done online, and a special website page featuring links and information pertaining to the anniversary has been developed. If you can't physically be in Townsend, you can still participate in and contribute to the celebration!

As part of the 50th anniversary, the Kennedy Society will be hosting a banquet at the Knoxville Airport Hilton on the evening of Saturday, May 20. The cocktail hour with a cash bar will start at 6:30pm, followed by a buffet dinner at 7:30pm. The dinner menu will include pre-meal snacks, three salads, Chicken Cordon Bleu, beef medallions, oven roasted potatoes, and assorted desserts. The cost will be

\$50 per person, and registration can be done online. The deadline to register is Friday, May 12. Entertainment will be provided by Celtic fiddler Brandon Kennedy, and the evening's program is being developed. All members are encouraged to attend not just the banquet but the Smoky Mountain Games and the AGM. You only turn 50 once!





# Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games



We're absolutely thrilled to announce that the Kincardine Scottish Festival will once again take place this year on July 7th, 8th, and 9th, and we want you to be part of it! We know that you have wonderful stories to tell that take our patrons on fascinating journeys of history and cultural heritage – conversations that help folk have a richer, deeper connection to their roots when they take the time out of the bustle of the surrounding Festival. Clan Avenue will be featured on Saturday July 8th, and we anticipate it will include a Clan Parade, although due to road construction this year, it will follow a different route than in the past. Please do consider bringing your wealth of knowledge to our event to

share with visitors and competitors from all over Ontario and the Midwestern United States.

We would also love to get to know you better and share your clan with our online visitors! Does your clan have a Facebook page, an Instagram page, or some other type of social media that we could share and promote on the Kincardine Scottish Festival Facebook page? If you wanted every visitor to walk away having learned one thing, one fact, one piece of trivia about your clan, what would it be? Clan Drummond, for example's traditional progenitor was a Hungarian nobleman who came to Scotland with Saint Margaret of Scotland—an origin story that fits in quite well with Canada's multicultural society!

As a member of CASSOC, you are invited to display your Clan pride and history on Clan Avenue on Saturday, July 8th. As for the Clan Parade, we plan to follow up by mid-June with logistics.

Saturday's competitions will continue to have pride of place with Pipe Band, Highland Dance, and Heavy Athletics events, an expanded Bairns' (children's) Program (such as a no-ice curling rink, a medieval knights exhibition, and interactive "Fight the Knight" activity), vendors and Clan representation, and the Hospitality Tent. In addition, this year's entertainment lineup will feature Juno Award-winning band Glass Tiger and Abbamania, along with perennial favourites The Mudmen, Maddison Violet, and Boiler Beach, among others.

Sunday will be Family Day with another live Celtic concert, displays, and demonstrations including the Bairns' program and much more.

Please do join us for a very special weekend in this lakeside town that boasts of being more Scottish than Scotland. We would love to reserve a special place for your Clan on Clan Avenue right in the thick of things. To reserve your space, please fill in and return the attached form to [clan-skincot@bmts.com](mailto:clan-skincot@bmts.com).

**Georges Kovari Clans Team Lead**

**Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games**

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

# Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games



## Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games 2023 Clan Reservation Form CEAD MILE FAILTE!

To reserve your space on the 2023 Clan Avenue, please submit your application by **May 1, 2023**

Clan Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

### WELCOME TO CLAN AVENUE 2023!

Upon receipt of the Clan Reservation Form, an email containing two admission tickets and other Festival details will be sent at a later date to the address listed above.

**Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games is delighted to provide tents, tables and chairs to the first 10 Clans who confirm their attendance**

#### Mail to:

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
310 Durham Market North  
Kincardine, ON N2Z 1Z9  
Phone: (519) 396-9300

Email the completed form and contact for more information

[clanskinscot@bmts.com](mailto:clanskinscot@bmts.com)

Privacy Policy: Any of the above information will be used for Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games purposes only. It will not be sold or otherwise distributed.

[Click here for a fillable PDF of the above form](#)



# Kingsville Highland Games

**FLOCK TO JACK MINER'S**

KINGSVILLE • ONTARIO • CANADA

**HIGHLAND GAMES**

**2023**

**JACK MINER BIRD SANCTUARY**  
332 RD. 3 WEST,  
KINGSVILLE, ON

**SATURDAY**  
**JUNE 24, 2023**

**GATES OPEN 8 A.M.**



## Great new venue for the 2023 Kingsville Highland Games



The Kingsville Highland Games Committee is thrilled to announce that it has found a fabulous new venue to host the Kingsville Highland Games. In partnership with The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary the Kingsville Highland Games will be held on Ty Cobb Field at The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary, 332 Road 3 West, Kingsville on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

The Committee is delighted to have found a location where every exciting element of the Kingsville Highland Games can be enjoyed on one level a truly immersive experience for all. The Kilted 5km Run/Walk will also take place on the grounds of The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary involving a mix of on and off-trail paths in Kennedy Woods.

Please save the date, **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, and stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks by following us on-line at:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames> or <https://jackminer.ca/>

The deadline for clan registrations is May 7, 2023. Click here to access the online  
Clan Village Registration Form

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



**FLOCK TO JACK MINER'S**

KINGSVILLE • ONTARIO • CANADA

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 24**

- PIPE BAND COMPETITIONS
- PIPING & DRUMMING COMPETITIONS
- **NEW!** QUARTET COMPETITIONS
- HIGHLAND DANCING
- HEAVY EVENTS
- TUG OF WAR
- SHEEP HERDING DEMOS
- HAGGIS HURL

NO SMOKING  
NO DOGS • SERVICE DOGS WELCOME



**JACK MINER**  
BIRD SANCTUARY

JACK MINER BIRD SANCTUARY  
332 RD. 3 W, KINGSVILLE, ON



**GATES OPEN  
AT 8 A.M.**

- CLAN VILLAGE
- KILTED 5K RUN/WALK
- COVERED BEER TENT
- LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY
- FOOD & MERCHANDISE VENDORS
- ARTIST SOCIETY OF KINGSVILLE
- JACK MINER MUSEUM & KIDS ACTIVITIES
- LOADS OF PARKING

BRING YOUR OWN LAWNCHAIR  
& WATER BOTTLE

**2023**

**HIGHLAND GAMES**





**TICKETS: \$20 • CHILDREN 14 & UNDER: FREE**



**KINGSVILLE HIGHLAND GAMES**





## Great things are happening!

It's a new year and CLSI has so many exciting announcements. As you noticed on page 3, we are finally able to gather together. This is more important than ever, especially as we remember everyone we've lost recently. After the cancellation of our Las Vegas gathering the council voted to have a gathering THIS year in Greenville, SC in conjunction with the Greenville Scottish Games (Gallabrae).

This is a wonderful opportunity to get back together with everyone and experience a really top-notch event. If you have never been to the Greenville Games, I encourage you to do so! The games themselves are held one day on Saturday, May 27th but you won't want to miss marching in the parade on Friday the 26th. Other gathering events are being planned so be sure and

click the link on page 3 and fill out the questionnaire from the gathering committee.

Did I say click? YES! This is the first issue of the Grip Fast Journal that is all electronic. You can easily print these pages out for easier reading if necessary, but as a PDF document we're able to add features that just weren't possible in the printed version. You'll be able to click on links, buttons and logos that will take you to different pages and websites. Our web address in the footer is a hyperlink to the CLSI website that you can click on from any page. Need to email a council member? Click on their email address to open your mail application. We hope these new features will enhance your experience as you click through the stories and articles.

