



# *An Drochaid - The Bridge*

## *Comhla ri Cheile ~ Together with Accord*

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# Frae the Chair

This has been one of most difficult newsletters to assemble. Not for reasons that have provided challenges with earlier editions such as lack of content or quality in content. The challenges for this edition have come from the quantity of information I've been collating on difficult issues.

One of the sources of information in this mix is the book by Magnus Magnusson 'Scotland, The Story of a Nation'. A good thorough read though it tended to keep to the level of what was going in governance. Whether internal politics or the externals of royalty and conflicts. One gets hints about the deeper cultural forces at work but leaves us to sort out ourselves what these may be.

Combined with some events we're seeing around us such as the renaming of Dundas Square, it welled up in my mind from this aspect of the book at that in varying degrees we err when we judge others based upon our own experiences, our upbringing and even on our immediate reality. Such reality being so shaped by our current state of mind. And herein lies a huge challenge for us to properly understand our own history and that of others.

For us of Scottish heritage this compromises the view of what is seen in our past of tragedies, travesties and what we today see as just plain inhumane and immoral. This is not meant to be an apology for the witch burning, clearances, slavery, brutal executions and, frankly, what we today consider genocide.

We must remind ourselves that different people perceive the world differently. They notice different things. They value different things. They live in their own reality, and we live in ours. Those different people are not just in another land, another culture, another religion, another political regime but are also our own ancestors. They are people of a different mind. Our cover 'bridge' involved militant Presbyterian Covenanters, our ancestors of a 'Different Mind'.

In this edition are articles which have aspects that are associated with this and I've deliberately, as editor, placed them to the fore of the publication. The article on Clan Creep from Clan MacThomas and Clan MacTavish, in their perspectives, highlights the result of a 'different mind' people 'inventing' a Clan Thompson.

What follows is an excerpt from a Guidance by the Lord Lyon which provides a background about the origins of clans and families then makes the point that a clan or family organization is only in support of a clan or family. I looked for a formal list of clans and families on the Lord Lyon website but to no avail. If someone knows where this is then let me know because I'm otherwise assuming that there's reasons for our King of Arms to avoid this yucky topic.

The next article is on the Heirs project in which the COSCA working group states that part of their agenda concerns the protection and preservation of authentic Scottish cultural traditions and the exposure of fakery in



*William Petrie with Marcie Cardinal of our newest member: Georgetown Highland Games*

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

its various forms, including fake “titles,” pseudo-Scottish arms, new “clans” and the proliferation of so-called septs.

These issues of authenticity bring a challenge to Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada in that this is not an area where we have good guidance from our bylaws or even documentation of criteria and processes. The danger here is not only that we get something wrong but that we act inconsistent in our judgements as to whether an organization should be allowed to be a member.

Our bylaws state membership in CASSOC is open to all Scottish groups, clans, federations, associations, societies and clubs represented in Canada and interested in furthering the aims and objectives of CASSOC. If a candidate organization doesn't violate other requirements, one of which is matters of heraldry per the Lord Lyon Court, then what do we do if this 'Clan Thompson' association applies for membership? What do we do if we find out that a member organization for a clan or family is not 'official' per a list that may be issued by the Lord Lyon?

What was originally meant to be included in the newsletter was a call for formation of a National Scottish Organization in Canada. I had been working on this for quite sometime and finally had rendered it into a presentable format. Content in it came from our experiences at highland games, from the Symposium's highlighting of issues we all face and just plain recognizing that there's a large number of Canadians of Scottish Heritage who have no options to connect, to be part of community, to better celebrate and protect their heritage.

Discussions and feedback from our Board and other associates has led us to hold back on this given what are the intended and likely unintended outcomes of publishing such a manifesto. This is not the end of it however since rationale for it and the underlying issues will only grow in need of solution.

I'll close with a rant on another important matter. More and more I'm having friends and business associates dealing with Cyber crime. This is worsening by the growing adoption of AI by the bad guys. Unfortunately we're in a legislative regime in Canada and the USA which is focusing on the good and bad guys but giving free-play to who I consider to be the ugly, those that are profiting from the actions of the both the good and the bad. I frankly can't understand why we don't consider cyber attacks on our infrastructure and democratic systems by foreign agents, sanctioned or permitted by another country, as essentially being an act of war.

To better understand AI, look at it not as a creator, AI is an artist and a technician. But as a technician, AI is a powerful and wickedly proficient tool in the hands of those wishing to harm us. A place to start with dealing with this is our National Get Cyber Safe website at <https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca>

Be safe on the web and in your experience of the eclipse. Enjoy a proud Tartan Day.

William Robert Petrie, Clan Gregor  
CASSOC Chair and Newsletter Editor  
[chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca)

# Clan MacThomas Society - Clan Creep



## CLAN CREEP

For generations now, Clan Chiefs have been coming to Highland Games and Scottish festivals in the United States as Honored Guests. Those Chiefs are always surprised, and delighted, to see dozens of Clan tents, which are on show at such events. They are the very heart of such Games, a proud statement of enduring tradition.

But, in recent years, the Chiefs have started to notice that a few tents are appearing under names that were never clans and never had a chief.

One example of this is “Clan Thompson”, which holds itself out to be the sole authorized representative of all Thompsons and Thomsons. There has never been a clan in Scotland called Thompson. In Scotland, Thom(p)son is considered an English name. Thom(p)son is not a recognised clan within the global clan network.

The confusion in America about the status of Clan Thompson International, Inc., seems to have come about after that society received a grant of arms from the Lord Lyon in Scotland. The granting of arms by the Lord Lyon to Clan Thompson International, Inc., neither recognises that there is a clan Thompson nor that the society is the only one which is the legitimate society of that name.

It is not for the Lord Lyon to determine the name of an organisation which approaches him for a grant of arms.

