



*An Drochaid - The Bridge*  
*Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord*

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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"

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# Bhon cheann-suidhe - From the Chair

## **From the Chair:**

Please welcome our new members: Clan Macnachtan, Zorra Caledonia Society – Embro Highland Games, Almonte Celtfest, and Guthrie School of Dance.

Those who attended the AGM back in November know that we had an interesting event, which did not turn out as anyone expected.

Your board has had good discussions on what happened and worked out a path forward with the overall strategy for the side-swiped AGM Special Resolution. A quick summary of what happened with this derailment is that there was a misinterpretation of Robert's Rules regarding a motion to table.

Lessons have been learned in that Robert's Rules are replaced by the Canadian Bourinot's Rules of Order, which will be used from now on, along with some other procedural changes for future meetings. Other issues arising from the AGM will be likely be addressed by an email to member delegates over the next few weeks.

To move forward with strategy, your board, with a committee, is working on both bylaw changes and a name change in order for us to transition to being the national Scottish organization with an expanded membership. Our Spring meeting on Tartan Day, April 6th, is the current plan for the vote on this.

Between now and the Spring meeting, we will hold information/discussion sessions for members once the bylaw and name change are settled upon for presentation.

Check out the brochure plan for the 2025 Road Show we're looking forward to. Think of us when printing and distributing your brochure. We'll gladly have them on the display table for public access.

In our membership report this edition, we are updating how listings appear for those members who are more than a single face to the public. For instance, we show both a society and the festival event they provide. The intent is to provide enhanced visibility that serves the membership and the public best.

Please keep us informed about your events and your membership contact information. The following online tools are available and being enhanced to help you with this:

**Membership Information:** <https://www.scotscanada.ca/join>

If you're not sure of what your current membership information on file is, please contact us at [secretary@scotscanada.ca](mailto:secretary@scotscanada.ca).

**Event Submission:** <https://www.scotscanada.ca/submitevent>

Let us know using [events@scotscanada.ca](mailto:events@scotscanada.ca) if there are errors or omissions in the event listing.

*William Petrie*

*Chair, Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada*

*[chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca)*



# Director and Officer Resignations

It is with regret that the following statements of resignations have been received and accepted by the board as follows.

***From Doug Doughty, Director at Large, December 10, 2024 at 7:18pm ET.***

*"I have decided that i am not aligned with the direction this organization is going, and I feel it's best for all if I resign my position as Director at large.*

*Doug Doughty"*

***From Rushikesh Jagtap, Director and Treasurer, January 12, 2025 at 11:23am***

*"Hello All*

*It is with deep regret that I, Rushikesh Jagtap, submit my resignation as Treasurer and Director of Clans and Scottish Society of Canada effective immediately.*

*It is clear that the demands of my employment has far exceeded earlier expectations and this will continue unabated for the future.*

*As a result I can not expect to adequately perform the duties at the level of care and quality required.*

*With thanks for the opportunity and learning experience the roles have provided, I wish you all the best success in your current and future undertakings with CASSOC.*

*Yours Truly*

*Rushikesh Jagtap"*

## **Call for Directors and Treasurer**

The maximum number of Directors is 15 so with the above resignations we now have up to 3 director positions open including the position of Treasurer. Between AGMs, these positions are fillable through election by the board and normally are for the term remaining till the next AGM.

If you are interested or have a candidate in mind, please send an email with details such as qualifications and background to [board@scotscanada.ca](mailto:board@scotscanada.ca)

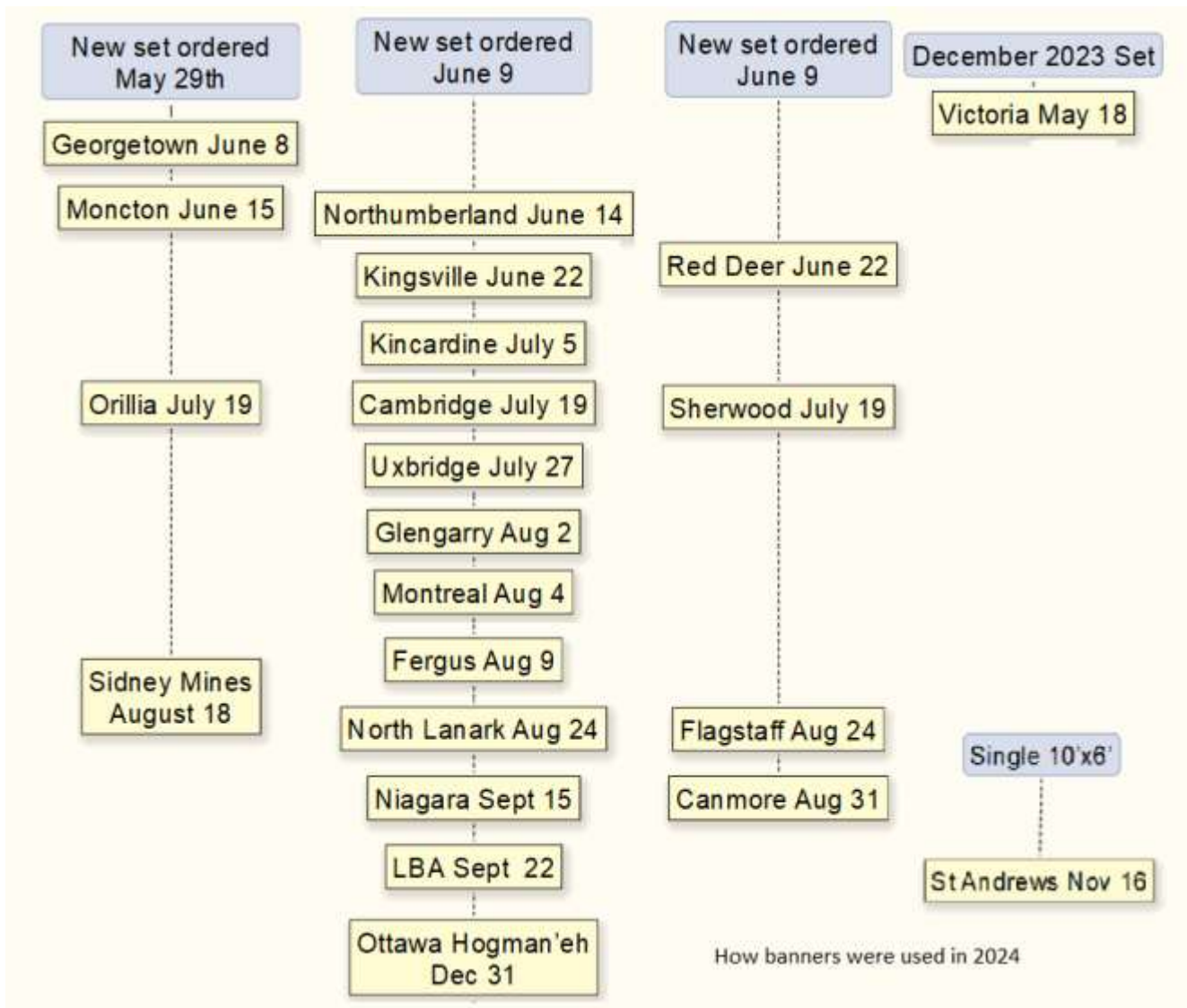
# Road Show 2025 - Banner Plan

Planning is underway for the 2025 Edition of the Road Show. On the next page is the draft plan for the banners to be used at 23 events this year. As per last year, shown below, we'll have 3 sets of the 3 10'x5' banners for use which will provide coverage for the Maritime, Central and Western member events. Solid arrows represent when banner sets are shipped.

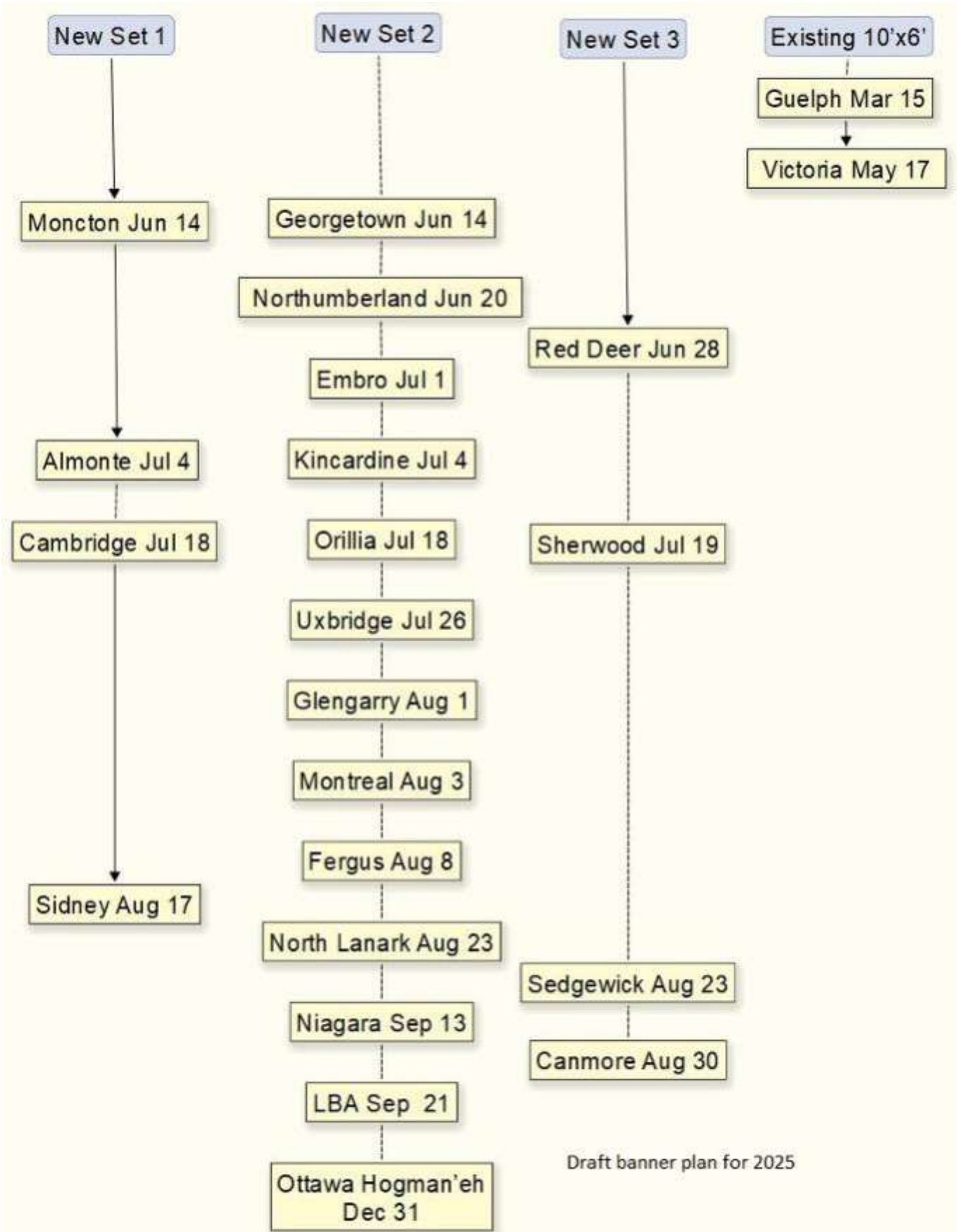
We have a single 10'x6' banner that was used for a November St Andrews event and this will be reused for the University of Guelph College Royal presentation then shipped to the Victoria Highland Games. It contains a smaller poster for all members just as the tent based 10'x5' banners.

Our goal is to have attendance by a member of the executive at as many events as possible. When this is not possible, we will arrange for the banners to be sent to the event organizers for setup in a manner that works best for them to provide the display as self-serve.

Below is how banners were used last year. Banners were also displayed at some non-member events such as Antigonish and out in BC. These are not shown below and are not formally part of the plan for this year.



# Road Show 2025 - Banner Plan



# Guthrie School of Dance - New Member



Info: [guthriedancers@gmail.com](mailto:guthriedancers@gmail.com)

YouTube, Facebook & Instagram

@guthrieschool of dance

Dancers from the Guthrie School of Dance have toured around Canada and the United States delighting crowds with traditional and contemporary Scottish dance. You'll often find GSD dancers teaming up with pipe bands and Celtic musicians to bring an extra pep to everyone's stomping foot a local pub or highland festivals.

