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Frae the Chair

I'll confess that I'm a wee bit lost for words at the late hour that I'm getting to this. You shouldn't be surprised if the brief sayings you now see end up being revised once I've gotten to properly author something with a fresh mind.

I'm also keeping in my thoughts that being overly tired as we rush to get this issue out on the 15th of December can be dangerous.

Some filters may not be working right.

I might slip into ranting about the bell curve of evil being exploited by pimps of human misery or branch off into thoughts about quantum field theory, entanglement and the timeless, dimensionless fabric of our underlying existence. Then there's the racist remarks I ran across earlier today about us Celts being of an inferior race and thus the clearances were just an act of mercy for us lesser beings. Really!

Yikes, this is quite scaring me now!

So let's leave it as our family wishes for you all to have a safe and happy holiday season. Hope to see some of you at Ottawa's Hogman'eh! Party.

Cheers,

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

Please check out <https://scots-charitable.org/>, we're setting up link sharing and looking into other ways a relationship can make sense for us both!





Snuggle up in Tartan this Christmas

If the weather outside is frightful, then snuggling up with your own brushed wool tartan rug will be delightful! For those cosy nights in over the festive period (and beyond!) discover our range of in-stock tartan rugs for your home or treat a loved one. Order now choosing express delivery in time for Christmas.

[SHOP TARTAN RUGS AND TROWS](#)

The Joy of Gifting What They Love

Whether it's something for those who delight in luxurious textiles, for those passionate golfers in your life, for those who adore our Highland cows or for those who are proud of their Clan crest...we have Christmas gift ideas for them all! Click to find a gift they will love and cherish for years to come

[SHOP GIFTS BY THEME](#)



It's Beginning to Look a lot like Cashmere

Cosy comfort and unparalleled quality, made in Scotland! Explore our selection of luxury cashmere gifts with something for everyone including traditional scarves, sophisticated sweaters, and super soft bed socks and hot water bottle cover sets; the ultimate snug combination.

[EXPLORE SCOTTISH CASHMERE GIFTS](#)

CASSOC Annual General Meeting November 26th, 2023 Summary

The following are highlights of the AGM held as a hybrid meeting and are not intended to be an official record of the proceedings. Please contact the Secretary at secretary@scotscanada.ca for more info.



Attendance

There were 10 members of the Board present and 22 other Attendees, with a total of 26 member groups represented and 1 proxy registered.

Finance Summary

We began fiscal 2022-2023 with \$2,261 in operating funds and \$25,000 in our development/program fund. With a deficit of \$1,575 and transfer of \$5k from development/program fund to operating funds, we finished fiscal 2022-2023 with \$5,686 in operating funds and \$20,000 in the development/program fund.

The development/program fund is currently split between GICs of 100 days and 14 months using a strategy of interest earnings balanced with fund availability.

Revenues for the fiscal year were \$7,312, the major portion being membership fees.

Expenses for the fiscal year were \$8,888, the major portion being conference/games program expense for the CASSOC Road Show.

Also shown on the balance sheet were asset values of event equipment for \$2,314. membership fees receivables of \$2,195 and accounts payables for road show charges plus accounting services amounting to \$1,767

The financial record reflects the approach of using our fiscal resources to serve our mandate of supporting Scottish Culture and Heritage through program expenditures such as the road show. As a federally chartered not for profit, our development/program is at an acceptable level however we should be cautious about any growth in it without having firmer designation of the purpose of such funds.

Editor's Summary

Edition	Date Issued	Format	Pages	Sent to	Total Opens	Unique Opens	Open %
December 2022	Dec 30, 2022	PDF Link	52	256	1342	165	64.5
Spring 2023	Apr 14, 2023	PDF Link	96	269	689	173	64.3
Summer 2023	Aug 31, 2023	PDF Link	116	375	1487	248	66.1
Fall 2023	Oct 20, 2023	PDF Link	98	382	872	223	58.3

Notes:

Opens, Clicks and Open% are based upon MailChimp tracking which can under-represent the facts.

Social Posts to our Facebook page are now automatically done. The tracking statistics are not included in the above amount due to a greater level of cloaking that occurs

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CASSOC Annual General Meeting November 26th, 2023 Summary

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Events:

The following Games and Festivals were attended with a booth display

- Hogman-Eh!, Scottish Society of Ottawa
- Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival, Victoria, BC
- Georgetown Highland Games, Georgetown, ON
- Greater Moncton Highland Games, Moncton, NB
- Kingsville Highland Games, Kingsville, ON
- Cambridge Scottish Festival, Cambridge, ON
- Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Kincardine, ON
- Uxbridge Scottish Festival, Uxbridge, ON
- Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, ON
- Montréal Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Montréal, QC
- Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Fergus, ON
- North Lanark Highland Games, Almonte, ON
- Festival Celtique de Québec, Québec City, QC
- Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games, Lockport, NY

We were also represented at clan booths at the Cobourg, Calgary, Canmore and Red Deer Games.

The Spring meeting with focus on the topic 'Festival Season Special' was successful in bringing Festival/Game organizers together with our Clan/Family members in discussion of the value and means to success for attendance.

The Symposium for Growth and Success has completed 2 out of 4 sessions

CASSOC is a sponsor and remote participant in the upcoming Scottish North American Community Conference being held December 1 and 2 in Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC

We are planning a multi-booth display at this year's Hogman-Eh! Celebration in Ottawa.

Membership report as of 26 November 2023:

To date, we have received memberships from 55 Clans, 7 Societies, 10 Games and 5 Business groups, for a total of 77 members the highest it has ever been! There were 16 New Members for 2023-2024. We are following up with 2 members from last year and we have had requests from some possible new members.

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CASSOC Annual General Meeting November 26th, 2023 Summary

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Social Media:

On Facebook: the CASSOC page has 3.3K Followers and the Group has 1650 members, and many became members over the recent months. The Admins monitor the page frequently to make sure that the content and posts follow the guidelines.

Website:

Migration of the cassoc.ca domain from Lightbox to Paratechnic has been completed and currently both the ScotsCanada.ca and Cassoc.ca websites are running in parallel. Statistics are being collected for the cassoc.ca website to determine content to be ported to scotscanada.ca. At this point a new template will be implemented as well.

A private area for Symposium participants to access recordings, transcripts and resources has been implemented on the ScotsCanada.ca website. A similar mechanism will be put in place for all members to access restricted materials as well as have self-management options for their organization's profile.

Elections:

The following Slate of Nominees was presented and accepted:

Chair: William Petrie

Vice-Chair: John Duff

Vice-Chair: Paul Elliot

Secretary: Jo Ann Tuskin

Treasurer: Rushikesh Jagtap

Directors at Large: David Carrick, Doug Doughty, Emily Redman, Kirstin Hunter, Robert MacKenzie, Steven Logan, and Terry Myles.

Past Chair: Karen McCrimmon

Appointed positions: Editor: William Petrie; and IT Services: Tuskin Family

Motions

Motions regarding appointment of an auditor and bylaw changes were all passed unanimously.

Announcements:

a. All member groups are asked to send their group news, announcements and photos to editor@cassoc.ca for publication in the next newsletter as well as adding our Editor to their regular distribution list for news.

b. CASSOC has purchased a professional Zoom account and is very willing to help our member groups organize and set up their own meetings. If you are interested, please contact our Chair, William Petrie, at chairperson@cassoc.ca

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CASSOC Annual General Meeting November 26th, 2023 Summary

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c. PLEASE contact webadmin@cassoc.ca if you know of any Canadian event not posted on the Events list on our website.

d. We are looking into “Community Enterprise” which is a software system for Information and Database Management. This could send automatic renewal notices, invoices and reminders, manage mailing lists, etc., etc.

e. Paul noted that our next Symposium session will focus on Heritage, with emphasis on DNA & Genealogy, History & Heritage, and how Merchandising fits into this. This will be on Sat. 16 Dec. at 4 pm ET. The final session will focus on Sustainability, on Sat., 20 Jan. 2024

f. CASSOC’s Tartan: As was published in the newsletter, CASSOC’s Tartan has been approved by the Scottish Registry of Tartans. If you go to <https://cassoc.ca/> and enter the Main site, click on Tartan Info and the details are there including an image of the tartan and the certificate. We have not yet had any fabric woven, but may do so in the future.

g. Bill encouraged all members to participate in the Hogman-Eh! Event put on by the Scottish Society of Ottawa if possible. He noted that for the New Year countdown it is midnight in Scotland which is about 7:00 p.m. ET.

h. Emily and Bill noted that we should each participate in other members’ events to help support and promote each other. Della noted that one way of promoting each other and CASSOC is to create the Member Group Binder, with a title page with a list of our members and a page of info about each member in a page protector. This can be on a display/info table at any event. The info pages can be found at https://www.scotscanada.ca/CASSOC_Binder_Poster_Format.pdf. For those who do so, notifications of new members will be distributed.

i. CASSOC has received an invitation to participate in Dressed to Kilt on Tartan Day 2024, <https://www.dressedtokilt.com/>. This annual Scottish event usually takes place in icon USA cities, and is a night of Scottish fashion, charity, and Fun. For 2024, it will be held in Toronto at the Royal Ontario Museum, the first time for the show to be held outside the United States, and the DTK Board of Directors agrees to raise funds for The Royal Canadian Legion with the Toronto show. We are considering the extent of our participation.

j. Bill invited members to provide him with their brochures or other info that he can distribute at the CASSOC booth.

Next Meetings:

Tartan Day/Week Celebration: Spring 2024

Annual General Assembly Meeting: 24 Nov 2024

CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success - Overview

The CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success is multi-part being held over the four sessions of Member Connections, Volunteers and Events, Heritage and Sustainability

Session and panelist summaries are on the next pages for the Member Connections plus Volunteers and Events session which have already been successfully held. A registration by you for the Symposium provides access to the previous session recordings as well as for the upcoming two sessions on Heritage and Sustainability. These are being held as follows:

- **Heritage**, Saturday, December 16, 2023, 4 pm ET
- **Sustainability**, Saturday, January 20, 2024, 4 pm ET

We suggest that every officer/board member attend as many sessions as possible. Please have each individual register separately and do not share links. [Click here for info or to register](#)

Join us as we focus on the growth and success of our Scottish Clans, Families and Societies. This is an opportunity for us to learn from each other while we hear from our panelists as they share their organizations' successes and best practices. Be part of the open and interactive Q&A forum with answers to your questions, feedback on ideas and more.

Each session runs for approximately 2 hours and will be conducted through Zoom. These will be recorded and made available privately to all Symposium registrants. As registrants, you will be kept up to date on the sessions and changes through email notifications.

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

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

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

Sustainability : When we retire from positions of leadership, we want to leave our organization better than the day we stepped forward. How do we do this? By focusing on succession planning; identifying barriers to success for our organization; using technology for efficiencies and communications; and creating a robust system for payments processing. Another important discussion point is governance. Do you have the optimal structure, policies, procedures and practices in place? Lastly has a long-term funding strategy been worked out?

CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success - Heritage



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

[Click for more details and to register](#)

Learn proven methods from the panelists for engaging members through:

- DNA and Genealogy
- History and Heritage
- Merchandise

Delve deeper during the Q&A and then get access to transcripts, recordings and more. Join the 80 attendees from 44 member organizations who have already registered!

Panelists for this session

Bill Lennox : Director and Treasurer of Clan MacFarlane Worldwide, member of the Heritage Committee. Bill provides his expertise rooted in his passion for DNA, heritage and archeology research all in the goal of preserving the history of Clan MacFarlane for future generations.

Matt Buchanan : Vice President of the Clan Buchanan Society International, Oceania representative to the chief of Clan Buchanan. Full-time runs a marketing firm while also being Media Advisor on the chiefs council, editor of the Buchanan Banner Magazine, webmaster of the society website and mage to the clan.

Joan McAulay : Chief of the Clan MacAulay Association. Joan joined the Clan in 2012 and became the Commissioner for Western Canada later that year. In 2019 she was approached to run for Chief of the Clan and was successful in becoming the first woman and first from the diaspora to serve as Chief.

Lucas McCaw : Heritage Secretary & DNA Coordinator for Clan MacAulay. Lucas, a teacher by profession, brings to his role and this session his background of a degree in genetics.

Paul Johnston : President of Clan Johnston/e in America which serves the USA and Canada. He is also the Chief Commissioner for North America.

CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success - Member Connections

Session and Panelist Summaries

The main focus of the session was to address common problems faced by member groups, such as membership engagement and retention. The discussion emphasized practical solutions, and best practices were shared with the session participants. The session finished with a Q&A after the panelist presentations, as follows, in order of appearance.

Membership Growth - Joan McAulay - Chief of Clan MacAulay Association

Joan presented first, discussing successful strategies which since 2019 have led to a growth in membership from around 100 to 300. She highlighted the importance of having the right people in the right positions and acknowledged the role of the executive team. Effective communication was also emphasized, with the importance of retaining and engaging members being highlighted.

The following materials are provided for your organization's use and are not to be distributed to others or publicly without the express permission of Joan McAulay

Facebook Use for Engagement - Sylvie Thériault, Editor, Council member, Clan Gregor Society

Sylvie shared her screen and explained how she manages multiple Facebook accounts, including one for Clan Gregor and other Scottish societies, using a separate persona, Sylvie Petrie. She discussed her role in sharing updates and managing social media pages, her approach to posting content, and the importance of engaging with the audience. She also mentioned a contest run by the Clan Gregor, encouraging participants to share photos featuring the name McGregor. The meeting also emphasized the importance of regular posting and managing content on Facebook, with highlights on the need to maintain engagement with customers and fans.