Thomson is accepted as an English language variant of the name of two existing real clans, MacTavish and MacThomas. The MacTavishes come from Argyll in the Western Highlands, and MacThomases hail from the counties of Angus, Aberdeenshire and Perthshire in the Eastern Highlands. Neither of these ancient clans claim all Scottish Thomsons for themselves. They always try to ensure that there is an ancestral link back to the Western or Eastern Highlands before accepting a candidate for clan membership.

Clan MacTavish and Clan MacThomas both accept that there may have been a local family with the surname of Thomson in the Borders of Scotland.

Thomsons emigrating south from the Highlands, following the industrialisation of the 19th century, may have become attached, together with any English Thompsons who came north during this period. But this Thomson family group is not recognised as a clan and has never had a chief. It is important to appreciate that a family name group and a clan have always been two distinct entities.

One of the aims of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs is to ensure that information about clans and their societies is authentic and truthful. To this end, the Council has written to Clan Thompson International Inc., asking them to cease making inaccurate claims. Such "clan creep" is divisive and undermines the genuine institutions of clan and kindred, which bring such meaning and identity to all our lives.

Steven MacTavish of Dunardry, 27 th Chief of MacTavish  
Andrew MacThomas of Finegand, 19 th Chief of MacThomas

# Lord Lyon King of Arms - Extract from a Guidance Note

*The following is the background section extracted from the “Guidance Note - Chiefs of Clans and Families - Succession of Chiefs - Family Conventions - Nomination of Heir” by THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON, 16 December 2021*

## **Background**

1. For a significant part of its long history large parts of Scotland have been organised in clans and families. These clans and families centred upon kindred groups but their power extended further, particularly in the cases of clans, to encompass all those living in the geographical areas they dominated which altered over time.
2. These clans and families were led by chiefs, their power sustained by their own personal authority and the support of great magnates and landed gentry all coming to be recognised by the ordinary people. As chiefs came to be granted land by charters from the Crown their power and prestige increased and their position came to be universally recognised.
3. Clans and families became a building block of Scottish society encompassing blood, social, marital, martial, commercial, legal, cultural and emotional ties. Over time and at different times in different parts of Scotland economic, industrial, social and political change weakened some of those ties – for example the martial, commercial and legal ties – until the clans and families became principally organisations bound by kindred, social, cultural and emotional ties.
4. Scottish clans and families are organic groupings inextricably connected to Scotland, its culture, law, history and society. Many have a chief. Some, at present, do not because the genealogical connection to past chiefs has been lost and they await the day a chief is identified or selected.
5. While a clan or family association, society or other corporate body may be created that body is created only in support of a clan or family. That body is not itself the clan or family. That is an important distinction. The chiefship of a clan or family is regulated by the Lord Lyon King of Arms by regulation of arms. The Lord Lyon does not regulate the leadership of associations, societies or other corporate bodies created in support of a clan or family. That is an internal matter for the association, society or corporate body itself. Any chief recognised by the Lord Lyon as chief of a clan or family is chief of all who bear the name of the clan or family and not only those belonging to a particular body.

*Chair’s Note; We are providing this extract in the context of the preceding Clan Creep article and points made in the Frae the Chair regarding a call for a National Scottish Organization in Canada. Feel free to contact me at [chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca) to receive the entire Guidance Note as published in the COSCO Claymore Newsletter #19 and/or to discuss further.*

# COSCA - The Heirs Project



COSCA and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs have each set up small committees to work with each other on matters of mutual interest and concern. The COSCA group is chaired by Charlie Sherwood, President of the Clan Scott Society, while the SCSC team consists of Sir Malcolm MacGregor (who has succeeded the late Donald MacLaren both as Convenor and in this specific role), Lord Charles Bruce and myself.

Part of the agenda concerns the protection and preservation of authentic Scottish cultural traditions and the exposure of fakery in its various forms, including fake “titles,” pseudo-Scottish arms, new “clans” and the proliferation of so-called septs. COSCA has already published articles in its newsletter on some of these topics.

But another area of mutual concern is what has been known as the Heirs Project. This can mean different things to different people, but in essence it is about our collective responsibility to be good stewards of our heritage and ensure that there are good hands ready to receive it when we pass it on. This is a challenge for any organization and the Standing Council is no different.

SCSC has taken its responsibility to its heirs very seriously. We’ve prepared a short booklet, which has been distributed to heirs, and lays out what they should expect and what a good chief should be expected to do. We’ve arranged events for the heirs, where the booklet has been distributed and these expectations discussed. The heirs themselves have responded by forming a WhatsApp group to serve as a support structure, a mutual resource for each heir, where common challenges can be raised and addressed.

What are these expectations? Relations with clan societies in North America and elsewhere are laid out as critical responsibilities. This is as it should be. As I’ve written in a previous article for this site, being a chief is not just a title: it’s a job, an office, and the relationship between chief and clan or family has a high degree of mutual obligation. An earl or a viscount is arguably responsible only to himself and his ancestors, but a chief is a chief OF something: a clan or extended family. If you’re going to accept the role of leader, you have to be prepared to lead.



What does that really mean in the 21st century, with Scots living all over the world? COSCA has worked with Lord Bruce by conducting a short survey of clan societies and the results really underlined what good chiefs have always known.

Being a chief is about relationships. It’s important to show that you care and are concerned about your clan or family. There are different ways to do this: write an occasional column for the society newsletter, be prepared to receive visitors to your home and discuss your shared history, make occasional visits to attend Games and other events overseas. Know your clan history: as Sir Malcolm puts it, you don’t have to be the expert, just expert! Above all, be a good listener. You shouldn’t expect to be the CEO of your clan society, more a kind of non-executive chairman. But even in that capacity, it’s important that you are seen to understand the issues, that you’re known to care. Heirs too can be invited to write the occasional column and to

*(Continued on page 7)*

# COSCA - The Heirs Project

(Continued from page 6)

visit. Clan societies often complain that it can be hard to attract younger members. Involving an heir, someone younger than many of the society leadership, can really help in this.