In addition to delighting crowds at events throughout the year dancers compete globally making regular trips to Scotland and appearances at highland games and championship series in North America.

We are always looking for interested individuals who would love to put on some ghillies and dance around with us. Classes open to all ages 4+ with special classes for beginning adults and those returning to highland after a hiatus. No time like the present to get your favorite kilt out and fling with us!

Follow us on socials @guthrieschoolofdance or email us for performance opportunities and class info [guthriedancers@gmail.com](mailto:guthriedancers@gmail.com) or contact Kristy directly at 647.606.3699



# Guthrie School of Dance - New Member



Join us for our [Great Canadian Kilt Skate](#) on Feb 15 from 1pm to 4pm at the [Evergreen Brick Works](#) 550 Bayview Avenue, Toronto. Skate rentals are available at 1pm. First come, first served.

# Hogman'Eh! Ottawa

The OttScot event was held at Infinity Convention Center, a different location, this year having been bumped by the Junior World Hockey activities in downtown Ottawa.

It worked out well with us being able to have a full 30' banner set across the main lobby of the event. With being lit by our LED spotlights, the display was quite popular and likely visited by every attendee of the evening. Some, we know, for multiple times.





# Hogman'Eh! Ottawa



# Hogman'Eh! Ottawa



# The Man in the Arena Revisited

Many publications back I provided an extract from the Theodore Roosevelt speech titled "The Man in the Arena", delivered on April 23, 1910, at the Sorbonne in Paris. A number of recent events had my mind revisit the passage with the end result that I feel a modernized, inclusive version is now worth sharing.

Your thoughts on this are most welcome, please send them to me at [chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca)

William Petrie

Chair, Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada

It's not the critic who matters, nor the person who points out where others have fallen short or could have done better.

The true credit belongs to those who are actively involved—who put themselves out there, facing challenges with determination and resilience.

They may stumble and fail, but they keep going, learning from their mistakes and trying again.

They dedicate themselves to a meaningful cause, giving their best, knowing that success is not always guaranteed.

Even in moments of failure, they have the courage to try and the strength to keep pushing forward.

Their place is never with those critics who stand on the sidelines, unwilling to engage or take risks.

# Membership Report

The following lists our current 108 members and who they represent. New **members**, since the last report, are highlighted. Entries marked with an asterisk (\*) are a second entry for a member.

## Societies

The Flagstaff Scottish Club

Greater Moncton Scottish Association

New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association

Scottish Society of Ottawa

Scottish Studies Foundation

St Andrew's Society of Toronto

The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys

Westman Scottish Association

**The Zorra Caledonian Society**

## Games, Festivals & Events

**Almonte Celfest**

Cambridge Scottish Festival

Canmore Highland Games

**Embro Highland Games\***

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival\*

Georgetown Highland Games

Glengarry Highland Games

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Kingsville-Essex Highland Games

LBA Highland Games

Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival \*

Montréal Highland Games

North Lanark Highland Games

National Capital Highland Games

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games

Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Orillia Scottish Festival

Red Deer Highland Games

The Saltire Gathering

Sherwood Park Highland Games

Sydney Mines Highland Games

Uxbridge Scottish Festival

## Enterprise, Media, Sport and Historical

**The Old 78th Fraser Highlanders - 2nd Regiment of Foot - Fort Calgary Garrison**

Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd.

House of Cassady

Celtic Life International

Clan Designer

**Guthrie School of Dance**

Hutchison House Museum

Rugby Canada

ScotlandShop

The Scottish Banner

Sheena's Scottish Shortbread

Taylor's Tartans

Tay Piping

William Glen & Son Canada Ltd

# Membership Report

## Clans and Families

Clan Baird Society Canada	Clan Leslie Society International
Clan Bell North America	Clan Logan Society of Canada
Family of Bruce International	The Clan MacAlpine Society
Clan Buchanan Society International	Clan MacAulay Association
House of Burnett International	Clan MacBeth
Clan Cameron Canadian Branch	Clan MacDougall Society of North America
Clan Campbell Society (North America)	Clan MacDowell *
Clan Carruthers Society International	Clan MacEwen Society
Clan Chisholm Society Canada Branch	Clan MacFarlane Worldwide
Clan Colquhoun of Canada	MacFie Clan Society in Canada
Learned Kindred of Currie	International Association of Clan MacInnes
Clan Davidson Society of North America	The Clan MacKay Association of Canada
Clan Donald Canada	The Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada
Edmonstone Clan Society	Clan MacKinnon Society
Elliot Clan Society of Canada	Clan MacLellan of America
Clan Farquharson Canada	Clan MacLennan Canada
Clan Fergusson Society of North America	Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada
Clan Forbes Society	Clan MacNeil in Canada Association
Clan Fraser Society of North America	<b>Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide</b>
House of Gordon Canada	Clan MacNicol Society of North America
Clan Graham Society Inc	Clan MacPherson Canadian Branch
Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter	Clan MacRae Society of Canada
Clan Gunn Society of North America	Clan MacTavish
Clan Hope of Craighall Society	Clan MacThomas Society
Clan Hunter Association of Canada	Clan Munro Association of Canada
Clan Irving	Murray Clan Society of North America
Clan Irwin Association	Clan Ramsay International
Clan Johnston/e in America	Clan Shaw of Canada
Kennedy Society of North America	Clan Sinclair Association of Canada
Clan Kincaid Association International	Clan Skene Association
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada	Clan Strachan Society
Clan Lamont Society of North America	The Clan Watson Society
Clan Lennox	



## **KINGSVILLE-ESSEX HIGHLAND GAMES POSTPONED**

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Kingsville-Essex Highland Games announces the postponement of their 2025 event.

The organizing committee has begun working on a new immersive Scottish experience for 2026.

More information will be shared once details are available.

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

*Doug Plumb*

*Kingsville-Essex Highland Games*

*(519) 984-1566*

*kingsvillegames@gmail.com*

# ALMONTE CELTFEST

**July 4-6, 2025**

**Gemmill Park**

**Almonte, Ontario**

**Info:** [almonteceltfest@outlook.com](mailto:almonteceltfest@outlook.com)

**Website:** <https://almonteceltfest.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AlmonteCeltfest>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/almonteceltfest>

## **What is Celtfest?**

Celtfest is a fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, performed in the natural amphitheater of Gemmill Park in the heart of Almonte. It is a time to share the historical Celtic traditions with today's local performers. Celtfest also presents a select group of unique artisans and vendors of specialty goods with a Celtic flair. Donations are welcomed at the gate.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to celebrate and promote the Celtic heritage of the Ottawa Valley through music and dance and to make this accessible to all. We want to give up-and-coming performers an opportunity to display their talents in their home community. To do this, we feature a free event with a number of entertainers who have a Celtic quality, as well as a wide variety of vendors of Celtic goods. We also provide a tent for seniors and entertainment for children, along with great food and beverages for all.

## **History**

Celtfest began in 1997. Motivated by a love of Celtic heritage, Brian and Dan O'Connell, along with Terry Currie, looked for a way to keep their musical traditions alive and pass on the legacy of the Celts to the wider community. Throughout generations, fiddling and stepdancing have had a strong presence in the Ottawa Valley. Celtic music has continued to thrive in kitchens, pubs, and churches, Brian O'Connell explains. "In the early to mid 90s, there was a revival of Celtic music, such as Riverdance. We felt with all the local talent in the area, we could put together an event that would promote local musical talent and a weekend to reflect on the Celtic heritage.

# 78th Fraser Highlanders Calgary Garrison - New Member



**Website:**

<https://78frasercalgary.ca/>

**Membership/Delegate:**

Rod McLeod

ramcleod@gmail.com

**Our Garrison**

The Fort Calgary Garrison is one of ten outposts of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, an internationally acclaimed historical society, dedicated to the preservation of the memory of the original Regiment and Canadian Military history of the period mid-1700's and celebration of the contributions of the early Scots to Canadian culture.

The primary focus of the Fort Calgary Garrison is to provide a well rounded youth training program which includes instruction in piping, drumming, highland dancing, musketry, weapons handling & safety, leadership, citizenship and history.

If you or someone you know are interested in joining the program, please submit an APPLICATION FORM (click to download).

Our practices are held every Sunday from 10:00am to 2:00pm at The Military Museums (4520 Crowchild Trail SW).

*(Continued on page 17)*



# 78th Fraser Highlanders Calgary Garrison - New Member

*(Continued from page 16)*

## **About**

The original 78th Fraser Highlanders was a Highland Regiment, raised in Scotland to fight in Canada during the Seven Years War. The Regiment fought with distinction at a number of battles including under General James Wolfe at both the Siege of Louisbourg and the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. At the conclusion of the war the Regiment was disbanded in Canada and many members of the Regiment settled here and have become an important part of our nation's history.

The 78th Fraser Highlanders were 're-raised' in 1964 as an historical reflection of Canada's past to perform at the Old Fort on Ile Ste. Helene during Expo 67 in Montreal. Following the event, many people 'bought commissions' in the commemorative regiment in order to keep it alive.

Pockets of supporters began to form in both Canada and the US which resulted in a system of Outposts and Garrison. In a social sense, the Frasers are the largest private army in North America. The modern 78th Frasers are an internationally recognized historical society whose primary mission is the preservation of the memory of the original Regiment, their commanders, comrades-in-arms and their adversaries.

The uniforms worn by the Frasers are replica to 1763 with a patch of Black Bear fur on their bonnets in place of a hat badge! Their kilt is also very unique as it has two extra pleats on the apron reminiscent of the philebeg or 'big kilt'.

With its headquarters in Montreal, the modern 78th Frasers have Garrisons located in:

Quebec City, QC

Ottawa, ON

Toronto, ON

Waterloo, ON

Winnipeg, MB

Calgary, AB

Vancouver, BC

Victoria, BC

Vancouver, WA, USA

Atlanta, GA, USA

**NOTE:** if you are interested in forming an Outpost in your area, please contact:

The 78th Fraser Highlanders

1195 Sherbrooke West

Montreal, Quebec H3A 1H9

Tel: (514) 284-0723 loc 227

# Zorra Caledonian Society : Embro Highland Games - New Member



## About Us

The Zorra Caledonian Society has been host to Ontario's oldest Highland Games since its inception in 1937. The area's Scottish roots run deep, with the first Scots arriving from Sutherland, Scotland, in 1829. Driven from their homes and land during the Highland Clearances, they arrived in the Township of Zorra where they built a new life while endeavouring to retain something of their heritage and tradition.

A tartan was created and commissioned in 2012, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Zorra Caledonian Society. The shades of green represent the fertile, rolling hills of the Zorra Highlands that surround Embro. The black shows the strength and endurance of the Society on the occasion of its 75th year. The white represents honour and purity in its actions. The red is for the blood sacrificed by preceding generations so their descendants could prosper in a free country, Canada.

Our Mission Statement is this: "The Zorra Caledonian Society is a non-profit community organization formed in 1937 that celebrates and promotes the Scottish heritage of Embro – Zorra"



**July 1, 2025**

**Embro Zorra Community Centre**

**355644 35th Line**

**Embro, ON**

**N0J 1J0**

Info: [info@embrohighlandgames.ca](mailto:info@embrohighlandgames.ca)

Website: <http://embrohighlandgames.ca>

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

Instagram: [Embrohighlandgames.ca](https://www.instagram.com/embrohighlandgames.ca)

## Hello Clans

We are celebrating clan-tastic tartans with our new in stock Clan Fabric Bundles and Clan Lucky Dip Bags!

Perfect for crafty projects, the [Clan Fabric Bundles](#) include Ancient, Modern, Weathered, Dress or Hunting variations of your tartan depending on what is available. There will be a mixture of fabric weights ranging from 8oz to 16oz, also depending on what we have. All the pieces are quality tartan fabrics, 100% wool woven in Scotland.



The [Clan Lucky Dip Bags](#) are a surprise goodie bag, for only \$38.54 each bag is filled with a minimum of 3 items with a combined worth of at least \$115. The bags contain a mixture of tartans and clan crest items, and as it's lucky dip you won't know what you get until it arrives (exciting!). Keep the treats for yourself or give them away as presents to family members. It's up to you!

