

# *An Drochaid - The Bridge*

*Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord*

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Tynninghame Bridge

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# Bhon cheann-suidhe - From the Chair

## From the Chair:

"Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." – Dale Carnegie

It is of little surprise to me that one of the pioneers in the field of self-improvement, public speaking and interpersonal skills was of Scottish heritage. A little research revealed that Dale Carnegie was born Dale Harbison Carnagey, his surname an altered form of "Carnegie", a Scottish surname derived from a place called Carnegie near Carmyllie in Angus, Scotland. The Carnegie family name has deep roots in Scottish history, with the earliest records tracing back to the 14th century. The family was associated with the barony of Carnegie in Angus and has been linked to notable Scottish nobility, including the Earls of Southesk and Northesk.



Most of us know Dale Carnegie as the author of the seminal book "How to Win Friends and Influence People" which remains a foundational work in the self-help genre.

Look deep into anything that underpins our civilization today and you'll eventually find a Scot!

It is likely of no surprise to you that I'm all in for the 'do something' approach especially combined with the positive side of what is clinically called Magical Thinking. "Magical thinking means that a person believes their thoughts, feelings, or rituals can influence events in the material world, either intentionally or unintentionally." Leverage magical thinking by extending the belief to include actions and you gain the superpower of constructive confidence, optimism and staying power in what you set out to accomplish.

## Spring General Assembly Results

This is how we should view the work done by your Board of Directors in achieving the results of the Spring General Assembly where members passed the Special Resolution to amend our articles of incorporation and massively revise our bylaws. Not unanimous but with 97% approval. There was 1 vote opposed with no reason or rationale given for why? Corporations Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency very quickly approved the requested changes.

The results of the Spring General Assembly was in sharp contrast to what happened at the November AGM. After the November meeting, your Board felt that it had been ambushed by what we now understand started with a procedural mistake in allowing a motion to table. Such a motion, even when made for the right reasons, should only be allowed once discussion on the matter at hand was completed. Procedural error, confused members and directors plus poor vote count recording meant that it did not end well. However we moved on and are now working on policies and tactics to avoid 'ambushes' and mistakes in the future.

The Spring General Assembly finished with a presentation title "Hands-On AI: Learn, Apply, Succeed". The session may be watched in its entirety using the link : <https://youtu.be/zCeBvy0MF00> A checklist and query template is provided on the next page.

In brief, the changes in our articles mean that we are now '**Scots of Canada**' and can have voting and non-voting memberships. More details on how the membership classes work along with other significant

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Bhon cheann-suidhe - From the Chair

(Continued from page 2)

changes in the bylaws are covered in an article later in the newsletter.

Along with the name change we've registered the domains of ScotsOfCanada.ca and .com so now will be transitioning both cassoc.ca and scotscanada.ca materials and forms to it. At the same time we'll be implementing tools, services and benefits for the new membership classes. One of the first benefits we'll have available is a complimentary digital subscription to Celtic Life for each member. Current Organization members will have this provided to their Delegate per our records. Please consider updating your organization's information by completing the form at <https://www.scotscanada.ca/join> or by sending an email to us at [secretary@scotscanada.ca](mailto:secretary@scotscanada.ca)

So congratulations and thanks to all who have been supportive and patient with this effort.

**Please welcome our new members:** Celtic Students Society of the University of Guelph, Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival Society, St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society of the City of Vancouver, Clan Grant Society Canada, Clan Grant Society UK, Clan Hay Society.

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.

**About this issue:** As we're starting the Canadian games and festival season, this issue has an article for every member event which is running this year. Please attend and support them!

*William Petrie*  
Chair, Scots of Canada  
[chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca)

## Augmented Intelligence Query Checklist

- ◇ Objective Understood
- ◇ Clear and Specific
- ◇ Has Context
- ◇ Uses an Example
- ◇ Desired Output
- ◇ Role-Based
- ◇ Focus Given
- ◇ Use Negative Prompt

## Query Template

**Role :** Guide tone/academic rigor

**Format :** Structure output as best for you

**Specificity :** Narrow scope

**Context :** Direct what sources to use or not

**Focus :** Ask to have the analysis sharpened

**Enrichment :** Ask for additional insight

## Query Example

As a historical sociologist generate a timeline of 3 disbanded societies in Ontario, up until 1970 from census data and newspapers while comparing membership to economic trends and highlighting survival tactics

# Scots of Canada - Understanding the Changes

The adoption of revised articles of incorporation and a complete replacement of bylaws occurred at the Spring General Assembly on April 13th. There were 38 member group represented by Zoom attendees and by proxy.

A straight-forward change in the articles was the name becoming Scots of Canada. To ensure that we did not have any impediment to using a new name, our legal team asked Corporations Canada to pre-approve our first choice, Scots Canada. They said no, that is was too close and confusing to the Scotts Canada registrations for lawn care products.

So we adjusted and instead asked for pre-approval of Scots of Canada which was accepted.

Beyond the name change, the articles were changed to allow for multiple membership classes with different voting rights. One with voting rights and the other without voting rights. The implementation of the actual voting classes was left to be defined in the bylaws.

A word of caution to those dealing with article and/or bylaw changes. Less is best. Keeping as much verbiage as possible out of your articles and bylaws helps with minimizing the inevitable internal conflicts and areas of mis-interpretation that can cause grief in the future. Plus it helps avoid needing full membership approval for correcting silly things like in our early bylaws of requiring explicit director approval for each Zoom meeting or quorum for a members meeting being set at 3 members! Don't repeat what you don't need to between your articles and bylaws.

An important principle in the changes to the articles was to leave as much as possible to the implementation of the articles through the bylaws. An equally important principle in the bylaws was to leave as much as possible to implementation in the policies and procedures which the existence and use of were made mandatory.

Our original plan for the bylaws, even back in November, was to modify what we already had to suit what we needed for the new membership classes and to clean up what effectively was nonsense inherited and copied in the past. It became quickly obvious that the colloquial idiom "You can't get there from here" was the situation with just revising the old bylaws. So we started from scratch with a fresh set from a government tool and then worked over a period of three months to adapt them to our unique needs. This took a huge amount of your board's personal time and a significant legal expense to achieve.

## **What it means**

We now have a name that properly reflects the current membership and is totally suited to the new memberships we'll be accepting. The previous name was not inclusive of all our festivals, games, museums, enterprises and was totally at odds with the new type of membership. The new name has instant recognizability of what we are about.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Scots of Canada - Understanding the Changes

Now we have 3 sub-classes of membership.

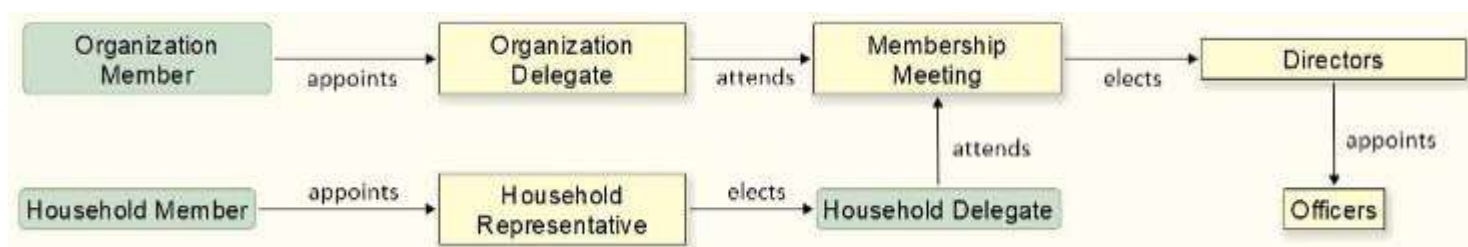
1. **Organization Member:** This is the original membership class in Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada. Organization members have a vote which they will exercise through a representative such as their Delegate.
2. **Household Member:** A new membership class that is based upon individuals having kinship living at the same postal address. Each **Household Member** does not have a vote at meetings of members but will have a representative who are key to the process of electing **Household Delegates**.
3. **Household Delegate:** Who are elected by the household representatives. **Household Delegates** will have a vote at meetings of members.

The way in which representation occurs for the **household members** is not new at all. In our democracies, we elect a member of parliament for instance as our 'delegate'. For our **organization members**, their own individual members are represented by a delegate and how this delegate is chosen is up to the organization. We've implemented a blend of these with how **household members** are represented.

There will be strict rules for **Household Delegates**. They must attend the member meeting in order to keep their position. They may not use a proxy. They should come from the pool of household representatives and they may not be acting in any form of leadership, executive or chief-ship for what would be a candidate or existing organization membership.

In deciding on the **Household Member** class, we looked at the options of individual and/or family memberships. What we concluded was that having one or both for an organization seemed to be more driven by a revenue/value perspective than by what was really of importance in achieving an organization's objectives. It would have added levels of complexity while doing little to improve a broader sense of belonging and sustainability. As a household, all those of kinship can participate in the many ways that we can extend the benefits of membership to them. Also to help with sustainability is that memberships are now **perpetual** and only have a status of **active** (paid up) or **inactive** (not paid up) which affects benefits.

The three sub-classes of membership are shown as green boxes in the diagram below which also shows another change. That of officers being now appointed by the Board of Directors instead of being elected annually at an AGM. Term limits are being implemented for directors and officers as part of this change.



# Scots of Canada - What is to be done!

## Embracing the Future: A Web App Unique to Scots of Canada

The Scottish diaspora in Canada is a vibrant, passionate community—bound by heritage, tradition, and a shared love for all things Scottish. From Highland Games to Ceilidhs, from Gaelic lessons to clan gatherings, our culture thrives when we come together. But in today's fast-paced digital world, staying connected requires more than just local events and newsletters.

For this reason **Scots of Canada** will be building a powerful new tool: a **dedicated web app** designed to strengthen our community, streamline communication, and celebrate our heritage like never before. This isn't just an upgrade—it's a **necessary evolution** to keep our traditions alive and thriving for generations to come.

## Why a Web App? Because Community Matters More Than Ever

This will be way for every member— from Victoria to St. John's or anywhere in between—to connect, engage, and participate in Scottish culture with ease. A web app isn't just a convenience; it's a **game-changer** for how we interact, organize, and grow. Here's what it will feature:

### 1. Membership Made Simple

No more paper forms or missed renewals. Members can:

- Register and manage profiles in seconds.
- Renew memberships with secure online payments.
- Access exclusive content, ensuring our most engaged members feel valued.

### 2. Events at Your Fingertips

Community events are the heart of our feeling of belonging. The app will:

- Display a live calendar of upcoming gatherings.
- Allow easy RSVPs and connections to ticket purchases (no more chasing emails!).
- Send reminders and updates so no one misses out.

### 3. Instant News & Cultural Updates

- A real-time news feed featuring Scottish-Canadian stories.
- Push notifications for urgent announcements (like last-minute venue changes).
- Cultural spotlights on history, music, and traditions.

### 4. A Thriving Digital Community

- Discussion forums where members can share stories and advice.
- Social media integration to spread the word about events.
- Volunteer sign-ups to keep our initiatives strong.



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# Scots of Canada - What is to be done!

(Continued from page 6)

## 5. Learning & Preserving Our Heritage

- Gaelic and Scots language resources.
- Articles, videos, and podcasts on Scottish and Canadian history.
- Interactive quizzes and cultural challenges for all ages.

## 6. Supporting our Organization members and more

- Provide an indexed and searchable directory of members and offerings
- Find local Scottish oriented groups and organizations.
- Discover Scottish-owned businesses across Canada.