Lastly, it's exciting to see so much participation at our Leslie tents at various Scottish festivals. Despite the increased participation, I get many messages from members saying they attended a festival and did NOT see a Leslie tent. While hosting a tent is really fun, it's impossible for convenors and hosts to be at every festival. That's where you come in! We would love to have more tent hosts and more participation at festivals in general. Hosting a tent is easy and it's a great way to connect with other Leslies and share information. If you would like to learn more, drop me a line at: [designinvasion@gmail.com](mailto:designinvasion@gmail.com)

Hope to see all of you in May.

Laura Sawyer Messing, Cheiftain, CLSI





## 2023 Clan Leslie Society Gathering

Greenville, SC in conjunction with the Greenville Scottish Games



**May 26 Friday Evening - Games Saturday May 27**

**Clan Chief Alexander Leslie and  
his wife Miranda Leslie will be attending.  
Clan Leslie will be the Honor Clan**

More details to come

So that we may continue our planning process, please go to the form using the link below and respond to our three questions to get a headcount.

Or, send an email to [LJohnson355@gmail.com](mailto:LJohnson355@gmail.com) or call **336-656-4971** with your name and the number of anticipated attendees in your group.

**[Click here to fill out the Gathering Interest Form](#)**

The Gathering Planning Committee



# Clan Macfie Society in Canada



## Macfie Clan Society in Canada

Happy New Year Everyone. I hope your Christmas and New Year holidays were restful and you all had a chance to spend some time with family and friends. Barbara and I wish you prosperity and health for the year ahead.

### A New Clan Commander Search Underway

If anyone is interested in wanting to lead Clan Macfie, please contact: [secretarat@clanmacfie.co.uk](mailto:secretarat@clanmacfie.co.uk) for more information.

A committee has been formed and we have contacted the Lord Lyon in Scotland who is also instrumental in assisting with such an appointment. Our previous Clan Commander, Iain McFee lives with his wife Fiona in the Glasgow area, and he continues to complete physical therapy to help with his neck injury. We

wish Iain and Fiona a great year ahead.

### Clan Gathering for all Macfies – Mark This Date!

The International Clan Gathering will be held in Clyde Bank on the outskirts of Glasgow on Sept 27 and 28, 2023. The Gathering will be held at the Golden Jubilee Hotel & Conference Centre which is located in Inverclyde. Also, plans are under way to spend a few days on our ancestral homeland on the Isle of Colonsay starting on Sept 29 or 30 until Oct 4. This will be an important week, as it marks the 400th Anniversary of the death of Malcolm Macfie, our last Chief of our Clan.

Vanessa Duffy and Lorraine McFee are the Coordinators for the Clan MacFie Gathering 2023. Get Ready for another trip to Bonny Scotland. If anyone has any questions about traveling to Scotland or want tips on what else to visit, please contact Vanessa. Her email address is: [vduffy16@aol.com](mailto:vduffy16@aol.com)

### New Treasurer/Membership Coordinator

As mentioned in the last newsletter we have a new Treasurer/Coordinator for Clan Macfie. Her name is Michele Dames. Her mother and grandparents were McPhie's. Feel free to reach out and welcome Michele to Clan Macfie.

Our membership fees are now due for the year of 2023: Please send your funds to Michele.

Thanks to all of you who have already paid your membership fees. We appreciate your contributions and your donations. Yearly memberships can be paid by e-transfer/Interac. It is \$15 for single membership and \$25 for a family membership. You can send your e-transfer (interac) membership fee to Michele Dames at: [periwinkle4me@hotmail.com](mailto:periwinkle4me@hotmail.com)

Yours Aye,

Gary MacPhie

President

Macfie Clan Society in Canada



## Greetings CASSOC Clansfolk Members from Clan MacLennan Canada.

I hope you are all looking forward, as we are, to a busy and successful 2023 involved in Scottish Festivals and Highland Games. We have been enjoying our MacLennan Worldwide Genealogy monthly Zoom meetings led by our worldwide genealogist and web master, Bruce McLennan from Australia.

We are now learning about Scottish Parishes, where Mc/MacLennans were most prevalent, from the NSA (New Statistical Accounts) of the early 19th century. This month we will learn more about the MacLennan Scottish settlers who came to Canada in 1802 on the ship "Neptune", sailing from Loch Nevis to Quebec in 9 weeks. There were 600 passengers of

Highlanders on board. If you are a descendant of one of these settlers please get in touch with Bruce at: [famhist@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](mailto:famhist@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)

Plans are underway for our Worldwide McLennan Clan Gathering in July 2024 in the Highland spa town of Strathpeffer, Scotland. Our original plans of a gathering in 2022 had to be postponed like so many others.

If you are interested in attending you can get in touch with Melanie McLennan, Chief's Commissioner Canada at: [ed-ca@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](mailto:ed-ca@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com) or myself at: [pres-ca@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](mailto:pres-ca@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)

Wishing you a Happy Easter and Best Wishes for 2023!

Barbara MacLennan

President

Clan MacLennan Canada



Five sisters of Kintail - MacLennan homeland





## Greetings MacRaes and MacRae Septs

These past two weeks have seen lots of snow here in Central Canada as many of you are probably already aware plus we have recently experienced some unusual weather across Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. Our clocks at least in some provinces have recently changed ahead for daylight savings and hopefully spring is just around the corner even though it doesn't seem like it. In many provinces, it still looks like the middle of winter but I am excited to see the spring blooms and early flowers colours and soon the colours of our tartans kilts will be seen at more events with sounds of the bagpipes nearby. Time is fast approaching to attend Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festivals across Canada.

January 25th many of you celebrated the life and legacy of Scotland's famous poet Robert Burns exactly 264 years after his birth.

Our MacRaes may have celebrated in a variety of ways across Canada including haggis suppers, whisky tastings, lectures, Zoom events, or just an evening of story/poem readings or Scottish music and performances. Some may have celebrated the history of haggis with its connection to Robbie Burns Day.

Our past President Owen McRae, along with a few other MacRaes celebrated Robbie Burns night at Hycroft Manor in Vancouver, BC. For those who are unaware, this mansion was built for and once the home of General Alexander Duncan McRae. He was an Ontario born businessman, Military General and later a Canadian Senator. Duncan built the mansion for his family after relocating to Vancouver in 1907. This manor was completed in 1911 with the approximate cost for construction of this thirty room building at \$110,000.

*(Continued on page 62)*







Let other poets raise a fracas  
"Bout vines, an' wines, an' drucken Bacchus,  
An' crabbit names an' stories wrack us,  
An' grate our lug:  
I sing the juice Scotch bear can mak us,  
In glass or jug.

O thou, my muse! guid auld Scotch drink!  
Whether thro' wimplin worms thou jink,  
Or, richly brown, ream owre the brink,  
In glorious faem,  
Inspire me, till I lisp an' wink,  
To sing thy name!

--from "Scotch Drink" (1785)



# Clan MacRae Society of Canada

*(Continued from page 60)*

The mansion was donated to the government in 1942, due to rising costs and the need for upkeep. During the war it became Shaughnessy Military Hospital, then served as an auxiliary facility for many years. Eventually, it was taken over by the University Women's Club in 1962 and they occupy it today while it has become a learning place for the community. The manor hosts many great functions including weddings. It is a beautiful place to explore at 1489 McRae Ave., Vancouver, BC.