These Scottish bargain bundles and bags are ready for immediate dispatch.

## Fabric Sale

Who doesn't love a bargain? Our [Fabric Sale](#) is on until the end of January. We have different sizes of tartans and tweeds, remnant bags and fabric scraps bags. Some of the fabrics are discontinued fabrics so don't delay ordering, once it's gone, it's gone!

Shop the Sale on the link below. We recommend using the Filter by Product Type above the products to explore the tartans and tweeds on offer.



# Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide - New Member



**Website:**

<https://clanmacnaughton.net>

**Membership/Delegate:**

Sean P Pogue

[chair@clanmacnaughton.net](mailto:chair@clanmacnaughton.net)

**Crest:** A castle embattled, Gules

**Slogan:** Fraoch Eilean - "The island of Fraoch"

**Motto:** I hope in God

## ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

- 1) To promote and foster the Clan spirit and to provide a focal point for, and a means of expressing Clan sentiment, and to the Clan members in touch with one another in all parts of the world.
- 2) To encourage and promote the study and preservation of the history, folklore, literature, music, treasure, and traditions of the Clan Macnachtan, and such other subjects as may be of common interest to the members.
- 3) To provide opportunities for adult, and especially for minor Clan members to learn about the heritage and history of Scotland; to contribute to the existing body of knowledge and experience indigenous to the Clan or to the Scottish heritage, and to participate in any games, events or gatherings where the Clan could reasonably benefit from such participation.
- 4) To acquire and hold objects of historical or cultural interest to the Clan.
- 5) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any activities not permitted under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## CLAN/FAMILY NAMES

All entries are the root or "Mac" spelling. Much greater details on the Septs are available including authentication at the following link. [Clan-Macnachtan-Sept-Names-Authentication.pdf](#)

Ayson, Bissett, Carkn, Carkns, Easson, Ferguson, Henderson, Hendrie, Hendry, Henerdie, Henerdy, Henrie, Henry, Ivenson, Kendrich, Kendrick, Kenrick, Kinrick, Macair, Macairey, Macairie, Macairy, Macaneir, Macary, Macays, Macbrayn, Macbrayne, Macbreen, Macbrine, Macbrinn, Maccachren, Maccathy, Maccarie, Maccarken, Maccarkin, Maccarrie, Maccarry, Maccary, Maccavic, Maccavik, Macceol, Macclackuon, Maccoal, Maccuel, Maccoll, Maccrachen, Maccrackan, Maccrackans, Maccracken, Maccrackens, Maccrackin,

*(Continued on page 21)*

# Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide - New Member

*(Continued from page 20)*

Maccrackins, Maccracktin, Maccracktine, Maccracken, Maccratic, Maccratik, Maccrocken, Maccrocklin, Maceal, Maceel, Macentailyeaour, Maceol, Macfergusse, Macgrachin, Macgrattan, Macgratten, Macgrattin, Macgreachan, Macreachain, Machanvichar, Macharrie, Macharry, Machendrie, Machendry, Machenrie, Machenry, Macimery, Macimmery, Macinerie, Macinery, Macinrye, Macintaylor, Macinterrie, Macinterry, Macintrye, Mackay, Mackendrich, Mackendrick, Mackendricks, Mackenerick, Mackenerie, Mackenery, Mackenrick, Mackeol, Mackindruck, Mackindricks, Mackinrick, Macknatt, Macknaught, Mackneigh, Macknigh, Macknight, Mmacknot, Mackoel, Mackracherne, Macmath, Macmitt, Macnac, Macnachdan, Macnachtan, Macnachtane, Macnachten, Macnachton, Macnack, Macnagen, Macnaghtan, Macnaghten, Macnaghtin, Macnaight, Macnair, Macnairy, Macnamell, Macnammill, Macnaire, Macnari, Macnary, Macnatt, Macnattie, Macnatton, Macnatty, Macnaucht, Macnauchtan, Macnauchten, Macnaughton, Macnaugh, Macnaught, Macnaughtan, Macnaughten, Macnaughton, Macnauton, Macnayer, Macnayghton, Macnayr, Macnayre, Macneair, Macneid, Macneight, Macneir, Macneit, Macnerie, Macnery, Macnet, Macnete, Macneit, Macnette, Macnetten, Macneiton, Macneur, Macnevens, Macnevin, Macnevins, Macnicol, Macnight, Macnitt, Macnivan, Macnivans, Macniven, Macnorton, Macnott, Macnought, Macnoughtan, Macnoughton, Macnoyer, Macnuir, Macnut, Macnutt, Macnuyer, Macportland, Macquacker, Macquaig, Macquake, Macquaker, Macquiag, Macrac, Macrach, Macrachen, Macrack, Macracken, Macrackin, Macragan, Macraggan, Macreachan, Macreachin, Macreachtan, Macruck, Macrucke, Macvicar, Macvickar, Macvickars, Macvicker, Macvickers, Macvig, Macvige, Macvrine, Macvryne, Macwaughton, Macyole, Macyoll, Manaugh, Mannice, Mannis, Mannise, Nachtan, Nachten, Nactan, Nachten, Naghton, Natton, Naughten, Naughtie, Naughton, Naughty, Nechtan, Nechten, Nectan, Necten, Nevens, Nevin, Nevins, Nevinson, Nevison, Niven, Nivens, Nivenson, Nivison, Nought, Nucater, Nucator, Nutt, Porter, Sunnelach, Sunnelack, Weir



# THE GREAT CANADIAN KILT SKATE



Saturday February 8th, 2025

1PM - 3PM

Lansdowne Park Skating Court  
Ottawa, ON



THE  
SCOTTISH  
SOCIETY of  
OTTAWA

The 11th edition of the Ottawa Great Canadian Kilt Skate is being held Saturday February 8, 1-3pm at the outdoor skate rink at Lansdowne Park. The event will be attended by City Councillor Laura Dudas, MPP John Fraser, and Scottish Government Representative in Canada, John Devine.

Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, will declare it Great Canadian Kilt Skate day in Ottawa. As well as kilt skating, we will have music provided by the Ottawa Celtic Choir, bagpipers, kilt skate, Walker's shortbread cookies, and hot chocolate provided by Boccato Gelato & Crepes.

Members of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) and the National Capital Commission Ice Hogs will be in attendance.

# Great Canadian Kilt Skate

THE  
GREAT  
CANADIAN  
KILT  
SKATE



## Have a Great Canadian Kilt Skate In your community!

We now have 12 communities participating and another 6 considering doing so. Eighteen would be the most participants that we've ever had in a season! We will be holding kilt skates from coast to coast in Canada, and in the United States and Scotland! We will have a further update on our joint Kilt Skate Weekend with Renfrewshire, Scotland February 8 shortly.

To help everybody with their promotional activity we have created an attractive branded piece for the Great Canadian Kilt Skate which you can edit. Thanks to Adrienne Petrie for her help! To the left is a generic template that you can click to use. Below are instructions for Canva, a free-to-use online graphic design tool at <https://www.canva.com/>

We are again setting up Event Pages on the Scottish Society of Ottawa and Kiltskate.com. Please send us all the details you have on the event, who is holding it, who is participating (dancers, pipers, bands etc.) and any other fun details about the kilt skate and your community. This can help kilt skaters find their way to the skate. We will also do a blog of the events which you can share.

Don Cummer, one of the Great Canadian Kilt Skate founders, is spearheading this activity. Please reach out to Don and cc me. Don may also reach out to you for additional information. Its also a great way for everybody to see who is participating and share ideas.

Looks like things are shaping up for a great Kilt Skate season!

*Andy MacCulloch*  
*Director of Kilt Skate*  
*Scottish Society of Ottawa*

### Instructions:

Here is the link to customize and download the ad or click the image above for the template:

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[utm\\_content=DAGcG3tQacl&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGcG3tQacl/7x6SAXMnEbnlVNbx6worxA/edit?utm_content=DAGcG3tQacl&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

For the best result, duplicate the page using the icon above the template.

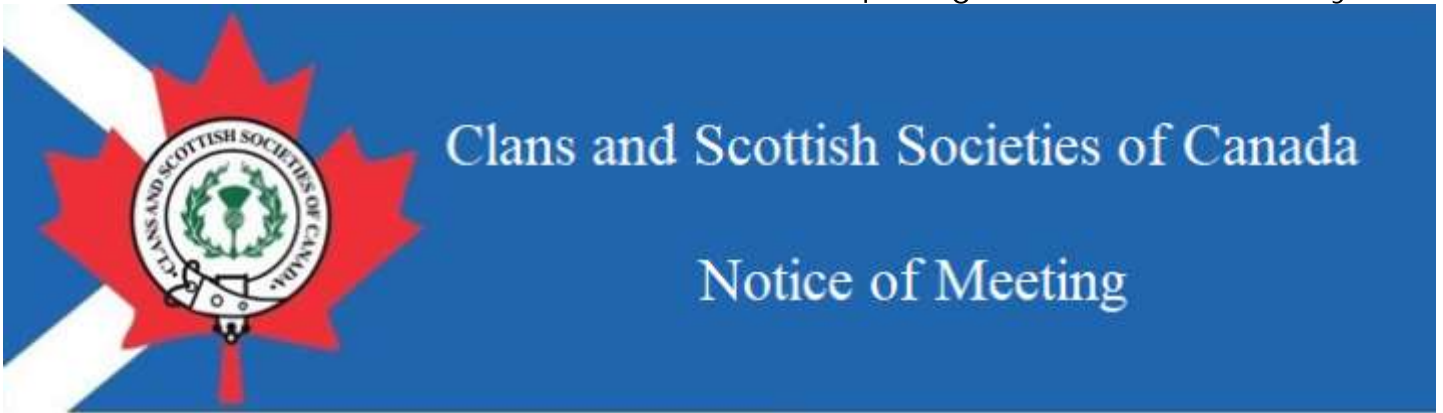
Then update the date, time, and location to match your event.

Add your community logo to the bottom right, on the opposite side as the Scottish Society of Ottawa's logo. You can drag and drop from right from your computer, move it to place it, and resize it by dragging the corner.

Click > File on the top menu bar and > Download once you are done. Be sure to only download the 'page' that has your version of the ad on it.

Editor's Note: A Toronto Kilt Skate will happen at the [Evergreen Brick Works](#) on Feb 15th. For more info see the Guthrie School of Dance announcement in this newsletter and the [events](#) page on [scotscanada.ca](http://scotscanada.ca).

# Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada - Spring General Assembly



The Spring General Assembly of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada will be:

**DATE:** Sunday April 6, 2025

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m. ET

**PLACE:** Virtual Only by Zoom

**Registration is REQUIRED by Saturday, April 5, 2025**

To register and more details on the meeting, go to <https://www.scotscanada.ca/Spring2025>

- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting.
- Save this confirmation email and enclosed link. We suggest that you keep the link and instructions with your calendar entry if possible.
- A reminder confirmation will be sent in the morning of the meeting day
- Registrations and emails about joining will not be processed once the meeting has commenced.
- If you have concerns about the instructions and joining, please contact us at [info@scotscanada.ca](mailto:info@scotscanada.ca) for assistance.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- To vote on a Special Resolution for changes in the bylaw and name of the organization.

If you are unable to attend, please arrange an alternate delegate for your Group or provide a proxy by the one of the following methods:

1. Complete an online proxy at [www.scotscanada.ca/springproxy](http://www.scotscanada.ca/springproxy) before end of day on Saturday, April 5, 2025. The proxy form must be completed by the authorized delegate, alternate or officer and must be verifiable by phone or email prior to the start of the meeting.
2. Download and fill a proxy PDF then email to [info@scotscanada.ca](mailto:info@scotscanada.ca) by end of day on Saturday, April 5, 2025.
3. Contact the Secretary: Jo Ann Tuskin, 78-24 Fundy Bay Blvd, Scarborough, ON, M1W 3A4 416-492-1623 [secretary@scotscanada.ca](mailto:secretary@scotscanada.ca) for a proxy form by email or post. Then scan and email



# Hebrides People - Survey Request



**Hebrides  
People**  
*Cò leis thu?*

Ealasaid McLeod-Rivera has forwarded this survey request from the Northton Heritage Trust to those with interest in supporting the Hebrides People organization.