## 7. Marketplace

- An e-commerce store for official Scots of Canada merchandise.
- Partnerships with Scottish artisans, vendors and our Enterprise members

## 8. Sharing Memories & Building Pride

- A photo and video gallery
- Upload event highlights.
- Compete in fun contests (best kilt photo....)

## 9. Your Voice, Heard Loud & Clear

- Surveys to shape future events.
- Direct messaging for suggestions and concerns.

## 10. Built for Everyone

Accessibility and inclusivity matter:

- Multiple languages (English, French, Gaelic).
- Features for users with disabilities.



All of these features can't be made available immediately nor do we know exactly how all of the features should be implemented. And there is just not the money and/or volunteer resources to put any significant part of the above into existence right now.

Thus the plan for the Web App is to build what is critically needed to bring in new household membership, solidify basic offerings in all areas, extend the functionality to include organization members then work through the outstanding features as time and resources permit.

The web app itself is not a magic wand to achieve the objectives of Scots of Canada. Content providers, forum moderators, podcast participants are just a few of the human resources we will need and so we ask that if you have interest in participation, please contact us at [media@scotscanada.ca](mailto:media@scotscanada.ca)

As a background note, we researched many membership management and services applications out there with the conclusion that most are focused on membership, events and fundraising management. There's a few that can be extended to provide all the above features but none that would be integrated in doing so.

(Images by Freepik and Ideogram)

# Membership Report

The following lists our current 114 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

Celtic Students Society of University of Guelph  
The Flagstaff Scottish Club  
Greater Moncton Scottish Association  
Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival Society\*  
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association  
Scottish Society of Ottawa

Scottish Studies Foundation  
St Andrew's and Caledonian Society of the City of Vancouver  
St Andrew's Society of Toronto  
The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys  
Westman Scottish Association  
The Zorra Caledonian Society

## Games, Festivals & Events

Almonte Celtfest  
Cambridge Scottish Festival  
Canmore Highland Games  
Embro Highland Games\*  
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Georgetown Highland Games  
Glengarry Highland Games  
Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival\*  
Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Kingsville-Essex Highland Games  
LBA Highland Games  
Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival \*

Montréal Highland Games  
North Lanark Highland Games  
National Capital Highland Games  
Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games  
Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Orillia Scottish Festival  
Red Deer Highland Games  
Sherwood Park Highland Games  
Sydney Mines Highland Games  
The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival\*  
Uxbridge Scottish Festival  
Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival

## Enterprise, Media, and Historical

The Old 78th Fraser Highlanders - 2nd Regiment of Foot - Fort Calgary Garrison  
Hutchison House Museum  
Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd.  
Celtic Life International  
House of Cassady  
Clan Designer

Guthrie School of Dance  
ScotlandShop  
The Scottish Banner  
Sheena's Scottish Shortbread  
Taylor's Tartans  
Tay Piping  
William Glen & Son Canada Ltd



# Membership Report

## Clan, Family and Sport Members

Clan Baird Society Canada  
Clan Bell North America  
Family of Bruce International  
Clan Buchanan Society International  
House of Burnett International  
Clan Cameron Canadian Branch  
Clan Campbell Society (North America)  
Clan Carruthers Society International  
Clan Chisholm Society Canada Branch  
Clan Colquhoun of Canada  
Learned Kindred of Currie  
Clan Davidson Society of North America  
Clan Donald Canada  
Edmonstone Clan Society  
Elliot Clan Society of Canada  
Clan Farquharson Canada  
Clan Fergusson Society of North America  
Clan Forbes Society  
Clan Fraser Society of North America  
House of Gordon Canada  
Clan Graham Society Inc  
Clan Grant Society Canada  
Clan Grant Society UK  
Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter  
Clan Gunn Society of North America  
Clan Hay Society  
Clan Hope of Craighall Society  
Clan Hunter Association of Canada  
Clan Irving  
Clan Irwin Association  
Clan Johnston/e in America  
Kennedy Society of North America  
Clan Kincaid Association International  
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada  
Clan Lamont Society of North America

Clan Lennox  
Clan Leslie Society International  
Clan Logan Society of Canada  
The Clan MacAlpine Society  
Clan MacAulay Association  
Clan MacBeth  
Clan MacDougall Society of North America  
Clan MacDowell \*  
Clan MacEwen Society  
Clan MacFarlane Worldwide  
MacFie Clan Society in Canada  
International Association of Clan MacInnes  
The Clan MacKay Association of Canada  
The Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada  
Clan MacKinnon Society  
Clan MacLellan of America  
Clan MacLennan Canada  
Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada  
Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide  
Clan MacNeil in Canada Association  
Clan MacNicol Society of North America  
Clan MacPherson Canadian Branch  
Clan MacRae Society of Canada  
Clan MacTavish  
Clan MacThomas Society  
Clan Munro Association of Canada  
Murray Clan Society of North America  
Clan Ramsay International  
Clan Shaw of Canada  
Clan Sinclair Association of Canada  
Clan Skene Association  
Clan Strachan Society  
The Clan Watson Society  
Rugby Canada

# St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society of the City of Vancouver - New Member

**Vancouver, BC**

**Website:**

<https://st-andrews-caledonian-society-of-van.square.site/>

**Contact**

[W. Rex Davidson](#)

**Membership**

[Click to Join](#)

**About**

Formed in 1886 on the day after the founding of the City of Vancouver, The Society, in its earliest days, sponsored the Caledonian Games in Vancouver and welcomed incoming Scots` immigrants to the community. Today it continues to support the Games (now called ScotFest), endows the SFU Research Centre for Scottish Studies, elects delegates to the Scottish Cultural Centre Society, convenes an annual St. Andrews` Ball and continues its involvement in Scottish culture in Vancouver.

Image: Mayor M.A. Maclean - First President of SA&CS Vancouver - and City Council - September 1886



# Clan Grant Society Canada - New Member



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClanGrantofGrant>

## Delegate

Donald Grant

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

**Crest:** A burning hill, symbolizing the ancient signal fires of Craigellachie

**Motto:** Stand Fast Craig Elachie

**1714 Tartan**



**Modern**



**Ancient**



# Clan Hay Society - New Member



## WEBSITE:

<http://www.clanhay.org/>

## Membership

Laraine Strafford

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

**Crest:** A falcon in flight, armed, jessed, and belted Or, emerging from a crest coronet

**Motto:** "Serva jugum," which translates from Latin as "Keep the yoke."

## About

The Clan Hay Society is based in Scotland and has members throughout the world. It also has its own pipe band based in Belgium. Clan headquarters are at Delgatie Castle near Turriff in NE Scotland. The Convenor for Canada represents Canadian members and acts as an interface between Scotland and our Canadian members. Scotland sends out an annual journal to all members while the Canadian Convenor sends out occasional newsletters and collects membership fees for submission to Scotland.

The Hays are one of the major clans of Scotland, whose Chiefs, the Earls of Erroll, have been hereditary Lords High Constable of Scotland since Sir Gilbert Hay of Erroll was rewarded with that office after the Battle of Bannockburn by King Robert the Bruce in 1314. The Clan Hay Society was founded in 1951 to bring together all those with an interest in the Scottish family of Hay.

The society organises regular social get togethers wherever it is active in the world through its extensive branch network in the UK, continental Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In addition, it can offer assistance with family history research through a network of genealogists who the society recommends. More information on genealogy [click here](#).

It publishes an annual journal, a monthly e-newsletter, and runs a forum through [Facebook](#). A hospitality tent, to which all Hays are welcome, is maintained at the annual Aboyne Highland Games in Aberdeenshire.

## Surnames

Alderston, Ayer, Bagra, Beagrie, Conn (Aberdeenshire only), Constable, Delahaye, Delgaty, Du Plessis, Dupplin, Errol, Garrow, Geary, Gifford, Hayden, Haye, Hayes, Hayle, Haynes, Hays, Hayton, Hayward, Hey, Hye, Kinnoul, Laxfirth, Leask\*, Leith, Locherworth, Logie, Macara, MacGaradh, McKester, Peebles, Phillips (Aberdeenshire only), Slains, Turriff, Tweeddale, Yester, Zester

\* The Leasks are a separate clan with their own chief, Dr Jonathan Leask of that Ilk. They are included here because of the long standing connection to the Hays through a Bond of Manrent executed in the 15th century between Leask of that Ilk and the Earl of Erroll.



# Clan Hay Society - New Member

The Hay Tartan



Hunting



White Dress



# Clan Grant Society UK - New Member



## **WEBSITE:**

<https://clangrant.org/>

## **Membership**

Kim Todd

[kim@monymusk.com](mailto:kim@monymusk.com)

***Membership of the Clan Grant Society is open to anyone with an interest in the Clan and its Heritage.***

## **Delegate**

Fiona Grant

[fiona@monymusk.com](mailto:fiona@monymusk.com)

**Crest:** A burning hill, symbolizing the ancient signal fires of Craigellachie

**Motto:** Stand Fast Craig Elachie

## **Aims of the Society**

The aims of the Society are to cultivate a spirit of friendship among members of the Clan Grant both here and abroad, to help them keep in touch with one another, and to collect and preserve historical and genealogical records, art, music and literature relating to the clan. Membership of the Society is open to anyone with an interest in the Clan and its heritage. Members receive our twice yearly magazine "Standfast" and an invitation to the annual Clan Gathering and other events.

# Clan Grant Society UK - New Member

## International Gathering - August 3 to 10, 2025

The **Clan Grant Society UK** is hosting an International Gathering from Sunday 3 August - Sunday 10 August 2025. We are hoping to encourage as many UK and overseas visitors to come to our special '**International** **Gathering**', which only occurs every 5 or 10 years. International Clan Grant Gatherings have been taking place since 1985 but our last one in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid, so we have not had an International since 2010! You can read about the last one on our website here: <https://clangrant.org/international-gatherings/>

The 1886 Grant Tartan



Old Grant Tartan



Red Grant Tartan



The Speyside District Tartan





# Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival - New Member



## **Postponed until 2026**

**See you then at the**

**Halifax Commons**

**Halifax, NS**

Website: [www.halifaxhighlandgames.ca](http://www.halifaxhighlandgames.ca)

Contact : [halifaxhighlandgames@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxhighlandgames@gmail.com)

### **About**

The Halifax Highland Games and Scottish Festival 2026, on the historic Halifax Commons in Halifax.

This event will mark the revival of the Games after more than a 15-year hiatus, offering a vibrant celebration of Scottish and Gaelic culture.

Attendees can look forward to traditional Highland athletic competitions, including the caber toss and hammer throw, as well as performances featuring bagpipers, drummers, and Highland dancers.

The festival aims to engage the community and honour Nova Scotia's rich Scottish heritage.

For those interested in participating or volunteering, more information is available by contacting [halifaxhighlandgames@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxhighlandgames@gmail.com)



# Celtic Students Society of the University of Guelph - New Member



The Celtic Students' Society (CSS) is a group of students at the University of Guelph dedicated to promoting and preserving Celtic culture through the celebration of its traditions, holidays, and history. The members of this organization come from diverse backgrounds, including Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Breton, Cornish, and Manx heritage. They participate in a variety of cultural enrichment activities, such as bagpiping, Highland dancing, fiddle music, and step dancing.

**Contact:** [celtsuog@uoguelph.ca](mailto:celtsuog@uoguelph.ca)



# Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival



**MAY 17TH AND 18TH, 2025**

**TOPAZ PARK**

***TOPAZ AVE & FINLAYSON STREET & BLANSHARD STREET, VICTORIA, BC***

<https://victoriahighlandgames.com/>

162nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival  
on the May long weekend!