Retention & Attraction: Scott MacDougald, Vice President for Canada - Clan MacDougall Society NA

Scott emphasized the significance of having a dedicated team for organization retention and attraction, highlighting the need for accurate and updated data. He suggested exploring neglected communication channels and considering the age cohorts of membership. Scott also shared his experience with an unread website mailbox and stressed the importance of regular checks. A study he conducted revealed that those between 49 and 59 were leaving at the highest rate, emphasizing the importance of communication with members and understanding their needs and interests. Scott suggested conducting exit interviews with departing members and training client tent hosts to enhance the organization's image. He also emphasized the cost-effectiveness of retaining members versus acquiring new ones, suggesting different levels of membership, easy renewal or switch to long-term memberships, and user-friendly experiences. Scott also emphasized the importance of keeping membership information up-to-date, checking the functionality of links and pages, and making sure that information is easy to find and use. He also touched on the issue of spelling variations in names as a potential way to attract more members.

Your Society's Web Challenges - David Carrick, Society Chief - Kennedy Society of North America

David discussed his role as society chief and the issues he faced, particularly in relation to the website. He detailed the steps they took to improve the website, such as updating the content and

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CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success - Member Connections

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graphics, automating membership functions, and creating an online retail store. However, he also highlighted the challenges they encountered, including resistance to change from some members and the ongoing need for maintenance and attention. David emphasized the importance of making members feel valued and recognized.

Marketing Strategy Importance - Bob Macauley, Marketing Coordinator, Clan MacAulay Assc.

Bob, as a marketing professional emphasized the importance of having a clear plan and understanding the 'why' behind the marketing activities. He referred to Simon Sinek's concept of 'starting with why' and suggested that the team watch Simon's 15-minute presentation to understand their purpose. Bob then shared the marketing plan he developed for the company, which included objectives, strategies, and tactics. He highlighted the significance of emotive benefits, member engagement, and incentives in retaining and attracting members. Bob also mentioned the use of Zoom meetings, featuring artists, musicians, and authors, to bring members together and celebrate different cultural events. The plan also included a genealogy program and a merchandise line. Bob concluded by sharing that the plan would be shared with the Symposium participants for their reference.

Increasing Membership & Revenue - Matt Buchanan, Vice President Clan Buchanan International

Matt discussed the strategies and approaches that Clan Buchanan in Australia is using to increase its membership and revenue. Matt, who is from South Australia, highlighted the challenges of not having Highland games in his region and therefore investing in Highland culture in a different way such as focusing on digital content. He emphasized the importance of understanding the interests of potential members, offering relevant content, and providing excellent member services. He also mentioned the ways in which Clan Buchanan has updated its technology, resources, websites, newsletters, and competitions to attract younger audiences. Finally, he stressed the importance of humor in their content to keep it engaging and relatable for their target audience.

Improving Member Connections - Paul Johnston, President of Clan Johnston/e in America

Paul discussed the strategies implemented by their organization to improve member connections, engagement, retention, and growth. They adopted an online membership management system and developed a private website for members, which offers exclusive content and has contributed to steady growth since its implementation in 2021. The organization also engages with potential members at festivals and games and through online searches. The use of timely renewal reminders has significantly improved renewals and member retention. The organization also has a reimbursement program for expenses related to games and offers subsidies for tent hosts. Paul discussed the successful implementation of the new system that has steadily increased the organization's membership to over 500. They have a quarterly newsletter, a series of Zoom talks, and an integrated email system to communicate with members. They also have a Facebook page, an online store, and a scholarship program.

For Q&A highlights, resources and recordings, go to www.scotscanada.ca and log in. You must be registered for the symposium to access these additional bonuses.

CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success - Volunteers & Events

Session and Panelist Summaries

The meeting focused on discussing issues with volunteerism and associated participation in events. The participants discussed their recruitment strategies, use of social media, genealogy resources, and the importance of volunteers in organizations. The need for collaboration and joint events with other societies and organizations was emphasized. The challenges faced by different clans in attracting members, particularly in Canada, were also discussed. The discussion emphasized practical solutions, and best practices were shared with the session participants. The session finished with a Q&A after the panelist presentations, as follows, in order of appearance.

Recruitment Challenges in Clan Council Committees - Paul Johnston, President and Chief Commissioner, Clan Johnston/e in America

Paul discussed the recruitment challenges their clan faces for council and committee positions. He highlighted that they often struggle to find enough volunteers, with some ending up filling multiple roles. To address this, they have implemented a membership system that automates certain processes and provide flexible timing to avoid burnout. They also regularly publish a call for volunteers in their newsletter, detailing the job descriptions and highlighting areas where they need help, such as the co-treasurer and co-editor roles. With regards to outreach, engagement, and merchandise strategies, Paul presented on the effectiveness of their quarterly outreach efforts, emphasizing the importance of persistence in achieving breakthroughs.

The importance of approachability, inclusivity, and being memorable - Terence Myles, VP and Highland games Coordinator for Clan MacNeil in Canada

Terry, shared his experiences and strategies as a games coordinator for Clan Mcneil. Terence discussed his approach to engaging with visitors at the games, emphasizing the importance of approachability and inclusivity. He also mentioned the use of attractions like an old Scottish map of the clans, a book called Kith and Kin, and tartan books to engage visitors and provide them with a tangible connection to their heritage. Finally, he highlighted the importance of selling merchandise as a way for visitors to connect with and remember their visit to the games. Terry emphasized that their focus is on providing a memorable experience for their members, rather than making a significant profit. He mentioned that next year's plan includes a gathering in Fergus, Canada, which has not hosted a Clan Mcneil event for decades. Terence also highlighted the efforts of Vince Mcneil, their president, in genealogy and the potential benefits for members. He also shared updates on the financial status of the Coburg Highland games, which has improved from a \$50,000 debt to a \$50,000 surplus in the past three years.

Recruitment Strategy, Social Media and Genealogy Resources - Barbara MacLennan, Clan MacLennan Executive, Past President and Past Vice-President

Barbara discussed her clan's use of social media and online seminars to stay connected and share

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CASSOC Symposium for Growth and Success - Volunteers & Events

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information. She announced the next worldwide gathering in Scotland in July 2024. She also highlighted the efforts of their webmaster, in conducting genealogy research and organizing online seminars.

Clan Gatherings, Leadership, and Membership Challenges - Doug Doughty, Clan MacAulay Commissioner for Central Canada

Doug emphasized the importance of work-life balance among volunteers, the use of social media for communication, and the resources available to clan members, including a clan commissioners guide. Doug emphasized the importance of visiting other clients to learn from their methods, and attending international clan gatherings to foster commitment and connection among members. He also highlighted the value of these gatherings in identifying potential leaders and encouraging younger member involvement. Doug also discussed the importance of geographic diversity within their worldwide clan. Later, Paul shared that their membership system, Community Enterprise, is instrumental in managing their document management, online store, and members-only website. Terence discussed the challenges of building membership and volunteers in Canada, and shared stories of successful events and volunteers. He also mentioned the importance of training younger members to take on leadership roles.

Q&A Highlights

- Recruitment, and Technological Updates
- Sharing a Commissioner's Guide document
- Collaboration and Volunteer Engagement in Kids' Events
- Potential for joint events with other societies and groups
- Sensitivity to national branding of clan/family organizations
- Need to mindful of French Canadian needs for Canadian groups
- Use of PayPal to aid in membership retention
- Perspective and deterrence from fee disparities especially when paying in US funds
- Importance of training, supporting, partnering with experienced member
- Value of standardized materials

For links, resources and recordings, go to www.scotscanada.ca and log in. You must be registered for the symposium to access these additional bonuses.

Robert the Bruce 750th Anniversary

Robert the Bruce 750th Anniversary

A year-long programme of events and community celebrations in 2024 will highlight the story of Robert The Bruce, a key icon of Scottish history, marking the 750th anniversary of his birth.

Although others may have different views, there is strong evidence that Robert the Bruce was born at Turnberry Castle in Carrick, South Ayrshire. Well-known facts are that Bruce spent his childhood at Turnberry and that he was connected to Carrick over the course of his life.

We intend to celebrate the remarkable 750th anniversary with a programme of events and activities in the “Land of Bruce”. The programme starts early in 2024 with Bruce-themed sports events and runs throughout the year. The main events will take place in the weeks around Robert the Bruce’s birthday, which was the 11th of July 1274. These events will include a Medieval style Ecumenical service at Crossraguel Abbey near Maybole, a re-enactment of the Battle of Turnberry, and the highlight – The Bruce Anniversary Festival on the 13th of July 2024, including lots of attractions and a re-creation of Bruce’s life in a pageant style procession.

So, Why Bruce?

Typically the famous Scot we think of as having connections with Carrick and Ayrshire is Robert Burns and we have celebrated the fact on many previous occasions.

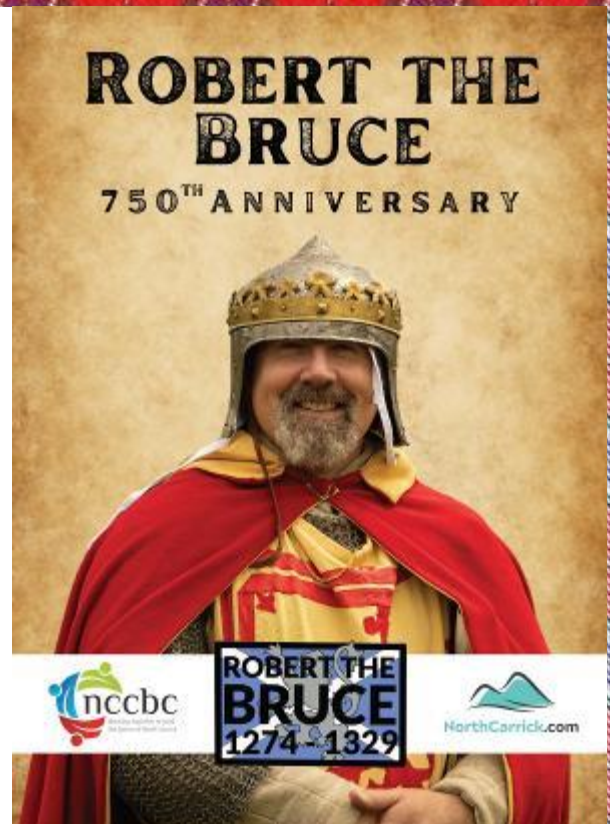
One person who has arguably even more connections is Robert the Bruce and our Bruce 750 celebrations will acknowledge the many great contributions he made as Scotland's Greatest King. In 2024, we celebrate 750 years since his birth.

Some may doubt it but the most likely place of his birth is Turnberry, certainly it is well documented that Bruce spent his boyhood at Turnberry Castle and spent much of his life in Carrick. When Bruce was born, his family was the most powerful in Scotland and when he was only twelve years old, an event happened which changed the course of Scottish history. Over the next year, we will give people locally and further afield the chance to learn about Bruce at the various Bruce 750 events taking place in Carrick.

The Land of Bruce

Robert the Bruce was a complex and interesting person. It is unfortunate that he is not acknowledged as much as his contemporary, William Wallace made all the more famous in films such as Brave Heart. We want to put Bruce back on the map by referring to Carrick as the Land of Bruce, and

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Robert the Bruce 750th Anniversary

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we're starting by celebrating the 750th Anniversary of his birth.

That's why the North Carrick Community Benefit Company established the Bruce 750 Team to organise and host multiple events in Carrick leading up to our big Robert the Bruce Festival in 2024 on the 13th July to celebrate this significant anniversary.

A Scottish Celebration

We are not only celebrating the life of Bruce, but also Scotland and the wonderful area that we live in. This is why we are keen to bring together as many Scottish families from across the globe as possible.

Scottish people are spread all over the world and many countries have their own Caledonian and Clan Societies which run their own highland games and celebrate their Scottish heritage in other ways. In the spirit of Bruce who was King of the people, people will be a big focus of our celebrations. We want people to learn about King Robert and also about our part of Scotland with its great coastline and countryside, its famous golf courses, links to famous people such as Robert Burns, Dwight Eisenhower, and the British Monarchy (the heir to the throne, currently Prince William, is automatically the Earl of Carrick).

Family History Research

Were your ancestors at the Battle of Bannockburn or Loudon Hill? Have you ever wanted to research your Scottish ancestry?

2024 will be a great opportunity to do just that. We are lucky to have some excellent facilities nearby for research and we can help explain all of the different resources available that could help fill gaps in your knowledge.

A Little Bit About Us...

North Carrick Community Benefit Company (NCCBC) administers grant funding from renewable energy sources and any other source that fits with the company and its charitable status. The company's

(Continued on page 16)



Robert the Bruce 750th Anniversary

(Continued from page 15)

main source of income is from Scottish Power Renewable's Dersalloch Windfarm. As well as distributing funding, NCCBC has become a development agency for the area by developing its own North Carrick-wide regeneration projects with the aim of improving tourism, employability, the environment and the community.

One way we're improving tourism in Carrick, Ayrshire is by celebrating our links with famous figures, one very famous figure being King of Scots, Robert the Bruce!

Our Funders and Supporters

The Bruce 750 team is funded by NCCBC, with support from ScottishPower Renewables and by Destination South Ayrshire and ARIA. We want to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to our funders, without them our work wouldn't be possible.

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Culzean Castle By Jamesx12345 Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32502216>

Robert the Bruce 750th Anniversary

(Continued from page 16)

Destination South Ayrshire Tourism and Events funding supports organisations to deliver events and projects which contribute to South Ayrshire Council's tourism and events priorities.

The Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition (ARIA) Fund is part of the Scottish Government's Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme

The Scottish Government support is part of a broader project funded by the Strengthening Communities Programme to build the capacity of "North Carrick 2030", the planned new Development Trust for North Carrick

Why Not Make 2024 Your Year To Visit Scotland?