Ealasaid is a NHT Contributor Director and Clan MacLeod of Canada Society Member

Hebrides People would love to hear from you !

Northton Heritage Trust is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history and culture of the Western Isles through Hebrides People.

We are currently exploring ways to enhance the services we offer, and one idea is to launch a subscription-based service. This service could provide exclusive content, such as podcasts, videos, and behind-the-scenes updates, while offering you a way to engage more deeply with the history and heritage of the Hebrides.

We would love to hear your thoughts on whether such a service would interest you as one of our supporters, and what kind of benefits you would find most valuable as a subscriber. Your feedback will help us shape the future of Hebrides

People and ensure it continues to meet the needs of our community and followers.

For comparison, here are a couple of examples of similar subscription services:

An example of a similar service can be found <https://www.patreon.com/TheHistoryGuy>

Or a genealogy service [https://www.patreon.com/genealogytv?utm\\_source=search](https://www.patreon.com/genealogytv?utm_source=search)

Please take a few moments to complete this survey and share your thoughts. Your input is invaluable in helping us shape the future of Hebrides People and making it a sustainable organisation!

Click here for the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HebridesPeople4>

Thank you,

Northton Heritage Trust Board

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# Celtic Life

INTERNATIONAL

## *the* Hourglass



**ALSO!**

*Heather O'Neill, Irish Rovers*  
*James Marsters, World Gaelic Week*  
*Donal Skehan, Imagine Belfast*

DISPLAY IN LIFESTYLES  
UNTIL APRIL 2025



# Discover, share and celebrate your Scottish Heritage



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By belonging to ...

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| BELL       | DONALD      | HOPE     | LOGAN      | MACKENZIE   | MACTHOMAS |
| BRUCE      | EDMONSTONE  | HUNTER   | MACALPINE  | MACKINNON   | MUNRO     |
| BUCHANAN   | ELLIOT      | IRVING   | MACAULAY   | MACLELLAN   | MURRAY    |
| BURNETT    | FARQUHARSON | IRWIN    | MACBETH    | MACLENNAN   | RAMSAY    |
| CAMERON    | FERGUSON    | JOHNSTON | MACDOUGALL | MACLEOD     | SHAW      |
| CAMPBELL   | FORBES      | KENNEDY  | MACDOWALL  | MACNAUGHTAN | SINCLAIR  |
| CARRUTHERS | FRASER      | KINCAID  | MACEWEN    | MACNEIL     | SKENE     |
| CHISHOLM   | GORDON      | LACHLAN  | MACFARLANE | MACNICOL    | STRACHAN  |
| COLQUHOUN  | GRAHAM      | LAMONT   | MACFIE     | MACPHERSON  | WATSON    |
| CURRIE     | GREGOR      | LENNOX   | MACINNES   | MACRAE      | YOUNG     |

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Scots Canada - Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada

Find out about upcoming events at [www.scotscanada.ca/events](http://www.scotscanada.ca/events)



Immersive virtual tours that will showcase Scotland's rich heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and iconic landmarks while featuring live music performances, engaging interviews with industry experts, and captivating video footage.

<https://taypiping.co.uk/>

Ross McNaughton

[ross@taypiping.co.uk](mailto:ross@taypiping.co.uk)

## **Commissioned Tunes**

With commissioned music, you can encapsulate memories, emotions, and stories in a personalised



## Sheena's Scottish Shortbread

Sheena's Scottish Shortbread was founded in 2013. We produce authentic handmade shortbread from a 100 year old unique family recipe. It's origins are traced to the small town of Kirkintilloch, Scotland

Sheena's Scottish Shortbread was first produced by Hannah McInnes, (Sheena's grandmother), which in turn was handed down to her daughter Agnes Rarity, (Sheena's mother) and finally to Sheena herself.

### **Sheena's Scottish Shortbread Flavours**

Traditional

Lemon

Maple

Ginger

Toffee with SKOR bits

Toasted Coconut

Gluten Free

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

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

## Guelph Series in Scottish Studies, Volume 5: Now Available!

Greetings from the Centre for Scottish Studies!

We are delighted to share that the fifth and final volume in the Guelph Series in Scottish Studies has now been published and is available online in open-access format. The book, *Networks and Networking in Scottish Studies: Essays in Honour of Elizabeth Ewan* (Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies, 2024) edited by Lisa Baer-Tsarfaty, Sierra Dye, and Mariah Hudec, celebrates the career of Elizabeth Ewan, Professor Emerita of History at the University of Guelph. The collection features eight essays framed around the themes of networks and networking by authors ranging from esteemed emeriti to mid- and early career scholars to post-graduate students, all who have been touched or influenced by Elizabeth in some way.

We hope you enjoy the book!

Warmest regards,

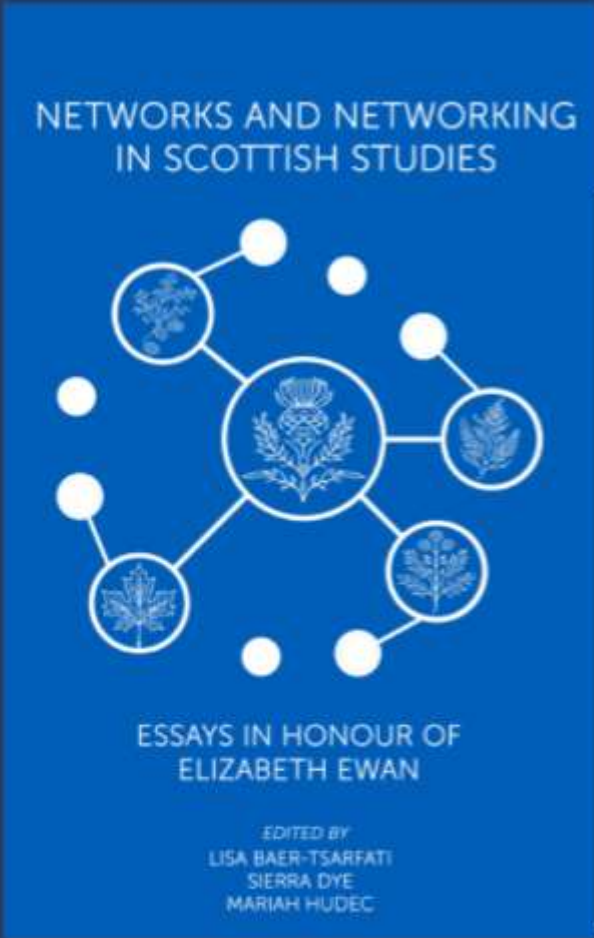
*Melissa Turner*

*Administrative Coordinator*

[scottish@uoguelph.ca](mailto:scottish@uoguelph.ca)

[uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish](http://uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish)

X (Twitter): @ScottishStudies



**NETWORKS AND NETWORKING  
IN SCOTTISH STUDIES**


ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF  
ELIZABETH EWAN

EDITED BY  
LISA BAER-TSARFATI  
SIERRA DYE  
MARIAH HUDEC

**Guelph Series in Scottish Studies  
Volume 5**

The collection explores the central theme of networks—ranging from networks of kinship, to urban administration, to communication and correspondence, to legal networks of royal justice and crime—within medieval and early modern Scotland.

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CENTRE FOR  
SCOTTISH STUDIES

# Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games



80TH FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES

## A SCOTTISH SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

AUG 09, 2025 MAIN STAGE

# BAY CITY ROLLERS

# RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS

# ALBANNACH

[fergusscottishfestival.com/tickets/](https://fergusscottishfestival.com/tickets/) Included in Weekend & Saturday Admission. \$20 for concert-only

**Concert is included in your Weekend or Saturday admission.** Concert-only tickets are available for purchase [online](#) (click the image above) or at the gate as of 5pm on Saturday. Concert-only tickets do not give you admission to the Festival prior to 5pm.

# Hutchison House Museum - Hogmanay 2025

## Hogmanay 2025 at Hutchison House Museum

Celebrating Hogmanay at Hutchison House Museum has been an annual tradition for over 40 years. Prior to Covid the museum would receive 200-300 visitors for this special event.

Post Covid we are still working our way up to more visitors, but for the almost 60 visitors, 34 community volunteers and 14 house volunteers, a more intimate event meant more visibility for the dancers, room to move around and enough food for everyone.

We had several visitors that commented on how nice the smaller numbers were in not feeling like they were crowded together making it easier to socialize.

As usually our first footer, at right, Barry Landry carried the traditional tray around through the front door promptly at 1pm with pipers Ryan Kearney and Brandon McDermott and Drummer Brian Landry leading the way.

*(Continued on page 33)*





# Hutchison House Museum - Hogmanay 2025

*(Continued from page 32)*

MPP Dave Smith and Peterborough Historical Society President Don Willcock helped to greet visitors as they came in the front door.

*(Continued on page 34)*



# Hutchison House Museum - Hogmanay 2025

*(Continued from page 33)*

Once again Doug Keane addressed the Haggis, which was donated by The UK Shoppe on George St. in Peterborough.

*(Continued on page 35)*



# Hutchison House Museum - Hogmanay 2025

*(Continued from page 34)*

Breanne Mansfield of the Ard Mor School of Highland Dance brought 7 dancers to entertain guests, Justine Landry played the fiddle and the Hasty P's Pipe Band made their annual appearance to shake the rafters with an 8 member pipe band playing in our small Keeping Room.

*(Continued on page 36)*



# Hutchison House Museum - Hogmanay 2025

*(Continued from page 35)*

Interpreters provided tours of the museum to locals, visitors who make Hogmanay their annual event as well as visitors from across the province. This year we had visitors from Toronto as well as Scotland and Japan.



Guests enjoyed a variety of sweets and savories including shortbread, marmalade cake, cloodie dumpling, scotch eggs, haggis, oatcakes, potted salmon, bread and cheese, lemonade, tea and, for an extra fee, Atholl Brose.

*(Continued on page 38)*

# Hutchison House Museum- Hogmanay 2025



Peterborough Historical Society Pres Don Willcock and MPP Dave Smith greeting at front door Hogmanay 1 Jan 2025

# Hutchison House Museum - Hogmanay 2025

*(Continued from page 36)*

The museum is thankful to CASSOC for their support in helping with the expenses for this event.

The rising cost of groceries and scotch take a toll on the income from events such as this that are always a community favorite.

Erin Panepinto

Hutchison House Museum

270 Brock Street

Peterborough, Ontario

K9H 2P9 Canada

More information contact the museum office 705-743-9710 or [info@hutchisonhouse.ca](mailto:info@hutchisonhouse.ca)





### Canadian Genealogy Resources on FamilyTree Magazine

In recent weeks I have received numerous solicitations to subscribe to Familytree Magazine. I found the article “The Top Canadian Genealogy Websites’ to be of interest and thought my neighbors to the north might benefit from it.

Yes, they are seeking subscriptions and from what I have received, it appears to be a worthwhile magazine.

Mary Erwin  
Chairman, Clan Irwin Association  
mary.erwin@clanirwin.org

*Editor’s note. Here is a summary of the article and link to how you may read it in its entirety.*

### Discover Your Canadian Roots: The Best Genealogy Websites

Are you curious about your Canadian ancestry? Whether your family history traces back to First Nations peoples, early French settlers, Loyalists, or more recent immigrants, a wealth of online resources

can help uncover their stories.

Rick Crume’s article, The Top Canadian Genealogy Websites, highlights 14 of the best sites for researching your family history. From government archives to specialized genealogy databases, these platforms provide access to vital records, census data, military records, and even historical newspapers.

Key resources include:

Library and Archives Canada – A vast collection of birth, marriage, death, immigration, and military records.

Provincial Archives – Each province has dedicated archives with unique records, such as Nova Scotia’s land grants or Prince Edward Island’s marriage licenses.

Quebec Genealogy Databases – Sites like Genealogy Quebec and PRDH specialize in detailed records of French-speaking ancestors.