The longest continually running Highland Games in North America, the 162nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will take on May 17 and May 18 at Topaz Park.

Prior to the Games, on May 10, the Tartan Parade will leave Centennial Square at exactly 11 am and parade down Government Street to the Legislature Grounds. A ceremony will be held where the highland fling will be danced, bagpipers and drummers will perform and the caber will be tossed. The Parade will involve local pipe bands, highland dancers, and heavy event athletes along with many members of local Scottish and Celtic groups.

Once again, the Highland Games will be hosting the International Heavy Events Challenge and Canadian Invitational Drum Major Championship, with a full line-up of current and past world and national champions. Simon Fraser University Pipe Band will attend, so you can witness the best pipe band in North America compete both days! Massed pipe band performances and Highland dancing on both Saturday and Sunday are must-see events.

The Victoria Highland Games is a family-focused weekend of Scottish and Celtic arts and culture including pipe band competitions, Scottish Highland dancing competitions, Heavy Events (e.g. caber toss, hammer throw), Scottish country dancing, fiddling performances, Scottish/Celtic and folk music bands, Scottish Clan and genealogy booths and displays, historic military demonstrations and displays, Scottish/Celtic food and merchandise vendors.

For adults 19 and over there is a **Single Malt Whisky School** and a **Wine Tasting School**. There is also an excellent line up of local Celtic bands performing at the Celtic Music Tent. There is a large **FREE** children's entertainment area.

**Purchase your tickets early and save!** Discounted tickets will be available online through Eventbrite in January, 2025 or available for purchase at the Strathcona Liquor Store (919 Douglast Street) in April, 2025. Tickets are available at the Games gates (cash, debit and credit cards accepted). Children under 12 receive **FREE** admission! In true Scottish fashion, the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place rain or shine.





# **19th annual Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival**

**June 10-14, 2025**



**Thank you to everyone who  
makes our event a success!**

<https://monctonhighlandgames.com>

## **Clan Registration**

Show your Clan pride at our Games!

We welcome Clan Associations to join us each year.

We are able rent 10'x10' tents, 6' tables, and folding chairs for your use; rates and additional information available on our registration form.

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

# Georgetown Highland Games

**June 14, 2025**

**Georgetown Fair Grounds**

**Celebrating our 50th Year of Scottish Tradition!**

**“Ceud Mìle Fàilte”**



A Hundred Thousand Welcomes to one of the largest events of the year in Halton Hills. Established in 1975, the Georgetown Highland Games is held every 2nd Saturday in June at the Georgetown Fair Grounds.

Come be a “Scot for a Day” & enjoy the Massed Pipes & Drums with sounds that stir the heart & soul; “Amazing Grace” & “Scotland the Brave” at 1 pm & 5 pm....more

<https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/>

Find us on [Facebook](#)

Follow us on [Instagram](#)





# Georgetown Highland Games

## Invitation for Clans to participate - June 14th, 2025

Dear Clans,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to participate with your Clan at the Georgetown Highland Games, which are to be held on **Saturday June 14th, 2025 at 8:30am** at the Georgetown Fairgrounds located in Georgetown, Ontario. We will be celebrating our **50th** year and I am excited to welcome returning Clans, along with some new faces. My name is Andrew MacKenzie and I will be responsible for all communications related to participating with your Clan this year.

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

We have made some adjustments to our presentation of the Clans this year. The location is changing to a more central location. You will be positioned between the heavy games area and the dancers area. Foot traffic through this area will be very high! In addition to the change of location we are purchasing tents for each of you and will have them set up, along with chairs and tables for the day. We are implementing a \$50 registration fee this year to allow for our increased costs.

“Clan Alley” and the march preceding the opening ceremonies is an important and colourful feature to the Georgetown Highland Games. There is a parade that will take place inside the park in time for the official opening at 12:30pm. This is not a very long walk and we would like to ask each of you to participate and represent your Clan. We will be lining up for the parade behind the Cheer garden at 11:30. I will be onsite to direct you all for the event.

Two general admission passes and one parking pass will be provided free of charge to each Clan. Passes will be mailed to you upon receipt of the online registration form. The lots will be allocated on a “first-come” basis. Please signify your intentions to attend and any additional requirements on the application (disabled parking for example).

Please register by May 16th 2025 via the registration link or by e-mail to [andrew.mackenzie@optimize.ca](mailto:andrew.mackenzie@optimize.ca) confirming your interest to attend. If there are any corrections to your contact information please let me know, and I will correct our records. I really look forward to meeting each and every one of you in June.

Registration Link

<https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/product/clan-registration/>

Best Regards,

Andrew Mackenzie

[andrew.mackenzie@optimize.ca](mailto:andrew.mackenzie@optimize.ca)



# Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games



**June 20, 21 2025**

[www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca](http://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca)

Northumberland Scottish Festival  
& Highland Games  
Port Hope Agricultural Park  
62 McCaul St,  
Port Hope, ON L1A 1L2

Email: [northumberlandgamesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:northumberlandgamesinfo@gmail.com)

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

## **“Tha mi air bhioran!”**

We invite (Blàth Cuireadh) your Clan to share in national heritage and familial pride by setting up your Clan tent and “representing” at this, the 61st annual Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games on June 20th & 21st, 2025.

After a successful transition to our new home at the Port Hope Agricultural Park (62 McCaul Street) in 2024, an even greater attendance is expected in 2025. We are happy to announce that the space limitations for Clan tents have now become a problem of the past.

Our two-day Festival is the perfect event for you, there’s no charge for your booth and we have free, designated parking for Clans. In addition, the new location allows us to increase your square footage footprint, facilitate more Clan tent spaces and provide more room for your displays and activities.

I’ll be on-site throughout the weekend both in my role as Clan Coordinator and as a representative of my own family Clan. My goal is to make sure you have the best experience at the Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games and I’m here to support you in any way I can.

Don’t forget to bring any musical instruments and voices with you as we hope for a few impromptu jam sessions at the tents throughout the weekend!

Our website, [www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca](http://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca) has all the information you need about this year’s Festival, including an online application form for any Clan wishing to participate. You can also contact me directly at [northumberlandgamesclans@gmail.com](mailto:northumberlandgamesclans@gmail.com) and/or call me at 705-760- 4729 if you have any questions.

Looking forward to another banner year,

*Tim Calhoun (Clan Calhoun)*

*Clan Coordinator*

*Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games*



# *Red Deer* highland games

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2025**  
**CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD**  
**5121-48 AVENUE**  
**RED DEER, AB**



**MEETING OF THE CLANS**  
**CELTIC MARKET**  
**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**SHORTBREAD COMPETITION**  
**PUPPY PARADE**  
**AND MORE!**

**REDDEERHIGHLANDGAMES.COM**





# Embro Highland Games



**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)

## Clans

The clan is a symbol of unity and strength, binding Scots all over the world in spirit and tradition. We would love to include your Scottish clan in our **July 1st** event.

For more information please contact us at [vendors@embrohighlandgames.ca](mailto:vendors@embrohighlandgames.ca)



# Almonte Celtfest



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.

# Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games



## Join Us In Celebrating Over 25 Years

**July 4-6, 2025**

[www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca](http://www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca)

Email: [kinscotfest@bmts.com](mailto:kinscotfest@bmts.com)

Our festival aims to preserve, enhance, and celebrate Kincardine's Scottish roots. Enjoy three days and nights of lively music, exciting competitions, cultural workshops, and friendly small town hospitality. Cheer on

your favourite, Highland athletes and dancers, trace out your ancestry, and enjoy the sights and sounds of over 30 Scottish pipe bands from across Canada and the United States.

Located in Victoria Park and surrounding area, our festival is in the heart of Kincardine and we encourage you to experience the beauty and hospitality our town has to offer during your visit.

This year we celebrate our 25th anniversary and this year, more than ever, we're proud to have welcomed thousands of visitors from all over North America to the beautiful lakeside town of Kincardine to join us in celebrating all things Scottish.

We pride ourselves in honouring the traditions and contributions of Scottish culture within the Canadian multicultural mosaic. We look forward to seeing you at our next Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games!

## Represent your Clan 2025!

We know that you have wonderful stories to tell that take our festival goes on fascinating journeys of history and cultural heritage – conversations that help folk have a richer, deeper connection to their roots when they take the time out of the bustle of the surrounding Festival.

We welcome all Clans to Clan Avenue where you can showcase your tartans, crests, folklore about your heritage, battles, key members of your clans from history and (we're sure) much more!

If you would like to join us for a very special weekend in this lakeside town that boasts of being more Scottish than Scotland, we would love to reserve a special place for your Clan on Clan Avenue right in the thick of things. To reserve your space, please fill in the contact form by May 1st.

**REGISTER HERE**

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games is delighted to provide tents, tables and chairs to the first 10 Clans who confirm their attendance. You will be contacted at a later date regarding your registration.

# Orillia Scottish Festival



**Friday July 18 - Sunday July 20, 2025**

AT  
COUCHICHING BEACH PARK  
AND  
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 34  
ORILLIA, ON

<https://scottishfestival.ca/>

Contact : [orilliascottishfestival@gmail.com](mailto:orilliascottishfestival@gmail.com)



# Cambridge Scottish Festival



## Call for Clans and Families

Cambridge Scottish Festival is looking for clans to participate in our Avenue of Clans for the year. Hoping to get as many wonderful clans out as we can!

A couple questions you might have:

When is the Cambridge Scottish Festival? The games day itself is held on **July 19th 2025** this year

Where are the games? You can find us at **200 Christopher Drive** which is Churchill Park in Cambridge ON

Does it cost anything to participate? Absolutely not! This is **totally free** for you to come set-up a table and/or tent and get your clan info out there

Where can I sign up? Feel free to submit an application on our website (takes about 30 secs):

<https://cambridgescottishfestival.ca/clan-application/>

If you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to reach out.

Hope to see you in July!

Brittany McDougall, CPA

Board Member, Treasurer, Secretary & All things festival

Cambridge Scottish Festival

# Sherwood Park Highland Gathering



## Sherwood Park Highland Gathering Honorary Clans 2025

For 2025 we are enhancing our clans program. This year we will now offer additional benefits for Clans and aim to enhance education and awareness.

If you have already registered – THANK YOU! We will be reaching in the coming weeks to see how we can help you promote your clan on social media and create a hype for Clans at the event!

If you have not yet registered, there is still time to register and gather your Clan for our event on July 19th and 20th – Please click here: [www.sphg.ca/vendor-applications](http://www.sphg.ca/vendor-applications)

### REMEMBER THERE IS NO FEE FOR CLAN TENTS!

#### Registered Clan:

- 10 x 10 complementary space in designated\* Clan Area
- 2 weekend passes
- Clan recognition on website
- Parade of the Clans during Opening ceremony
- Recognition of Clan Dignitaries during festival
- Meet & Greet with selected sponsors
- Space for your Clan Banner in Beer Garden Tent
- Join the “Clan Walks” twice daily

#### Honorary Clan:

All as above plus:

- Special media feature prior to the event
- Presented with Honored Clan title and “keepsake”

For those Clans who have a story to tell, or may be interested in a Celtic display/performance please let me know by email below. We are looking at setting up a platform in the designated Clan area this year, if we have sufficient interest from the Clans

For more information or queries please reach out to me directly: **Coleen Smith** ([Clans@SPHG.ca](mailto:Clans@SPHG.ca))

# Uxbridge Scottish Festival



JULY 26, 2025

AT THE

ELGIN PARK

UXBRIDGE, ONTARIO, CANADA

***Visit the website for updates and registrations***

**Website:** <https://UxbridgeScottishFest.ca/>

TARTAN, TUNES, AND TASTY TREATS: THE UXBRIDGE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL RETURNS JULY 26!