Carrick is known for its scenic beauty, historic sites like Culzean Castle, locally sourced cuisine, outdoor activities, renowned golf courses, coastal charm, local festivals, friendly community, and a relaxing atmosphere. Whether exploring castles or enjoying the coastline, Carrick offers a memorable Scottish experience.

Are You Into Golf?

The Open 2024 is taking place in Troon, just up the coast from us, and starts in the week after our Bruce 750 Festival – so why not come early and do both?! Even closer to us is Trump Turnberry which has the Alisa Course, famous for memorable Golf Open tournaments, and the slightly less famous King Robert the Bruce course.

Enjoy Photography?

We have some of the best landscapes and beaches to take pictures of, including Turnberry Lighthouse, Dunure Castle, Culzean Castle and more!!

Love to Walk and Hike?

We have some of the best places to walk in Scotland, from the lovely scenic walks around Culzean Castle to the 106 mile Ayrshire Coastal path that spans from Glenapp in the south to Skelmorlie in the north.

Helpful Links to Checkout

Below are some helpful links that'll show you all that Scotland, more specifically South Ayrshire, has to offer.

www.northcarrick.com destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk www.visitscotland.com

Social Media

To stay up to date with upcoming events follow us on social media and visit our website.

[@bruce_750](https://www.instagram.com/bruce750) [Instagram/bruce750](https://www.instagram.com/bruce750) [Facebook/bruce750](https://www.facebook.com/bruce750) <https://www.bruce750.scot/>

We hope you'll consider joining us in 2024

House of Cassady Make your very own Scottish Kilt!



Unique opportunity to make your very own Scottish kilt!

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

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

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

This adventure will take place in March 2024 at the Contemporary Textile Studio (<https://www.textilestudio.ca/>) in Toronto. The Contemporary Textile Studio Co-operative was established in 2006 by a group of textile artists seeking, among other things, a home for the promotion of textile arts ign. The studio is located in 401 Richmond Street West, a well-known cultural hub in downtown Toronto that is home to many galleries, artist-run centres, and art collectives.

[Click here to register](#)

For more information contact Robin at :
houseofcassady@gmail.com



Working on sewing pleats, Hamilton Red tartan



Working on pleat stabilisation, blue tweed

House of Cassady

Independent goldsmith and kiltmaker

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



63 Percent Scottish Podcast

Owen Innes Scottish History Podcast



EP 10: Culloden and its Aftermath

EP 10: "Culloden and its Aftermath" with Owen Innes from the Scottish History Podcast

With characters like Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald, key moments like Prestonpans and Culloden, and dire consequences for highland culture, it's no mystery that people are still engrossed by the stories of the 1745 Jacobite Uprising. We've asked Owen Innes from the Scottish History ...

For all episodes, visit <https://63percentscottish.com/>



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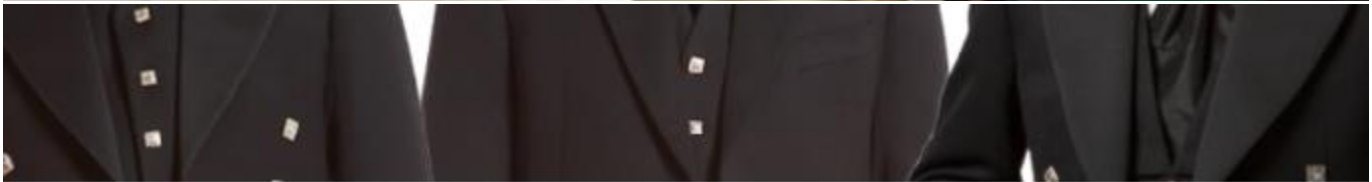
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Founded in 1976, CASSOC's purpose is:

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 2024 Spring Delegate's meeting date is still to be arranged . Watch for more email announcements.

The next General Assembly meeting will be held in November 2025. 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

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. During this time we will be using two domains, a legacy HTML site at CASSOC.CA and a modern responsive site at SCOTSCANADA.CA. Equivalent email addresses are in place for each domain name. We will progressively attempt to use SCOTSCANADA.CA for sending email however you may still receive and send to the equivalent email at CASSOC.CA until further notice.

the  *North American Edition*  
the Scottish Banner
41 Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com *A' Bhratach Albannach*
November 2023 Edition December 2023 Edition

Membership Report

Clans and Families

Clan Baird Society Canada
Clan Bell North America
Family of Bruce International, Inc.
Clan Buchanan Society International
Clan Campbell Society (North America)
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 Farquharson Canada
Clan Fergusson Society of North America
Clan Forbes Society, Inc
House of Gordon Canada
Clan Graham Society Inc
Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter
Clan Gunn Society of North America
Clan Hope of Craighall Society
Clan Hunter Association of Canada
Clan Irwin Association
Clan Johnston/e in America
Kennedy Society of North America
Clan Kincaid Association International
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.
Clan Lamont Society of North America
Clan Leslie Society International
Clan Logan Society of Canada
The Clan MacAlpine Society

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Membership Report

(Continued from page 23)

Clan MacAulay Association
Clan MacBeth
Clan MacDougall Society of North America
Clan MacDowell (CMSNA)
Clan MacEwen Society
Clan MacFarlane Worldwide
MacFie Clan Society in Canada
International Association of Clan MacInnes
The Clan MacKay Association of Canada
The Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada
Clan MacLaren of North America
Clan MacLellan of America
Clan MacLennan Canada
Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada
Clan MacNeil in Canada Association
Clan MacNicol Society of North America
Clan MacPherson Association Canadian Branch
Clan MacRae Society of Canada
Clan MacThomas Society
Clan Munro Association of Canada
Murray Clan Society of North America
Clan Paisley Society
Clan Pringle North America
Clan Ramsay International
Clan Sinclair Association of Canada
Clan Skene Association
Clan Strachan Society
The Clan Watson Society
Youngs of Scotland

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Membership Report

(Continued from page 24)

Societies

Greater Moncton Scottish Association
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association
St Andrew's Society of Toronto
Scottish Studies Foundation
Scottish Society of Ottawa
The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys
Westman Scottish Association

Games/Festivals

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

Businesses

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

Scottish Studies Foundation



Report from David Hunter, President, Scottish Studies Foundation

Dear CASSOC members,

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

On Thursday, October 26, we were delighted to welcome internationally acclaimed Canadian actor R. H. Thomson (Robert Holmes Thomson CM) to the Arts & Letters Club in Toronto to receive the Scottish Studies Society's Annual Scot of the Year Award. The Award was established back in 1993 to honour individuals with a Scottish connection who have achieved distinction through their contribution to Canadian society or the international community at large.

Thomson's career in Canadian television, film, and on stage actor spans five decades and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the arts, and to war veterans. Thomson is making his debut as an author with his book *By the Ghost Light* which was published on October 31st. It is a personal look at the wonder of youth, the power of art, and how the First and Second World Wars forever changed his family. According to Thomson, the memoir is intended as a call-to-action in challenging the way we approach our history. In recent years, Thomson has also established The World Remembers, an ambitious international project to individually name each of the millions killed in the First World War.



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(Continued from page 26)

Prior to receiving the award, R.H. Thomson was persuaded to give "The Address to the Haggis." Being a good sport he agreed, and ended up delivering a truly unique and remarkable rendition. During his recital, a verse-by-verse explanation was presented by Douglas Gibson who composed an erudite "translation" of Robert Burns's famous poem several years ago. Photographs of the event, including a video recording of R.H.'s recital be seen here: <https://scottishstudies.com/951-scot-of-the-year-2023-photos.htm>



Foundation Treasurer David Thompson presents a \$100,000 cheque to Prof. Andrew Bailey, Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies), University of Guelph

As I mentioned in our last report, thanks to the generous support of our membership, the Scottish Studies Foundation has made a \$50,000 donation to the University of Guelph to support an undergraduate History Co-op Position in Scottish Studies for the next five years. This is a first for the University and will allow a student to be paid as they work alongside University staff on research and other projects pertaining to Scottish Studies in the History Department. Also, to further reinforce our support for Scottish Studies at Guelph, at the Scot of the year event we donated \$100,000 to be added to our existing large and growing endowment fund there to provide critical assistance to students and encourage scholarship for generations to come.

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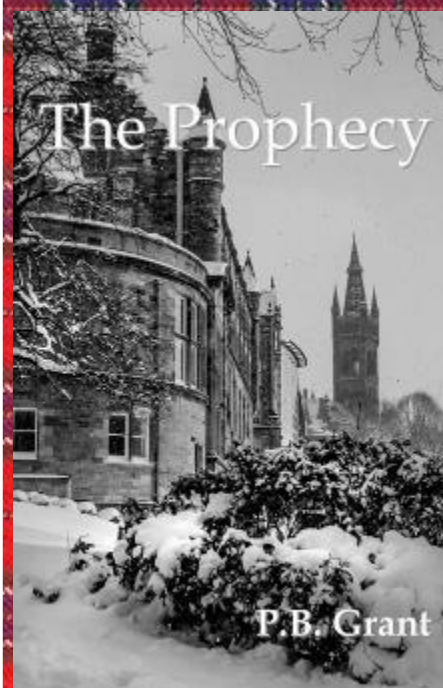


(Continued from page 27)

We are continuing with our popular series of online talks on Zoom. The most recent took place on October 28, when fellow board member Professor Paul Grant examined the supernatural short stories of Scottish author and past Governor General of Canada, John Buchan. As a precursor to his talk, he made a recording of *Skule Skerry*, one of Buchan's short stories which you can listen to here: <https://scottishstudies.com/zoom-talk-paul-grant-skule-skerry.htm>

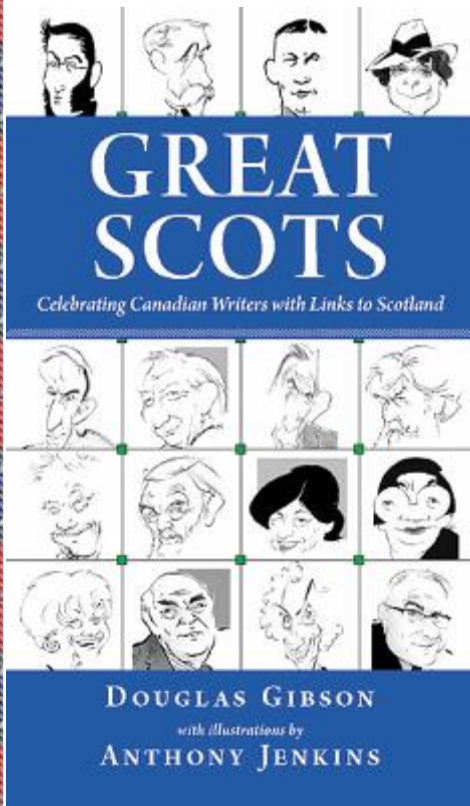
His interest in this genre prompted him to work on *The Prophecy*, a short story written especially for our members. He completed it just after Halloween and as a result, it turned out to be a bit more gruesome than he envisaged! The story has been published by the Foundation as a small chapbook and will be mailed out to members in time for Christmas.

(Continued on page 29)



(Continued from page 28)

Our next Zoom Talk will take place on February 10 at 11 am EST, and will be given by Dr Laura Harrison (*Pictured to the Right*), Senior Cultural Resources Advisor at Historic Environment Scotland. Dr. Harrison is Canadian and obtained a BA from Brock University before moving to Scotland where she earned her PhD at the University of Edinburgh. Her talk will revisit part of her PhD research, which looks at modern monuments to the Scottish Wars of Independence, including some interesting Canadian examples.