Owen and other guests donned their tartan attire and paid tribute to the poet Robert Burns while enjoying an evening of all things Scottish. The order of the evening was great Scottish food, whisky tasting, music, speeches, jokes, and dancing the night away.

*(Continued on page 63)*



Owen MacRae at Hycroft Manor for Robbie Burns night celebrations



*(Continued from page 62)*

The Odd Society Spirits released a Limited Edition of four Scotch Whiskies on Jan. 19 to kick off their “BURNS BASH” celebration for Robbie Burns night. This was available only from Jan 19th-26th. No matter how you celebrated the famous Scottish poet, we hope you all had a great time.

With summer coming, those who enjoy camping in the parks might wish to venture to MacRae Point Park in Orillia, Ontario. It is a beautiful park with lots of large trees for shade, plus many places to enjoy a wonderful family picnic with hook-ups for camping over-night.

Take Note: The Clan MacRae Society of Canada is now in the final planning stages for our annual AGM on the weekend of Aug 25th-27th to take place in the picturesque province of PEI. All MacRaes and Septs of MacRaes are invited along with their families for either part or the whole weekend.

Friday evening Aug. 25th there will be a “Meet & Greet”. We will have our AGM meeting business on the morning of Aug 26th, with plans for a tour in the afternoon then an evening of entertainment. On Sunday, Aug.27th there will be a church service with the blessing of the tartan, then lunch and social time following. If anyone is interested in joining us please reach out to Linda MacRae at email: [Imacrae11@gmail.com](mailto:Imacrae11@gmail.com)

We hope to see some old faces with a few new ones, and we welcome you all to join us. Have a great spring and see you at the Highland Games and Festivals.





# Greater Moncton Scottish Association



## Mark your calendar!

Our 17th Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival takes places June 13-17, 2023.

The main competition & activity day is Saturday, June 17.

We're bringing back our free community concerts leading up to the big day.

Think you might have some Scottish ancestry? Then Clan Alley is the place to ask! You'll find official clan organizations and Scottish heritage groups to help you trace your family history.

Clan Alley is the heart of any Highland Games. It's where the clans set up their tents in a grassy area.

We invite you to come share in the traditions of the heritage of the Highland clans -

and some lowland ones, too!

Show your Clan pride at our Games!

We welcome Clan Associations to join us each year.

We are able rent 10'x10' tents, 6' tables, and folding chairs for your use;

rates and additional information available on our registration form on the next page

Questions? Contact our Clan Organizer, [Murray MacLean](#).

[Click here to download the Clan Registration PDF](#) as shown on the next page

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

**Greater Moncton  
Highland Games  
& Scottish Festival**



**Hal Betts Sportsplex  
Assumption Blvd.  
June 17 – 19, 2022**

## **MONCTON HIGHLAND GAMES - JUNE 17-19, 2022**

**Hal Betts Sportsplex  
250 Assumption Blvd., Moncton, N.B.  
CLAN REGISTRATION**

To register for this year's Moncton Highland Games, please complete and return this form, along with a cheque for any requested equipment, to the address below by **May 15, 2022**. Due to the nature of the event this year, payments **MUST** be received in advance by the date noted above.

CLAN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION OF RENTAL EQUIPMENT (Enter number of items required):**

10' x 10' Tent - \$150 each \_\_\_\_\_

6' Table - \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_

Folding chairs - \$5 each \_\_\_\_\_

**HOURS – Clan Alley will be open from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday June 18, and from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday June 18. Clan members may set up Friday after 2:00 PM. Vehicles must be off site by 8:00 AM on Saturday, and will not be permitted on site until after 6:00 PM Sunday.**

**ALL CLAN MEMBERS MUST ABIDE BY COVID-19 GUIDELINES IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THE EVENT.**

*Make cheques for rental equipment (if any) payable to: **The Greater Moncton Scottish Association Inc.,**  
And mail to: **Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival**  
**P. O. Box 26004, Moncton, NB E1E 4H9***

Direct any questions to: Murray MacLean at 506-856-5819 or [macleanm@rogers.com](mailto:macleanm@rogers.com)



# Montréal Highland Games - Jeux Écossais de Montréal



Hello everyone!

Things are coming along quite well with the Montreal Highland Games! Many Clans and a few Non-Profit organizations have already registered! I hope you plan on doing so as well as I look forward to seeing and giving you all the chance to much deserved representation!! We had so much fun last year! Let's make The 2023 Montreal Highland Games even better!

Registration has opened earlier this year as we want to give the various Clans and non-profit organizations time to prepare and not worry about last minute formalities! This is also a way to secure your spot, please don't wait till the last minute! Our Games are August 6th this year so there's still plenty of time to register..but knowing if you are coming earlier helps us plan your arrival better!!

Please click on the link below to register!

[Clans and NPOs registration \(montrealhighlandgames.com\)](http://montrealhighlandgames.com)

**Steven Logan**

**Clans and Community Organizations Director**

**Montreal Highland Games**

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

NCHG

The 2023 NCHG is on hold until 2024 !

# National Capital Highland Games

2023 is on hold due to construction on site.

See you in August 2024!



## **NATIONAL CAPITAL HIGHLAND GAMES**

See you at the Capital Fair!

Check out all of the other events happening at: <http://www.capitalfair.ca>

Like us on Facebook and find updated info:

<https://www.facebook.com/National-Capital-Highland-Games-559755421160450/>

Want to get involved? Contact: [Erinroberts7777@gmail.com](mailto:Erinroberts7777@gmail.com)





**THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF OTTAWA**  
**LA SOCIÉTÉ ÉCOSSAISE D'OTTAWA**  
**COMUNN ALBANNACH OTTAWA**

## **A Note From the Chair**

Cead Mile Fàilte to 2023!

We lifted our glasses, ate, drank, sang and danced at Hogman-eh! '22! Thanks to the thousands of families and friends, old and new, who celebrated with us live at the

Aberdeen Pavilion and Horticulture Building! We were thrilled to be back in person! Thousands also joined us from across the nation watching our live stream as we rang in the bells for the Scottish New Year at 7 pm ET and again for fireworks and more revelry at midnight. Hundreds more joined us from the surrounding community to ring in the New Year with our traditional fireworks show over the Great Lawn at Lansdowne Park. In case you missed it, catch the live stream early show Bringing in the Bells and the late show For Auld Lang Syne or the Hogman-eh! '22 Highlights on our YouTube channel. More on Hogman-eh! '22 below.

The 6th Annual OttScot Festival celebration of Scottish culture continues through the winter months - leave it to the Scots to celebrate and bring you warmth in the coldest months of the year! We will celebrate Scotland's National Bard at our Burns Supper and Ceilidh on January 21, and strap on tartans, kilts and skates and join the Great Canadian Kilt Skate in Ottawa and across Canada. Bring your family and friends and celebrate Scottish culture! Our festival events and celebrations continue as we share warm spirits through the frosty season!

Wishing each and every one of you good health, friendships, happiness and prosperity in the year ahead.

Heather Theoret, Interim Chair





## Hogman-eh! 2022 - A first timer's experience

By Marie Michelle

My family has a Scottish and Québécois background and loved Scotland when we visited. Then of course there's Outlander. I had not heard of Hogmanay but was looking for something fun and inexpensive to do this New Years Eve. Turns out it's Scottish New Years. I was a little skeptical at first because my Dad said it would be fun but we do share a love of all things Scottish. He mentioned that there would be live bands and fireworks at midnight so I thought I would give it a try.