Get ready to don your kilts and crank up the bagpipes—the Uxbridge Scottish Festival is back and bolder than ever on Saturday, July 26 at Elgin Park! This annual celebration of all things Scottish transforms Elgin Park into a lively village filled with the sights, sounds, and flavors of Scotland. From the rousing skirl of the bagpipes to the lightning-fast footwork of highland dancers, it's a day packed with entertainment, heritage, and Highland fun for the whole family.

## **Live Music & Traditional Entertainment**

Enjoy performances from pipe bands and local musicians that will get your toes tapping and your heart racing!

## **Scottish Clans & Cultural Displays**

Connect with your Scottish roots—or just pretend you have some—by visiting the clan tents and learning about centuries of Scottish history and legend.

## **Vendors & Food Galore**

Satisfy your cravings with a wide variety of delicious food vendors, including traditional Scottish bites and festival favorites.

## **The Beer Garden**

Enjoy our very own Beer Garden, serving up beer, cider, and spirits from local craft breweries and distilleries. It's a perfect spot to cool off, raise a glass, and toast to the Highlands.

## **Activities for the Wee Ones**

Kids can enjoy fun, hands-on activities, games, and more—because it wouldn't be a family festival without something for the wee bairns!

## **Entry is by Donation**

We're proud to keep the festival accessible to all. Entry is by donation, with every dollar going toward making next year's festival even bigger and better.

**Clans and others : [Click here to register here by June 30th](#)**



# Montreal Highland Games



*Since 1855*

Montreal Highland Games

**Sunday, August 3, 2025**

Douglas Hospital grounds, Verdun, Quebec

**SCOTTISH ATHLETICS • PIPE BANDS • HIGHLAND DANCING • CELTIC MUSIC •  
MEDIEVAL COMBAT**

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

[clans@montrealhighlandgames.com](mailto:clans@montrealhighlandgames.com)

# Glengarry Highland Games



**August 1-2, 2025**

Home to the North American Pipe Band Championship and also featuring  
Heavyweights, Dancing, and Scottish Fiddles

34 Fair Street  
Maxville, ON  
K0C 1T0

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

519-787-0099  
613-527-2876

Contact : [secretary@glengarryhighlandgames.com](mailto:secretary@glengarryhighlandgames.com)

Maxville Fairgrounds  
Maxville, Ontario

Maxville is a short hour east of Ottawa just off Highway 417, thirty minutes north of the Canada/US border crossing at Cornwall, and a little over an hour northwest of Montreal. During the civic long weekend in August, it is said that all roads lead to Maxville.

# Glengarry Highland Games

## Calling all Clans! Register Today!

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

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

## Clans at the Glengarry Highland Games

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

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

## Take Part as a Society

Registration is not required to take part in Saturday's Clan Parade, however, parade participants should arrive on time to ensure they are recognized.

We're off to a later start than usual for our registration campaign this year, but we hope you are still just as excited to return to Maxville this coming August for our 76th edition. We would be honoured to have your clan joining us once again for this celebration of our heritage.

This year's edition of the Gathering of the Clans is taking place on Friday August 1st and Saturday August 2nd. We hope a great number of clans will answer the call of the pipes this year and join us to celebrate and cherish the warmth of our Scottish community.

To register for the 2025 Glengarry Highland Games, please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/yNoi34ZEuuFuyYQK7>

I look forward to seeing you again in our clan buildings and catching up. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reply to this email. If you will be unable to join us this year, we would appreciate you sending us a reply to let us know. If you will be transitioning clan responsibilities over to someone new, please pass this email along to them.

See you at the Games!

Mòran taing,

William Hinse-MacCulloch

Chair, Clans

Glengarry Highland Games

[clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com](mailto:clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com)



# Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

August 8-10, 2025



## Host a Clan Tent!

Applications open now

[LEARN MORE](#)

**Fàilte Air Ais! | Welcome Back!**

[Click here or the image above for Clan Tent information](#)

The Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games is an annual three-day event that celebrates local Scottish heritage and features world-renowned talent and entertainment in the beautiful town of Fergus, Ontario. This year's Festival features Heavy Events Competitions, Pipe Band Competitions, Highland Dancers, over 50 Clans & Heritage Village, Whisky Tasting, McKiddie's Centre, Celtic musicians and international vendors featuring Scottish wares and fares! ***We look forward to seeing you for the 80th edition August 8 -10, 2025!***

**Exciting Guests at the 80th**



Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland, Joseph Morrow



Outlander Star Charles Vandervort

**[Click here for schedule and tickets](#)**

# Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games



It's our birthday, so we're throwing a Scottish bash with the Bay City Rollers, Red Hot Chili Pipers and Albannach on **Saturday, August 9th!**

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.

# Sydney Mines Highland Games



*Sydney Mines Highland Games Cultural Club*

August 17, 2025

11am - 8pm

150 Pitt Street

Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia

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## FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL FOR ALL AGES

All Day Fiddling, Scottish Singing & Music

Military & Fire Department Displays

Free Hot dogs and pop courtesy of  
the Sydney Mines Fire Department

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Interested in helping sponsor this free festival?  
Contact retired Coal Miner Paddy Hall at 902-577-0450

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Facebook [Sydney-Mines-Highland-Games-Cultural-Society](#)

Contact : [smhgcsociety.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:smhgcsociety.secretary@gmail.com)



# Flagstaff Scottish Club - 7th Annual Gathering of the Clans



## Flagstaff Scottish Club

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Clans

August 23, 2025

Sedgewick, Alberta

It's a day full of highland activities, such as heavy events, highland dancing, festival entertainers, a kids zone, artisan and food vendors, and more.

The day concludes with a Cèilidh (dance) (pronounced kay-ley) headlined by Cabot's Crossing

To get an idea for what to expect, see last year's lineup of vendors and entertainers on our event website

[www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/gotchf-event](http://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/gotchf-event)

For more information on our organization and other events visit

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

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/flagstaffscottishclub](http://www.facebook.com/flagstaffscottishclub)

Instagram : [www.instagram.com/flagstaffscottishclub](http://www.instagram.com/flagstaffscottishclub)

### **CLAN REGISTRATION**

[Click here for information and registration](#)

# North Lanark Highland Games



<https://almontehighlandgames.com/>

Email: [info@almontehighlandgames.com](mailto:info@almontehighlandgames.com)

Celebrate the Scottish culture and heritage of the Ottawa Valley at the 40th Annual North Lanark Highland Games in Almonte, Ontario. The Games offer a traditional format and size attracting approximately 3,000 visitors. Twenty pipe bands, a hundred dancers and heavyweight champions come together to present what is recognized as one of the most important summer events in the Ottawa Valley. With the Mini-Highland Games and free admission for children 11 and under, and the scenic Mississippi River as a backdrop, the Almonte Games have a reputation for not only having the most beautiful venue, but also to be the most user-friendly Games on the Ontario circuit.

## Clans and Families

The 40th North Lanark Highland Games is happening on Saturday, August 23rd, 2025. Your presence at our games is greatly appreciated by all and adds to the Scottish Heritage we are celebrating.

If you are able to attend, please register using this [link](#) and we will look forward to seeing you this August.

Jason Bagshaw

Concessions Director

North Lanark Highland Games

Almonte Ontario Canada

# Canmore Highland Games



**Aug 30-31**

**2025**

## ***CENTENIAL PARK Canmore, Alberta, Canada***

It will be a full weekend of events again this year, with games, dancing, piping, and drumming happening Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, Aug. 31st.

Contact [canmorehighlandgames@telus.net](mailto:canmorehighlandgames@telus.net) for more details

<https://canmorehighlandgames.ca>

Here's about our event (click each for more details)

[Taste of the Highlands](#)

[British Car & Motorcycle Show](#)

[Heavy Highland Sports Contest](#)

[Highland Dance Competition](#)

[Piping & Drumming Competitions](#)

[Tug of War Contests](#)

[The Canmore Ceilidh](#)



# Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

The **Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games** is proud to announce the Ceilidh and Finalé bands for the 2025 Festival. On Saturday evening, September 13th the opening band, **Tuatha Dea**, from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, starts out the evening at 6:00. At 8:30 the headliner taking the stage is Canada's Queen and King of Celtic Performers – **Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy**. They will be joined by their very talented children.



Natalie, known for her virtuosic skill and charm, was inducted into the Order of Canada in 2006, won two Canadian JUNO Awards, nineteen East Coast Music Awards, and has released three Gold Albums. Donnell led the family band “Leahy” to Double-Platinum status, won three Canadian JUNO Awards, and was the subject of the Academy Award-winning documentary “The Leahys: Music Most of All.” Natalie and Donnell have passed their musical talent and dancing on to their children. While their focus is the fiddle, they also play a variety of musical instruments accompanied by the Cape Breton style of step dancing. Prior to the Festival the family will also be presenting three private workshops for music students at Lockport area schools.

Tuatha Dea tours and performs Nationally and Internationally and have been celebrated for their uniqueness and energy. Songs like “Appalachia Burning” and “Kilts and Corsets” drawn from personal experiences relate the depth and heart of the band’s creative spirit. Powerful hard-hitting tunes like “Wisp of a Thing”, “Morgan La Fey” and “Amy” reflect the groups Rock edge!

To finish the Festival on Sunday evening starting at 5:00, they will welcome another Canadian group, **The Mudmen**. Always entertaining and definitely unique, Mudmen are a blast of Celtic energy. The Mudmen have performed at festivals, theatres, events & clubs in eight different countries. Mudmen have guested and or opened for Glass Tiger, The Irish Rovers, The Chieftains, and of course Natalie MacMaster.

To see these three world class bands and many more performers on five music stages, visit the largest Celtic Gathering in New York State: the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival on September 13th and 14th 2025 at the Niagara County Fairgrounds. Enjoy authentic Highland Games, Pipe Bands, Clans, Dancers, Bonfires, History Groups, Animal presentations, Workshops, Artisans, Merchandise Vendors, the Taste of Celtic with 25+ food vendors, Adult Beverages, Pageantry and a special kid’s area.

To find out everything you need to know about this exciting and extensive celebration of Celtic Culture, and to purchase tickets before they are sold out, please visit [niagaraceltic.com](http://niagaraceltic.com)

MEDIA: Contact info Phil Banks 716.778.5730 / [phil@niagaraceltic.com](mailto:phil@niagaraceltic.com) / NCHS 6447 Phillips Rd. Burt, NY 14028 USA

# Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

## NIAGARA Celtic Heritage Festival



### **Calling all Clans and Societies!**

You are invited to participate in the 24th Annual Niagara Celtic Festival on September 13 & 14, 2025.

Please contact Robbin and Vince ([clans@niagaraceltic.com](mailto:clans@niagaraceltic.com)) for an invitation and 2025 contract form which will have to be completed, signed and returned no later than August 1, 2025.

#### General Information:

Each clan will receive \$50 per participation day.

Each clan will receive free entry for up to four participants.

Clan dinner will be held on Saturday evening.