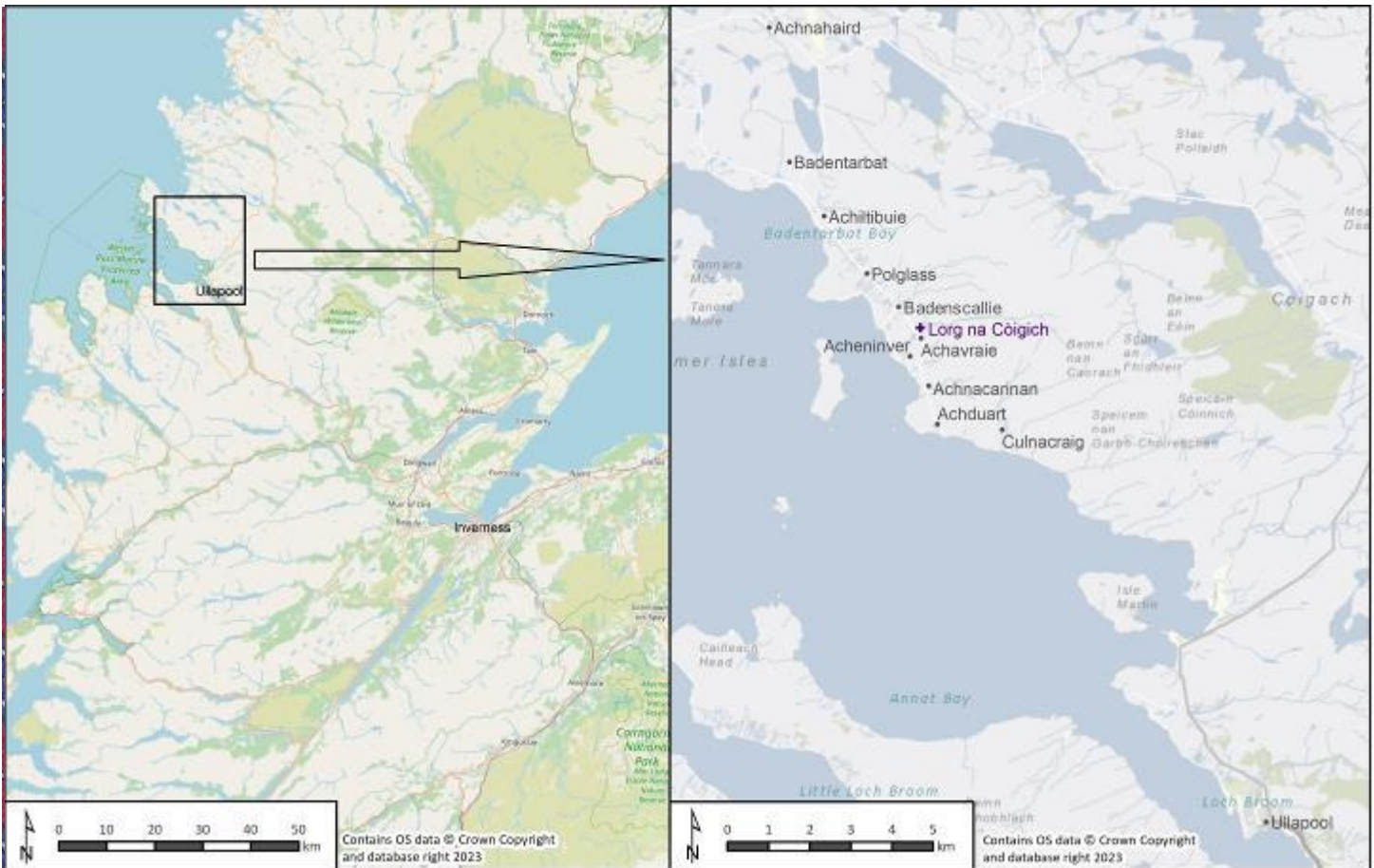


As I mentioned previously, in 2022, Douglas Gibson, former publisher-turned-author and fellow board member, donated the rights to have his latest book, *GREAT SCOTS: Celebrating Canadian Writers with Links to Scotland*, published by the Scottish Studies Foundation to be used as a fundraiser for the Scottish Studies program at the University of Guelph. The book is full of fascinating anecdotes from Doug's research and his career in publishing. It features 35 writers with links to Scotland, from Sir Alexander Mackenzie to Joseph Boyden, and is illustrated by co-author Anthony Jenkins who served as editorial cartoonist, caricaturist and writer with the *Globe and Mail* for four decades. This very personal book, often involving Canadian authors that Gibson knew well, is a lively and important one. It is striking that several of the writers featured, like Sir Alexander Mackenzie and John Galt, wrote important books set in Canada, long before Canada existed as a country. Beautifully designed by Gibson's old friend, the legendary Kong Njo, this major book will delight readers of Canadian Literature at its best. The price of this captivating book is \$30 (including delivery) and it can be ordered via our website: <https://scottishstudies.com/great-scots.htm>

Best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Hunter,
President,
Scottish Studies Foundation
davidhunter@scottishstudies.com
www.scottishstudies.com

The Coigach Resistance



The Coigach Resistance

In 1852 and 1853 an astonishing series of events took place on the Coigach Peninsula in the far North-West Highlands of Scotland. Five attempts by the landowner, the Marchioness of Stafford, to remove and relocate tenants from the land in Coigach were resisted. And what's more, that resistance was led primarily by women. This is the story of what happened. On 18 March 1852, a small party led by the manager of the Marchioness's estate, Andrew Scott, went by boat from Ullapool to Coigach where they were met by a large crowd of people, principally women, who seized and searched each of them for the Summons of Removing which were burnt once discovered. Defeated, and undoubtedly humiliated, the manager's party were forced to withdraw.

A week later, another attempt was made to serve the notices. A larger party made their way by boat from Ullapool, first to Achnahair and then to Achiltibuie. According to Scott, there were several hundred people amassed along the coast. At both locations, they were unable to serve the summonses, being outnumbered by the 'mutinous crowds'. The now useless summonses were removed from Scott's boat and burnt. The boat was then hauled up the hill by the women, and with a man still sitting in it, was left high and dry in front of the inn. Incidentally, we know that the man in the boat was called John Graham and he lived to be 106, so he was clearly not too traumatized by the event. Scott reported the events of the day as 'a distinguished triumph of brute force over law and order' with the

(Continued on page 31)

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crofters able to remain in their homes for another year. You may have noticed that while we have the written reports of those attempting to clear the land, the voices of those attempting to hold on to their land are silent. While the Estate considered them mutinous, we think of them as courageous. They are the early heroes of the Highland land struggles.

Scott was determined that the crofters should be cleared to make way for sheep and deer and was supported in these plans by the Marchioness who told him 'I think the sooner and the more decidedly the Badenscallie people are taught their lesson the better'. The next confrontation occurred in the second week of February 1853. The party landed at Culnacraig whereupon one of the officers was seized by the women; the writs were once again taken from him and burned and according to Scott the officer was then 'entirely stripped of his clothes and put on board the boat in which he went to Coigach in a state of almost absolute nudity'.

At this point the Estate tried to bring in the militia however a request to the Solicitor General in Edinburgh for a party of soldiers or police from Glasgow to support the local officers was refused, so on 22 March 1853, yet again, a group set off from Ullapool by boat, to deliver the eviction notices. On landing at Culnacraig, the party 'were met by a great body of people consisting of two or three hundred persons (chiefly women, the men being in the background)'. The crowd paid little heed to the Scott's address to them as, once he had finished, 'they rushed upon him and the four policemen by whom he was surrounded and seizing him and then violently deprived him of the writs, which...they immediately destroyed'. Yet again the law had been defied and its officers humiliated at the hands of the crofters who were simply trying to make a stand to protect their homes and land.

News of these eviction attempts was featured in the national Press and the accounts were generally sympathetic to the crofters. The adverse publicity and general unpleasantness surrounding the issue finally persuaded the Marchioness to abandon the proposed removals. For the people of Coigach it was an almost unprecedented victory in Highland history; rarely, if at all, had the authority of a clearing landlord been successfully resisted. Their success helped inspire the crofters in the eastern Highlands in their collective resistance to removal.

Commemorating these Events

The Coigach community has long hoped to commemorate this resistance. We have started fundraising to create a permanent monument to celebrate the bravery of those who resisted. We discovered that only 15% of sculptures in the UK are of named women (and, to put this into perspective, it is said, there are more sculptures of animals in the UK than of named women). We felt it was time to redress the balance. To this end we commissioned internationally acclaimed artists Will MacLean and Marian Leven to design a sculpture to commemorate the events. If you have been to the Isle of Lewis recently you may be familiar with their wonderful sculpture An Suileachan (top next page), also built to commemorate land struggles.

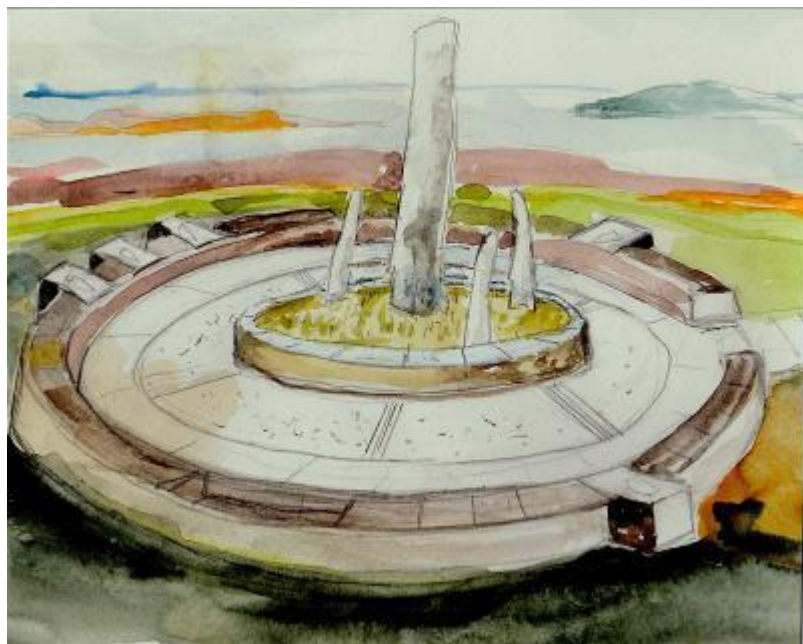
(Continued on page 32)

The Coigach Resistance



(Continued from page 31)

Our sculpture will be called Lorg na Còigich – which is Gaelic for ‘the trace or footprint of Coigach’ symbolizing the traces people have left and those we leave for future generations. [insert image of An Lorg Sculpture An Lòrg artist impression.jpg] The sculpture itself will be circular. At its centre is to be a large monolith, representing the Coigach community – past and present, and around it will be three smaller monoliths, representing the women whose names we know who actively resisted: Anna Bhan, Mary Macleod, and Katy Macleod Campbell. All were young, unmarried women at the time. We know of two others, Margaret Macleod and Catherine Stewart. These women have descendants still living in Coigach, and who knows, perhaps you are related to one of them? You can find out more about our project and about Coigach in general on our website www.coigach-heritage.org



Cobourg Scottish Festival and Highland Games



Honourary Chieftain for 2024

At Cobourg Highland Games, we have been fortunate to have as our Honourary Chieftain for 2024, Scottish comedian and Stories of Scotland You Tuber, Bruce Fumey

Bruce has over 200,000 subscribers to his Youtube channel, and gives us a different, and often comical, perspective on Scottish history..

His Stories of Scotland will be touring parts of Canada next spring and summer, with his first stop in Toronto on April 27th at The Royal, 608 College St. Toronto.

We are hoping that you can share the information that we have on our website, to encourage our members to support Bruce on his tour from the Maritimes to Calgary.

All the information that you need is here on our website, with links to tickets and his Youtube channel : <https://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/honorary-chieftain-bio>.

His Youtube channel will certainly give you knowledge about our Scottish history that no school teacher ever did (he was a school teacher) and is well worth visiting.

George Cackette
President
Cobourg Highland Games Society



House of Gordon Canada

The House of GORDON Canada



Greetings from the House of Gordon. Our clan continues to grow in North America, with representation in Canada and in 35 American states, including Hawaii and Alaska.

As the convener for Canada, I had the privilege to host clan tents at the Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games in June and the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games in August. It's always great to meet with old friends from the other clans and meet new ones.

In October, I attended the House of Gordon AGM at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, in Georgia, USA. It's wonderful to see so many Gordons from south of the border and we always have a good time.

In 2024, I have plans to attend more games in Ontario with help from some new volunteers. We are also looking to expand Gordon representation in the Western Canada and the East Coast. Please contact me if you would be interested in helping us grow or for more information about the House Of Gordon at houseofgordoncanada@gmail.com. Wishing you health and prosperity for the new year.

Bydand!

Shane Kelly
Canadian Convener



At the Cobourg Highland Games

House of Gordon Canada



Gordons at Stone Mountain, Georgia



Fergus 2023



Shane Kelly and William Petrie, St Andrews Ball 2023

Kennedy Society of North America

Since the calendar is very close to January, it is appropriate to not just look backwards but forwards as to Kennedy Society activities.

This year's games season is over, and our 50th Anniversary is about to come to an end. However, the past few months were very active for the Society as it was represented at:

- Scotland County in Laurinburg NC, by Dave & Amy Carrick on October 7.
- Scotland CT by Leo Kennedy on October 8.
- Stone Mountain GA, by David and Irene Phelps, October 21-22. Many Kennedys were in attendance, including but not limited to: Bill and Melissa Kennedy (with MawMaw and J.D.), Sean Carrick, Jennifer Watkins-Jones and Audley, Kristine Winstead, Samuel Winstead, and Dave and Amy Carrick
(Image below)



(Continued on page 37)





Dave Carrick and Sean Carrick at Clover SC

(Continued from page 36)

- Charleston SC by Sean Carrick, November 4. In attendance were Bill and Rose Kennedy, Martha Denton, Michael Quilliam and his entourage, and Dave Carrick.
- Clover SC, also by Sean, on November 11. Clover is near King's Mountain, where seven Kennedys were part of the Overmountain contingent that, in conjunction with the battle at Cowpens, forced Cornwallis to abandon his Southern strategy during the American Revolution.

Looking ahead, the 2024 action starts off quickly:

- Central Florida in Orlando, January 13-14, convened by Frank and Suzanne Canada and assisted by the Titusville Fire Department Honor Guard (in their Weathered Kennedy kilts).
- The Scottish Heritage Association of Northeast Ohio Burns Night on January 27 in Eastlake OH, with Great Lakes Chieftain Kona Gant and wife Kathi as well as Bill and Julie Kennedy. The Kennedy Society will be the Honored Clan, and Society Chief Dave Carrick will be the Distinguished Guest.

Kennedy Society of North America



Nina Eppes, Mary Jo LaFreniere, Leo Kennedy, Dave Carrick at Loon Mountain



Sean Carrick and Bill Kennedy, Tartan Parade, Stone Mountain

Kennedy Society of North America

For many, January 25th and the associated celebrations that occur around that date are limited to a short time frame. However, there are others that experience it on almost year-round. One such person is Kennedy Society member Paul Kennedy of Mt Holly, NJ.

Since 2022, Paul has been president of the Robert Burns Association of North America. The RBANA was formed in a 1982 in Hamilton, ON, from its 1981 progenitor, the American Association of Federated Burnsians. Their annual conference alternates between the US and Canada, with this year's conference to be held in Mt Holly. The RBANA is affiliated with the Robert Burns Worldwide Federation based in Kilmar-nock, Scotland, of which he is the US Director. His involvement with these organizations has allowed him to participate in Burns celebrations worldwide Iraq, Afghanistan, Canada, and the US. He will be in Winnipeg, MB on January 25, 2024 and then at his home Burns Night with the South Jersey Celtic Society on January 27. His term as RBANA President will expire in 2024.

It is always interesting to find out where Kennedy Society members are contributing their time and efforts. So, when you are attending your local Burns night in January, the 265th anniversary of Burns' birth, you can be proud that the Kennedy Society is doing its share to perpetuate a tradition that began in 1801.