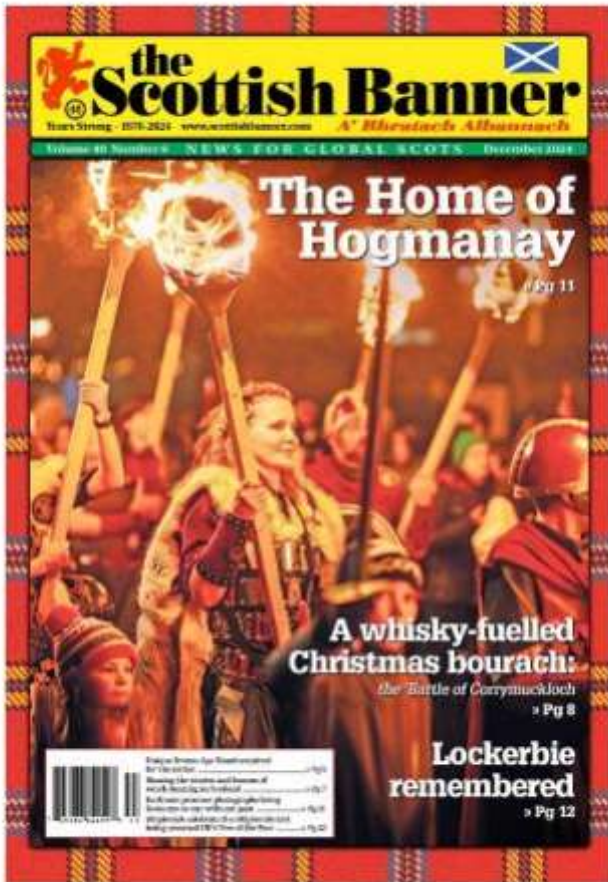
The Big Four Genealogy Platforms – Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, and MyHeritage provide extensive Canadian records, with some requiring subscriptions.

Loyalist and Military Archives – Resources like The Online Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies help trace ancestors who served in the American Revolution.

With these tools at your fingertips, tracing your Canadian lineage has never been easier! Read the full article to explore the best websites for your genealogy journey.

Visit <https://familytreemagazine.com/heritage/canadian/canadian-genealogy-websites/>  
for the full article

# The Scottish Banner



December and January digital editions are now available.

Click an image to view.



[Click here to subscribe to the digital edition.](#)

[For the print edition or if subscribing from Australia please click here.](#)

*CASSOC members have a 25% subscription discount when using the code 'CASSOC'.*





# THE HECTOR'S BIG SPLASH



Join us for the launch of the

## SHIP HECTOR

Opening Ceremonies begin at 10am | Launch 11am  
Reception to follow at deCoste Cultural Hub

SATURDAY

JULY

12

AT 10 AM

2025

33 Caladh Ave., Pictou, Nova Scotia  
RSVP to Rebecca  
[rebecca@shiphector.ca](mailto:rebecca@shiphector.ca) 902-928-8924

# The Thistle and the Fleur de Lys - Le Chardon et la fleur de Lys



Join us for a presentation given by Ewen Booth as part of the My Morrin event series!

Most historians have heard of the “The Auld Alliance” between France and Scotland dating back to the early 13th century. Others are familiar with the Scottish settlement to the New World after the Seven Years War, and Irish immigration during the potato famine in the mid-19th century. This presentation is groundbreaking in that it identifies new and important points of Scottish immigration to the New World, primarily to what is present-day Quebec.

Nova Scotia claims the home of the first Scottish immigration to Canada, with the arrival of the ship The Hector in 1773. This presentation dispels this myth, based on nine years of research and genealogy. The music of Quebec, the place names and history of many French Canadian families are intertwined with these Scottish immigrants who settled in Quebec, helping forge the province to be what it is today. This presentation offers a different perspective into our history and explains many things simply hidden in time that are only now being uncovered; it is only the tip of the iceberg.

**MY morrin**  
Series

**My Morrin: Scottish Migration to Quebec**  
A Presentation by  
Ewen Booth

**Saturday January 25, 2025**  
**From 14:30 to 16:00 ET**  
**[Click here to register](#)**

**morrin**

*Ewen Booth is a historical researcher who uses genealogy as a tool to explore into areas uncommonly ventured into by others. He, along with his wife Kathleen Mcken, has lived in Montmagny since relocating in 2017. Ewen is a former police officer and museum volunteer, with a passion for history. He uses his experience to now unfold history never discovered by others previously. With over 140 active family trees, Ewen’s body of work continues to grow. With a goal of putting these stories on paper and developing mini videos for a YouTube audience, Ewen has also developed a Scottish history tour of both Quebec City and the south shore of the St. Lawrence River based out of Montmagny.*

*Ewen was the recipient of the 2020 Gordon Atkinson Memorial Prize in Highlander Military History by the Quebec Thistle Council and is the owner of “Le Chardon et la Fleur de Lys,” a history project that turned into a business which captures all that he does: research, genealogy, history tours, public presentations, YouTube videos and written short stories. In addition, Ewen and Kathleen are restoring their 1767 home while researching previous home owners, many of whom are relatives to Kathleen. Kathleen is a French-Canadian descendant of a Scottish soldier who remained in Quebec after 1763 and is the Quebec Commissioner for the Clan MacKinnon Society. Join us on our journey!*



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# Clan Designer

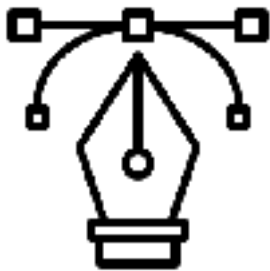
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Website: [clandesigner.ca](http://clandesigner.ca)

Email: [info@clandesigner.ca](mailto:info@clandesigner.ca)

Hiring a Designer is a great way to promote and celebrate your group's unique identity, strengthen the bonds among members and ensure your legacy continues for years to come.

I will play a crucial role in visually representing and promoting your clan and family identity.



I provide exceptional graphics as compelling assets for advertising, promotions, communications and more.



Creativity is my driving force, and I consistently bring fresh perspectives and original ideas to the table



I can help you stay organized and plan for the future of your clan's visual identity.



My designs will engage your audience and foster a sense of pride and belonging.



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# Clan Logan Society of Canada



## Starting 2025 with a Bang

*by Steven Logan, FSA Scot*

I apologize for not writing any articles for a long time. The year 2024 was very busy with its own load of changes. In July 2024, I decided to leave the Clan Logan Society International due to various differences in leadership style.

After many years of working for Clan Logan International, I have somewhat become my own leader with my own ideas of what is right. Sometimes there are differences in perception and misunderstandings. Despite my efforts, I felt challenged by differing perspectives. Those who know me understand my dedication and perfectionism, which led to a difficult period.

A few days after resigning, I had to decide what to do next. I chose to continue my Scottish Clan activities for the pleasure it gives me. Everything I have ever done for Clan Logan was my own initiative and my dream, my passion right down to my own money spent. My dream is that Logans know how proud I am of them and their heritage.

I decided to start a new organization, Clan Logan Canada. It operates similarly to the Clan Logan Society of Canada but allows me full control over my ideas. Since its inception, I have participated in seven Highland games and many other events. I may no longer be Clan Logan Commissioner of Canada, but the title still lives on in me.

In 2024, much work was done for the upcoming Clan Logan family convention. Despite our differences, I believe it's important to support Clan Logan International in organizing this event. I promoted it by giving handouts and informing people about the convention. I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences with Clan Logan International and look forward to supporting our shared heritage.

The convention is from April 23rd to the 27th, 2025, and all Logans all over Canada are invited to register by going to the Clan Logan Society International website and clicking the RSVP button for the meet the nominees

*(Continued on page 47)*

## MEET YOUR CLAN COMMANDER CANDIDATES



Nominees (from left to right: Steven Logan from Montreal Canada, Robert Logan from Inverurie Scotland, and Kevin Logan from Michigan USA)

(Continued from page 46)

event. By registering for that event held on February 25th, 2025, you are registering for the convention either in person or virtually. Anyone can attend our convention! If you would like to be an observer, you may also register. You have until January 25th to register for it.

2025 will be a busy year, and I plan to give my very best to all Logans despite the challenges. I invite all Logans to join the convention and work together for a brighter future.

**MAKE HISTORY**  
*Come to Scotland!*

**CLAN LOGAN CONFIRMATION OF  
NEW COMMANDER**

 **Purpose**  
Convene as a united family of Logans from all over the world. We will confirm a Commander to represent the family and clan globally. This is the first step to further our goal of finding a living heir to the title of "Chief of Name and Arms of Logan" and to be recognized by the Lord Lyon King of Arms as the Chief of the family and clan.

 **When & Where**  
April 23-27, 2025  
Edinburgh Area

 **Register**  
Please register for this historic event so we can distribute all future details and updates of the event. Contact the Clan Logan Society International Heritage officer  
[heritage@clanlogansociety.org](mailto:heritage@clanlogansociety.org)



**REGISTER NOW!**

 114 Corkhill Lane  
Franklin, NC USA 28734  
 [www.clanlogansociety.org](http://www.clanlogansociety.org)

# Clan MacLennan Canada



The mission of Clan MacLennan Canada is to encourage research, documentation and sharing of the history and genealogy of Mac/McLennans and related surnames in Canada, and to promote fellowship and a connection to Mac/McLennans around the world.

Dear CASSOC members,

Clan MacLennan Canada had our AGM on Nov.23rd and it was reported that we have had a very productive year with the worldwide gathering in Scotland (the first since Covid); a large gathering in Cape Breton for the reunion of Duncan MacLennan's descendants and were represented at four Highland Games in the Avenue of the Clans. We also added 18 more members to our Clan. We noted at the Nov 26 CMC meeting that we have members in arrears and it was time to send out reminders again. I am including the reports of the reunions held in 2024. More information about Clan MacLennan – [www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)

Clan MacLennan Canada will continue to:

1. Attend Highland Games;
2. Promote our genealogy product; MacLennan family-sharing already contains over 62,000 individuals and many citations for births, marriages and/or deaths. Wherever possible, the relationships shown are supported by citations and/or certificates and censuses. You can also read a number of Clan histories on these pages.
3. Invite people to join the CMC.

We now have two members from outside of Ontario on the Executive, but we need to have representation from the other provinces and territories.

We had a Xmas campaign for new members. "Give the gift of genealogy for a stocking-stuffer!"

This gift can be given throughout the year and for special occasions.

Clan MacLennan's next worldwide gathering will be in 2028 - traditionally every four years. It will be an experience of a lifetime for those members who haven't gone to a Clan MacLennan Worldwide Gathering in Scotland, so start planning now!

We look forward to representing our Clan at several Highland Games in 2025, rekindling friendships and finding new ones in The Avenue of The Clans.

On behalf of Clan MacLennan Canada, I wish all members of Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada A Happy, Successful and Peaceful 2025!

Cheers,

Barbara MacLennan  
Vice President  
Clan MacLennan Canada





# the Saltire Gathering

Preserving the past, Promoting the future

As you know, we had set a provisional date of September 20th and 21st 2025 for the inaugural Saltire Gathering, a new Festival of Scotland and have been working towards this for some considerable time. We have received a tremendous amount of support for the initiative as well as good thoughts and advice from individuals and organisations that we consider integral to the success of the festival.

We have always maintained that we will proceed with the festival in 2025 if funding is sufficient to create an event of note; something that is robust and sets the standard for future events. Key to this is to have a festival that is financially sound which means producing an event that not only delivers in terms of creativity and impact but one which does not leave us in a precarious position. We are also clear that there is a benchmark that we will not drop below because in doing so, the festival will likely be so small that it has the capacity to disengage sponsors, funders and supporters which will make it all more challenging to seek funding for future years.

Recently we have been in conversation with a private donor who has, at time of writing, confirmed verbally, sufficient seed funding to allow us to hire a sponsorship sales manager. Whilst there are no guarantees as to how much sponsorship (and additional funding) will be raised, our feeling is that by postponing the festival until the end of **May/beginning June 2026** gives us a longer sales time and every opportunity to create a much stronger and more impactful festival along the lines of what was originally conceived.

This is an exciting and positive move and one we believe will be welcomed by our supporters. By doing so this allows us to:

- Engage with the North American audience much more strongly given the months of May and June are not only more financially attractive, but many families are more able to travel at that time of year. Originally, we had looked to produce the festival at this time but for several reasons we had no choice but to go with September.
- Event Scotland are keen to see more events take place on the shoulder months of the traditional summer holiday period and will welcome the move.
- Stirling 900 anniversary ends in April 2025 and while the perception is that it will not impact The Saltire Gathering, we believe there could be a commercial impact on local sponsorship.