Clan photo will be taken on Saturday morning, time TBD.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Thank you,

Robbin and Vince Zaleski  
[clans@niagaraceltic.com](mailto:clans@niagaraceltic.com)

LBA Highland Games

# LBA Highland Games

## Sunday September 21, 2025

**Gates open at 11:00 am – Free entrance for everyone!**

Ormstown Exhibition,  
1 Rue McBain,  
Ormstown, Quebec  
J0S 1K0

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

Contact Us: [manager@expoormstown.com](mailto:manager@expoormstown.com)

Provided by the Livestock Breeders Association of the District of Beauharnois Inc.

We are a not for profit organization, in existence since 1910. We are known for our major agricultural fair (Ormstown fair) and in recent years have started creating new events on our fairgrounds, like the first ever Highland games September 22, 2024. We are all volunteers, with one full time employee. Our events are aimed to give back to the community and to help support agriculture, local and education.

### HIGHLAND GAMES

- Open stone
- Light weight for distance
- Heavy weight for distance
- Light hammer
- Heavy hammer
- Weight over bar
- Caber toss x2

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Fiddle playing
- Highland dancing

### PIPE BANDS

- 78th Fraser Highlanders
- Elgin Pipe Band
- R.C.M.P.

### BONUS GAME OPTIONS

- Caber distance
- Keg toss
- Sheaf toss





# Clan Buchanan - GED Match, A DNA Tool for Genealogy



Clan Buchanan Society International (CBSI) shares their latest genealogical project using GEDmatch. University lecturer Kim Tuovinen notes that “One of the things that attracts a lot of people to engage with their Clan societies is the hope that they’ll be able to make more sense of their family trees.”

However, “yDNA, which is passed down the male line on the 23rd chromosome, only tracks paternal ancestry: it is unable to show relationships between descendants along mixed male-female lines. For that, autosomal DNA is required.”

In the April 2025 edition of the Buchanan Banner newsletter, Mr. Tuovinen provides the details of a new DNA project focusing on autosomal DNA through the online service GEDmatch. So far, CBSI has a total of 40 participating users who have uploaded a total of 71 test kits.

Mr. Tuovinen steps through the analysis of how a member of the project can use the free tools provided by GEDMatch by using the “Segment Analysis” tool to find relatives. Once you have taken these specific steps, “You will then be taken to a results page which shows ‘how close’ your matches are to you (cM) on all chromosomes; the starting and ending positions of any matching segments of DNA, the cM distance on each chromosome, together with how much overlap exists between those matching segments.

If you selected the sort option ‘Most Recent Common Ancestor’, the kits at the top of your search results should belong to the person whom GEDMatch estimates most recently shares a common ancestor with you.”

He admits that GEDMatch does represent a learning curve, but he believes that it’s one of the most accessible tools for drilling into autosomal.

Reprinted from the COSCA Update: May 2025. Learn more here: <https://www.cosca.scot/post/gedmatch>

Click [here](#) or the image below to learn more about GED Match







By: Adam Pringle,

Director, Ancestral Homes Network

The term ‘ancestral home’ can mean different things to different people, but generally it refers to the place where your grandparents or great-grandparents lived or where your family lived for generations. Here in Ireland, there are ruins of small houses scattered everywhere in the countryside where I live, and to be honest, most people pass little remarks of them unless they are linked to their family. Over the last few years, I started to look around and think... “Who lived there?” ...because at one stage they were all family homes like our homes today. I have found that many databases of houses exist, but they are usually for prominent families in an area and so-called ‘big houses’, and whilst this is all very important to record in detail too, we are missing a lot of the history from all the smaller homes that existed in every townland of the country! This is also true for many other countries, usually these histories of ‘ordinary’ people being passed down within families, usually through oral means, but really having no archive to call home.

Through genealogical research I came into contact with a remarkable man, originally from my area but now living in Canada, named Philip Donnelly, and thus I became involved in his new project, the free-to-use and not-for-profit Ancestral Homes Network ([www.ancestralhomes.net](http://www.ancestralhomes.net)), that allows anybody to record the history of any house anywhere around the globe. The network’s aim is to grow the website into what would eventually become an International Archive of Ancestral Homes, so that no matter who you are or where you are, you could search on the website, find your ancestral home and learn all about your roots. For this to happen, we need participation from everybody possible to record as many homes as possible and ce-

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(Continued from page 44)

ment your family's history in this archive for future generations to learn about and perhaps visit the place their family once called home.

I've been involved as a director since around the website's inception in late 2020, early 2021 and it is a project I have high hopes for, as I believe it could become a hugely important database in the future. Useful for anybody from professional researchers to everyday people just wanting to record their family's history, you can:

- Upload images of the house
- Show its location on an integrated world map
- Add lists of residents and biographies
- List architectural details of the house and other facts
- List key events that happened in the home, or dates of renovations
- Link census records for the house
- Ability to upload PDF documents to add more information and stories
- List source websites for your information

So, please, I encourage you, record your family and their ancestral homes today, I look forward to reading all about them!



## **WHERE YOUR HISTORY FINDS A HOME**

- Search for and record information about homes and the families that lived in them.
- A registered, not-for-profit, global database.
- Secure, free, and easy-to-use.
- A digital collection of photos, stories, census documents, and geographical information.
- Streamline ancestral research, linking together details from many sources in one place.

## **ADD A HOME TODAY!**

Any inquiries email:  
[info@ancestralhomes.net](mailto:info@ancestralhomes.net)



# Clan Bell North America

## Proposals and paraphrases on an original journalistic article.

Report submitted by Clan Bell North America Representative in the UK Peter J. Bell

Every story has a beginning. This one begins with a chance encounter at the Bibliotheca Bipontina.

Sir Knight Frater Robert A. Bels, of feudal nobility, Dr. h.c. of the Imperial Dynasty of Hohenstaufen und Derneck (2003), had come to the princely library to research his family history. Particularly the Scottish line.

Barbara Sittinger, from the RHEINPFALZ newspaper, spoke to the Flanders-born nobleman, who has lived in Zweibrücken since 2012. The knight's roots go back a long way.

A little taste of history: the seat of his lineage, the Seigneurs de Balliol (Bailleul), was only 90 km from that of the Seigneurs "van Boonen" - "de Boulognes", the town with which Zweibrücken is celebrating its 65th anniversary of twinning this year.

In addition to the family ties between these two great Flanders lineages, there are those of joint cavalades: during the Battle of Hastings (1066), led by William the Conqueror and under the banner of Count Eustace de Boulognes, and the first Crusade to the Holy Land (1099), under the banner of Godfrey de Bouillon, Duke of Lotharingia, son of Count Eustace de Boulognes.

The knight, Belgian by birth, comes from a large family of feudal nobility, some of whose surnames originated in the Flemish town of "Balliol" or "Belle", in the year 960. The surname "Balliol" became Bailleul following annexation by France in 1678, under the Treaty of Nijmegen.

Other surnames, such as "Bels", "Belle", "Bayles", etc., go back much further in time. They are different

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Barbara Sittinger, from the RHEINPFALZ newspaper, with Sir Knight Frater Robert A. Bels at the Bibliotheca Bipontina.



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forms of the archaic German genitive that formed the basis of the "Diets" language of yesteryear, today's Flemish.

"Our family spread throughout Europe from Flanders. Today, Bels can be found all over Europe.

Their surnames have been adopted and modified according to the language and spelling of the countries where they originated. They are mainly to be found in Flanders, France, Spain, England and Scotland," says the 78-year-old "young man".

Traces of the various lineages that make up the Dynasty abound in England and Scotland. In Scotland, members of his family were Regent of Scotland (Jean de Balliol), King of Scotland (Jean II Balliol) and King of Scotland (Edouard I Balliol), towards the end of the 13th century. This Balliol line took possession of their lands following the conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066.

Going back in time, one of his "Bels" ancestors can be found in a trial file dating back to 1014, where as a lawyer, he defended the Count of Barcelona, Guillaume de Montcada, in a legal dispute with the vicar of Olesa. Other ancestors are mentioned in 879, when the Count of Barcelona Wilfredo "el Velloso" married Winidilde de Flandres, daughter of the Count of Flanders, and in 843, when a "Bels" is mentioned as a signatory in the rare documents relating to the "Treaty of Verdun" or "Yutz".

Even localities in the Pyrenees bear variants of the family name. They date back to the times of Charlemagne and the "Reconquista" in the early 8th century. Traces of this lineage go even further back in time, since a handful of Flemish knights, including dynasts, are said to have ensured the safety of the Merovingian king Dagobert II, on his return from exile in England, and on his way to Rennes-le-Château, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, where he married the Visigoth princess Giselle du Razès in 718.

Bels" and other surname variants were also instrumental in the nascent Merovingian administrations (late 5th century), in their first capitals Thérouanne (40km from Balliol and Ypres) and Tournai (50 km). There, they served as administrative officials. To avoid stirring up controversy about the very great antiquity of his lineage, the knight prefers to add the term "multisecular cognationes" to his coat of arms, instead of dates.

The fact that the Chevalier is a perfect polyglot, having learned Latin, French, English, German, Russian, Dutch and, as a dilettante, the hieroglyphs of the Middle Kingdom, was a great help to his historical research.

"Researching the history of our lineage's patronymic variants, found in a multitude of works spread across a plethora of libraries, is very demanding, time-consuming and costly work", according to the Chevalier.

This ability in foreign languages has not only enabled him to discover the world of his ancestors but has also served him well in his professional career. From 1976 to 2002, he was attached to the NATO Headquarters at Ramstein Air Force Base. He has lived in Zweibrücken since 2011.

Le Chevalier Bels has always been interested in medieval history and ancient civilizations. Although he was not trained as a historian. But the story doesn't stop there. Our Chevalier is also a musician, painter, writer and philosopher. More discreetly, he is also Grand Master of the Ordo Balliolensis (OB).

Clan of the Bells







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

**Email :** [info@celticlife.com](mailto:info@celticlife.com)

**Facebook :** [CelticLifeInternational](#)

**Phone : 888-215-6850**

### **A Free Digital Subscription for Each Member**

We're thrilled to announce that Scots of Canada has arranged with Celtic Life to provide annually a complimentary 1 year digital subscription to each of our organizational members and household members. Over the next couple weeks, as the next edition of Celtic Life is issued, each of our organizational member delegates will receive an email from Celtic Life with instructions on how to sign up for the complimentary subscription.

If you are not sure of which name and delegate is on file for your organization, then do one of the following:

⇒ Provide update information for your organization using the online form at [www.scotscanada.ca/join](http://www.scotscanada.ca/join). We'll know you're already a member and update your information appropriately. Feel free to complete it online or use the print button, then fill and send it by email or post.

Or

⇒ Send an email to us at [subscriptions@scotscanada.ca](mailto:subscriptions@scotscanada.ca) with your updated information. We'll need the delegate's first and last name, their email and, optionally, their position and phone number.

Please let us know before May 8th of any changes to your official delegate and email address to use.

# Clan Davidson Society of North America

## Fun Facts from Scotland

### Davidson Day is Celebrated Each May 24

### Commemorating the Death of King David I

According to our Clan Davidson counterparts in New Zealand, May 24 is a special occasion. It's the day Davidson family members worldwide celebrate our heritage.

The date is from the year 1153, when King David I of Scotland died. He is said to have been buried at what is now Dunfermline Abbey on the east coast of Scotland.

You can read more about King David I online [here](#).

How do you celebrate Davidson Day? Let us know ... we'd love to share this tradition of family heritage.