Many thanks to Paul for his services!



Paul Kennedy RBANA President with Alan Beck, Immediate Past President RBWF



View from the Chair

Which Side Were the Maclachlans On?

Reprinted from The Magazine of the Clan Maclachlan Society Number 88 Fall/Winter 2023

As the major Clan event of 2023, the Gathering in Strath Lachlan, has already appeared in the summer edition of this magazine, I thought that I would take this opportunity to try to settle the matter of the Maclachlans' feelings during the two risings of '15 and the '45.

A good few years ago there was a fairly amicable discussion in the Clan Lachlan between a lady in America (whose name I have misplaced) who was convinced that the Maclachlans were dyed-in-the-wool Jacobites and Gardener MacLachlan who was quite sure that they were not.

Gardiner's argument was that as there was no evidence for the MacLachlan or his eldest son being out in the 1715 rising, he decided that this argued against a strong Jacobite attachment in the Clan. This seems, on the face of it, to be a reasonable assumption. However, a document has come to light in the Campbell archives in Inverary which seems to contradict this conclusion. In 1715 Lachlan MacLachlan, 16th Chief, aligned himself with the deposed Jacobite House by signing a letter of welcome to James, known to the Government as the Old Pretender, and so became a marked man.

The Duke of Argyll ordered Iain Campbell of Lagganlochan to take his company of the Argyll Militia and that of Campbell of Barbreck to Stathlachlan and take possession of Castle Lachlan and its occupants. They were to detain MacLachlan and his Lady and dismiss the garrison with exception of all but a few necessary personal servants. The Campbells were instructed to treat their prisoners with civility

(Continued on page 41)



Old Castle Lachlan By Otter Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=23359020>

(Continued from page 40)

and caution and to see that no damage was done to the inhabitants or the house and contents. No arms were to be worn by any of the household and all arms found in the castle were to be confiscated and kept under guard.

Despite the injunctions against harming the family or looting the contents, there was no doubt that, for the MacLachlans, this was still a humiliating confinement of the Chief and his family. A careful watch was to be kept against surprise, particularly at night, and the keys were to be kept by Lagganlochan. Personally I think that this is proof that MacLachlan was seen as a Jacobite by the Government and also explains his absence from any of the engagements of the rising and so tends to support the idea that the Chiefs of MacLachlan were indeed Jacobites.

His son, the 17th Chief (and 7th Lachlan) obviously learned from his father's mistake. Prince Charles Stuart raised his standard on the 19th of August 1745 at Glenfinnan and, marching eastward, arrived in Edinburgh on the 11th of September. The MacLachlans joined him on the 21st of that month, having managed somehow to negotiate their way out of the Campbell-dominated lands of Argyll and through the potentially dangerous country in between.

This time the Campbells were too late to prevent the MacLachlans rising. Alexander Campbell of Stonefield wrote:

"I had an attack upon MacLachlans Castle to conduct by assistance of a ship of war. We have got possession of it without any opposition."

The ship was the sloop-of-war *Terror*, armed with ten 4-pounder guns and fourteen ½pounder swivels. The letter is undated, but the log of the *Terror* is quite specific. It states:

"Friday the 14th of November 1745 they were anchored off Castle Lachlann. Sent the Lieutenant, Gunner, 2 Midshipmen and 6 men to take charge of the Castle."

The ship stayed in Lachlan Bay until the 16th. The Captain recorded strong winds and snow on the following days. There is no mention of a bombardment in the ship's log which would be expected if they had opened fire as they would normally record any action that took place. The Castle was occupied by the Argyll Militia from November until the summer of 1746. It is interesting to see that both Stonefield and Robert Duff, the Master of the *Terror*, made very little of the help that each received from the other.

Presumably MacLachlan's family had left the Castle at the same time as the Chief and were, by this time, well out of the way. As MacLachlan fell leading his Clan on Drumossie Moor, one can surmise that he at least had some Jacobite sympathies.

Yours aye,

—*Tony MacEwen*



Clan MacDougall Society of North America



Tartan Editor, Scott MacDougald, gave me a Christmas present! It was not the traditional Harry and David fruit basket, nor a set of Clan MacDowall whiskey glasses in honor of my lineage, but a bird, one that could sing, dance and “like a man in a kilt,” make the female birds swoon.

The gift came by way of an assignment to write about the Black Grouse for the December 2023 Tartan an honor for a very new member of CMSNA. What I was about to learn would be a forceful catalyst for change in my own life. Let me explain: I turned to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK for help. They are not only the preeminent source of information on the Black Grouse... but have long been a powerhouse of support for the bird’s preservation and regeneration. Let me introduce you to my new RSPB colleagues, for that is what Black Grouse Officers Chris Bailey and Julia Gallagher have become.

Gayle: “Chris and Julia, I must confess I know very little about the Black Grouse and why this particular bird is important to our CMSNA Clan and Scotland?”

Julia: “Well, Gayle, I think our colleague from Dumfries & Gallogway Council. Nick Chisholm said it best, so I’ll quote him; ‘Black Grouse were once an abundant upland bird in southern Scotland, their calls common in our soundscape a gurgling burbling and hissing voice that could be heard up to 2 miles away. Strutting males gathered en masse at traditional lek sites to display and occasionally fight, competing to catch the eye of the picky grey hens.’”

Gayle: “LOL! I was just at the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura California, USA where the display of manly fighting, marching and bagpiping Scotsmen drew the fond attention of many women, including me! Stately, fearsome, and proud is how I would describe them. Does that fit with the male Black Grouse as well?”



(Continued on page 43)



**THEY SING, THEY DANCE & ...
THEIR LIVES ARE SPECIAL TO
SCOTS AND SCOTLAND**

(Continued from page 42)

Julia: *“That’s a great comparison Gayle. Black Grouse is a totemic species that reflects the health and robustness of the upland habitat. When their numbers are strong, they bring a rich biodiversity to the region. They thrive where there are natural pockets of wet and rushy ground that attract hens to nest and later provide a protective place for their chicks to hide and grow by feeding on insects that live there. These are secret places often, hidden from view.”*

Gayle: *“I love the idea that Mother Nature nurtures and protects Her creatures in so many visible and invisible ways. Chris, what does it take to keep the grouse healthy?”*

Chris: *“A healthy habitat for grouse would include...and this will make you laugh Gayle, a ‘dancing ring’!”*

Gayle: *“No! Really?”*

Chris: *“Yes! You can think of it as short-swarded grassy hill top and valley floor arenas where the males like to show off their prowess to attract a mate through an enactment of its own Highland or Lowland fling. They also require flanks of heather clad hill sides, where berries and seeds can be richly foraged.”*

Gayle: *What about winter? How do they survive?*

Julia: *“I’ll read you something I recently wrote...I’m waxing a bit poetic here but I believe it offers a well and true answer to your question. ‘When autumn and winter*



draws in, berry-clad trees of rowan and hawthorn provide rich pickings to off-set the cold until the catkins of the birch arrive in spring and blankets of cotton grass clad the moors and provides the energy to move towards the cycle of breeding and productivity required to sustain the population.”

Gayle: *“That’s so beautiful Julia!”*

Julia: *“The sad thing Gayle, is that the Black Grouse are diminishing especially in Southern Scotland and at a rapid rate.”*

Gayle: *That’s terrible Julia and Chris! Why?*

Chris: *“This decline is emblematic of the wider biodiversity loss suffered by other species that share this landscape. RSPB considers the conservation of the Black Grouse a priority. We provide expertise and advice to landowners and farmers to support their sympathetic management of the land so that future generations who will be the custodians of this habitat can enjoy the very special experience of lekking Black Grouse as part of a living upland landscape.”*

Julia: *“Let me add that shaping and safeguarding the habitats and species across the uplands is essential. The sound of a healthy upland moorland can be orchestrally deafening. Its demise is silence.”*

Gayle: *That’s a stark reality, one I certainly don’t want to happen! As it turns out I’ll be attending our CMSNA Clan Gathering in Oban Scotland, July 2024. Perhaps we can meet, talk, visit a Black Grouse*

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America



(Continued from page 43)

Reserve and you can tell me what I can do personally, what our MacDougall Society can do as a group and even, if the desire is there, how the Scottish Clans internationally can help RSPB. Many supportive hands are sure to make our workload lighter. I believe it is our honor, joy and responsibility to continue the Scottish legacy as together we care for our people, nature and the land.

NOTE FROM GAYLE TO OUR TARTAN READERS:

If this article inspires you to help RSPB and the Black Grouse in some way in the future, please send an **“I’m interested in learning how to help RSPB conserve the Black Grouse”** reply to my email: gaylecrosby@kw.com In return, I’ll send you a signed PDF of my Black Grouse cartoon as a thank you!

If you want to be kept-in-the loop as regenerative ideas are considered and opportunities for action created in order to increase the ‘gurgling, burgling and hissing’ sounds, just add to your response: **“Please keep me in the loop!”**



Gayle Crosby MacDowell



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www.williamglen.ca
www.kiltscanada.com



Clan MacLennan Canada



Hello Clans and Scottish Societies,

Clan MacLennan Canada has had a very good 2023 year with a substantial increase to our membership thanks to the diligence of our members and the monthly Zoom seminars put on by our Web Master, Bruce McLennan and other researchers about everyday life in the 19th century in Scottish Parishes where MacLennan families were most prevalent. Our Clan was registered in the Avenue of the Clans

at both Glengarry Highland Games and The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games. We intend to build up the number of Highland Games we can attend and ask members to inform the executive if hosting a clan tent or helping with manning of the tent is something that would interest them. The present hosts will mentor you and give you lots of support.

On November 19th it was an honour to be a panelist on the second part of CASSOC's Symposium which was on "Growth and Success". The Symposiums are opportunities for us to share and learn from other members. There are two more parts which will be on December 16th/2023 about "Heritage" and January 20th/2024 on "Sustainability". Both will be at 4:00 pm via Zoom with no cost to members.

Following on from the success of the 2014 and 2018 Gatherings in Inverness, Clan MacLennan is now planning another Gathering to promote our Clan and to bring our global family together to celebrate our fine customs and traditions. Our Clan's Chief Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan and his wife, Jillian will be hosting the Gathering in Scotland. We invite all MacLennans and MacLennan descendants, wherever you live, to start thinking of joining us for fun, family and friendship – in early July 2024. The 2024 Gathering will be a multi-day event to take place Thursday 09:00 July 4th (best to arrive a day or two before) – Monday (all day) July 8th (leave next day or later) around the spa town of Strathpeffer, a short distance north of Inverness with many connections to MacLennan history.

<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/strathpeffer-p235881>

Programme:

1. Wednesday 3 July 2024 –
 - a. 2 pm McLennans in Fodderty Cemetery (free fringe event)
 - b. 4 pm – Registration.
2. Thursday 4 July 2024 –
 - a. 9 am – all day – Genealogy Day with Keynote speaker,
 - b. Evening – Quiz and music.
3. Friday 5 July 2024 –
 - a. Clan Parliament,
 - b. Town walk – meet McLennans of Strathpeffer,

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c. Evening – Ceilidh @ Strathpeffer Pavilion.

4. Saturday 6 July 2024 –

- a. Castle Leod or Glen Ord Distillery (2 tours x 50 pers each),
- b. Evening – formal dinner.

5. Sunday 7 July 2024 –

- a. Church,
- b. Lunch,
- c. Evening – folk music.

A draft of the programme: You can expect the main Gathering to take place over Thursday to Sunday including the traditional “meet and greet” on Wednesday July 3rd, Genealogy Day starting 09:00 Thursday, a Clan Parliament, formal dinner on the Saturday, a village hall ceilidh and a range of tours and events – an all day walk of the “MacLennan Way” on the Monday (see chapter 14 of Guide to MacLennan Places). Some other suggestions include an address to the haggis and lunch on the Sunday after church. We may also look to offer some other events in other corners of Scotland in the days leading up to the formal Gathering so that people who want to have a longer holiday will have other things to aim for.

For the main event, the Ben Wyvis Hotel in Strathpeffer <https://strathmorehotels-thebenwyvis.com/> will be our base for events. To attend all events, we recommend staying from Wednesday July 3rd until the following Tuesday July 9th. We really hope that as many of you as possible will make it across for the next Gathering.

Ask a question on Canada’s Clan MacLennan Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/117389714938214/

If you have questions on how to get there, where to stay, what else to do etc, please join the discussions on the Clan MacLennan Scotland Facebook page which you can find from www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com/scotland

On behalf of Clan MacLennan Canada members I wish all CASSOC members Happy Holidays, a Merry Christmas, Joyous Hogmanay and Blessings and Peace for 2024.

Barbara MacLennan
VP-Clan MacLennan Canada



Melanie McLennan & Barbara MacLennan at the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games



“Meet and Greet” at Glengarry in 2022

Clan MacNeil in Canada



Clan MacNeil of Canada gathering at the Fergus Games

Written by: Maeghan Murphy Whiteway, Clan MacNeil in Canada Newsletter Editor

If you have a MacNeil connection, we want to see you at the Fergus Games this summer! The Clan MacNeil in Canada will be a featured clan at the three-day event (August 9-11, 2024) that celebrates Scottish heritage with world-renowned talent and entertainment.

We hope you will join us for a weekend of music, dance, and storytelling with old friends and new connections—all who share a special piece of your heritage and identity. The weekend is jam-packed with band competitions, highland dance, heavy weight championships, whisky tastings, and exciting special guests.

If you've ever wanted to learn more about your genealogy, take advantage of workshops and tools offered during the event, and connect with our very own President of Clan MacNeil in Canada, Vince MacNeil, who will be there and eager to share his unmatched knowledge about the history and genealogy of the MacNeils. The family-friendly weekend is also a great opportunity to introduce the new generation to their rich Scottish heritage in a fully immersive setting.