We are excited by this decision and believe that we will produce a memorable first festival that will set the standard for future events.

*The Saltire Gathering  
Festival Board*



## Political Martyrs

*Reprinted from Clan Lachlan Bagpipe, Kilt and Caber – 2024-11*



The Second Political Martyrs Monument  
By GrindtXX - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, (wikimedia)

“I have devoted myself to the cause of The People. It is a good cause—it shall ultimately prevail—it shall finally triumph.” These are the words of Scottish lawyer Thomas Muir at his trial in August 1793.

In a series of trials in 1793 and 1794, Muir, fellow Scotsman William Skirving, and three associates were found guilty of sedition (speech or activities that tend toward rebellion against the established order). As punishment, they were all transported to New South Wales, Australia, to carry out their sentences. Penal transportation was the relocation of convicted criminals or undesirables to overseas colonies for a specified period of time. It was generally a one-way trip as the prisoners had to find their own way back home once their sentence was completed. Transportation was generally awarded as a lesser punishment than execution for serious crimes.

Four of the five men were taken aboard the three-deck convict transport ship *Surprize* in February 1794 where they were held until the ship got underway in May. During the voyage a plot for murder and mutiny involving two of them was reported to the ship’s captain who had them confined together in a small cabin without any of the amenities they had paid for or any of their personal effects.

Ordinary convicts accused of being involved were flogged and kept in chains. After five months, *Surprize* arrived in Sidney in October 1794. The fifth man was imprisoned in London until May and was then transported as the only prisoner aboard the storeship *Sovereign* which arrived in Sidney about the same time as the *Surprize*.

Who were these men, now referred to as “Martyrs,” who now have a 90-foot-tall monument in Edinburgh that resembles the Washington Monument in Washington D.C.?

The first “Martyr” was Thomas Muir (1765–1799), quoted above, who was the son of a Glasgow food merchant. He graduated from Edinburgh University with a law degree and was admitted to the bar at age 22. He later became a leader in the Society of the Friends of the People, a group promoting parliamentary reform. It was his role in that organization that led to his arrest, conviction, and being sentenced to 14 years’

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transportation to Australia. He was subsequently taken aboard the convict transport ship, *Surprize*.

He and the other four political prisoners were well treated and given a government house when they arrived in Sydney, but that didn't deter young Muir. Two years after his arrival he escaped aboard an American ship which took him to Vancouver B.C. He then went to Mexico City where he was arrested as a possible spy (Spain and Britain were at war) and sent to Havana, Cuba, where he was held in prison awaiting transport to Spain. The ship carrying him was intercepted off the coast of Spain by British warships. In the ensuing battle Muir was hit by a shell fragment which smashed his left cheekbone and caused the loss of his left eye. He was held in a Spanish hospital until the Spanish government freed him of suspicion in 1797. He then travelled to France where he was welcomed as a co-patriot by the French Revolutionists. He remained in France until his death in January 1799, following complications from his earlier wounds.



Thomas Muir of Hunters Hill by David Martin



The second "Martyr" was the other Scotsman, William Skirving (1745–1796). A farmer's son, born near Edinburgh; he attended Edinburgh University with the intent of becoming a minister. He ended up as a private tutor and began farming on lands acquired from the estates of both his father and his father-in-law. He was unsuccessful in his bid to become the Chair of Agriculture at Edinburgh University. In 1792 he was active in establishing the Society of Friends of the People and was appointed as general secretary. It was in this capacity that he associated with the other martyrs.

Following his arrest and sentencing to 14 years' transportation, Skirving spent a month in prison in London before being put aboard the *Surprize*. He was one of the two involved in the alleged mutiny aboard the transport ship. Once ashore in Sydney, he, like the others, received a small house and set to work accumulating about 100 acres of small holdings which he farmed. He wasn't very successful and went into debt. He became homesick, missed his wife and family, and his health declined. He contracted yellow fever and died of dysentery in January 1796. His burial site is unknown.

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# Clan Lachlan Association of Canada

*(Continued from page 51)*

The third “Martyr” was Thomas Fyshe Palmer (1747–1802). Born in Ickwell, England, he was educated at Eton College and Queen’s College in Cambridge, England. He held several degrees and became an active Unitarian minister and founder of church societies around Dundee, Scotland.

A society called the Friends of Liberty met in a house next door to Palmer. One of the members asked Palmer to edit a proposed flyer, which he did. The government intercepted it at the printers, found it alarming, and arrested Palmer as the author. He was held in prison in Perth for three months, then moved to London where he was put in irons and forced labor for three more months before being moved to the *Surprize*. Palmer was accompanied on the trip by several associates who were going to Australia as “free settlers.” Palmer was the other martyr accused of mutiny on board the ship.

Palmer was sentenced to seven years (terminating in September 1800) in Sydney where, like the others, he was relatively free to do as he pleased. He and one of his colonist friends constructed a small boat which they used to trade with one of the islands off the Australian coast. They outfitted it with supplies for six months and sailed for New Zealand where they were delayed in getting resupplied another for six months. They then went to the island of Tonga where a local war kept them from landing, so they ended up in the Fiji Islands where they struck a reef. After repairs were made, they set out for Macao, a Portuguese colony on the mainland of China. Storms battered them about; they used up all their provisions and ended up in the Spanish-controlled Marianas Islands. As noted above, Spain and Britain were at war. Palmer and his crew were taken as prisoners of war. Palmer came down with dysentery, died on June 2, 1802, and was buried by the sea-shore. This was two years after his sentence was completed.

But this is not the end of Palmer’s story. Two years after his death, an American captain landed on the island, had his body exhumed, and took it to Boston where it was buried in the Trinity Church cemetery in 1810, only to be moved again to the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, after the Great Boston Fire of 1872.



Maurice Margarot

The fourth “Martyr” was Maurice Margarot (1745–1815). He was the son of a wine merchant, raised in London and educated at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. He lived in France during the French Revolution in 1789 and upon his return to England, joined and became the chairman of a reform group. He and fellow martyr Joseph Gerrald were invited to participate in a debate in Edinburgh hosted by the Friends of the People. They both stood out and were arrested and charged with sedition.

At his trial Margarot defended himself with a speech the judge described as being “seditious.” He was found guilty, sentenced to 14 years’ transportation and sent to the convict ship *Surprize*. His wife accompanied him to Australia, and he avoided the mutiny allegations enroute but was later accused by Palmer of backing the ship’s captain against the other martyrs.

Once in Sydney, he, like the other political prisoners, enjoyed more freedom than other convicts. He and his wife started a small farm, but he continued his

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complaints about government management and was reported for promoting sedition on several occasions. He died in December 1815 in extreme poverty, under government suspicion as a pro-French radical. Many in Britain also held him in suspicion because of Palmer's accusations. His body was taken back to London and buried in Old St. Pancras Churchyard.

As part of the expansion of the local railway terminal in 1865, part of that churchyard was demolished.

An obelisk memorial now stands in the cemetery that bears the names of those people whose grave markers are no more. Maurice Margarot and his wife Elizabeth's names are on that memorial.

The last of the five "Martyrs" was Joseph Gerrald (1763–1796), born in the West Indies to a wealthy Irish planter, he was raised in London and did well in school but returned to the West Indies after the death of his father to look after the family's holdings. His father had spent the plantation into debt, so Gerrald moved to Philadelphia where he practiced law for several years before returning to Bath, England for health reasons.

In Bath, he began writing eloquent but anonymous letters critical of politics, published several pamphlets, and joined a couple of radical groups. He drew on the actions and beliefs of the revolutionaries in France and America for many of his ideas. As noted above, he and Margarot were invited to participate in a debate in Edinburgh hosted by the Friends of the People after which they were both arrested.

He was sentenced to 14 years' transportation, imprisoned until the May sailing of the *Sovereign*, a supply ship bound for Sydney. He was the lone non-crew member aboard. He arrived in Australia in November 1794 and died from tuberculosis in March 1796. He was buried a stone's throw from where the current Sydney Opera House stands.

So, what did these men do to warrant conviction for sedition and banishment from their homeland?

There were two primary positions that they promoted. The first was universal suffrage: the belief that everyone should be able to vote, not just men or property owners. Secondly, they believed that Parliament should meet regularly and represent everyone. As Muir said, "The cause of the people, it is a good cause – it shall ultimately prevail." These were radical ideas at the time of the French and American Revolutions.

Until next time, may your kilt keep its pleats, and your sporran stay full!! © Rick Gilchrist



Joseph Gerrald

# Clan Munro Association of Canada



## A MUNRO AMONG THE BLACKFEET

Hugh Munro or Monroe, whose story is told here in extracts from *My Life as an Indian and Rising Wolf*, by the late J. W. Schultz, was born at Three Rivers Settlement, QC, on 9th July, 1798 and died on the Blackfeet Reservation at Browning, Montana, in 1896 [sic]. The photograph is from *Rising Wolf*, see note on last page.

One of the greatest pleasures of my long life on the plains was my intimate friendship with Hugh Monroe, or Rising Wolf, whose tale of his first experiences from the Saskatchewan-Missouri River plains is set forth in *Rising Wolf*, just as I had it from him before the lodge fires of the long ago.

Even in his old age, Rising Wolf was about the quickest, most active man I ever saw. He was about five feet six in height, fair haired, blue eyed, and his firm square chin and rather prominent nose be-tokened what he was, a man of courage and determination. His father, Hugh Monroe, was a colonel (should be captain) in the British Army, his mother a member of the La Roches, a noble family of French émigrés, bankers of Montreal, and large land owners in that vicinity. Hugh, Jr., was born on the family estate at Three Rivers, and attended the parish school just long enough to learn to read and write. All of his vacations, and many truant days from the class-room, were spent in the great forest surrounding his home. The love of nature, of adventure and wild life was born in him. In 1819, when about fifteen years of age, he persuaded his parents to allow him to enter the service of the Hudson's Bay Company and started westward with a flotilla of their canoes that spring. His father gave him a fine English smooth-bore, his mother a pair of the famous La Roche duelling pistols and a prayer book. The family priest gave him a rosary and cross, and enjoined him to pray frequently. Travelling all summer, they arrived at Lake Winnipeg in that autumn and wintered there. As soon as the ice went out in the spring the journey was continued, and, one afternoon in July, Monroe beheld Mountain Fort, a new post of the company, built on the south bank of the Saskatchewan River, not far from the foot of the Rockies.

Around about it were encamped thousands of the Blackfeet waiting to trade for the goods the flotilla had brought up, and to obtain on credit ammunition, fukes, traps and tobacco sufficient to last them through the coming season. As yet the company had no Blackfoot interpreter, their speech having first to be translated into Cree, and then into English. Many of the Blackfeet proper, the North Black-feet, spoke good Cree, but the more southern tribes of the confederacy, the Bloods and Piegans, did not understand it. The factor, James Hardesty, no doubt perceiving that Monroe was a youth of more than ordinary intelligence, at once detailed him to live and travel with the Piegans and learn the language, also to see that they returned to Mountain Fort with their furs the succeeding summer. Word had been received that, following the course of Lewis and Clark, American traders were yearly pushing father and father westward and had even reached the mouth of the Yellowstone, about the eastern line of the vast territory claimed by the Blackfeet as their hunting ground. The company feared their competition; Monroe was to do his best to prevent it.

Monroe often referred to that first trip with the Piegans as the happiest time of his life. Journeying by easy states, sometimes skirting the foot of the mountains, and again traversing the broad plains forty or fifty miles to the eastward of them, they came at the season of falling leaves, to the Pile of Rocks River (Sun River, as the

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# Clan Munro Association of Canada

*(Continued from page 54)*

whites named it), and there they remained for three months, passing the remainder of the winter on the Yellow River (the Judith). They had crossed Lewis and Clark's trail, and here again was a vast region which no white man had ever traversed. When spring came, they went still farther south to the Musselshell, down that to its confluence with the Missouri, and, crossing that great river, they wandered westward along the foot of the Little Rockies, and then by the Bear's Paw Mountain to the Marias and its tributaries.