Obviously, some chiefs are blessed with the time and financial resources to do more than others. Societies need to know this. A young chief may have a demanding job and a young family which make leaving for overseas trips more difficult. An older chief might be living off a pension and have difficulty, physically, with long flights and busy airports. Some clan societies can easily afford to pay for their chief to visit every few years, while others are struggling to survive as it is. If they can't easily or properly meet the expectations of their clan society, for whatever reason, chiefs know they can appoint someone else, a Commissioner or chieftain, say, to perform many of these responsibilities for them. But here again, an heir may be the perfect substitute.



Arguably, no responsibility is greater for a chief than to produce and mould heirs who can replace them in due course, when their time here is done. For Highland chiefs, this may involve formally identifying one's Tanist and registering him or her with the Lyon Court. My own chief, Alasdair Morrison of Ruchdi, succeeded to the position when he was just 17, after his father, Dr. Ru Morrison, died unexpectedly from a brain tumor, in his early 50s. Fortunately, Ru had filed the appropriate paperwork and Alasdair had been well prepared. He'd been taken to Highland Games in this country since he was a young boy and had even sat in on clan society meetings. Alasdair is seen here in multiple pictures.

This is something every chief and heir can be doing together now, making an effort to introduce the heir in person to the clan and letting the heir see for themselves what and who are involved. None of us knows when our time will be up, but that is why this kind of preparation is so critical. Alasdair is now beginning his second year at Glasgow University. A structure of support is in place to ensure that relatively few demands are made on him as chief for the time being. Even so, relationships are in place; he's a part of group chats with society leadership and has offered to write the occasional piece for the newsletter. When he's ready to do and take on more, he knows the door will be open and any effort made will be appreciated.

Where there is good will on both sides of a relationship, everyone is happy. Any issues can be addressed by encouraging and cultivating good communication skills. Most society folk in the US are fiercely proud and protective of their chiefs and to say that this is a critically important area is not to say it is currently a problem or that such relationships are always dysfunctional. The principal goal of the Heirs Project is to help chiefs, heirs and societies plan wisely, and do what they can to make sure these relationships are as good as they can be in the years ahead.

I was never a boy scout, but it seems to me their motto might also be the motto of the Heirs Project. Be Prepared!

***Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil, is an hereditary Scottish peer long resident in the USA (in San Antonio, TX). He serves on COSCA's Advisory Board and was recently appointed as Vice-Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC)***



# Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA)

A Really Brief Review Of The Newly Released Genealogical Book

## Scottish Clans and Their Associated Families

*"They could not help me. They said to come to you. You can tell me which clan I belong to"*

How many of you have had people turn up at your tent and utter those words or similar? I am an active life member of the American Clan Gregor Society and have attend 3 - 8 Highland/Celtic Games annually in the last 12 years in the south east USA. I am repeatedly asked the above question, almost word for word. My go-to resource was the "The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning and History" by George F. Black. The second resource used to be the first, and only, edition of "Scottish Clans and Associated Families", published in 2004 by Bob Heston.

Recently I felt naked, in a Clanny sort of manner, when my copy of this book absconded. The original edition was not slick, nor pretty or graphical. It had no pictures. In fact it looked, well, like WYSIWYG. That is what it was, a self produced, spiral bound, library type of resource material.

So, knowing there was a revised and updated version now available, I thought it only reasonable to review it and pass on my comments. But first, who is Bob Heston?



He is a retired DoD employee and a life member of Clan Graham who started working with COSCA in the 1990's as a field researcher and was President of COSCA from 2000 to 2008.



Today he works in promoting COSCA, some times from his own small tent and other times in his wife's Henderson tent. He works the center of the country in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming with an occasional trip to The Plains in Virginia and Stone Mountain, Georgia. He had a banner that read "May We Help You Find Your Scottish Connection" and later, with approval and support of clans and families, produced the reference document "Scottish Clans and Their Associated Families" which is now in its second edition.

So, using this book, let's see how this works in real life. The common scenario starts with a person standing in front of me at my tent wanting to know which clan they belong to. OK. Their family name (surname) is "Whyte" (I am used to being the scape goat). I usually go to The Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning and History by George F. Black (Image Left) It provides some interesting and detailed information about this person's family, usually previously not known to them, but it does not tell me which clan they should look at.

(Continued on page 9)



# Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA)

(Continued from page 8)

First, it refers people to look under White. Then it tells me that my name is spelt in many different ways: Whyt, Whytt, Qwhite, Quheit, Quheitt, Qwyt, Quyt, Quhit. It does not tell me whether I actually belonged to a clan.

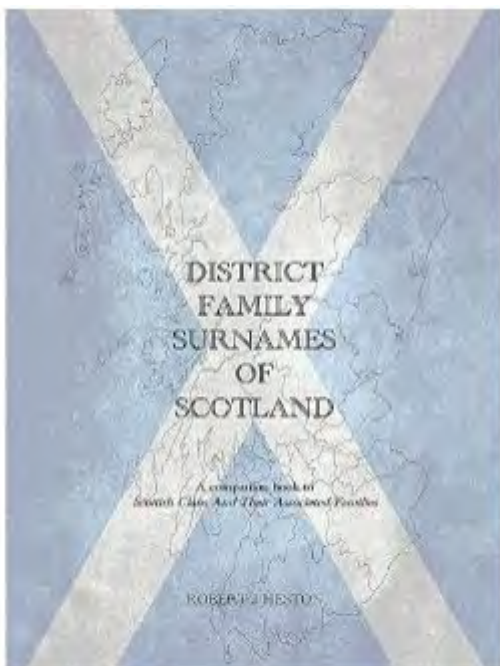
So, let's check Bob Heston's guide (Image right). Looking under Whyte several entries appear. Whyte (11)\* links to Clan Gregor and Whyte links to Clan Lamont. This suggests that there are two clans to which Whyte is linked, Lamont and Gregor, not unusual. In my case that is quite true: paternal side is Gregor and maternal is Lamont. as can be seen, Whyte features at the bottom of the page with Lamont and Gregor. Interestingly when looking up Lamont, Heston identifies many family names that are considered a part of Lamont.