Terry Myles, Vice President of Clan MacNeil in Canada, has been attending various highland games consistently for the last 15 years representing us. "It is one of the highlights of my year," he shares. "We really think the timing is right for us to go all out this year and see how many MacNeils we can get together. More than 40 clans will be represented at the event and as a featured clan, we are going the extra mile to make this a special experience for MacNeils."

Terry encourages anyone with a MacNeil connection to join in on the fun, "Member or not, we want as many MacNeils as possible walking in the opening ceremonies and to join us at our Clan MacNeil gathering on Saturday night." Aside from the planned festivities at Fergus, we are hosting a special event at the hotel (Hampton Inn, Guelph) on Saturday night for all MacNeils. More details to come, but it will ultimately be a place for music, conversation, and connection with family from all over.

Accommodations:

We've secured a discounted rate for MacNeils at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Guelph as our "homebase" for MacNeils during the weekend.

Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton – Guelph
725 Imperial Road North
Guelph, ON N1K 1X4

Please call the hotel directly at 519-821-2144 and mention the name "Clan MacNeil" for the special rate.

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You have until Friday May 31, 2023 to guarantee a reservation. Once the reservation is made, there is no complimentary changes or cancellation allowed after Friday July 26, 2023.

There is also camping available through the Fergus website which goes on sale in January.

Tickets:

Please purchase tickets directly via the Fergus Games website. There is a holiday promotion happening until December 22.

Let us know you're coming!

There is no need to formally RSVP to us, but if you do plan to come, we'd love to know! Please email Terry at tmcneill.myles1880@hotmail.com; he is also available to answer any questions.

We hope to see you in August!



Clan MacNeil in Canada



Greetings to my fellow MacNeil's . Clan MacNeil in Canada is looking forward to a busy summer next year . We are attending many Highland games in Ontario next year and hope you can join us . On August 9 to 11th we will be a feature clan at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland games and hope you will join us , info below . All MacNeil's of all spellings and sept names of the clan MacNeil are welcome . We are a diverse and inclusive clan , so whether you have ties from Barra , Gigha , Colonsay or Cape Breton , Nova Scotia or anywhere in Canada or the U.S. we would love to meet you and exchange our stories and history on how we all connect to the Clan MacNeil . We have a long and interesting history and hope we can help you learn more about our forefathers and share how they lived and made

their way to North America . After all we were the last of the " pirates " as there were not many who were as good as the Macneils for raiding ships that included English ships . The MacNeil's Birlinn ships were the Rolls Royce of ships in medieval Scotland and a sure sign that it's owner was a man of great social standing . Plus the fact they had Kisimul Castle , built on an island in Castlebay , Barra on the outer Hebrides on Scotland's west coast . It's name comes from the Norse word " ciosamul " which means " castle island " . It dates from the 14th century and was restored from a ruinous state by our Chief's grandfather Robert Lister MacNeil in the early 1930's . Our current Chief is Rory MacNeil " The Macneil of Barra " . Understanding that keeping up repairs on a castle in the sea is expensive and time consuming , Rory's father Ian , whom my wife and I had the pleasure of meeting at the Clan Gathering in 2009 , wanted to make sure the castle would be around in it's restored state for all future MacNeil's to experience . So he sold it to Historic Scotland in 2001 for 1 pound and a bottle of whiskey a year for a thousand years to make sure it is maintained forever for all to enjoy.

Sadly it has been closed since 2021 and this has been a big issue on the island on when remedial work will get done so the castle can again be visited by tourists . The castle is only accessible by boat . I have seen a story saying that on December 1 , 2023 Historic Scotland has finally stepped up and put a 350,000 pound funding package to get the repairs completed on the castle and will hopefully have them done and be ready for the 2024 tourist season . There are many more stories to hear about and history to explore of the Clan MacNeil . We hope you can come see us at the Highland games in your area or at the gathering in Fergus in August . Better yet , think of joining the Clan MacNeil in Canada and help us keep our history and culture alive for all the young MacNeil's to come . Our website is clanmacneilincanada.ca and you can find our information at CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada) . Don't forget our motto " conquer or die " . Be proud of who you are and where you come from .

Terry

Clan MacNeil in Canada



Clan Munro Association of Canada



Frae the President's Pen

Dear Cousins,

The biggest news coming out of Scotland in the past week, apart from the weather, has been the repatriation of two panda bears from Edinburgh Zoo, not to Rwanda, but back to China from whence they came. The original deal had been for a ten-year loan but this was extended by two years because of Covid, amongst other things. However, the return of the animals is seen by many as another indicator of the worsening relations between China and the West. The pandas

have become a major attraction at the zoo and they will be sorely missed, not least by the zookeepers who have been looking after them all this time. The BBC link below leads to a short review of the panda story and includes brief interviews with two of the people who have been looking after the pandas all these years. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-67612767>



Photograph: Murdo MacLeod/The Guardian

Another important story Scotland in recent weeks has been the inclement weather they have been experiencing of late. In Canada, we call this 'Winter'. The Scots seem so much better equipped, both logistically and mentally, to deal with these extreme weather events than their Sassenach neighbours to the south. The weather may be challenging in many ways but the snow does offer us some quite wonderful images.



A Glasgow street. Photograph: The National/Lucinda Cameron

Over the past few weeks, Jo Ann Munro Tuskin and I have been attending the online seminars hosted by Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, CASSOC, for the membership, looking at the future of clan associations, gatherings and Highland Games. They've been very informative and thought-provoking. I've managed to take copious notes and I will share some of these with you once the series of webinars finishes early next year.

One immediate takeaway has been the extreme variation in approaches taken by many of the clans in promoting their

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clan interests and recruiting new members. It has been interesting to listen and view how sophisticated some of these approaches have become. At times, it was like watching a multi-national corporation presentation at a marketing conference.

Our shared Scottish heritage is something about which to be immensely proud. Personally, I love the trans-national nature of being Celtic. I posted a comment during the last webinar about the annual Festival Interceltique which takes place in Lorient, Brittany. It's an amazing event that attracts around 700,000 visitors, from all over the world

<https://www.festival-interceltique.bzh/fil-2024-la-jeunesse-celte/>



At a time of increased isolationism and nationalist rhetoric around the world, it is refreshing to see such a successful event flourish not because of the reinforcement of borders but the shared joy of cultural celebration. Let's have more of it!

On this positive note, I will bring my letter to a close. May I take great pleasure in wishing you all a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas and New Year holiday, filled with happiness, goodwill and charity.

Yours Aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Iain Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Clan Munro Association of Canada

Tea Time w' Angus



Scones

From member Ron Hanlin:

Here is an authentic Munro recipe for scones. My Grandmother Olive Hanlin couldn't make scones the way Grandpa Alexander Hanlin had as a kid so Grandma got Aunt Margaret's (Grandpa's sister) recipe. The recipe was their grandmother's who came from Scotland with her family (The Munros) in 1833.

I've only tried it once, so the time and temperature may need some tweaking, but here goes

- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 - 1 tsp (scant) soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp (heaping) shortening
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

Mix. Put in heavy skillet. Score as you would cut a pie. Bake until raised and brown on bottom, at 400 degrees for 10-14 minutes. Turn over to brown top if necessary.



Out and About with Clan Munro:



At Grandfather Mtn Highland Games



Having fun at Munro USA Gathering



At Fergus Highland Games

Clan Munro Association of Canada

Archaeology finds at Foulis

In July 2011 ARCH Highland archaeologists led a Dig on the possible Foulis Motte, 500 yds from Foulis Castle, by the Foulis Burn. Sarah (Alpha) Munro participated in the Dig for a couple of weeks as a UHI student. A daily Blog of the whole event can be found on the www.archhighland.org.uk and also information on Finds discovered on the Motte and surrounding area.

Foulis Shoe Buckle:

One of the finds from our recent excavation at Foulis was a stray shoe buckle. It was found in the initial metal detector survey by Eric Soane of the Highland Historical Search Society near the mound that our excavation focused on.



From its shape and size it would fit an old-fashioned leather shoe fastened by a buckle, a style that would have been in use before the shoe lace became commonplace. It is impossible to date it exactly but could be from the late 1800's to early 1900's.

The thin and fragility of the metal used to make the buckle and its design might indicate it has been used more for decorative purposes than functional, a small fragment of leather remains trapped in the buckle where it would have been attached to the shoe.

The shoe buckle tells us that people were active in the area. Perhaps a traveller from the old coach road running through the estate to Foulis Castle lost a the buckle from his shoe or perhaps one of the Munro's of Foulis lost it while out walking through the Castle grounds. Whoever it belonged to it gives us an interesting insight into the more recent activity at the Foulis excavation site.

www.archhighland.org.uk/news.asp?newsid=86

Foulis Coin:

One of the finds from our recent excavation at Foulis

was a George III 'bullhead' coin. It was found in the initial metal detector survey by Eric Soane of the Highland Historical Search Society near the mound that our excavation focused on.

The coin is interesting because it was first minted in 1816 and 1817 but this particular design was removed in 1818. This particular 'bullhead' design depicted the right profile of George III designed by Benedetto Pistrucci. The large laureate head with bare right shoulder was not particularly flattering and was met with public outcry, causing its withdrawal from circulation.

This example has been cleaned and demonstrates the 'offensive' profile of George III. coins were produced at the new Royal Mint at Little Tower Hill using the new steam, powered machinery installed by Bolton and Watt.

This very short production period hints that the coin may have been dropped at Foulis in this short time period in the early 1800's, although it is impossible to rule out later loss. It represents a superficial topsoil layer at the site that consisted of disturbed and relatively recent deposits from the last few centuries of activity on this site.



Perhaps it was dropped by a member of the Munro family on a walk through the grounds or by a traveler passing through the region.

Beyond its significance at our site, it represents an interesting time in the history of British coinage. After shortages of silver and gold during the Napoleonic Wars had caused a shortage in coinage in Britain there was pressure to move to coins based purely on the gold standard at the time. This basically meant that for the first time silver coins value were not based on the value of the metal that they contained – the beginnings of modern British coinage.

www.archhighland.org.uk/news.asp?newsid=73

Clan Ramsay International

Stone Mountain AGM 2023 Photos

Photographs by
Dick McGraw



Pam Ramsey McNeil
&
Melanie Hudson



Sharon & Mike
Ramsey



Mike Ramsey &
Pam Ramsey
McNeil



Dick McGraw &
Mike Ramsey



Lee & Ronda Ramsey
Shackleford



Kathy Seeley, Melanie Hudson,
Mike Ramsey, & Pam Ramsey McNeil



Ronda Ramsey
Shackleford
&
Pam Ramsey McNeil

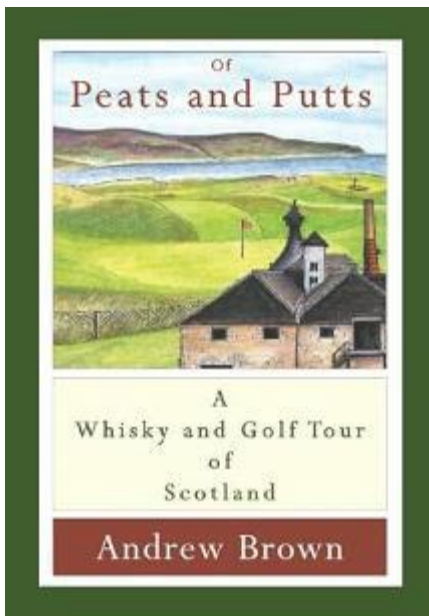


The Ramsay Clan

December Book Review

Another book I read recently that focused on several things Scottish is *Of Peats and Putts: A Whisky and Golf Tour of Scotland* by Andrew Brown.

It is another great read for anyone interested in whisky, golf, or Scottish culture. The book combines insightful commentary on both whisky and golf with entertaining anecdotes and beautiful photography. The book does a fantastic job of exploring some of the lesser-known but equally outstanding options.



For example, one whisky that stands out is the Peat Monster from Compass Box. Brown describes this whisky as having a "big, peaty, smoky flavor" that is perfect for sipping while out on the golf course.

In terms of golf courses, the book highlights some lesser-known gems, such as the Crail Golfing Society in Fife. The course, which features stunning views of the Scottish coastline, is described as a "hidden gem" that is well worth a visit. Another course that stands out is the Machrie Links on the Isle of Islay, which is described as having "just enough challenge to keep things interesting."

The book is available on Amazon.
Submitted by Dick McGraw

Does the Nose Know?

It all started on November 6th when Billy Ramsey posted the following comment on the Clan Ramsay International Face book page, "Is it just me or do y'all agree the biggest Ramsay feature is the nose lol when I'm looking at pics of other Ramseys it seems about 75% of us have a very similar nose."

Mike Ramsey entered the conversation, "Don't know how many of us have the same nose, but Craig Ramsay and I do share a similar proboscis."

Craig Ramsay, "Mike Ramsey looks like we could be brothers!?? Let's double-check that DNA test again."

Mike Ramsey, "Craig Ramsay as coincidentally similar in appearance we are, you are a R haplotype, and I'm an E. So, our common male ancestor was WAY back there. But we are each an amalgamation of both sides of our families, and the DNA lottery picks winners to survive. Here's to surviving traits..."

Not to be outdone Melanie Hudson entered the conversation, "Mike Ramsey not dissimilar to my dad's—his just has quite a few more years of use."



Saltire Gathering 2025

The Saltire Gathering 2025

Preserving the Past, Promoting the Future

Come and be a part of an exciting launch of a new festival of Scotland in 2025.

Over a weekend in August 2025 a new festival of Scotland will launch with the aim to bring together those who live in North America together with those of us fortunate enough to live in Scotland.