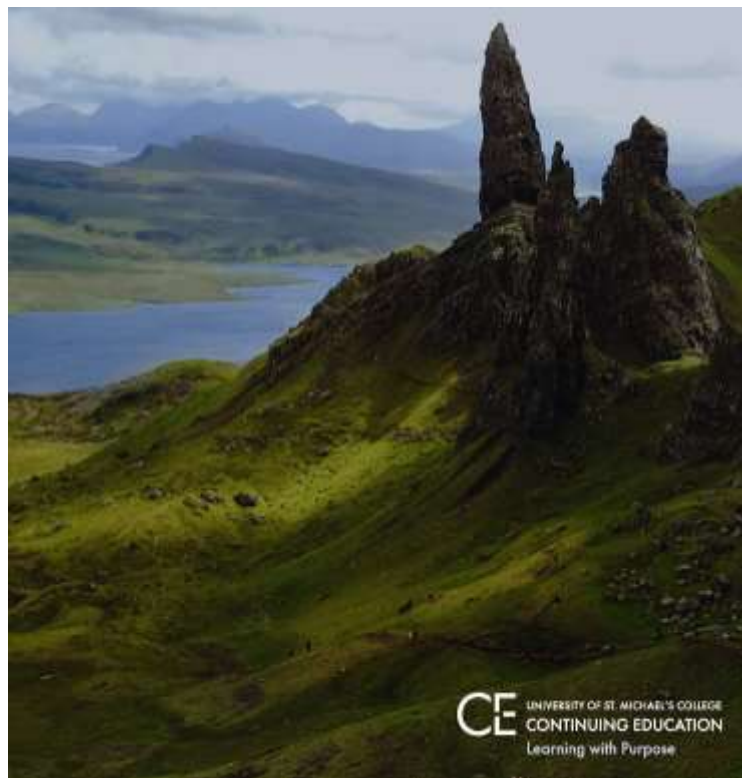


Detail from the charter of [Malcolm IV, King of Scotland](#) to [Kelso Abbey](#) showing an illustration of [David I, King of Scotland](#).



Map of David's principality of "the Cumbrians Chabacano, CC BY-SA 2.5 via Wikimedia Commons

# Community Course - Songs and Speech of Gaelic Scotland



## **SMCE4010 F25 Songs and Speech of**

### **Gaelic Scotland**

#### **An Exploration of Traditional Songs, Introduced Through the Gaelic Language**

- Delivery: In-person
- Duration: 6 weeks
- Day of the week: Tuesdays
- Dates: September 9th to October 14th, 2025
- Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Location: TBD (In-person on campus at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto)
- Cost: \$325 (includes HST)

#### **Course Overview**

This course will provide an introduction to speaking and singing in Gaelic, the Celtic language of Scotland. Students will learn pronunciation, basic vocabulary and useful phrases. Music is an effective tool for learning language. Each class will explore a different type of traditional song from Scotland's rich Gaelic heritage.

Students will encounter a range of songs and styles and understand the cultural context behind them. Musical styles will include mouth music, waulking and other work songs, children's and ceilidh songs, songs of love and loss, and traditional Gaelic psalm-singing.

#### **Method of Teaching**

Instruction will include a mix of lecture-style delivery of information on the history, sound patterns and musical genres in addition to opportunities for students to interact with each other to practice simple conversation exercises and participate in group singing. There will be in-class use of multimedia resources including audio and video recordings as well as printed text. While not required, self-directed study will be encouraged, with students practicing their singing and newly developed language skills or accessing on-line supports between sessions to reinforce learning. No prior knowledge of Gaelic or ability to read music are required.

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# Community Course - Songs and Speech of Gaelic Scotland

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## Learning Outcomes

- Learn pronunciation and basic conversational phrases in Scottish Gaelic
- Explore several styles of traditional Gaelic music
- Learn and sing Gaelic songs in a supportive, communal setting
- Gain a deeper awareness of the interconnection between language and song

## About the Instructor

David Livingston-Lowe is an alumnus of the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto and a graduate of the Celtic Studies Program. David has a broad interest in the Celtic languages and has been teaching Gaelic for over thirty years. He studied Scottish Heritage at the University of the Highlands and Islands, Gaelic in the Isle of Skye and the Gaelic College in Cape Breton, as well as Irish in Donegal and Connemara. He has worked as a translator and language consultant in addition to teaching Gaelic and Scots language and literature at St. Mike's.



Website: Continuing Education Programs and Courses - University of St. Michael's College

Registration: [SMCE4010 F25 Songs and Speech of Gaelic Scotland - University of St. Michael's College](#)

## From Ancestry to Archives: How Libraries Are Revolutionizing Family Tree Research

by Sydney Smith

Libraries are informational hubs for the communities they serve. Whether they are situated in a low-population town, within a college campus, or in the middle of a bustling cityscape, libraries strive to provide resources to citizens of all walks of life.

One of the most popular services offered through libraries is assistance with genealogical research. Public libraries, academic libraries, and special collection libraries often have a local or community history collection – sometimes even an entire department or wing – dedicated to preserving and sharing historical documents, photographs, videos, slides, newspapers, and more for the public to search on their quests to complete family tree research - [Click here to read the full article](#)

Editor's Note : Our thanks to Kathy Glover, an online educator and community outreach volunteer, for bringing this resource to our attention and her compliments on our website resource page.



# Guarding Trust: AI, Privacy & Data Sovereignty in Uncertain Times



Integrated Practice, Proactive Advice

## **Crossing Borders, Guarding Trust: AI, Data Sovereignty, and Donor Privacy in Uncertain Times**

By Cameron A. Axford and Martin U. Wissmath

As Canadian charities and not-for-profits (NFPs) increasingly adopt AI and cloud-based technologies, a critical question emerges: where is our data located, and who controls it? Recent shifts in U.S. political dynamics, especially under the second presidency of Donald Trump, have reignited concerns about civil society surveillance, politicization of data access, and cross-border data transfers. For organizations that steward sensitive donor, volunteer, and program participant information, these developments demand a sober re-examination of compliance, sovereignty, and trust.

Data sovereignty refers to the principle that data is subject to the laws and governance structures of the country in which it is collected or stored. In Canada, this is primarily shaped by the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), which regulates private-sector data use, as well as provincial statutes like Quebec's Law 25 (formerly Bill 64), Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA), and British Columbia's Personal Information Protection Act (BC PIPA).

These laws require transparency, consent, and accountability in handling personal information, but also allow for international data transfers, provided adequate protections are in place. However, what is "adequate" becomes murkier when foreign governments may assert jurisdictional claims over cloud-stored or algorithmically processed data, particularly under extraterritorial legislation like the U.S. Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act ("CLOUD Act").

Canada's reliance on U.S.-based cloud providers means that much of the country's data is hosted across the border or subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Under the CLOUD Act, U.S. authorities may compel disclosure of data from American companies – even if the data is physically stored in Canada – raising legitimate worries about state surveillance, especially of organizations engaged in advocacy, immigration, or human rights work.

It is becoming increasingly critical to consider what AI-enabled surveillance could mean for donor anonymity, freedom of association, and protection from political profiling. With AI models trained on massive datasets, including those harvested through partnerships with U.S. platforms, there is a risk of inadvertent exposure of personal data, even when explicit identifiers are removed. To address this risk, organizations should have a comprehensive AI policy, as discussed in the October 2024 Charity & NFP Law AI Update.

The Canadian federal government has recognized the urgency of establishing "AI sovereignty" through its Canadian Sovereign AI Compute Strategy and related Sovereign Compute Infrastructure Program. These initiatives aim to invest in domestic AI infrastructure that aligns with Canadian values, privacy protections, and democratic accountability. These programs underscore the growing philosophical shift in Canada from "data privacy" to "data sovereignty" – a recognition that control, not just protection, is at the heart of ethical data governance.

For Canadian organizations navigating this new landscape, several steps can help ensure data remains sovereign and privacy-compliant:

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# Guarding Trust: AI, Privacy & Data Sovereignty in Uncertain Times

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## **Review Cross-Border Data Flows**

Conduct a data mapping exercise to identify where donor and constituent data is stored and processed.

Work with IT providers to ensure that data residency options (e.g., Canadian-based data centres) are enabled and documented.

## **Scrutinize AI Vendors and Tools**

Examine whether any AI-based fundraising, outreach, or analytics tools use U.S. or third- country infrastructure.

Seek out Canadian or open-source alternatives when possible, or demand contractual guarantees regarding data localization and non-use for secondary purposes, though the latter option may still lead to the possibility of the data being accessed by the U.S. government via the CLOUD Act, if the vendor is an American based company.

## **Update Privacy Policies and Contracts**

Revise consent language to reflect transparency about AI use and potential international transfers.

Review vendor agreements to ensure compliance with PIPEDA or provincial law. Implement Role-Based Access and Encryption

Limit access to sensitive donor or beneficiary data to personnel with a direct need to know.

Encrypt data in transit and at rest, especially where data is stored on servers outside of Canada.

## **Train Staff on AI Risks**

Provide regular training on ethical AI usage and privacy compliance.

Emphasize the heightened risks of using free or opaque tools that may scrape or profile donor behavior.

In this time of geopolitical volatility and rapid technological evolution, data governance is no longer just a back-office function, but a board-level issue that intersects with mission integrity, public trust, and compliance. Canadian charities and NFPs must affirm their role not only as stewards of donations but as guardians of privacy.

By making sovereignty-conscious choices about where and how data is stored and analyzed, organizations can protect their communities, maintain donor confidence, and stand firm in the values that underpin the sector.

*Reprinted with permission : Carters - Charity & NFP Law Update April 2025*

## **Complimentary Carters 2025 Spring Webinars**

**Copyrights and Trademarks in a Virtual Universe: What Charities and NFPs Need to Know**

**Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

[Click to Get More Information and to Register](#)

**Key Legal and Operational Issues for Donor Advised Funds**

**Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

[Click to Get More Information and to Register](#)

# Clan Fraser Society of North America



## Call for a Chairman, Clan Fraser Society of North America

Hello Fellow Fraser's;

We hope that your winter passed quickly and that you're prepared for another season of highland games and the sharing of our rich Scottish heritage. My wife and I have been involved as a convener and commissioner in the Clan Fraser Society for the last 11 years. Our retiring chairman, Paul Clark needs to be replaced and to date we have no one willing to accept the 2-year appointment.

To continue and serve our clan and its membership, we must fill this vacant position asap. We realize that everyone's free time is limited and respect the many obligations we have in life. However, the only thing that counts in life at the end is what we pass from our generation to our children, grandchildren and relatives regarding our family and its history. We owe our future generations the obligation of passing our heritage onto them to share and cherish our past. Afterall, the Gaelic word clan has a meaning of a group of people tracing descent from a common ancestor. What better commitment can we have, to future generations, then the guarantee that chain of history remains unbroken.

PLEASE GIVE THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION TO FILL THE 2 YEAR POSITION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CLAN FRASER SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA.

I would be happy to provide a copy of our bylaws indicating what that positions requirement and obligations are. Thank you for your continued support of our society,

Laurilyn & Charlie Frasier

# Where did you GlasGOW? - Glasgow 850

## Where Did You GlasGOW? Be part of Glasgow's 850th celebrations



This year, Glasgow City Council is celebrating its 850th birthday, and you can join the party!

The Where did you GlasGOW? campaign is creating a special living remembrance book to commemorate Glaswegians who have taken the city's spirit around the world. The book will feature names, memories, and images that tell the story of those who may have left Glasgow but still consider it 'hame.'