The Canadian version is called Hogman-eh! A bit of a lame Dad joke but the price was right, so I tagged along. To my surprise it was fun and we had a blast! I was surprised that there was all sorts of interesting people including young people. I'm going to see if I can get some friends along next year!





# Clan Ramsay International



For our members in the Northeast, Midwest, Far West and Southwest, it has been a bitterly cold and nasty winter. Most of those in the Southeast got off pretty easy. But take heart all—If the calendar says Spring is here, fairer weather can only be just around the corner! In fact, in my part of the world, the pollen is already on us—about six weeks early!

And with Spring comes the season of highland games throughout the United States and many other countries. Make plans to go and represent Clan Ramsay wherever and whenever you can.

And while you're making plans to attend Highland Games and Gatherings, be sure to include the Clan Ramsay International AGM at

Stone Mountain, GA, October 2023!

For your future planning, If you can attend the event our European Clan Ramsay Convener, Laurent Jauniaux, is planning for mid July 2024, (date is not certain yet) I urge you to do so! It promises to be a joyous occasion! Laurent has provided a separate article on that event and other European events for this newsletter.

Thanks to the efforts of Vice President-elect Mike Ramsey, we are up and running on a new Facebook page! It is intended to be a great place to stay informed on Clan activities and member interests and updates. Check it out. There are links to the Facebook page and the Instagram page on the Clan web page. There also is a link to the Clan's Instagram page on the web site. That page is managed by Michaila Jolly, otherwise known as Mrs. Christian Carswell.

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter that the Clan has awarded a scholarship to a highland dancer. It is our second scholarship award. If you know of someone who might need some financial help to learn and participate Scottish arts and culture and you think they might be a candidate for a Clan scholarship, have them apply to David Ramsey, Membership Chairman and Treasurer.

A reminder: If you have not paid your 2023 dues by the end of March, this will be your last newsletter! Don't let that happen!

***Ora et Labora Dick McGraw***

***President Clan Ramsay International***





# Uxbridge Scottish Festival



## We are back with a full festival

Join us July 22, 2023 for a full Scottish festival, including pipe bands, highland dancers, Scottish clans, Scottish dog exhibition, vendors and much more.

More details are coming soon, so check our [website](#) as we unfold details of all the great events and participants as planning continues.

To attend as a group please go on-line and register as a vendor and of course, no payment required.

Applications are due no later than May 1, 2023. [Click to access the application](#)

***Editor's note: Uxbridge is not a member of CASSOC however we are planning to have the full CASSOC road show at Uxbridge this year and thus the entry in this newsletter. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well.***



# St. Andrew's Society of Toronto



## President's Report

As I begin my term as President of the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto, I can't help but reflect on the more than 90 predecessors who have built a legacy of philanthropy and pride in the Scottish heritage that runs broad and deep in the history and institutions of this city. Each helped sustain the Society, assisted those in need, from the earliest Scottish immigrants to the diverse groups that rely on the organizations we support, and through our events and activities, preserved our customs and traditions.

The past presidents leave a challenge for their successors to step up and continue our contribution to the city and celebration of our Scottish Canadian heritage while enjoying the company of our members and guests. I am really very proud to have the opportunity to continue this legacy, working with a talented and committed group of volunteers, to meet this challenge over the next couple of years.

Speaking of challenges, we are finally exiting the COVID pandemic and returning to a semblance of normalcy. After a hiatus of two years, we were able to have an in-person Charity Ball in November and a Burns Supper in January. We even gathered in a snowstorm to celebrate Burns' birthday at his statue. We are planning a full calendar of events and activities this year where we will have the opportunity to gather together and I look forward to meeting so many of you that I could only engage with virtually. We will still have lots to work on, including building our membership and ensuring adequate funding to deliver on our charitable goals.

I would like to thank our outgoing President Katey Witt for her tireless leadership over the last couple of years as we navigated our way through a virtual existence, unprecedented in our 187 year history.

*John Sawyer*

*President*





## Burns Statue Celebration

Members of the St. Andrew's Society braved the howling wind and snowstorm on January 25th as they gathered at the Burns Statue to toast the great Bard on the 264th anniversary of his birth. The hardy bunch were in good spirits as they followed the haggis being piped round the statue by Rory Sinclair.

After an animated 'Address to the Haggis' by Graham Desson, the members and a few passersby enjoyed a hot plate of haggis, neeps and tatties. Luckily there was a cosy pub nearby where we all warmed up afterwards!





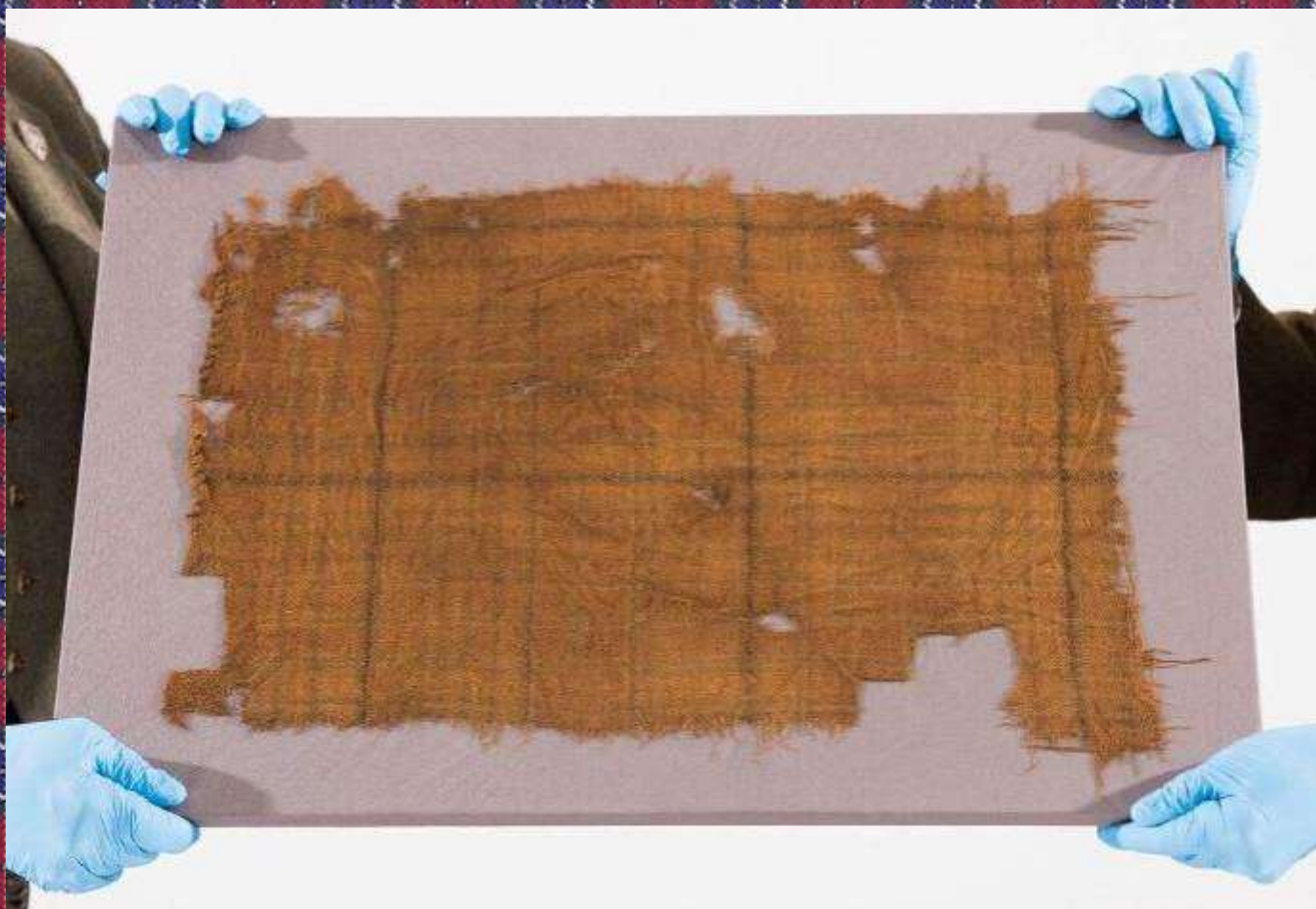
## World's Oldest-known Surviving Scottish Tartan