Our mission

Drawing on Scotland's identity and global connections, our mission is to design, develop and deliver an annual festival (with live and digital events and associated programmes) that highlights Scottish heritage, values, and aspirations. Through a shared experience encompassing place, culture, sport, business, culinary delights, artistic expression, and local communities, we are seeking to bring together Scots from home and abroad, with those who have an enthusiasm for Scotland, in a celebration of all things Scottish."

The festival will provide an opportunity and a platform to bring Clans together in one venue for a weekend to take centre stage within the historical content and context of the festival. It provides a powerful reason for those Scots living abroad to not only be part of a wider gathering of the Clans who choose to take part but to enjoy all that the festival will have to offer.

This "coming together" would aim to bring together a diverse audience of those who love Scotland, those who have a connection, those who are just "interested" and those that seek to contribute to Scotland's future. Importantly, the festival would like to contribute to the aggregation of all those who contribute in ways large and small in Brand Scotland.

The festival will be built on three pillars: a live event (attracting up to 10,000 people), a digital event and associated programmes (which link events and initiatives before during and after the live and digital events).



It's a family festival in every sense and the programme of things to do will reflect this. There will be lots of activities for every age group throughout the weekend and it is hoped that we might be able in the first year, to launch a one-day history festival on the Friday for school age students.

We're beginning to develop the programme and here are some thoughts as to how it could look:

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- Festival opening with the Grand March of the Clans
- Individual Clan dinners and activities
- Champion of Champions highlight featuring the pipes, drum, and dance champions from each Highland Games
- “Talking Heads” tent throughout the weekend – book festival meets podcast meets in-conversations, served up as a smorgasbord of enlightening and thought-provoking content covering wide-ranging subjects pertinent to both Scotland’s past and the future.
- Scotland’s place in the world/what have the Scots given the world.
- Best of Scottish food and drink with guest chefs, distillers
- Music
- Art installations
- Pop-up tartan museum: the history of Tartan and its place in the world of fashion today which presents the brilliance and creativity of Scottish design.
- One act play – in Doric with subtitles!
- Ceilidhs
- Poetry and book readings and author signings
- Wellness sessions using Scottish wildflowers/plants.
- Storytelling over lunch – grab your lunch, take a seat, and enjoy a Scottish tale or two.
- Chats with famous Scottish sporting heroes
- Horrible Histories for younger children
- Haggis Hurling
- Drumming classes
- The cosy Book and Whisky/Gin bar
- Artisans’ village selling bespoke and small batch goods and produce.



And so much more!

We hope to be able to announce the location in the coming months which is within easy reach of Glasgow and Edinburgh airports. We’re looking into the possibility of offering a glamping village

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Saltire Gathering 2025

(Continued from page 59)

though there is a lot of local accommodation.

We've got a tremendous team working on the festival already with Jeffrey Foster, our North American board director leading the charge from Texas. His email is jeffreyfoster@thesaltiregathering.scot if you want to drop him a line if you want to discuss how you can be involved in ways other than attending the festival.

There are many wonderful individual festivals throughout Scotland but The Saltire Gathering is going a step further by amalgamating individual content and bring together for one weekend, a festival of Scotland.

Our Call to Action

- Put the date in your diary!
- Begin to think about a family holiday which includes the festival!
- Watch out for our Crowdfunding campaign launching in January which will help us get off the ground!
- Register your interest: louisehunter@thesaltiregathering.scot

Yours aye

Louise Hunter
Festival Director



A reminder about ongoing benefits and offers.

Communication

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

Advertising

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

Highland Games, Festivals and other events

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

CASSOC Members Binder

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

National Representation

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

Special Events and Activity Funding

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

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

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

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

Clan Sinclair Association (Canada)



St. Andrew's Charity Ball

"Toronto" - November 18, 2023

by LUKE SETTEE

President, Clan Sinclair Canada

Clan Sinclair was seen at the St. Andrew's Ball put on by St. Andrew's Society of Toronto at the Royal York Hotel on November 18 in Toronto.

Attending was CSAC president Luke Settee, clan piper Rory Sinclair with Mary, Andrea Sinclair, Scott and Cheryl Sinclair from St. Louis and CSUSA and friends. Also attending were Rev Malcolm Sinclair and wife Elspeth.

The following weekend November 25, another city, another ball in Winnipeg - the St. Andrew's Day Dinner.

152nd Celebration Dinner of St. Andrew's Day

"Winnipeg" - November 25, 2023

We had two tables here made up of Lorne and Sharon Sinclair, our clan secretary and newsletter editor and a few of their friends.

The other table was Luke Settee- CSAC president, Dana Johnson and her mother Laura my niece and sister, Alexandra Paul, Gordon Cameron, Dan and Susan Bolton as well as Grand Chief Garrison Settee.

Clan member Alexandra Paul was carving up the haggis.

Both events were well attended and fun was had by all.

Notes on the Highland Dress

(Part 1 of 2) By RORY SINCLAIR

Honourary President, Clan Sinclair Canada

(This series of articles first appeared in Roslin O’Roslin in 1996)

There can be little doubt that the subject of tartan and the Highland Dress (The Garb of Old Gaul) finds many Scots and their descendants arrayed along a wide spectrum of differing beliefs and customs. For most people, Scot and non-Scot alike, the kilt is the most readily retrievable image of what Scots “look like”. For those who wear it, it can be anything from simply a colourful costume to a means of engaging in a form of reverential ancestor worship. For some, the kilt should only be worn by Scottish Nationals at home; for Scots in exile, the kilt is often seen as an essential way of maintaining a sense of roots. For others, ‘Balmorality’ is a hokey pretence while for those who have served in Highland regiments, the attachment to the kilt has an almost organic quality that is entirely different than the respect that any other soldier has for his/ her uniform. For John Prebble (at the end of his harrowing account of *The Highland Clearances*), the wearing of tartan after 1820 is akin to donning a shroud. And all this is not even to open the debate to those who will tell you “The Proper Way to Wear It!”.

Does the whole economic strategy of the ‘marketing of tartan’ mean that the coinage of the idea of ‘family tartans’ must eventually become debased (if such a notion ever had validity in the first place, more on that later)? If first of all, every lowland family now has a tartan, and second, ditto each Province of the Dominion and State of the Union and third, new tartans are coming off the looms almost daily, is the tradition being sacrificed on the altar of economic gain? Doesn't anybody remember that the kilt was only worn by those in the Gaidhealtachd? On the other hand, can't this striving to bring Scotland to the world be seen as an exercise in generosity and inclusivity?

Now, some of these questions might be asked by those contemplating the wearing of the tartan, but we Sinclairs have a couple of additional issues to debate. The Scottish Sinclairs and St. Clairs were Norse in origin and became somewhat Frankified before joining William the Conqueror in 1066. Shortly thereafter they found themselves in Scotland in Rosslyn. This is a lowland area but it was also the crucible for the birth of the Scottish Nation under the leadership of first, William Wallace and later of The Bruce. Most of the families who participated in the Scottish War of Independence were, at least to begin with, low land: the Douglas, the Gordons, the Keiths, the Cummings and the Sinclairs inter alia. There were many other families who acquitted themselves well during the struggles but these particular names are mentioned here for a reason: all of them eventually acquired lands above the Highland line.



Highlander circa 1630

(Continued on page 64)

Clan Sinclair Association (Canada)

(Continued from page 63)

What happens to a family that becomes ‘Highlandized?’ Well, the answer is not simple, but listen to what Logan says about our Clan:

“While it has been maintained that the Sinclairs are not strictly speaking a Gaelic clan...Sir William Sinclair of Rosslyn, having married a daughter of the Earl of Orkney, by this early connection with a Highland district, and holding so high a feudal position, they have fully acquired all that confers on them the rights of chiefship.”

For our purposes here, when the time was right, they also dressed like Highland Chiefs. So Henry Sinclair (1st Earl) inherited Caithness with its Norse heritage in the northern flat areas and its Gaelic



James Moray of Abercairny, 1739

people in the southern hills. This division is not hard and fast, only generally true and as an illustration I will show this division between, on the one hand, the late and phlegmatic Niven Sinclair and his brother John, who stated categorically: “The Sinclairs NEVER spoke Gaelic!”. On the other hand, the great-great grandparents of our late President, W.E. Sinclair, were Gaelic speaking Sinclairs from northern Caithness.

It is clear though, that Highland dress was not worn in Caithness before 1780. Indeed, in the altercation at Altmarlach in 1680 near Wick, between the Campbells (who won) and the Sinclairs, the Campbells were in kilts and the Sinclairs were in trousers. The bagpipe tune called “The Carles with the Breeks” was written by a Campbell piper in honour of their victory over a kiltless enemy. It is

with the founding of the Highland Societies of London and Scotland in 1778 (Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster was an extremely able and active member) and the Repeal of the Disarming Act (enacted in 1746 by the British parliament in order to suppress the Clans) that interest in the Highland dress accelerated throughout Scotland. And Caithness and the Sinclairs would now be part of the Highland Revival.

(Part 2, to be continued)



Piper of Grant, 1714



Logan’s Retrospective View of 18th Century Highlanders

Pipers and Speakers

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

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

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

Scottish Society of Ottawa - Hogman-eh 2023!



Hogman-eh 2023! Experience a Scottish New Year's Eve

Ring in the new year Scottish style. Enjoy a taste of Scotland as you celebrate the beginning of 2024. Read on for a taste of what's to come at Lansdowne Park.... from family entertainment to the Hall of Origins, to fabulous music.

The Aberdeen Pavilion

What's happening before seven o'clock at this Year's Hogman-eh! in the Aberdeen Pavilion? A lot!

The Hogman-eh! 2023 planning team has been busy for months and the Scottish Society of Ottawa is thrilled by what's to come at this great New Year's Eve show at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa.

We work hard to make Hogman-eh! a family event and that is why we have special programming planned for kids. It will take place before 7:00 pm when we do the balloon drop to mark New Year's Eve in Scotland (which is five hours ahead of us in Ottawa). The Kids' Zone will be located in the main Aberdeen building, so families won't miss a thing.

On stage we will kick off at five o'clock with the Scottish Society's very own baritone John Young singing classic Robbie Burns favourites.

Remember, you can come early or come late. Some of our headliners will do an early show before 7:00 pm and will return later to finish their performances. Anna Ludlow, the multi-award nominated fiddler from Antigonish Nova Scotia will bring her brand of the kitchen party and promises to collaborate with Cape Bretoners Alexis MacIsaac and Calum MacKenzie, creating a sizzling down home musical offering. There will be something for the kids and all young highland dancers. Having young children of their own, these fine musicians know how to engage with youngsters.

Our very special guest Ally the Piper is a dazzling multi-instrumentalist and she will give the early crowd a sample of her electrifying performance on the highland bagpipes. Seen by millions over the internet, she is sold out in many venues across the USA. Hogman-eh! 2023 will mark her Canadian debut.

(Continued on page 67)

Scottish Society of Ottawa - Hogman-eh 2023!



(Continued from page 66)

We get rocking even harder later in the evening with some perennially favourite bands like The Brigadoons and the Mudmen – come early for the countdown and stay later for the singing of Auld Lang Syne, for a night you will not forget!

We are still looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with Hogman-eh! By volunteering for 2-3 hours, you will receive complimentary access to the evening's entertainment from 5:00 pm – 1:00 am, pizza, and a cold drink. It's a \$25-\$40 value! We need people to assist in positions such as gate attendant, ticket sales, VIP experience and accessibility, safety team and teardown crew. Click on the link below for details about opportunities to help out. <https://ottscot.ca/hogmaneh-volunteers>

We hope you can join us!

The Hall of Origins

We are excited to share that this year's Hall of Origins will once again feature a range of excellent and interesting groups.

If you love culture, come by to see the Ardbrae Dancers of Ottawa, the group promotes beautiful and entertaining Scottish country dance and music. They are also affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Did you know that the province of Nova Scotia has an Office of Gaelic Affairs? The Nova Scotia Highland Village Society operates Baile Gàidheal / the Highland Village, which is an outdoor living history museum and Gaelic folklife centre that illustrates the story, culture, and identity of Nova Scotia Gaels. Check them out for all sort of information on their museum and on national and international Gaelic resources.

(Continued on page 68)

Scottish Society of Ottawa - Hogman-eh 2023!

(Continued from page 67)

A huge highlight is always our friends, the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). They provide the link between various clans and Scottish societies, encouraging the celebration of Scottish cultural heritage and promoting it as much as possible.

Your name might be one of the more than one hundred that are recognized as part of the Canadian chapter of the Clan Gregor Society. Come and learn more!

Currently in its 30th year, Culinary Historians of Canada provides a wealth of information for food-history buffs, and everyone else who wants to learn more about cooks and cooking, and foods in Canada. They also maintain an extensive list of Canadian and international food history websites.

The Ottawa Welsh Society promotes Welsh history, culture and language and will have a lot to share on site.

If you have roots in the British Isles, you'll want to stop by and visit The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. They are the leading Canadian family history society with a focus on the British Isles, including England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands.

Also known as the Duke of Edinburgh's Own, the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Regimental Family consists of the Regiment, Association, Foundation, and affiliated Army Cadet Corps. Come learn about their exciting history!

The beautiful Ottawa Celtic Choir sings songs from the seven Celtic nations, as well as from strongly Celtic-influenced areas (such as the Atlantic provinces, Québec, and Ontario). They sing in six Celtic languages as well as English, French, and Galician-dialect Spanish.

Musical entertainment in the hall will be provided by Mullingar Session. They will be joined by Sandy, the Chaplain and a Robbie Burns aficionado. For fans of Outlander, join us at our SSO photo booth, to have your photo taken with our life-sized cutouts of Jaime and Claire.

Be sure to visit us on site, as we will also have many more surprises!