If you would like to appear in the book and be part of history, [submit](#) your story or nominate someone [here](#)

Alongside this campaign, a year long programme of events is taking place, including [Taste the Place](#), a scheme providing the chance for locals and visitors to learn more about the history of Glasgow's hospitality scene by eating their way around the city, Clyde Chorus, a three-day music extravaganza in May, and People's Palace pop-up exhibition running June to November. Discover more at [www.glasgow850.com](http://www.glasgow850.com).

Let's celebrate the people who have made Glasgow great!



# Kennedy Society of North America



**By David Carrick,**

Spring is here and it's time for Kennedy tents at games! Our first game this year wasn't until April 12-13 at Loch Norman. While some rain was experienced on Friday night, Saturday and Sunday were sunny/partly sunny - but cool! In attendance were Society Chief Sean Carrick, Deputy Chief Samantha Dodson, and Karen Kennedy and Amy and Dave Carrick.

In May, the Kennedy presence will pick up with SavannahGA, Smoky Mountain TN, and Greenville SC, while being at Old Orchard Beach ME, Hiawassee GA, and Beverly WVA in June. The current list of games that will have a Kennedy tent is:

- ◇ May 3 : Savannah GA : David and Irene Phelps
- ◇ May 17-18 : Smoky Mountain TN : Rob and Karen Kennedy, Dave Carrick
- ◇ May 23-24 : Greenville SC (Gallabree) : Dave and Amy Carrick
- ◇ June 7 : Old Orchard Beach : Leo Kennedy
- ◇ June 7-8 : Georgia Mountain : David and Irene Phelps
- ◇ June 21 : West Virginia Wild and Wonderful Celtic : Colleen and Dan Caldwell
- ◇ July 10-13 : Grandfather Mountain NC : Samantha Dodson, Rick and Kim Hageman
- ◇ July 19 : Minnesota Scottish Fair : Allison Lares
- ◇ August 1-2 : Glengarry ON : Janet Kennedy
- ◇ August 8-10 : Fergus ON : Lydia Kennedy et al
- ◇ September 6-7 : Middle Tennessee : Bill and Melissa Kennedy (AGM)
- ◇ September 19-21 : Loon Mountain : Nina Eppes et al
- ◇ September : Ligonier : Colleen and Dan Caldwell
- ◇ October 12 : Brooklyn CT : Leo Kennedy
- ◇ October 17-19 : Stone Mountain : Dave and Amy Carrick

Others may be added, so check out the website.

Speaking of the website, it is currently being upgraded to improve its functionality and navigation. Hopefully, this will be a smooth process!

On a sad note, there have been some Flowers of the Forest recently:

Gerald Carrick, father of Society Chief Sean Carrick

Marlene Kennedy, mother of past Chief Leo Kennedy

Edward Kennedy, Rocky Mountain Chieftain

Our condolences to those who lost loved ones.

The Kennedy Society AGM will be held September at the Middle Tennessee games. Ballots and info were

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# Kennedy Society of North America

*(Continued from page 56)*

emailed a few weeks ago to all current members, along with hotel and banquet information - so please make plans to vote and attend. The current slate for one year terms is:

- Sean Carrick, Ft. Mill SC, Society Chief/President
- Samantha Dodson, Hendersonville NC, Deputy Chief/Vice-President
- Rick Hageman, Spruce Pine NC, Treasurer
- Nine Eppes, Nashua NH, Secretary

Other nominations can be made to Dave Carrick [david\\_carrick55@yahoo.com](mailto:david_carrick55@yahoo.com) or in person at the AGM.

The Kennedy Society hopes to hear from you as well as to see you!



*Left : Sean Carrick*

*Below : Dave Carrick, Amy Carrick, Karen Kennedy, Sean Carrick*



# Charles Bruce (Lord Bruce) - Patron : Scots of Canada



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

Charles Bruce (Lord Bruce) is Convenor (elect) of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. He is heir to Andrew Bruce, 11th Earl of Elgin & 15th Earl of Kincardine KT, 37th Chief of the Name of Bruce. He is active in conserving Scottish heritage at home and overseas and connecting with Scottish cultural organisations in North America.

He has served as Chairman of the Patrons of the National Galleries of Scotland, and as a trustee of the Historic Scotland Foundation. He was awarded the Paolozzi Medal by the National Galleries of Scotland for fundraising (2012) and he received the Wallace Award from the American Scottish Foundation (2022).

He chairs the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust which is conserving a Scottish Cemetery in India.

He is a Member of the King's Bodyguard for Scot-

land, the Royal Company of Archers; he serves as a Deputy Lieutenant for the Kingdom of Fife and as Hon. Major, 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins), Canadian Forces.

He is President, Dunfermline United Burns Club and an honorary Keeper, the Keepers of the Quaich. He has acted as Chieftain of both the Fergus Highland Games and the Kincardine Highland Games.

He was educated at Eton College, the University of St Andrews (MA Hons) and the University of Dundee (MSc).

### The Purpose of a Patron

The purpose of a patron for a Scottish Heritage Society is to enhance its credibility, influence, and cultural impact. A high-profile patron—such as a clan chief, noble, celebrity, or historian—lends prestige and attracts support. They help with fundraising, networking, and advocacy, using their connections to secure sponsors, donors, and media attention. Patrons also promote Scottish heritage by endorsing events (e.g., Highland games, Burns suppers) and raising awareness of traditions, language, and history. Their ceremonial role—attending functions, presenting awards, and inspiring members—strengthens community engagement. Ultimately, a patron serves as a symbolic leader, uniting members while advancing the society's mission of preserving and celebrating Scottish culture.



# MacFie Clan Society in Canada



***By Gary MacPhie***

The MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacAfee, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie families (and other cognates), which comprise this wonderful Clan, are actively seeking nominations for a Clan Commander.

However, before a suitable candidate may be nominated and presented to the Lord Lyon, they must first agree on a name because we currently do not have a recognised Clan name.

In 1968 Dr. Earle MacPhee from Vancouver initiated a world-wide movement to have our Clan recognized once again, and finally in 1981 his efforts were highly successful with Clan

Macfie being formally recognized by the Lord Lyon. Clan MacDuffee and Macfie/McPhee Societies are all over the world.

However, when our previous Clan Commander stepped down due to poor health in 2021, and with his absence since that time, the Lord Lyon has not found sufficient information on the naming of our Clan from the 1981 submitted information.

The Clan Presidents of all MacDuffee/Macfie/McPhee Societies around the world (Canada, USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Sweden) formed a Council of Presidents committee to address this issue.

We are now inviting all MacDuffee's/Macfie's/McPhee's/McAfee's and associated names to our main webpage to review all the Documents and submit a preference for a name. The Gaelic name (Dubhsith) is an option that is very popular.

Please visit <https://www.clannameandcommandersearch.com/>

For more information, feel free to [email](#)

Regards

Gary MacPhie



# Clan MacKinnon Society

The Clan MacKinnon Society recently became a member of the Clans and Scottish Societies Canada. On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to extend my sincere thanks to the CASSOC entity for allowing us to join your organization. Clan MacKinnon is headquartered in the U.S.A. and is the only officially recognized active branch of Clan MacKinnon. We were given permission to establish the Clan MacKinnon Society (North America) by our 38th Chief Neil MacKinnon of MacKinnon in 1980.



The mission statement of the Clan MacKinnon Society is to engage and support our members in promoting the history, culture and legacy of Clan MacKinnon and its connection to Celtic history and traditions.

We currently have members /commissioners in 13 countries 39 states (U.S.) and 6 provinces (Canada)

I would like to share with you an update on the activities/ projects that have been undertaken since the Society was established in 1980.

1. The Society had a legitimate set of by-laws voted on by the membership.
2. We have been granted a 501-c-3 non-profit legal entity status for legal and charitable purpose.
3. Our elected Board of directors hosts regularly scheduled zoom meeting on a monthly basis.
4. There is a Grant program to provide financial assistance for members and their families.
5. A commissioner manual is provided to commissioners to give them direction and definition of their role in the service of the Society.
6. A viable website with links to Facebook and other forms of social media are monitored by administrators.
7. We offer Pay Pal as an easy method of payment for membership on line through our website.
8. The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter, the Shankbone, exclusively for the members of the Society.
9. We recently established a philanthropic fund and information is provided on our website.
10. The Clan MacKinnon Society has initiated the planning process to develop a Clan MacKinnon Museum and Family Heritage Center on the Isle of Skye. There are signs of support for the project among members of the Isle of Skye community.

The mission of the Clan MacKinnon Museum and Heritage Center is to tell the story of Clan MacKinnon from both the historic and legendary roots to the present day and to act as an archive for historic documents and objects related to Clan MacKinnon history. Pictured below is the Clan MacKinnon Society Gathering in 2024 in Edinburgh, Scotland. There were 6 Countries represented at our event.

Please go to our website at [www.themackinnon.com](http://www.themackinnon.com) where you will discover much more about our Society.

Respectfully submitted,

John MacKinnon – Delegate / Chairman Emeritus Clan MacKinnon Society



# William Glen and Son Canada



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# 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.

## Greetings Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada,

Clan MacLennan Canada is looking forward to another season of successful Highland Games and reconnecting with our fellow Clans with camaraderie and friendship.

The Highland Games we are registering for are Cambridge Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Embro Highland Games, Glengarry Highland Games and The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games and one in British Columbia.

We are excited to hear that Clan MacLennan will be taking part in the inaugural Edinburgh Tartan Parade on Saturday, May 10th. I'm sure they would welcome any Canadian MacLennan Clan members who could join them.

The Embro Highland Games have a rich history rooted in the Scottish heritage of the area. The Zorra Caledonian Society, formed in 1937, revived the Games that year, making them the oldest Highland Games event in Ontario. These Games celebrate Scottish traditions, including athletic competitions, Highland dancing and music. On July 1st the Embro Games will celebrate their 86th anniversary.

*(Continued on page 63)*



Fergus 2024 : Andy McLennan and Willienn holding banner with  
Melanie McLennan and Barbara MacLennan

*(Continued from page 62)*

Cambridge Scottish Festival and Highland Games will be on July 18 and 19, celebrating their 66th year. They have a Friday night concert with talented bands bringing traditional and contemporary music from 7:00 – 11:00 P.M. at Churchill Park, 200 Christopher Dr., Cambridge. This is the same location for the Saturday Games.

The Glengarry Highland Games are celebrating their 75th edition this year on Aug 2nd - Aug 3rd in Maxville, Ontario. The first Glengarry Highland Games were created in 1948 by a small group of local businessmen who wanted to ensure that the Scottish traditions would not be lost by the younger generations.

The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games are celebrating their 80th edition this year on August 8 th to 10th. The featured guest will be, returning, Charles Vandervart who plays William Ransom in the hit TV series Outlander.

The Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games is an annual three-day event that celebrates local Scottish heritage and features world-renowned talent and entertainment in the beautiful town of Fergus, Ontario. This year's Festival features Heavy Events Competitions, Pipe Band Competitions, Highland Dancers, over 50 Clans & Heritage Village, Whisky Tasting, McKiddie's Centre, Celtic musicians and international vendors featuring Scottish wares and fares! The Friday night Tattoo has special entertainment and a gathering of the Clans for the "Light'n of the Hearth"

Clan MacLennan Canada wishes the various Highland Games and our fellow Clans an enjoyable and successful 2025!

Slainte!