Monroe remained in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company for a number of years, raising a large family of boys and girls. The old man never revisited his home; never saw his parents after the day they parted with him at the Montreal docks. He intended to return to them for a brief visit some time, but kept deferring it, and then came letters two years old saying that they were both dead. Came also a letter from an attorney saying that they had bequeathed him a considerable property, that he must go to Montreal and sign certain papers in order to take possession of it. At the time, the factor of Mountain Fort was going to England on leave; to him, in his simple trustfulness, Monroe gave a power of attorney in the matter. The factor never returned, and by virtue of the papers he had signed, the frontiersman lost his inheritance. But that was a matter of little moment to him then. Had he not a lodge and family, good horses and a vast domain actually teeming with game wherein to wander—what more could one possibly want?

*(Continued on page 56)*



Rising Wolf Mountain in Glacier National Park, Named after Hugh Monroe

By Jim Helvey, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=53005166>

# Clan Munro Association of Canada

*(Continued from page 55)*

Leaving the Hudson's Bay company \*\*, Monroe sometimes worked for the American Fur Company, but mostly as a "free Trapper" wandered from the Saskatchewan to the Yellowstone and from the Rockies to Lake Winnipeg. The headwaters of the South Saskatchewan were one of his favourite hunting grounds. Thither in the early '50s he guided the noted Jesuit Father De Smet, and at the foot of the beautiful lakes lying just south of Chief Mountain they erected a huge wooden cross, and name the two bodies of water St. Mary's Lakes.

Hugh Monroe saw more "new country" and had more adventures than most of the early men of the West. During the last years of his long life, he lived much with his grandson, William Jackson, ex-Custer scout, who was my partner, and he loved to have him with us. Slender of figure, and not tall, blue-eyed and once brown-haired, he must have been in his time a man of fine appearance. Honest he was and truthful. Kind of hear and brave. A good Christian, too, and yet with no small faith in the gods of his Blackfoot people. And he was a man of tremendous vitality. Up to the very last he went about with his loved flintlock gun, trapping beavers and shooting an occasional deer.

He died in his 98th year, and we buried him in the Two Medicine Valley, under the shadow of the cliffs over which he had so many times helped the Pi-kun-i stampede herds of buffalo to their death, and in sight of that great, sky-piercing height of red rock on the north side to the Two Medicine Lake, which we named Rising Wolf Mountain. It is a fitting monument to the man who was the first of his race to see it and the great expanse it overlooks.

\*\*He left a year or so after the coalition of the Hudson's Bay and North-West Companies in 1821, but was listed in 1832 as an interpreter at Bow Fort (footnote in P.S. Ogden's Snake Country Jour-nals, 1824-25 & 1825-26, ed. Rich & Johnson for Hudson's Bay Record Society, p. 64). Mountain Fort was later called Bow Fort, on Blackfeet Bow River, main tributary of Saskatchewan River. (Rising Wolf, Nelson's edn., p. 12)

James Willard Schultz (1859-1947) wrote *Rising Wolf, The White Blackfoot: Hugh Monroe's Story of his first Year on the Plains*, and *Red Crow's Brother: Hugh Monroe's Story of his Second Year on the Plains*, both published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston & New York, 1919 & 1927.

In 1951 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer released part of this story adapted as a color Western "Across the Wide Missouri", starring Clark Gable with John Hodiak (d. 1955) as Hugh Monroe —"Hollywood as usual hammed it up and Hugh led his Indians dressed in a kilt." Dr. William M. O'Brien, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Internal Medicine at Yale University who pieced together Hugh's story from histories give to him from some of his descendants who are now members of the Blackfoot tribe, noted that he apparently had sever rheumatoid arthritis (see photograph) as had several of his descendant.

Dr. O'Brien, who first referred us to the books quoted, has published scientific studies of the Blackfeet in the *American Journal of Public Health* and elsewhere. "Is severe arthritis unduly common in Monroes in Scotland?" he asks. Editor.





Photo is titled Hugh Monroe (Rising Wolf: The White Blackfoot) with William Jackson (Morning Plume)  
It was likely taken around 1890 when Hugh was over 100 years old.

Credit : Fort Benton Museums and Heritage Complex <https://www.facebook.com/fortbentonmuseums>

### Media Guidelines Reminder

As we become more engaged with various forms of media, we need to set boundaries for acceptability when content affects our fellow members and the public as a whole, particularly regarding what reflects on CASSOC as an organization. CASSOC is an organization formed to promote Scottish culture and heritage.

Here are guidelines to help with this:

- No media content is allowed that promotes a political viewpoint, whether for a party, government, labor organization, or activist activity, without the advance consent of the CASSOC Board of Directors.
- No media content is allowed that violates the terms of membership as set out in the bylaws, specifically regarding the making of false statements, defamation, intimidation, or the attribution of false or defamatory statements, or any dissemination of misinformation or unsubstantiated information specifically meant to bring disrepute to an individual or group.
- No media content is allowed that promotes the violation of intellectual property and copyright laws or that lessens re-

# Scottish Studies Foundation

Report from David Hunter, President, Scottish Studies Foundation

Dear CASSOC members,

Happy New Year to you all and thank you for your continuing support, contributions and encouragement.



Dr. Lynn McDonald

We are delighted that on Saturday, April 5, Dr. Lynn McDonald will be receiving the Scottish Studies Society's 2025 Scot of the Year Award in view of her long public career and many contributions to building a better Canada, especially in relation to women's equality and pay equity. Dr. McDonald has been in the news recently for her work in correcting misunderstandings about key historical figures such as Sir John A Macdonald, Egerton Ryerson and Henry Dundas by placing them in historical context.

Dr. McDonald has made enduring contributions as a scholar and social activist. She is professor emerita of sociology at the University of Guelph and has written extensively on the impact of women thinkers in the 18th and 19th centuries. She also served as a Member of Parliament when her Non-Smokers' Health Act of 1988 led the world in enacting legislation to establish smoke-free work and public spaces. In addition, in a labour of love, she published the definitive collection of Florence Nightingale's writings, bringing renewed attention to this important female icon for a new generation. She was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 2015 and elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 2019. In 2020, she joined with Ryerson academics and supporters to form the Friends of Egerton Ryerson, whose goal is the restoration of Ryerson's reputation and refutation of the false accusations against him. In 2023, she was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Canadian Institute for Historical Education and has been instrumental in correcting information about Canadian events and individuals.

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Our Annual Scot of the Year Award was initiated 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. A list of previous recipients can be seen here:

<https://scottishstudies.com/910scotsoftheyear.htm>

The 2025 event will take place on **Saturday, April 5**. It will be a magnificent evening of fine food, music and dance with a Scots-Canadian flavour in the historic environment of the Arts & Letters Club, designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2007.

We do hope you will be able to join us for this memorable evening, the proceeds of which will go to support the Scottish Studies Foundation, a registered Canadian charity established to raise awareness of the Scottish heritage in Canada through education at the university level.

Tickets for this event are \$200 per person and you can order online or by mail at the link below:

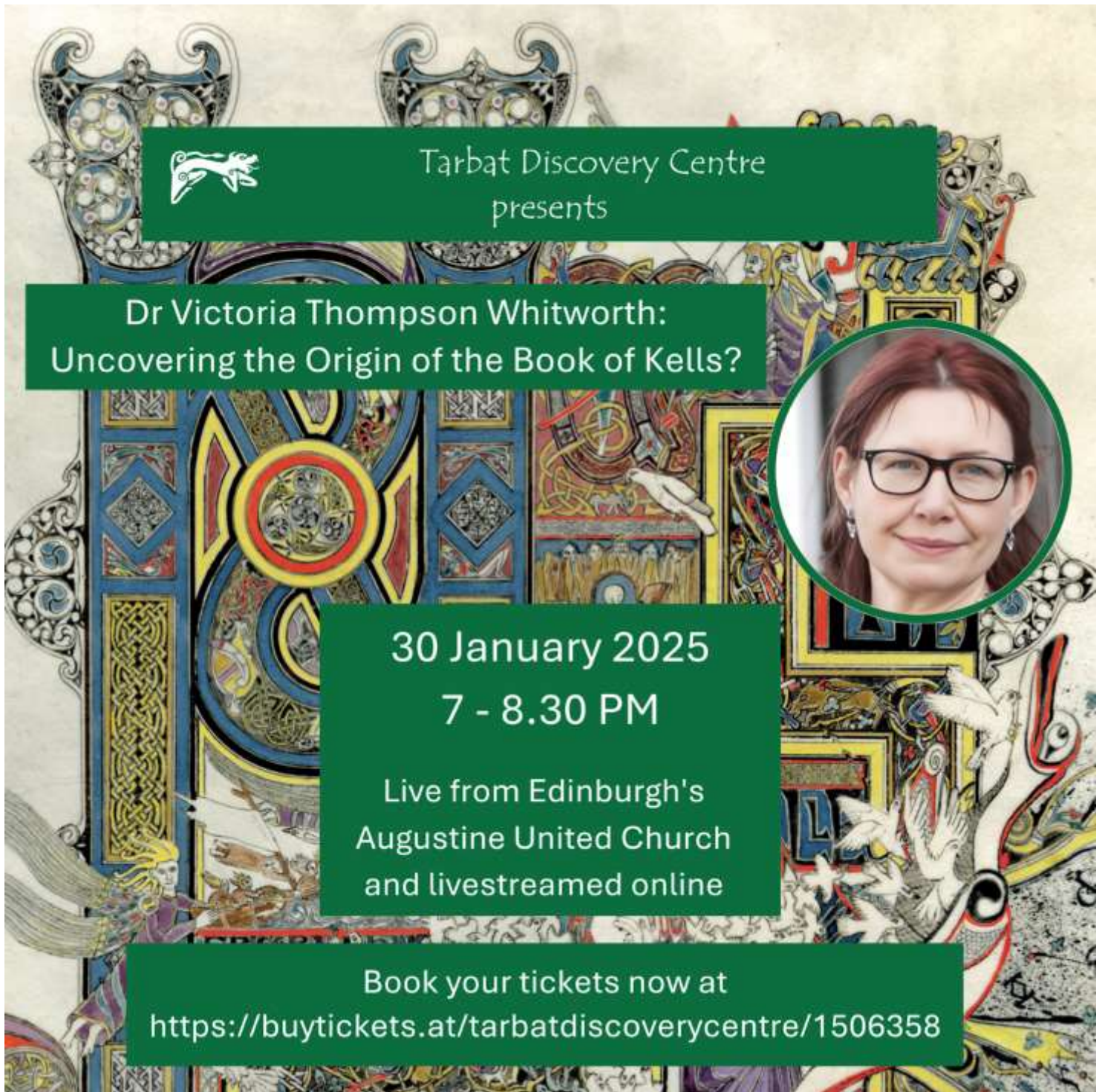
<https://scottishstudies.com/950-soy-2025-ordering-information.htm>

*(The dress code is Highland dress or business casual with a Scottish touch.)*

Best wishes to you all.

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

# Tarbat Discovery Centre - Book of Kells Event



Tarbat Discovery Centre  
presents

Dr Victoria Thompson Whitworth:  
Uncovering the Origin of the Book of Kells?

30 January 2025  
7 - 8.30 PM

Live from Edinburgh's  
Augustine United Church  
and livestreamed online

Book your tickets now at  
<https://buytickets.at/tarbatdiscoverycentre/1506358>

## Was the Book of Kells created by the Picts?

Dr Victoria Thompson Whitworth investigates the origins of the Book of Kells in this upcoming free event.

*Was it perhaps made in Portmahomack?*

The Book of Kells, perhaps the most important surviving manuscript of medieval Europe, on display at Trinity College in Dublin, contains the four gospels of the New Testament. Traditionally thought to have been written around 800 CE on the Scottish island of Iona, scholars are now rethinking the manuscript's origin – and some

*(Continued on page 61)*

# Tarbat Discovery Centre - Book of Kells Event

are suggesting that it might have been made by the Picts in Scotland's Northern Highlands.

Renowned early-medieval scholar Dr Victoria Thompson Whitworth will present her latest research into the links between the small Scottish Highlands village of Portmahomack and the Book of Kells, in an event hosted by the Tarbat Discovery Centre on **Thursday 30 January 2025 at 7.00pm**. Dr Thompson Whitworth will be joined at the end by Master Craftsman Thomas Keyes, an expert in reproducing the techniques of medieval manuscript production. The event will take place live in Edinburgh's Augustine United Church and be live-streamed online.