This is all well and good if you are a clan member. But only about one third of the population of Scotland belong to a clan. This leads to difficulties researching all Scots.

So Bob has gone further and also produced the District Family Surnames of Scotland to be used in conjunction with the Clans book.

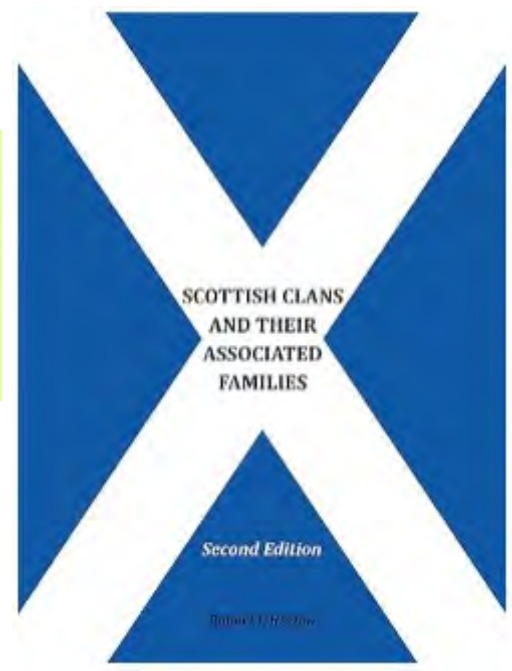
I am extremely glad he has produced these reference books. They will be invaluable and at a retail price of \$20 each are very affordable. However, if you wish to reach Bob to discuss his books or to order them, email him at [rheston1947@gmail.com](mailto:rheston1947@gmail.com). You may find a surprise when you do!

WHISSETT	LAMONT
WHITE	GREGOR
WHITE (11)	DUNBAR
WHITEADDER	SINCLAIR
WHITEFIELD	WHITEFOORD (NS)
WHITEFOORD	LENNOX
WHITEFORD	WHITEFOORD (NS)
WHITEFORDE	WHITEFOORD (NS)
WHITELAW	MAC DUFF
WHITELAW	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITELAW	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITELAW	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITFORD	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITFORD	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITLAU	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITLAW	WHITELAW (NS)
WHITLOW	WHITELAW (NS)
WHYMAN (26)	BUCHAN (NS)
WHYMON (26)	BUCHAN (NS)
WHYTE	LAMONT
WHYTE (11)	GREGOR



*Editor's Note: This article describes process and resources quite similar to what we at CASSOC use for the same purpose. Check out our article on this in our [Fall 2023 newsletter](#).*

**CASSOC is a member of COSCA**



\* Code "11" means persons bearing this name who can show evidence of descent or a family tradition of MacGregors

**Join us for our Spring General Meeting 2024  
Tartans and the colours of Culloden**

**Sunday, April 21 at 3pm**

**Featuring**

Tartan History

Tartans of the clans at Culloden

Modern Tartans

Understanding Tartan names

Registration in advance is required for attending the event through Zoom.

Streaming will be done to Facebook for view-only attendees.

[Click here to attend through Zoom](#)

***Click the above link by April 20, 2024 in order to  
register for attending by Zoom***

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

Note that a separate official notice and reminders will be sent out by email

This is not a business meeting.

No votes will be recorded, no registration as delegate or alternate is required.

Want to know more?

Contact [chair@scotscanada.ca](mailto:chair@scotscanada.ca) or [secretary@scotscanada.ca](mailto:secretary@scotscanada.ca)



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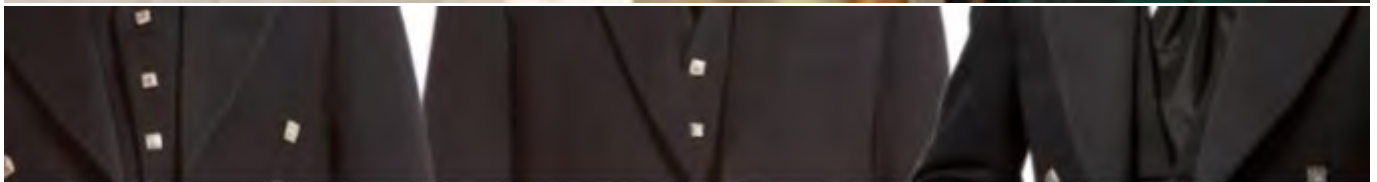
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# Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival - New Member



## **161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival on the May long weekend!**

The longest continually running Highland Games in North America, the 161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will take on May 18 and May 19 at Topaz Park.

Prior to the Games, on May 11, 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 2024 Games will again hold a Saturday Evening Musical Extravaganza in partnership with the Victoria Military Music Festival Society. The participants in this high quality musical show are still being confirmed – visit this website in the new year to find out the schedule and the confirmed performers..

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. We are also working on introducing a Gin Tasting School in 2024! 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, 2024 or available for purchase at the Strathcona Liquor Store (919 Douglast Street) in April, 2024 . Tickets are available at the Games gates (cash only but ATMS are present). Children under 12 receive FREE admission! In true Scottish fashion, the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place rain or shine.

# Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival - May 18-19



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

The **161st Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival** takes place Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19, 2024, at **Topaz Park** in the City of **Victoria** (corner of Blanshard and Finlayson Roads). Participation of your Clan or Scottish organization in the Games is very much appreciated.

On Friday May 17 between 7pm-10pm there will be a Games VIP Reception at the new Victoria Scottish Community Centre (1803 Admirals Road, Victoria), 2 members of each clan or Scottish organization are invited to attend. As is our custom now, we'd like to have a potluck breakfast in the clan area on Sunday morning. We will discuss details on the Saturday with those interested. We would also like to have a

separate **Clan gathering** on Sunday, again depending on everyone's schedule. **We will again award medals for the Best Clan Displays with the help of our Chieftain of the Games.**

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

Additional admission passes may be ordered online at our website through EVENTBRITE on <https://victoriahighlandgames.com/>. Please indicate where you would like your free passes mailed.

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

Clan registration forms are available at <https://victoriahighlandgames.com/registration-forms-2/>

Please contact Randy Stewart at [appin@shaw.ca](mailto:appin@shaw.ca) or (250) 884-2777 if you have any questions.

### RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE EVENT

1. Clans and Scottish organizations are expected to attend their space for the full duration of the Games day(s).
2. Set-up time is on May 18 and 19, only from 6:30 am to 8:30 am. Vehicles are not permitted on the field and must be unloaded and parked in the lot by 8:00 am. You may park in the lot nearest the Games site; however, these spaces are provided on a first come, first serve basis. We will have quads, dollies and volunteers available to help you setup.
3. You must provide your own table coverings and sun/rain protection.
4. You are responsible for removing your garbage.
5. No long-term parking in the loading area, vehicles must be moved once unloaded/loaded.

# Kincardine Scottish Festival - July 5-7, 2024



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 2024!**

We know that you have wonderful stories to tell that take our festivalgoers 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 below.

**[REGISTER HERE - https://www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca/represent-your-clan](https://www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca/represent-your-clan)**



## Register Your Clan

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

There is no charge to reserve your tent space, for attendance of the principal clan participants, and nearby parking for one clan vehicle is included. Clans must provide their own tents, tables, chairs, and displays. However, we can provide the above items for a small fee.

Download the Clan Registration Form to share the heritage of your clan.

[Download Clan Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

[https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/files/ugd/9dddfc\\_c440bc15450847d3b3ace74a5d7f4d97.pdf](https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/files/ugd/9dddfc_c440bc15450847d3b3ace74a5d7f4d97.pdf)

# Games, Festivals, and other Events

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

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

\* indicates the event will have CASSOC representation

Date(s)	Event	Location	URL
Apr 06	St Andrew's Society Toronto Tartan Day Pub Night	Toronto, ON	<a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/tartan-day-pub-night/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/tartan-day-pub-night/</a>
Apr 06	Dressed to Kilt	Toronto, ON	<a href="https://www.dressedtokilt.com/">https://www.dressedtokilt.com/</a>
Apr 17-Apr 21	Halifax Celtic Festival	Halifax, NS	<a href="https://www.hfxcelticfest.ca/">https://www.hfxcelticfest.ca/</a>
Apr 21	*CASSOC Spring Meeting	Online	<a href="https://www.scotscanada.ca/en/meetings/notice-of-meeting">https://www.scotscanada.ca/en/meetings/notice-of-meeting</a>
Apr 26	Vancouver Ceilidh	Vancouver, BC	<a href="https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/">https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/</a>
May 18	Saskatchewan Highland Gathering and Celtic Festival	Regina, SK	<a href="http://www.saskhighland.ca/">http://www.saskhighland.ca/</a>
May 18-May 19	*Victoria Highland Games	Victoria, BC	<a href="https://victoriahighlandgames.com/">https://victoriahighlandgames.com/</a>
May 23	St. Andrew's Society Montréal Whiskey Fête	Montréal, QC	<a href="https://www.whiskyfete.org/">https://www.whiskyfete.org/</a>
May 25-May 26	Okanagan Military Tattoo	Vernon, BC	<a href="http://www.okanagantattoo.ca/">http://www.okanagantattoo.ca/</a>
May 30-Jun 01	Regina Mosaic	Regina, SK	<a href="http://www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/">http://www.reginamulticulturalcouncil.ca/</a>
Jun 02	Carstairs Heritage Festival	Carstairs, AB	<a href="https://carstairs.ca/p/annual-events">https://carstairs.ca/p/annual-events</a>
Jun 06-Jun 09	Gathering of the Scots	Perth-Andover, NB	<a href="https://gatheringofthescots.com/">https://gatheringofthescots.com/</a>
Jun 08	*Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	<a href="https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/">https://georgetownhighlandgames.com/</a>
Jun 11-Jun 15	*Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Moncton, NB	<a href="https://monctonhighlandgames.com/">https://monctonhighlandgames.com/</a>
Jun 14	St Andrew's Society Toronto Spring Dinner	Toronto, ON	<a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/spring-dinner/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/spring-dinner/</a>
Jun 14-Jun 15	*The Northumberland Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Port Hope, ON	<a href="https://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca/">https://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca/</a>
Jun 14-Jun 15	The 92nd British Columbia Highland Games	Coquitlam, BC	<a href="https://scotfestbc.com/">https://scotfestbc.com/</a>
Jun 22	*Kingsville-Essex Highland Games	Kingsville, ON	<a href="https://kingsvillehighlandgames.ca">https://kingsvillehighlandgames.ca</a>
Jun 22	*Red Deer Highland Games	Springbrook, AB	<a href="https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/">https://www.reddeerhighlandgames.com/</a>
Jun 22-Jun 23	Manitoba Highland Gathering East	Selkirk, MB	<a href="https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/">https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/</a>
Jun 28-Jul 01	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo	Halifax, NS	<a href="http://www.nstatattoo.ca/">http://www.nstatattoo.ca/</a>
Jun 28-Jul 06	Kitchenfest Féis a'Chidsin Cape	Breton, NS	<a href="http://www.kitchenfest.ca/">http://www.kitchenfest.ca/</a>
Jul 01	Gathering of the Clans	Pugwash, NS	<a href="https://www.pugwashvillage.com/">https://www.pugwashvillage.com/</a>