The Mullingar Players

Starting in the early the 18th century large groups of Scottish settlers arrived in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, bringing their Celtic culture and music. Over the next two plus centuries this music evolved with French Acadian influences to create a uniquely Maritime Celtic music sound that has its heart in Cape Breton. This Celtic music tradition is alive and well today at international festivals such

(Continued on page 69)



Scottish Society of Ottawa - Hogman-eh 2023!

(Continued from page 68)

as Celtic Colours and Kitchenfest.

You can hear it this year at Hogman-Eh! too, with a group known as “Mullingar Session Players.” It’s composed of 18 musicians who join in when they can to play a range of instruments from a guitar and mandolin to a Celtic harp and bagpipes.

The Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO) is fortunate to have former SSO director and native Cape Bretoner, Ron Roach (of Clan Ranald) and Dave Johnston, another SSO director and bagpiper, amongst us. Both are founders of Mullingar. They had originally attempted a traditional Ceilidh (Ceilidh means “visit” in both Scottish and Irish Gaelic) with six musicians at the SSO Kilt and Curl in April 2022. It was well received but needed the extra energy and excitement of audience participation normally experienced at a true “down home” kitchen party.

The kitchen party idea is drawn from the Maritimes and Newfoundland tradition of playing tunes and songs, led by participants in succession, around a cleared-out country kitchen. The audience can join in and sing and sometimes dance around and inside the circle of players.

The Mullingar Players came together later in 2022 when Ron and an accomplished Ottawa vocalist Skye MacDiarmid, were asked by Janet Uren of the Linden House Theatre Company to organize a Ceilidh to follow their performance of “Outside Mullingar.” Everyone joined forces to create a true Ceilidh - and indeed a Kitchen Party atmosphere. Ron wasn’t sure Ottawans would embrace and participate in this style of self-made entertainment. But embrace it they did. “I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and level of participation of the audience that joined around the circle,” said Ron.

The initial Mullingar Session at Linden House included ten musicians playing several different instruments. The music ranged from traditional Irish and Scottish ballads to jigs, reels, and contemporary Celtic favourites. The number of players, instruments and types of music has expanded since then. Particularly notable this year was at the New Edinburgh Festival where the circle grew and audience participation was strong. It was fun.


The addition of superb vocalist John Young who sings many of the traditional songs of Robert Burns, has also added a wonderful new element. Hogman-Eh! director Donald Macdonald on bagpipes and communications director Andy MacCulloch on guitar, round out the SSO musicians. Celtic music is literally in our bones at the SSO!

The Mullingar Session Players will be set up for you to join in song, dance, and foot tapping fun - or to just listen at the Hall of Origins in the Horticulture Pavilion at Lansdowne Park from 2:00 to 5:00pm.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



St Andrew's Society of Toronto



**BURNS
DINNER**

University Club of Toronto
6:30 - 10:00 PM

**FRIDAY
JAN. 19**

\$140 FOR MEMBERS
\$150 FOR NON-MEMBERS

The St. Andrew's Society looks forward to holding its traditional Burns Dinner in conjunction with the University Club of Toronto on Friday, January 19th. The event follows the time-honoured format with the Address to a Haggis, the Immortal Memory and Toasts to the Lassies and Laddies.

Tickets

Tickets (inclusive of wine at the table) are \$140 for members of the Society and University Club and \$150 for non-members. Capacity at the University Club is limited to 115, so don't delay in making your ticket purchase and avoid disappointment.

Dress Code

The Burns Dinner is a formal event. Kilts and tartans are not required but are encouraged.

Dinner Menu

Starter - Winter salad with arugula, radicchio and baby spinach

Haggis, neeps and tatties

Main course - Roasted Angus beef sirloin

Dessert - Mixed berry and sherry trifle - tea/coffee

A vegetarian meal will be available. Dietary concerns can be made known at time of ticket purchase. We look forward to welcoming members and their guests for what is always a memorable evening.

[Click here to buy tickets](#)

INTRO TO CURLING SOCIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
HIGH PARK CLUB



The St. Andrew's Society is hosting an Intro to Curling Social on Saturday, March 2. This event is geared towards beginners and will feature a combination of instruction and play. Come enjoy a game that was born in Scotland and beloved in Canada!

This afternoon session (1:30pm-4:00pm) will be at the High Park Club (100 Indian Road). Tickets are \$40 for Society members and \$45 for the general public. They will be available until Saturday, February 24 (while quantities last).

Players may sign up as one, two, three or four people. Those who sign up without a foursome will be slotted into teams. It's a fun afternoon and great way to meet people. Participants must be ages 19+

[Click here to buy tickets](#)



Lots of Light: Hogmanay at Mackenzie House

Saturday December 30th, 6.30pm \$30

Enjoy an evening of live music featuring the trio Gin Lane, a diverse selection of festive snacks, and printing a New Year's souvenir on the 1845 press!

Toronto History Museums delivers a series of programs from November 1, 2023, to January 8, 2024, designed to embrace the spirit of light, love, joy and celebration through light-based public art activations, music, workshops, food, culture, storytelling, and events as part of the Lots of Light programming toronto.ca/lotsoflight.

[Click here for tickets.](#)

Clan Logan - A taste of Scotland

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal held its annual Taste of Scotland event on Friday, October 13th, 2023 at the Black Watch Armoury on Bleury street. It was a great event that with most interested in tasting various whiskies and to simply have a wonderful evening with friends. The people in attendance were very kind and open to meeting other people and discussing while sampling the over 25 different brands of Whisky available and eating a selection of various Scottish dishes.

I had the pleasure of meeting up with many friends and acquaintances. I was able to meet up with Marie-Paule Simard and Yannick from Clan MacLeod Quebec. We talked in great detail about how Clan MacLeod here would change and be more streamlined with the various other Clan MacLeod Societies that exist. There is a will to do like Clan Logan and be part of the bigger Clan at large. Marie-Paule tells me she wants to reach out to various MacLeods across Canada and be part of the global Clan movement through CESEDC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada - French Division). This is great news in terms of visibility for this Clan. I enjoyed spending the night with her and Yannick. I look forward to promoting Clan Logan while building strong bonds at various events with them.

As the night progressed I had a few glasses, discussed with people and ate the great buffet. What a nice escape from the every day. I managed to meet up with Jeff McCarthy. He needed to get the Haggis party going for the evening and asked me to step in as his Dirk holder. It was nice as this made the Logan tartan visible to those watching me and gave a little limelight to the Clan in a way. The piper piped us in the room as the Haggis party took position. I stood there watching Jeff do the Address to a Haggis in awe. He is a legend in our community. No one can do an Address to a Haggis like Jeff McCarthy!! He carried on with great passion then reached out for his dirk and did the ceremony and everyone enjoyed it. Clan Logan got more visibility that night and a more active part in the evening held.

We all had the best whisky tasting in a long time. We concluded the night, said our goodbyes and left. I look forward to more events with the Montreal St. Andrew's Society in the future.



Above: Address to the haggis by Jeff McCarthy

Right: Steven Logan, Marie-Paule Simard and Yannick from Clan MacLeod Quebec



Clan Logan - Debutante and Escort Reception

Before the Scottish ball, we always attend the debutantes reception held by the Montreal St. Andrew's Society. I got all dressed up and headed to Kensington Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, November 15th. It was so nice to meet up with our Montreal Scottish community. Delicious nibbles were had and I spoke with many different people. I saw new faces, people looking to have a fun evening that are very new to the Scottish Ball and were looking for a change of the everyday.

I met up with many people I know from different groups. I spent time with Samara O'Gorman, the 2023 Montreal St. Patrick's day Queen who was a debutante at the Ball and Gulnar Mousa, President of the Central Montreal Lions Club. It was really nice to spend some quality time with these two Ladies who had a lot to say about their plans in their respective organizations. Clan Logan Society of Canada is quite a busy organization itself so trying to find ways to promote ourselves while participating in different events is key.



The Debutantes and escorts were presented to the public and we gathered to see the final dance practice accompanied by the Black Watch (RHR) Pipes and Drums. Once the dance was done, the public was encouraged to participate and do some dancing of their own. There were quite a few dances done and people were in a party mood.

Some time afterwards, I decided it was time to leave and gave my goodbyes to everyone. Gulnar kindly offered a lift back which I accepted. I was very pleased with this event as it allowed me to connect with people I have spent time with through the year while meeting new people and hopefully opening new doors for Clan Logan in the process.



Clan Logan - Celebrating with the Black Watch Family Division

On Saturday, December 9th, 2023, I was off for another Black Watch Family Division Children's Christmas party.

I arrived at the Black Watch Armoury for 10 am to make sure my Family Division knew I was there if they needed help setting up. Most everything was ready by the time I got there so I socialized and watched the event unfold. The Children's inflatable toys were ready and we were just waiting for the parents and children to arrive.

We had more Children this year than in years past so Santa and Mrs. Claus were busy passing out gifts and getting pictures taken. The buffet was once again done by our Vice President and Chef of Manoir D'Youville in Chateauguay and his team, Laurent. he was somewhat surprised at the increase of children so he had to work harder to get more food ready, a challenge he undertook with great success. People were very happy with what was on offer. There was also some Scottish dancing, bagpiping and festive fun for everyone.

At this event I met Francine who came to help out and even enjoyed her company while having a bite to eat.

It's so nice to do this event each year and it really give me a chance to connect and exchange with people I haven't seen very often in the year. Everyone is there with their families enjoying the moment.



Once this event was finished in early afternoon, I went right home after doing my duties towards Clan Logan. Another one done for the year!

by Steven Logan, Fsascot



Clan Logan - Poppy Dance

With the Remembrance day activities coming to a close, there was only a last event left on our Schedule. On November 11th, I got all dressed up in Logan attire to head out to Verdun Borough City hall to attend the Legion branch 4 Poppy dance. When I arrived, there were many people in the room and a little buffet. I got to see many people I knew of course from both the Black watch Veteran's Association, the Family Division and the Legion.



It was so nice to see friends and acquaintances. many of the people in the room were worn out due to various Remembrance activities in the day but they still came! we were able to get together and relax a little while listening to the music of Dice Duo who did a great job singing a few hits. I got to see a few people having fun too. The Legion branch 4 moved me by their support of Clan Logan. It's nice to know that making a difference isn't futile and I really want my Legion branch 4 to be part of our adventure as many inter-

esting things are coming for us in the years to come. The organizations I deal with are very important in what they have to do in our community. We all need each other and I am pleased to bring Logan heritage, ancestry and tradition to the mix.

I spent time with Ross and Mireille from the Black Watch but being a social butterfly, I did venture off in the room to meet fellow comrades from the Legion, get some news, shake hands and offer my support. I had a chance to speak to Darlene Harrison, President of Branch 4. This lady is making a difference with her executive branch members. There are many difficult challenges within the Legion but despite that, she smiles, carries on and shows great strength and works very hard getting things done. That's a true sign of leadership and a lovely way of following our Clan motto "Hoc Majorum Virtus" This is the valour of my ancestors. Not only are her ancestors proud of her contribution, but everyone else around her too. She is a very inspiring person and the Legion branch 4 is very lucky to have her. I therefore have a duty to pay tribute to her excellence and that of many other people by doing the best I can for our Clan. The more people that see me and what I stand for, the more beneficial it will be for us. We need to bring back community values

The Clan Logan Society of Canada wishes to thank City Councilor Sterling Downey and Borough mayor of Verdun Marie-Andrée Mauger for their help with that. It is important to help our veterans as they need us now more than ever. That evening, there was a draw and I was called to the front to pick the winning number, Clan Logan was mentioned giving us some visibility! The Poppy Dance was really fun and I hope it will come back next year!



Games, Festivals, and other Events

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

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

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

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

2024

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

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

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

April 2024

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

May 2024

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

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

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

June 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on page 77)

Games, Festivals, and other Events

July 2024

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

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

Penticton Scottish Festival Penticton, BC <https://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/>

Antigonish Highland Games Antigonish, NS <https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/>

Almonte Celtfest Almonte, ON <https://almonteceltfest.com/>

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games <https://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/>

Cambridge Scottish Festival Cambridge, ON <https://cambridgescottishfestival.ca/>

Orillia Scottish Festival Orillia, ON <https://scottishfestival.ca/>

Uxbridge Scottish Festival Uxbridge, ON <https://uxbridgescottishfestival.com/>

Sherwood Park Highland Gathering Sherwood Park, AB <https://www.sphg.ca/>

New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival Fredrickton, NB <http://www.highlandgames.ca/>

Okanagan Military Tattoo Vernon, BC <https://okanagantattoo.ca/>

August 2024

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

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

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

Montréal Scottish Festival & Highland Games Verdun, QC www.montrealhighlandgames.com/

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games Fergus, ON <https://fergusscottishfestival.com/>

Goderich Celtic Roots Festival Goderich, ON <https://celticfestival.ca/home>

Margaree Highland Games Margaree Valley, NS <http://www.margareehighlandgames.com/>

Miramichi Scottish Festival NB <https://www.highlandsociety.com/scottish-festival/>

The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival Sedgewick, AB <https://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/events>

Festival Celtes et Cie de Saint-Malachie, QC <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063674763219>

North Lanark Highland Games Almonte, ON <https://almontehighlandgames.com/>

September 2024

Canmore Highland Games Canmore, AB <https://canmorehighlandgames.ca/>

Festival Celtique de Québec Québec, QC <https://festival-celtique.com/>

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games Lockport, NY <https://www.niagaraceltic.com/>

October 2024

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

November 2024

St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball Toronto, ON <https://standrewstoronto.ca>

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

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 Brig o' Doon, a medieval bridge in Robert Burns's home village of Alloway, which formed part of the setting of his poem "Tam o' Shanter." By August Schwerdfeger Own work, CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=66755432>

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 11.

Submissions should be emailed to editor@scotscanada.ca

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