(Alan Richardson/V&A Museum Dundee)

A piece of fabric found in a bog in the Scottish Highlands could be the oldest traditional tartan ever found. According to scientists, the tartan could be up to 500 years old and is believed to have been made around the time of the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots. It survived because of the lack of air getting to it. The tartan is now on display at the Scottish V&A Dundee museum's Tartan exhibition which runs until January 2024. The show features more than 300 objects including items from the world of fashion, graphic design, film and performance and art.

To read more about this amazing find, click [here](#).

To see images from the Tartan exhibition at the V&A museum, click [here](#).





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

Fifty seven letters sent by Mary, Queen of Scots in the 16th century have been found and deciphered by an international team of code breakers. The letters, written during her English captivity, were found in a trawl of online archives at the National Library of France. They are said to be the most significant discovery about Mary for more than a century.

[Click here to read more in The Guardian.](#)



## The most popular surnames in Scotland over the last 50 years

The National Records for Scotland have revealed that the top three Scottish surnames over the past 50 years have stayed the same. Smith tops the poll with Brown and Wilson coming in next. Does your surname make the list? Surprisingly, there aren't any names beginning with 'Mac' in the top 10!

1. Smith
2. Brown
3. Wilson
4. Stewart
5. Thomson
6. Robertson
7. Campbell
8. Anderson
9. Murray
10. Scott



To read more and to find out the top 20 names, click [here](#).





**We look forward to welcoming you to the Red Deer Highland Games on June 24th, 2023!**

It is one of Red Deer's oldest, continuously running events!

The Red Deer Highland Games has been held in Red Deer since 1947, and are known as the kickoff to the Highland Season in Central Alberta. The Highland Games are an integral part of our community identity and a well-loved event at the start of the summer.

The event continues to be hosted and organized by a team of dedicated and caring volunteers.

There are numerous activities designed to create an exciting and fun day for those of Celtic Heritage, and for those who'd like to be!

For more details visit:

<https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/>

A clan registration form is available by clicking here

and is available on the next page

*Editor's note: Although Red Deer is a member of CASSOC, we can't make it there this year due to travel timing and schedule conflicts. However we will have a special display consisting of a large feather banner and a booklet version of the member posters sent out to this event. Please let us know if you are attending and provide feedback on our display.*

## Invitation to Clans

Come to the Red Deer Highland Games and celebrate our Scottish Heritage! Share the rich stories, the origin and heritage of your Clan.

### To Reserve in the Clan Area

NO CHARGE for tent space or principal clan participants with nearby parking for one clan vehicle. Clans provide their own tents, tables, chairs, and displays.

We can provide the above items for a small fee.

Fees:

10 x 10 Canopy \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Table & 2 chairs \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Full payment to be submitted at time of application                      Total: \_\_\_\_\_

## Waiver

(This signed Waiver must be returned with the application)

In consideration of being allowed to use the facilities of the Red Deer Highland Games, we the undersigned hereby agree:

To waive any and all claims that we, may have against the Red Deer Highland Games Association, its directors and officers, employees, agents, representatives & volunteers.

To release the Red Deer Highland Games Association from any and all liability for any loss, damage, and injury or expense that occurs out of the use of the space provided by the Red Deer Highland Games Association, by the above-named vendor, their family, employees or volunteers.

To hold harmless and indemnify the Red Deer Highland Games Association, from any and all liability for any property damage, personal injury to any third party or other financial loss or expense, including legal expense and costs of a solicitor-and-his- own-client full indemnity basis, resulting from the participation in the Red Deer Highland Games.

I / We, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that we have read the foregoing and understand its content, import and meaning.

Clan Representative Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed registration to [rdhighlandgames@gmail.com](mailto:rdhighlandgames@gmail.com)



## Burns at the Brass

by Steven Logan, FSAScot

The end of January was a very busy month for us at Clan Logan. The events just kept on rolling in. This time, I decided to attend a much different Burns night called "Burns at the Brass" held at Origine Brass in Dorval Quebec. It was the West Island Burns night I had always wanted to attend but couldn't and this year, it was on Saturday, January 28th, 2023.

I was very lucky because Laurent, our Vice-President was available so we went together in our fine Logan attire. We didn't know what to expect since it was our first time there for this event. It was a Burns night in a pub atmosphere! Very laid back, very easy going. We went inside and simple sat at a table, we ordered drinks and had a great 3 course meal that included Haggis.

Different people came to talk to us, very friendly, wondering who we were and where we came from. They learned for the very first time that there was a Clan Logan Society in Verdun Quebec. They were all very warm and welcoming people. We ate, had a few drinks and enjoyed the various entertainment offered at this venue. We had great bagpiping and met up with Jenna Dennison who we hired to do a few bagpiping numbers for our Facebook page. We also get to see her at many other events. She was actually part of the Haggis party. The ceremony was done by Bob



Haggis party with Jenna Dennison, Bob Labrèche and bagpiper Jeremy Tétrault-Farber!

Labrèche who we know very well and there was even a French language equivalent. This was a trend we saw this year of making event more bilingual. This is a great idea as it opens up and shares Scottish traditions and culture with different people. This is a great way of reaching out and including people more who are new to all this. Our Clan got notable visibility at this event. I was even able to promote the interests of the Montreal Highland Games and believe I was able to recruit an extra Clan for our event.

The entertainment was wonderful. we got some bagpiping from local pipers and the Wendy Johnstone School of Highland dance offered us many Highland dancing representations that included a nice sword dance. The group Fiddleheads came and played for us pleasing the crowds. We had a wonderful event at Origins Brass and hope to attend next year.



Author with vice-President Laurent

## Montreal Great Canadian Kiltskate 2023

By Steven Logan, Fsascot

The 9th annual Great Canadian Kiltskate was held on Sunday, January 29th, 2023 and hosted by the Montreal Saint Andrew's Society. I was a little discouraged on that day as mother nature gave us a bad snow storm with lots of snow! I attended with the purpose of meeting people and offering support but skating, that's not for me! I arrived at the Verdun Auditorium for 3 pm to meet up with the organizers. So pleased that this event was to happen just 5 minutes away from my home!

Unsurprisingly, There were very few people when I arrived. I was able to see a few acquaintances. Attendance to the event took a serious hit due to the storm we got and difficult travel conditions. There were people who despite that, came to show their Scottish pride in their heritage on ice. There were a few curious onlookers who came to find out what the kiltskate was about. A few francophone people didn't understand what the event was about so I took a few minutes here and there to tell them about it. I was very pleased to see Jacques McNicoll who came with his wife. He thanked me for the difference I made with Clan Logan and the efforts done with Clan visibility.