# Games, Festivals, and other Events

Date(s)	Event	Location	URL
Jul 05-Jul 06	Penticton Scottish Festival	Penticton, BC	<a href="http://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/">http://www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/</a>
Jul 05-Jul 07	*Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Kincardine, ON	<a href="https://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/">https://kincardinescottishfestival.ca/</a>
Jul 05-Jul 07	Almonte Celtfest	Almonte, ON	<a href="https://almonteceltfest.com/">https://almonteceltfest.com/</a>
Jul 07-Jul 14	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS	<a href="https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/">https://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca/</a>
Jul 13	Kamloops Highland Games	Kamloops, BC	<a href="https://www.kamloopshighlandgames.org/">https://www.kamloopshighlandgames.org/</a>
Jul 19-Jul 20	*Cambridge Scottish Festival	Cambridge, ON	<a href="http://www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca/">http://www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca/</a>
Jul 20-Jul 21	*Sherwood Park Highland Gathering	Sherwood Park, AB	<a href="https://www.sphg.ca/">https://www.sphg.ca/</a>
Jul 26-Jul 28	NB Highland Games Festival	Fredericton, NB	<a href="https://www.highlandgames.ca/">https://www.highlandgames.ca/</a>
Jul 27	Ailsa Craig Highland Games	Ailsa Craig, ON	<a href="https://highlandgamesandfestivals.com/event/ailsa-craig-highland-games/">https://highlandgamesandfestivals.com/event/ailsa-craig-highland-games/</a>
Jul 27	Uxbridge Scottish Festival	Uxbridge, ON	<a href="https://uxbridgescottishfestival.com/">https://uxbridgescottishfestival.com/</a>
Aug 02-Aug 03	*Glengarry Highland Games	Maxville, ON	<a href="https://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/">https://www.glengarryhighlandgames.com/</a>
Aug 04	*Montréal Highland Games	Verdun, QC	<a href="https://www.montrealhighlandgames.com/">https://www.montrealhighlandgames.com/</a>
Aug 07-Aug 10	Clan MacAulay International Gathering	Cape Breton, NS	<a href="https://clanmacaulay.org.uk/2024-clan-gathering-announcement">https://clanmacaulay.org.uk/2024-clan-gathering-announcement</a>
Aug 09-Aug 11	Goderich Celtic Roots Festival	Goderich, ON	<a href="https://celticfestival.ca/home">https://celticfestival.ca/home</a>
Aug 09-Aug 11	*Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Fergus, ON	<a href="http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/">http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com/</a>
Aug 15-Aug 17	Folkfest Saskatoon	Saskatoon, SK	<a href="https://saskatoonfolkfest.com/">https://saskatoonfolkfest.com/</a>
Aug 24	The Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival	Sedgewick, AB	<a href="https://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/events">https://www.flagstaffscottishclub.com/events</a>
Aug 31-Sep 01	Canmore Highland Games	Canmore, AB	<a href="http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca/">http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca/</a>
Sep 07-Sep 08	Festival Celtique de Québec	Québec, QC	<a href="http://festival-celtique.com/">http://festival-celtique.com/</a>
Sep 14-Sep 15	*Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games	Lockport, NY	<a href="https://www.niagaraceltic.com/">https://www.niagaraceltic.com/</a>
Oct 11-Oct 19	Celtic Colours in Cape Breton	Cape Breton, NS	<a href="https://celtic-colours.com/">https://celtic-colours.com/</a>
Nov 16	St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball	Toronto, ON	<a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/</a>
Nov 24	*CASSOC Annual General Meeting	Online	<a href="https://www.scotscanada.ca/en/meetings/notice-of-meeting">https://www.scotscanada.ca/en/meetings/notice-of-meeting</a>
Nov 30	St Andrew's Society Toronto Fall Mixer	Toronto, ON	<a href="https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/">https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/fall-mixer/</a>

# Clan Logan Society of Canada



## AN ROBH FIOS AGAD? (DID YOU KNOW?)

*Reprinted from  
OUR VALOUR© THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LOGAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL  
January 2024*

Scots are known for great inventions. Did you know that not only did Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) invent the social image of Rob Roy MacGregor, but he also “invented” the historical novel when he wrote “Waverley” in 1814?

He also invented the word, “glamour.” It didn’t mean then exactly what it does today, but it’s easy to make the connection. He took it from the Old Scots word “gramarye,” which means “a spell that enchants the eye.” You can find the word in his 1805 poem, “The Lay of the Last Minstrel.”

It was the poems and stories of Sir Walter Scott that made Scotland a tourist destination. Even if you’ve never read any of his work, you probably know this verse:

*Oh! what a tangled web we weave  
When first we practise to deceive!*

That’s from his poem “Marmion,” written in 1808 about the battle at Flodden Field.

And while he can’t be credited for inventing Scotland’s crown jewels, he was the one who figured out where they’d been stowed after the Acts of Union, March 7, 1707.

Being well versed in Scottish history, he suggested to then Prince Regent George IV (the future king) that if he’d search the walled up Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle, there he would find the jewels. The prince was a fan of Sir Walter’s and took his suggestion to heart. In 1818, the wall came down, revealing for the first time in 111 years, the crown, scepter, and sword of state, locked inside an oak chest.