**Barbara MacLennan**  
**VP Clan MacLennan Canada**



Marilyn MacLennan Lawlor and Beverly MacLennan holding their certificates for having attended the first Glengarry Highland Games



# Clan Munro Association of Canada



## ***Dear Cousins and Fellow Canadians!***

I haven't felt this patriotic in years. I've never stopped, for an instant, being Canadian, first and foremost, in all the years I've lived abroad. But these past few weeks have made me feel so proud of my Canadian heritage and made me realise how lucky I am to come from such a distinctive, tolerant, inclusive and free society.

The idea that another country's administration would want to 'absorb' us, is abhorrent and made this normally very laid-back senior become rowdy and bellicose. I've even thought about getting back into shape (since high school!) so that I'm less a liability when I need to join the militia!

The world is changing around us. Societies are becoming more tribal, and this has led to more right-wing elements in government. Clans are not that far removed from tribes, but when differences are used to distinguish 'us' from 'them', rather than way to celebrate cultural uniqueness, the potential for conflict increases.

Long may we have the tolerance to engage in rational diplomacy before dropping tools and taking up arms, whether they are metaphorical or made of steel.

I think our new Prime Minister's first whistle stop tour was highly astute, featuring visits to the capitals of our three foremost founding traditions, while foregoing a forelock tugging performance in Washington. Yay Team! Long may this quiet, dignified response to the madness emanating from the White House continue.

It has been interesting and heartwarming to watch King Charles make subtle gestures to support Canada, in this unsettled time. Duty bound to be apolitical, he has still been able to conspicuously plant a 'red maple tree' (*Acer rubrum*) at Buckingham Palace

this past week and wear his Canadian medals when he made an inspection of the aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales. King Charles has also made a commitment to visit Canada soon, as a journey planned for last year had to be postponed due to his cancer diagnosis.

Many of my British friends have made a point of strongly coming out in support of Canada in its trade war with the USA. They've asked for Canada pins and thanks to my time at Canda House, I have a supply which I am doling out, in what I hope is an adroit manner.

Thankfully, it's turning spring-like and it's about time. I find the lengthier days are even more welcome than the higher temperatures. It's great waking up at 6am to bird call and there being glimmers of light outside. How lucky we are to be living in safe places!

On this upbeat note, I will bring my letter to a close. May I wish you all good health for the good weather ahead.

Yours Aye,

***John W. Munro, President***

## **Bulletin Board Query:**

My mom and I have traced a lot of our Munro history and I am now living in my great grandfather's home that he built in 1906. He was one of 9 siblings. I have found all but his brother Hector, who was born 1851 in Kempton, Nova Scotia, to Donald Munro and Janet Urquhart. Records here say he died in 1869 but I have a picture of him taken in late 1800's at Elliott's art gallery on Alpine in Georgetown, Colorado. I have tried different places out there but no luck and no trace. His sister Jessie followed him but she ended up in California. Would anyone have an idea where to search to find Hector?

Thank you, Faith Slayter,  
[fslayter@hotmail.com](mailto:fslayter@hotmail.com)

## Outer Hebrides Emigration Conference Saoghal Mòr Farsaing' 30 Sept-2 Oct 2025



Booking is now open for in-person and virtual delegates

Full Programme: <https://www.outerhebridesheritage.org.uk/discover/saoghal-mor-farsaing-emigration-conference/>

In brief, Days 1 and 2 will be presentations, interspersed with Q & A sessions, and will take place at Lews Castle. Day 3 will be Tours (of which there will be 3 options). Online attendance is possible for Days 1 & 2, but Day 3 is only open to in-person delegates. Please note that if you are not booking for the full conference you will need to book each day separately.

Alternatively, this QR code takes you directly to the booking system:

This event is being organised by Museum & Tasglann nan Eilean, part of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Heritage and Culture Team, and will consider the theme of Outer Hebrides emigration from a range of perspectives. The conference will consist of a mix of in-person and online speakers.

The conference programme offers a wide and varied consideration of emigration – a subject so significant to the history of the islands. The first two days of the conference will feature a series of academic speakers from Scotland, Canada and the USA. Subjects covered will include chain migration, state directed colonisation, forced child migration, ancestral tourism and the artistic portrayal of emigration.

Some presentations will be through the medium of Gaelic with simultaneous translation for in-person delegates. This will include 'Gaelic language and culture in Nova Scotia: a'coimhead air n-ais, is a' coimhead air adhart' and 'S e Crìoch Gach Comunn Dealachadh: Contextualising the experiences of the emigrant Gael through their poetry and song'.

Other subjects discussed will be the living traditions carried through language, culture and music, today's understanding of the effect of migration on human psychology and relationships with the Peoples whose lands were settled.

The keynote address will be delivered by University of Aberdeen Professor Marjory Harper who is also a renowned author of several books on the subject of Scottish diaspora and emigration.

We are delighted that three academics from the University of Alberta, whose research is focused on the fur trade, have received funding to attend the conference in person. We look forward to welcoming them to the Outer Hebrides and exchanging ideas and research.

The cost for those attending in person will be £60 (including VAT) for the Full Conference, or a daily rate of £24 per day (including VAT). This includes tea/ coffee/ lunch and an Evening Reception on Day 1. There is an option for online attendance at a reduced cost.

As well as the conference, we are also having an Emigration Exhibition at each of our museums this year as part of Hebridean Homecoming 2023-25. We hope that both the Conference and the Exhibitions will be of interest to you and the members of your society/ organisation.

Please help us to spread the word by sharing this information with your members.

Thank you / Tapadh leibh

# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association



Tartan Day in New Brunswick was first celebrated on April 6th ,1993 by the Government of New Brunswick Proclamation . Since then, it has been recognized by member associations with special events in several communities . The Provincial raising of the Saltire took place at the New Brunswick Legislature with the Hon . Cindy Miles representing the Province and Mel Fitton ,President of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ( NBSCA ) .This was followed by a Tartan Day Gala at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery organized by the Fredericton Society of St. Andrews as part of their 200-year anniversary .

The NBSCA will be participating in the following events :



Flag Day in Dumfries New Brunswick

Anglophone School District West Heritage Fair , Fredericton ,May 7th .Approximately 60 students will present cultural and heritage projects with awards given to exceptional ones in several categories including one sponsored by the NBSCA for a project with a Scottish theme .

Gathering of the Scots ,Perth-Andover , June 6th-9th , Medieval Jousting returns to the games which always draws a big crowd along with traditional Scottish events .

Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival , Moncton , June 10th-14th hosted by the Greater Moncton Scottish Association which will be hosting the CSAF 2025 Women's open and women's Masters Championships .All events at this year's games are free .

New Brunswick Highland Games Festival ,Fredericton , July 25th-27th held in the grounds of Government House .The NBSCA will be hosting the Haggis Café and Scottish Bake Shop our main fundraiser with our famous Haggis ,Scotch eggs , fresh scones and shortbreads , just to name a few of the tasty goodies .

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# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association

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Miramichi Scottish Festival ,Miramichi , August 15-17 starts with a Banquet with special awards followed by a full day of activities at Wilson's Point Historical Site , a Church service and a trip to MacDonald Farm with displays ,entertainment and a barbecue .

NBSCA , Annual General Meeting , Fredericton , October 4th . This year the meeting will be hosted by the Fredericton Society of St .Andrews .

Fredericton North Heritage Fair , Fredericton , October 18th . Displays by several non-profit organizations including the NBSCA , Irish , and Welsh Associations .

At each of these events the NBSCA hosts an information display on Scottish Heritage and Culture in New Brunswick and promotes membership in our member associations as well as our association .

Images (clockwise from top-right) : The Raising of the Saltire at the Provincial Legislature, The pipers and dancers at the Tartan Day Gala







February, March and April digital editions are now available.

Click an image to view.



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



# THE HECTOR'S BIG SPLASH



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33 Caladh Ave., Pictou, Nova Scotia

RSVP to Rebecca

rebecca@shiphector.ca 902-928-8924



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Canada's capital will play host to an epic showdown on the pitch this summer, with Canada's Women's Rugby Team playing the United States in Ottawa on August 1. Purchase [tickets](#).



[Tickets](#) for the upcoming summer test matches in Edmonton that will see Canada's Men's Rugby Team take on Belgium on July 12 and Spain on July 18

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*(Continued on page 73)*



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# SCOTLANDSHOP

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*(Continued from page 72)*

of heritage with you wherever you go, or choose from over 500 tartans. We're enjoying the bold colored tartans as we transition into sunnier weather!

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Ross McNaughton

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## 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.

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# Clan Designer

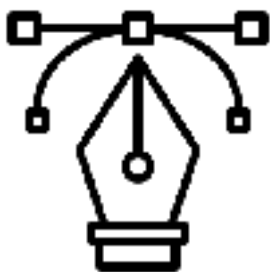
## Unleash Your Scottish Pride

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.

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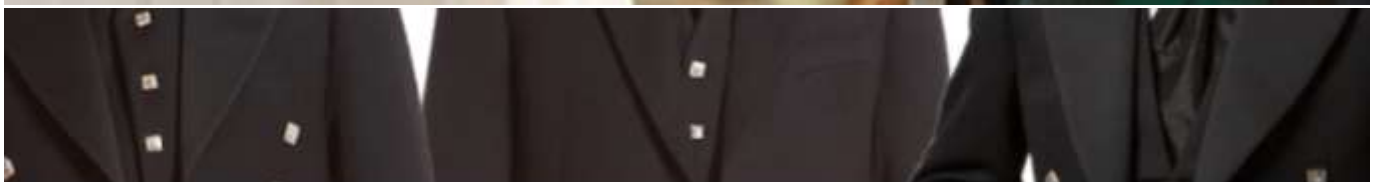
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*The following are affiliated with our membership and available for bookings.*

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

## 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 **Scots of Canada** as an organization. **Scots of Canada** 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 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 respect for the laws and standards of heraldry in Canada and internationally.

# About Scots of Canada

## **Founded in 1976 as Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, our 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;

There are two types of membership now available in Scots of Canada.

Organization memberships are 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.

All of the original memberships in Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada have now been converted to the equivalent Organization Membership class.

Household Memberships are open to any household with a postal address where one or more residents of the household identify with a Scottish Heritage by birth, descent or inclination. Over the next couple of weeks a new site [scotsofcanada.ca](http://scotsofcanada.ca) will be launched to provide registration, services and benefits to this new membership class. Services and benefits will be extended to existing organization members over the next few months.

## **Patrons:**

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

**Meetings 2025:** Fall Annual General Assembly, November 25.

## **Websites and Emails:**

We are now in the process of transition for our web and mail services from earlier domains of [cassoc.ca](http://cassoc.ca) and [scotscanada.ca](http://scotscanada.ca) to a new domain of [ScotsOfCanada.ca](http://ScotsOfCanada.ca). During this time we will be using all three domains for email with automatic readdressing or forwarding depending on where we are in the migration of services and email accounts

Equivalent email addresses are in place for each domain name. Your patience is much appreciated.



## An Drochaid - The Bridge

This Spring 2025 editions features as its cover Tynninghame Bridge is a historic structure located in East Lothian, Scotland, spanning the River Tyne near the village of Tynninghame. The current bridge was constructed in 1931, replacing an earlier, narrower bridge from 1800. The original bridge at this site was built in 1778 by Andrew Meikle, a notable millwright from East Linton, renowned for inventing the mechanical threshing machine!

Image Date: 17 05 2010 Copyright Richard West, licensed for reuse Creative Commons Licence

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.

Any organization member of Scots of Canada may submit an article or ad at no cost. 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. Scots of Canada assumes 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.



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