Although not many people showed up, it was important that I did. it shows solidarity and participation. I think it's important to show our pride in our heritage, ancestry and traditions. I may have been the only Logan kilt in the Auditorium but I was there nonetheless. I got to see some really nice Scottish Dancing done by Rebecca, Maureen and Liz Matulina with bagpiper Gabriel Harris giving us his best tunes. I wrapped up the event by having some cake and left. It was nice to spend a few hours out and see people I consider family. The Montreal Saint Andrew's Society did a fantastic job hosting the event despite the challenges.

Images below: Steven Logan & Jacques McNicoll, Skaters having great time!





## Meet the authors

by **Steven Logan, FSAScot**

On Thursday, January 26th, 2023, I had the pleasure of participating in an online event by the Scottish Society of Antiquaries called "meet the authors". Hector MacQueen & Allan Brotherwick discussed "Law, Lordship and tenure: The fall of the Black Douglasses.

This book is a new interpretation of the fall of later medieval Scotland's greatest noble family, the Black Douglasses, in 1455. The discussion reaches back in time to over a century before, as the family began its rise to the pinnacle of Scottish society. The killing of William eighth earl of Douglas by King James II in 1452 receives particular attention, as also the way in which he, his brother James (his successor as earl), and their predecessors exercised their power and authority as earls and lords, and it is suggested that their identifiable failings in this provide the key to understanding the catastrophe that befell the family in 1455.

The principal analytical tool is the law relevant to these events and the specific meaning and significance of the documents (which is often a legal question) that evidence them. It is argued that this form of analysis is at least as relevant as any more political approach and that 'legal consciousness' was a vital feature of Scottish noble society.

*(Continued on page 81)*

Cast of seal of  
William, 8<sup>th</sup> earl of  
Douglas  
(NRS: RH17/1/247  
— Laing seal casts)



*(Continued from page 80)*

I had the pleasure of attending this online event with many Fellows. The presentation included many interesting slides. One of them showed the cast of the seal of William, 8th earl of Douglas. It displayed a kneeling savage holding a club in his right hand, and supports a couché shield on his left arm. If you look closely at the shield, you will see the Arms of Douglas that incorporate a human heart similarly to that of clan Logan. Let's not forget that in 1330, Sir James Douglas was accompanied by brothers Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig and Sir Walter Logan; along with Sir William de Keith, Sir William de St. Clair of Rosslyn in bringing the heart of the dead king Robert I of Scotland to the Holy land. Not surprising how certain symbols link us all together. This is why I tell people all Scottish Clans are linked through time at different moments.

Many slides of interest were shown. I enjoyed seeing those of the tomb of the 5th and 7th earl of Douglas as I like seeing stonework and architecture and these tombs were very similar in structure. There were other documents shared that were interesting to see such as James II's remission for the Livingstons dated August 27th, and James II's transumpt of Douglas Charters dated January 20th, 1449. The host was very good at sharing information with the Fellows in attendance. There's always something to learn when looking back in time.

The hosts Hector MacQueen & Allan Brotherwick did a fantastic job presenting the material. I hope to be able to participate in other Fellow meetings in the future.

Tomb of Archibald,  
5th earl of Douglas  
(d. 1439): St  
Bride's church,  
Douglas





## For the Love of Scotland

This week has been one of great significance for Scotland, with not one, but three national days directly linked to this bonnie land. Of course, we know you never need a particular occasion to celebrate your Scottish roots or love of all things Scotland, but consider this the perfect opportunity to add to your Tartan or Tweed collection and wear your heritage with pride.

[EXPLORE SCOTLANDSHOP](#)

### National Tweed Day - 3rd April



[SHOP TWEED  
MINI KILT](#)



[SHOP TWEED  
EIGHT  
QUARTER CAP](#)



[SHOP TWEED  
MESSENGER  
BAG](#)

As well as [tartan](#), we also sell many different [tweed fabrics](#) and products. Our head office is based in the beautiful Scottish Borders, where the River Tweed flows, an integral resource in the making of this robust and understated Scottish cloth. Join us as we explore the history, production and evolution of Tweed over on our [blog](#).

[READ THE BLOG](#)

**Editor's Note:** Look for ScotlandShop's booth at the following highland events: Victoria, Georgetown, Cobourg, Kingsville, Kincardine, Uxbridge, Glengarry, Montreal, Fergus, North Lanark and potentially Orillia or Cambridge

# SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

## National Tartan Day - 6th April



SHOP TARTAN  
JACKETS



SHOP TARTAN  
HEARTS



SHOP TARTAN  
SCARVES

[Tartan](#) is synonymous with Scotland and of course the very centre of our business here at ScotlandShop! National Tartan Day on the 6th of April, is a day to celebrate this beautiful fabric and all that it represents in Scottish culture and history. There's no bigger celebration of this day, than in New York City for the [Tartan Day Parade](#) -

Head over to the blog to learn more about how this day came to be, and all that happens to mark this occasion.

READ THE BLOG

## National Unicorn Day - 9th April



Did you know Scotland's national animal is a unicorn? A number of Clans feature the Unicorn on their Clan Crest, including [Ramsay](#), [Cunningham](#) & [Stewart](#) of Appin as shown above. A rather strange choice you might think as there aren't many countries in the world who are represented by a mythical creature, but you can find out more about this magical connection on the Tartan Blog.

READ THE BLOG



# Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival



The 160th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place Saturday May 20 and Sunday May 21, 2023, at Topaz Park in the City of Victoria (corner of Blanshard and Finlayson Roads). Participation of your Clan or Scottish organization in the Games is very much appreciated.

On Friday May 19 between 7pm-10pm there will be a Games VIP Reception at the new Victoria Scottish Community Centre (1803 Admirals Road, Victoria), 2 members of each clan or Scottish organization are invited to attend. As is our custom now, we'd like to have a potluck breakfast in the clan area on Sunday morning. We will discuss details on the Saturday with those interested. We would also like to have a separate Clan gathering on Sunday, again depending on everyone's schedule. We will again award medals for the Best Clan Displays with the help of our Chieftain of the Games.

The VHGA is pleased to provide site space and two admissions passes free of charge if your Clan or Scottish organization display is informational only. Tables may be ordered for a rental fee of \$10.00 each per day and chairs will be provided free of charge (the number of chairs required must be indicated on your registration form). If you require a tent, please email Randy. Additional admission passes may be ordered online through EVENTBRITE. Please indicate where you would like your free passes mailed.

The Scottish Heritage Village will be roughly located in the center of Topaz Park. We hope to have a setup like last year, a circle of tents accessible through a main gate, with an information booth in the center – this may be subject to change due to park improvements and last-minute Games layout changes.

Please contact Randy Stewart at [randyhstewart@gmail.com](mailto:randyhstewart@gmail.com) or (250) 884-2777 if you have any questions.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE EVENT**

1. Clans and Scottish organizations are expected to attend their space for the full duration of the Games day(s).
2. Set-up time is on May 20 and 21, only from 6:30 am to 8:30 am. Vehicles are not permitted on the field and must be unloaded and parked in the lot by 8:00 am. You may park in the lot nearest the Games site; however, these spaces are provided on a first come, first serve basis. We will have quads, dollies and volunteers available to help you setup.
3. You must provide your own table coverings and sun/rain protection.
4. You are responsible for removing your garbage.
5. No long-term parking in the loading area, vehicles must be moved once unloaded/loaded.

# Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival



## VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL CLAN and SCOTTISH ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION

Please return this registration form to: VHGA, Clan/SO Registration  
1149 Hampshire  
Victoria, BC V8S 4T1 Canada

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS April 28, 2023.**

Name of Clan/SO: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add any notes here you may have for the organizers:

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Please check Day(s) attending \_\_\_ Both Sat/Sun \_\_\_ Sat (May 20) Only \_\_\_ Sun (May 21) Only

Number of attendees at VIP reception (maximum of 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of tables required: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00/day = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of chairs required: \_\_\_\_\_ Free

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please make any cheque payable to: **Victoria Highland Games Association** or **VHGA**. U.S. fees must be paid at par using either a money order in Canadian funds, or a cheque in U.S. funds.

### **WAIVER:**

I have read and understand the rules and regulations and wish to participate as a Clan or Scottish organization at the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival. I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, and assigns waive and release any and all rights and claims I may have for damages against the Victoria Highland Games Association, its agents or representatives for any injuries which may be suffered by me during the Highland Games & Celtic Festival sponsored by said Association and/or any function related to the Highland Games & Celtic Festival.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 2023

***Editor's note: Victoria is not a member of CASSOC however we are planning to have the full CASSOC road show there this year and thus the entry in this newsletter. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well. Downloadable versions of their form ([PDF](#) / [MS-Word DOC](#))***





## Calling all Clans!

In addition to being the home of the North American Pipe Band Championships™, elite dancing and heavy-weight competitions, and world-class music, the Glengarry Highland Games is host to a large Gathering of the Clans.

Scottish clans are kinship organizations. Historically, clans were sophisticated institutions which defined the political landscape of medieval Scotland. Clans were headed by chiefs and bonded by a common territory, and were as varied as the diverse geography of Scotland. They were integral to the feudal society of

the Scottish Highlands and Islands, and were also present throughout the Lowlands, particularly in the Borders region. The word "clan" derives from the Gaelic clann, literally meaning children, showing how kinship (both real and fictional) was key to the understanding of Gaelic society. Rather than being limited to strict blood relation as we might today view it, however, clan kinship extended to include the whole community who were viewed as an extended family. The members of historical clans were closely bonded by shared territory, resources, and customs.

Today, clans are modern social institutions with an interest in preserving history and traditions, exploring genealogy, and promoting global kinship ties. Clans have a mission of promoting a sense of shared history and identity among the Scottish diaspora. Like highland games, they provide the opportunity to engage with heritage and to forge connections in a modern world. Clans are also structured by the Court of the Lord Lyon in Scotland.

### Clans at the Glengarry Highland Games

During the Glengarry Highland Games, clan societies and local heritage organizations put on exhibits and provide information to visitors on history and their activities. We invite you to visit the Clan Buildings in the northwest part of the fairgrounds to experience the exhibits and chat with our knowledgeable representatives. Musical entertainment and presentations by local speakers are featured throughout the day on Saturday.

*(Continued on page 87)*

(Continued from page 86)

At noon on Saturday, just before the opening ceremonies, the clans will take part in the Clan Parade on the main infield in front of the gathered crowds, putting on an impressive display of tartan, kilts, banners, and flags. All are welcome to join the gathered clans and take part in the Clan Parade by presenting themselves to the Clan Buildings at 11:30 AM.

Questions about clans and heritage at the Glengarry Highland Games can be sent to [clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com](mailto:clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com).

### **Take Part as a Society**

Representatives of clan societies across North America are invited to attend the Glengarry Highland Games and set up a booth in our dedicated Clan Buildings. We also welcome organizations with a mission relevant to our interests in community, history and heritage, Glengarry County, and the Scottish diaspora.

We invite you to join us in the celebration on Friday, August 4 and Saturday, August 5 2023.

### **Registered societies will receive:**

- A space for a booth in the Clan Buildings, or in one of the outdoor tents adjacent to the buildings
- Access to wireless internet to support interactions with visitors
- On-site parking for 1 vehicle next to the Clan Buildings
- Two admission passes for both Friday and Saturday

**Register now by completing this [linked form](#).**

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com](mailto:clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com). Due to space constraints, we request that you register by June 9, 2023. Registration is not required to take part in Saturday's Clan Parade, however, parade participants should arrive on time to ensure they are recognized.

***Editor's note: Glengarry is not a member of CASSOC however we are planning to have the full CASSOC road show there this year and thus the entry in this newsletter. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well. A linked version of their registration form is available [here](#).***



# North Lanark Highland Games



## North Lanark Highland Games - August 26, 2023

Twenty pipe bands, a hundred dancers and champion heavy-weight athletes combine to present what is recognized as one of the Ottawa Valley's premier summer events.

With mini-games organized for kids and the picturesque Mississippi as the backdrop, the Almonte games have a reputation not only as having the prettiest site but also as being the friendliest games on the Ontario circuit.

Registration and other information is not currently available, please continue checking the website at <http://www.almontehighlandgames.com/>



***Editor's note: North Lanark is not a member of CASSOC however we are planning to have the full CASSOC road show there this year and thus the entry in this newsletter. Please be sure to visit our booth and to let us know if you're attending as well.***



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

# FESTIVAL CELTIQUE DE QUÉBEC

8 AU 10 SEPTEMBRE 2023 • VILLE DE QUÉBEC

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



# Membership Report and Updates

## **CLANS and FAMILIES**

Clan Bell North America  
Family of Bruce International, Inc.  
Clan Buchanan Society International  
Clan Cameron Canadian Branch  
Clan Carruthers Society International  
Clan Chisholm Society - Canada Branch  
Clan Colquhoun of Canada  
Clan Davidson Society of North America  
Edmonstone Clan Society  
Elliot Clan Society of Canada  
Clan Fergusson Society of North America  
Clan Forbes Society, Inc  
House of Gordon Canada  
Clan Graham Society Inc  
Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter  
Clan Hunter Association of Canada  
Clan Irwin Association  
Clan Johnston/e in America  
Kennedy Society of North America  
Clan Kincaid Association International  
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.  
Clan Leslie Society International  
Clan Logan Society of Canada  
The Clan MacAlpine Society  
Clan MacAulay Association  
Clan MacDougall Society of North America  
Clan MacEwen Society  
Clan MacFarlane Worldwide  
MacFie Clan Society in Canada  
International Association of Clan MacInnes  
The Clan MacKay Association of Canada  
The Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada  
Clan MacLellan of America

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Clan MacLennan Canada  
Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada  
Clan MacNicol Society of North America  
Clan MacNeil in Canada Association  
Clan MacPherson  
Clan MacRae Society of Canada  
Clan MacThomas  
Clan Munro Association of Canada  
Murray Clan Society of North America  
Clan Pringle North America  
Clan Ramsay International  
Clan Sinclair Association of Canada  
The Clan Watson Society - New member

## **Societies**

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

## **Games/Festivals**

Cobourg Highland Games Society  
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Kingsville Highland Games  
Montréal Highland Games  
National Capital Highland Games  
Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival - New member  
Red Deer Highland Games

## **Businesses**

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



# Games, Festivals and other Events

Check the CASSOC website at [www.scotscanada.ca](http://www.scotscanada.ca) for the latest listings.