Ever so grateful was the prince regent that he honored Scott by granting him the title 1st Baronet of London, which is how he became Sir Walter Scott.



## SCOTTISH RECIPE – CRISPY PARSNIP FRITTERS

*Reprinted from*

*OUR VALOUR® THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF CLAN LOGAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL*

*January 2024*

“The Famous Grouse: A Whisky Companion, Heritage, History, Recipes & Drinks” (published in 2011 by Ebury Press, a Random House Group Company) offers creative recipes that pair well with whisky. The Famous Grouse, a Scotch whisky blended in the Glenturret distillery in Glasgow, has its origins in the recipe of grocer Matthew Gloag, of Perth, who began bottling it in 1800. The book’s first chapter tells the fascinating history of this whisky and its makers, starting with four generations of Matthew Groags.

A word about substitutions: Often we can switch ingredients to suite our style and taste or just to experiment with the recipe. In this one, it is recommended not to use ordinary flour to replace the two flour types, chickpea and semolina. If you have trouble finding them, try an Asian grocery store or health food store. Regular flour will make the fritters much coarser.

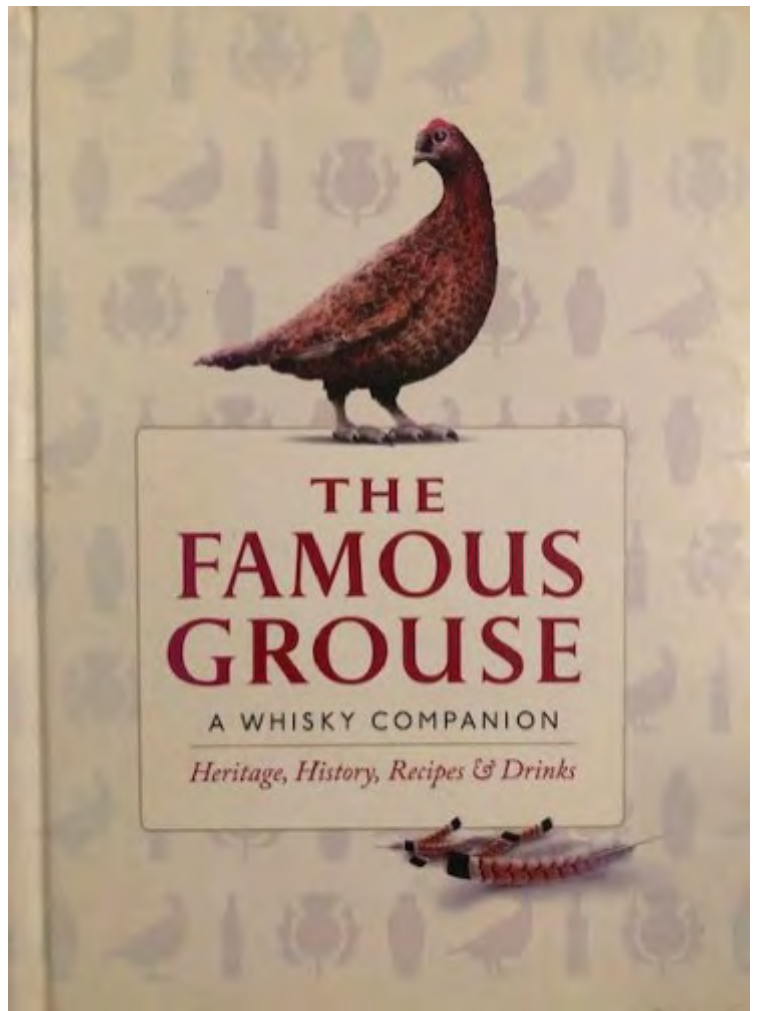
### Serves 2

#### Dipping Sauce:

1 tbsp vegetable oil  
tsp mild curry paste  
1 de-seeded and finely chopped green chili  
tsp grated fresh ginger root  
A pinch of turmeric  
200g thick Greek-style yogurt  
2 tbsp Scottish heather honey  
1 tbsp grain mustard  
2 tsp The Famous Grouse

#### Fritters:

250 g peeled and finely grated parsnips  
100 g chickpea flour  
50 g semolina flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp cumin seeds  
1 tsp ground coriander  
½ tsp turmeric  
1 small, finely chopped red onion  
2 de-seeded and finely chopped red chilies  
2 tsp grated, fresh ginger root  
A pinch of salt  
60 ml vegetable oil Salad leaves, for garnish



# Clan Logan Society of Canada

## A Highland Dinner at Maison Louis-Joseph Forget

*by Steven Logan, FSAscot*

This February has been quite busy this year with many events happening. I continued representing Clan Logan and this time, I brought Vice-President Laurent with me (image below) on February 17th, 2024 to the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada's Officer's Mess Highland Dinner. This event was to take place at the Black watch Armoury but due to renovations, it was relocated to the breathtaking historic Maison Louis-Joseph Forget where I had received my rank of Ensign with the 78th Fraser Highlanders last December at the Fraser tea event. If I had headquarters for Clan Logan



in Canada it would certainly be at la Maison Forget due to it's elegant, refined and exceptional character. It's a tastefully ornate setting as I love them.

We arrived for 7 pm to see that many guests were already in attendance. As I walked up to the table to give my name, the person looked up smiling and said 'Mr. Logan, we were expecting you, Both of you are seated at table 2'. I was greeted like a VIP by my Officer's Mess and yes, they ALL know me and Clan Logan. It was so nice to see everyone again. It should be mentioned that every Black Watch organization I am a part of, it being the Officer's Mess, the Veteran's Association or Family Division have always treated me extremely well and have always been very supportive of our Clan.