**To book a ticket for the event please visit <https://buytickets.at/tarbatdiscoverycentre/1506358>.**

An increasing number of academics and museum professionals are questioning the accepted narrative of Iona as the place of origin for the Book of Kells. Now, a medieval monastery on Scotland's Tarbat peninsula is gaining attention as a possible alternative. Dr Thompson Whitworth will contribute to the discussion by exploring questions such as 'Is the Book of Kells a Pictish manuscript?', 'Could it have been written in Portmahomack?', and 'Are materials used in the Book of Kells from the Tarbat Peninsula?'

In the 8th century, a large monastery was located at the site of St Colman's Church in Portmahomack, a village north of Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. Archaeological digs show that the monastery's monks had the tools, techniques, and skills to make manuscripts – and Dr Thompson Whitworth argues that the Book of Kells might well have been one of the texts produced there. At the upcoming event, she will explore the origins of the Book of Kells and its connections to Portmahomack and the Pictish world. The Picts lived in Scotland around 300-900 CE and left remarkable carved standing stones as their main legacy with no documents that have yet definitively been identified as Pictish - but did they perhaps leave behind the manuscript now named the Book of Kells?

The monastery at Tarbat was rediscovered by the University of York's ten-year research programme, the Tarbat Discovery Programme, in partnership with the Tarbat Historic Trust. Led by Prof. Martin Carver, this project resulted in the book *Portmahomack: Monastery of the Picts* (Edinburgh University Press) that describes the discoveries, and the full report, *Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness: changing ideologies in North-East Scotland sixth to sixteenth centuries*, which can be found at <https://books.socantscot.org/digital-books/catalog/book/4>.

The lecture is part of the Discovery Centre's Stories on Skins project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project is led by Master Craftsman Thomas Keyes, who created four elaborate manuscript pages, currently on display at Portmahomack's Discovery Centre. Using the same materials and techniques that monks used in the 7th- 8th century monastery at Tarbat, the artworks are inspired by the Book of Kells, and each depicts Celtic legends or myths.

Thomas Keyes will join Dr Thompson Whitworth at the event for a conversation on their individual research and artistic practices that have contributed to better understanding medieval manuscript making, and have produced new evidence regarding the origins of the Book of Kells.

Ellen Marks, Trustee of the Tarbat Historic Trust and designated trustee for the Stories on Skins project, said "What an exciting opportunity, bringing together two noted authorities to share their expertise and enrich our understanding of the debate regarding the origin of the Book of Kells—and the place of eastern Scotland in that history".

# Montreal Highland Games



## Greetings friends of the Montreal Highland Games!

I would like to begin wishing you all a wonderful 2025 on behalf of myself and everyone at the Montreal Highland games! We have a lot planned for our games this year and I hope you will all join us as we celebrate Scottish heritage and traditions together in Verdun!

I will be your Clans and Community Organizations Director for another year and look forward to getting your news and continuing to build strong bonds with you all, my Clans and Community organizations! It is a pleasure to have you at our games and be of service to you. The Montreal Highland Games that will be held on Sunday, August 3rd, 2025 at the Douglas Mental health Institute grounds! Please add the date to your calendar of events!



Your Scottish Clan or non profit Community organization is invited to bring , set up a tent and take part in our Clan alley to greet our visitors. Clans can share their heritage and history and non-profit organizations can share about what they do best! There will be a few surprises for you such as a Clans parade and by taking part, you have a chance of becoming the Chieftain of the day and best Clan at our games!!



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. The Clan registration form will soon be available! You will be contacted again when it's time!

[Click here to find out more.](#)

Steven Logan  
Clans and Community Organizations Director  
Montreal Highland Games



# SVNS VAN

HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series – BC Place – Vancouver, BC

[BUY TICKETS](#)

## HSBC VANCOUVER SVNS 2025

The 2025 Vancouver Sevens will mark the 10th time the tournament has visited Vancouver, and the third year in a row that the event will feature concurrently run women's and men's tournaments. Over three days, 24 teams (12 women's and 12 men's)—including two Canadian squads taking to their home pitch—will play 64 total matches, with two champions being crowned on the final day.

RUGBY SEVENS

SINGLE DAY  
TICKETS  
ON-SALE  
JAN. 23, 10AM!

THE BEST PARTY IN TOWN!

[DETAILS → VANSEVENS.COM](#)



HSBC SVNS VANCOUVER SINGLE DAY TICKETS  
TO GO ON SALE JANUARY 23

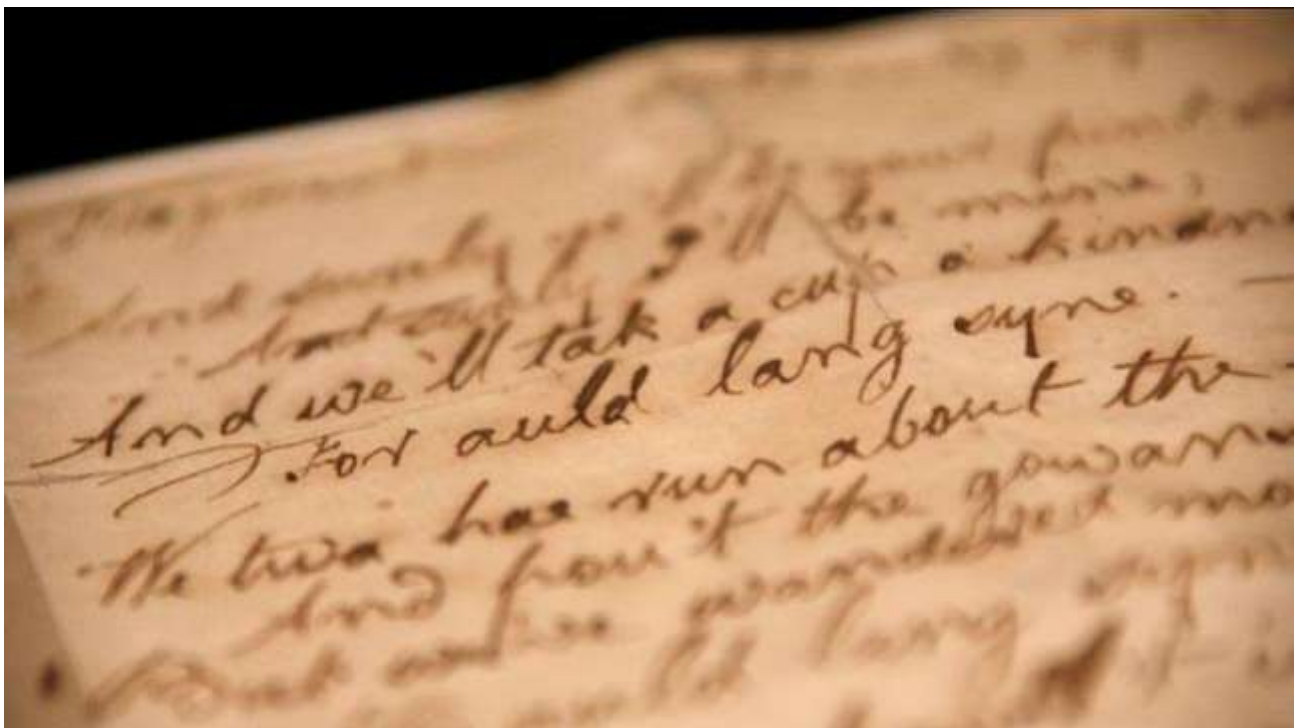
[BUY TICKETS](#)



## Burns' Statue Celebration

Join us on Saturday, January 25th, as we celebrate the birth of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns. Everyone is welcome to gather at the Burns Statue in the Allan Gardens (Sherbourne and Carlton) at 11.30am for some piping, haggis, neeps and tatties and good cheer!

The [National Trust for Scotland](#) has a new dedicated online collection of Burns' work that is accessible to everyone! Over 2,500 historic items from the NTS' internationally important collections at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum are now available to explore from anywhere in the world. The new portal with 3D images of artefacts and high-resolution scans of Burns' original manuscripts gives unprecedented access to the archives, including items that are held in store for their long-term preservation and protection. Whether you're a Burns scholar, tracing your family roots to Ayrshire or wanting to find out more about Scottish music and folk traditions, the Burns Collection brings multiple layers of information about Robert Burns. With the ability to listen to audio recordings or zoom in on high-resolution images to see full details, the online collection allows users to experience Burns up close and personal! [Click here to access the online collection.](#)





## Celebrating the Bard

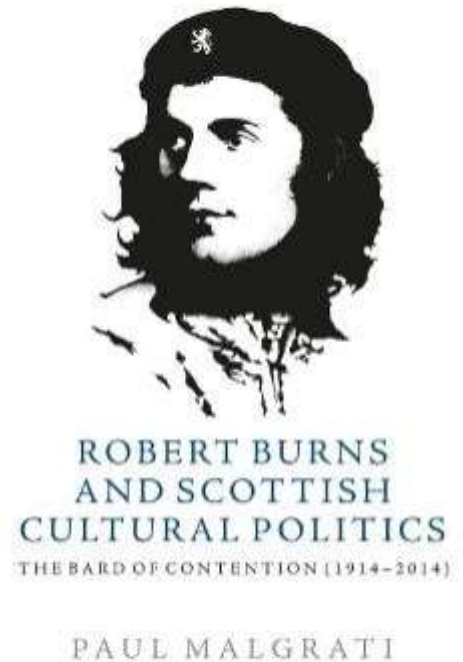
by Dr. Donna Betts

Each year, the St. Andrew's Society hosts its traditional Burns Dinner in conjunction with the University Club of Toronto. Such dinners, or 'suppers', are normally held on or around 'Burns Night', January 25th, the Bard's birthday. The event follows the time-honoured format with the Address to a Haggis, the Immortal Memory and Toasts to the Lassies and Laddies. With the Society's upcoming annual celebration of the Bard on Friday, January 24th, what better time to introduce new resources highlighting Robbie Burns and his enduring impact as the national poet of Scotland and a Scottish cultural icon.

A new book, *Robert Burns and Scottish Cultural Politics: The Bard of Contention (1914-2014)* by Paul Malgrati explores Burns's political legacy in modern and contemporary Scotland. Blending literary studies and political history, this book follows the transformations of Burns' image through the late modern era, as nationalists, revolutionaries and avant-garde writers co-opted Burns' myth to subvert their country's constitutional and social order [1]. From Great War unionism to 1940s socialism and contemporary nationalism, Malgrati's comprehensive investigation illuminates the ongoing Scottish question. According to Malgrati, 'The rationale for the book is that we need to look at how Burns has been treated and debated because it tells us an awful lot about Scotland's national identity when there was no official space to debate these things'. [2]

1 - <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-robert-burns-and-scottish-cultural-politics.html>

2 - <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24812289.book-suggests-independence-movement-cut-ties-robert-burns/>



Author and academic, Dr Paul Malgrati

# Pipers and Speakers

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

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

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

## **Accident Report from Scotland – Dec. 22, 2024**

*Accident report from the village of Lochalsh.*

*A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed in the village, losing its entire load.*

*Witnesses said they were stunned, startled, aghast, dazed, paralyzed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, dumb-founded, non-plussed, flabbergasted, horrified, speechless and perplexed.*

*Courtesy of Ken Godfrey, Clan Lachlan*

# About CASSOC

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

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

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

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

## **Patrons:**

Charles Edward Bruce, Lord Bruce, DL MA MSc FSA Scot  
Major The Hon. Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart, Bt. CVO DL

**Meetings 2025:** Spring General Assembly, April 6th. Fall Annual General Assembly, November 25.

## **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 for email (CASSOC.CA and SCOTSCANADA.CA), all web services are now provided through [www.scotscanada.ca](http://www.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.

## An Drochaid - The Bridge

This Winter 2025 editions features as its cover 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."  
August Schwerdfeger - Own work, CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=66755432>

An Drochaid - The Bridge is usually published quarterly for each season.  
Submissions are welcome, though articles may be edited for length and content.

Whenever possible, please provide Word, RTF or text formats

Submissions are due as follows :

Spring: April 11, Summer: July 11, Fall: October 11, Winter: January 11.

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.



**TAYLORS TARTANS.COM**

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