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

Date	Event, Location, URL ( <b>CASSOC members are in bold</b> )
Apr 21-23	Halifax Celtic Festival Halifax, NS <a href="https://www.hfxcelticfest.ca/">https://www.hfxcelticfest.ca/</a>
<b>May 04</b>	<b>St. Andrew's Society Montréal Whiskey Fête Montréal, QC <a href="https://www.whiskyfete.org/">https://www.whiskyfete.org/</a></b>
<b>May 07</b>	<b>CASSOC Spring Meeting 2023 Festival Season Special <a href="https://scotscanada.ca/spring-meeting">https://scotscanada.ca/spring-meeting</a></b>
May 20	Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival Regina, AB <a href="https://www.saskhighland.ca/">https://www.saskhighland.ca/</a>
May 20-21	Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival Victoria, BC <a href="https://victoriahighlandgames.com/">https://victoriahighlandgames.com/</a>
May 27-28	Perth's World Record Kilt Run <a href="https://www.runguides.com/event/1517/perths-world-record-kilt-run">https://www.runguides.com/event/1517/perths-world-record-kilt-run</a>
Jun 1-3	Regina Mosaic A Festival of Cultures Regina, SK <a href="https://www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/">https://www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/</a>
Jun 2-4	Gathering of the Scots Perth-Andover, NB <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TheGatheringScots">https://www.facebook.com/TheGatheringScots</a>
Jun 04	Carstairs Heritage Festival Carstairs, AB <a href="https://www.facebook.com/carstairs.ab">https://www.facebook.com/carstairs.ab</a>
Jun 10	Georgetown Highland Games Georgetown, ON <a href="https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/">https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/</a>
Jun 10	Grande Prairie Highland Games Grande Prairie, AB <a href="https://www.gphighlandgames.ca/">https://www.gphighlandgames.ca/</a>
<b>Jun 15</b>	<b>St. Andrew's Toronto Spring Dinner <a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/spring-dinner/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/spring-dinner/</a></b>
<b>Jun 16-17</b>	<b>Greater Moncton Highland Games Moncton, NB <a href="https://monctonhighlandgames.com/">https://monctonhighlandgames.com/</a></b>
<b>Jun 16-17</b>	<b>Cobourg Scottish Festival &amp; Highland Games <a href="https://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/">https://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/</a></b>
Jun 16-18	ScotFest BC Coquitlam, BC <a href="https://scotfestbc.com/">https://scotfestbc.com/</a>
Jun 17	Water Valley Celtic Festival Water Valley, AB <a href="https://www.watervalleycelticfestival.org/">https://www.watervalleycelticfestival.org/</a>
<b>Jun 24</b>	<b>Red Deer Highland Games Red Deer, AB <a href="https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/">https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/</a></b>
<b>Jun 24</b>	<b>Kingsville Highland Games Kingsville, ON <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames">https://www.facebook.com/kingsvillehighlandgames</a></b>
Jun 24-25	Manitoba Highland Gathering East Selkirk, MB <a href="https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/">https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/</a>
Jun 25	Edmonton Highland Gathering Edmonton, AB <a href="https://www.edmontonscottishsociety.org/">https://www.edmontonscottishsociety.org/</a>
Jun 30-Jul 3	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Halifax, NS <a href="https://nstattoo.ca/">https://nstattoo.ca/</a>
Jun 30-Jul 8	Kitchenfest Féis a' Chidsin Cape Breton, NS <a href="https://kitchenfest.ca/">https://kitchenfest.ca/</a>
Jul 01	Embro Highland Games Embro, ON <a href="https://embrohighlandgames.ca/">https://embrohighlandgames.ca/</a>
Jul 01	Penticton Scottish Festival Penticton, BC <a href="https://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/">https://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/</a>
Jul 2-9	Antigonish Highland Games Antigonish, NS <a href="https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/">https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/</a>
Jul 7-9	Almonte Celtfest Almonte, ON <a href="https://almonteceltfest.com/">https://almonteceltfest.com/</a>

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# Games, Festivals and other Events

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- Jul 7-9**      **Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games** <https://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/>
- Jul 14-15      Cambridge Scottish Festival      Cambridge, ON <https://cambridgescottishfestival.ca/>
- Jul 14-16      Orillia Scottish Festival      Orillia, ON      <https://scottishfestival.ca/>
- Jul 22      Uxbridge Scottish Festival      Uxbridge, ON      <https://uxbridgescottishfestival.com/>
- Jul 22-23      Sherwood Park Highland Gathering      Sherwood Park, AB <https://www.sphg.ca/>
- Jul 28-30      New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival      Fredrickton, NB  
<http://www.highlandgames.ca/>
- Jul 29-30      Okanagan Military Tattoo      Vernon, BC      <https://okanagantattoo.ca/>
- Aug 4-5      Glengarry Highland Games      Maxville, ON      <https://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/>
- Aug 06**      **Montréal Scottish Festival & Highland Games**      Verdun, QC  
<https://www.montrealhighlandgames.com>
- Aug 11-13**      **Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games**      Fergus, ON <https://fergusscottishfestival.com/>
- Aug 11-13      Goderich Celtic Roots Festival      Goderich, ON      <https://celticfestival.ca/home>
- Aug 11-13      Margaree Highland Games      Margaree Valley, NS      <http://www.margareehighlandgames.com/>
- Aug 18-20      Miramichi Scottish Festival      NB <https://www.highlandsociety.com/scottish-festival/>
- Aug 19      The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival      Sedgewick, AB <https://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/events>
- Aug 19-21      Festival Celtes et Cie de Saint-Malachie      Saint-Malachie, QC  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063674763219>
- Aug 26      North Lanark Highland Games      Almonte, ON      <https://almontehighlandgames.com/>
- Sep 2-3      Canmore Highland Games      Canmore, AB      <https://canmorehighlandgames.ca/>
- Sep 8-10      Festival Celtique de Québec      Québec, QC      <https://festival-celtique.com/>
- Sep 16-17**      **Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games**      Lockport, NY  
<https://www.niagaraceltic.com/>
- Oct 6-14      Celtic Colours International Festival      Cape Breton, NS      <https://celtic-colours.com/about/>
- Oct 21**      **St Andrew's Society Toronto Fall Mixer**      Toronto, ON  
[https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast\\_event/fall-mixer/](https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/)
- Nov 25**      **St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball**      Toronto, ON  
[https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast\\_event/charity-ball/](https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/)
- Nov 26**      **Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada AGM**      TBD <https://www.scotscanada.ca/>



# Benefits and Offers

*A reminder about ongoing benefits and offers.*

## **Communication**

Your reach can extend to over 10,000 enthusiasts in our member groups and beyond through our online availability.

## **Advertising**

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

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

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

## **CASSOC Members Binder**

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

## **National Representation**

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

## **Special Events and Activity Funding**

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

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

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

**ScotlandShop** - Plaid fashion, gifts and accessories designed and tailored in the Heart of Scotland. Authentic Custom Made Scottish Tartan. Made Right In the Heart Of Scotland. Worldwide Delivery. Over 500 Tartans. Types: Tartan Fabrics, Tartan Suits, Tartan Dresses, Tableware, Gifts. Members of CASSOC receive a 10% discount when using the code 'CASSOC'.

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

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

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



## **An Drochaid - The Bridge**

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

Our cover is the new CASSOC tartan.

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.

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

**TAYLORS TARTANS.COM**

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