I gladly participate in these events to show what our Clan is about but also to celebrate these fine people who are doing great things while promoting culture and traditions. The funds raised for this event were to help the Black Watch Family Division

which sends parcels to soldiers on missions abroad to fight psychological distress when away from family for long periods of time.

At Maison Forget, the disposition of the rooms is different than at the Armoury, there was a little reception in the front room and many people there. I managed to chat with various people from the different organizations, some specifically asked questions about Clan Logan and the various other events I will attend and so on. People are starting to get interested in what we aim to do. I have a feeling I am getting some results after so many years of working on visibility.

We were then called to our table, we were on the end of the table in full view of each guest. This event was very different than the other Highland dinners I have attended. At the table, we noticed 6 glasses per person lined up in a given configuration that had a sample of whisky. We had a book and a pencil and we went through different dishes that all had their own whisky. Vice-President Laurent who was sitting next to me enjoyed this activity. We could note down our thoughts about the drink and share with others around us while having a great time. There was an Address to a Haggis done by Jeff McCarthy who would do his Address by going in the two separate rooms so everyone could see.

There was also a piper giving us some great bagpiping. The Chef of the Burgundy Lion prepared the various dishes we ate and presented each one to the attendees. There was haggis, Scottish lamb stew, smoked salmon on potato rosti, Red deer tartare with roasted fingerlings with scotch sauce and a very delicious Cranachan for desert. I was pleasantly surprised by some of these dishes. I am not a fan of tartare dishes but the red deer tartare was absolutely delicious. Compliments to the chef, everything was done to perfection, the flavours harmonized with the various whisky drinks. We started out eating a delicious portion of Haggis followed by Isle of Harris- The Hearach whisky. This one was my favourite of them all because it was flavourful and light. Laurent seems to enjoy tasting



# Clan Logan Society of Canada

## The January 6th PPBSO Knockouts

*By Patrick Dionne-Kuno, Clan Representative of Ontario and OttScot Youth Director.*

The event was supposed to start at 4 but began a little later at the Ottawa JR Ranks Mess. As I walked in I was greeted by the bartender who opened the building up as I got there but had not set up the bar yet. There was supposed to have a 1h seminar but the Piping Judge that was hosting it got covid and couldn't make the event. I was all alone till 5. Once it was 5, everyone started to trickle in. I met back up with all the familiar faces. Nico Gravel, Cameron Aldous, Robert McCarthy, Jen-Sébastien Gameach (JS) and more. By the time everyone got unpacked and settled at 5:30, we went off to Deacon Brodie's (the local Scottish pub around the corner) for dinner before coming back. Once dinner was done, we headed back to tune and get dressed for the competition.

Between 6 and 9 pm was both the Drumming Knockouts as well as the Piping Knockouts. The Pipers were competing on the 3rd floor of the Mess while the Drummers were on the 4th. In between competitors I would go up and down the floors to get an equal watch of both competitions. The judges for the evening were Allen Clark (the retired Commanding Officer of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.) for Pipers, Shelby MacCrimmon Bush for Bass/Tenor and finally Jim Bush for Snare Drum. The last two judges were members of the Glengarry (Ontario) Pipe band.

Once 9pm came around, we had a 30 minute intermission so that the judges could finalize the results. All of us hanged out in the bar. As we did so, some of the competitors, to my great surprise shared their play sheets together. These sheets are the comments the judges wrote to let the competitors know what needs to be improved. The sharing of the sheet helped some competitors unravel the confusion they had since they were more visual in thinking. It also helped since a lot of people watching, noticed a lot more things visually troubling that would affect their playing (like how the drummers were holding their sticks) then the judges would since the judges base the results on the music alone. The competitors are much more friendly than I thought!

Around 10-10:30, we had a final concert. The Glengarry Pipe Band (image below) played with Judge Allen Clark. Allen Clark even performed a solo piece.

Once 11 came around we went back to Deacon Brodie's. It was nice to go out there since the mess does not provide food. It was also nice since we would be in a more relaxed setting then at the mess. We had so much more fun sharing are play sheets & showing each other how to improve, eating good food and sharing fun piping stories. Because of it all I didn't come home till 3am. I live down the street and don't drive so I was not worried or pressed to get home.

To conclude, I was glad to be able to attend the Knockouts. These competitions are the rare opportunity I get to see life long friends from Cadets, the Military/Police or even just the community in general. I don't play anymore in bands or competitively since 2019 due to health issues.





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# Clan MacNeil in Canada - The MacNeil Gathering at Fergus



## The MacNeil Gathering at Fergus

By Maeghan Murphy Whiteway

Spring is in the air, and that means summer will be here before we know it! Our plans are coming together for the MacNeil Gathering at Fergus on Saturday, August 10.

Stay tuned for the details in the coming months, but it's guaranteed to be a night full of music, stories, and many MacNeils from near and far all under one roof!

Our gathering tacks onto the annual Fergus Games from August 9-11--a weekend that celebrates Scottish heritage with world-renowned talent and entertainment.

In addition to the weekend's rich Scottish festivities, our very own President of Clan MacNeil in Canada, Vince

MacNeil, will be there and eager to share his unmatched knowledge about the history and genealogy of the MacNeils.

We will also be walking in the opening ceremonies at noon on August 10 and want as many MacNeils as possible to join us. Our Clan MacNeil in Canada tent will be packed with shirts, hats, and other merchandise available for you to purchase!

Tickets: You can buy tickets online through the Fergus Games website and use MACNEIL15 in the promo code line to get a discount.

Accommodations: We've secured a discounted rate for MacNeils at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Guelph as our "homebase" for MacNeils during the weekend. Please call the hotel directly at 519-821-2144 and mention the name "Clan MacNeil" for the special rate.

You have until Friday May 31, 2024 to guarantee a reservation. Once the reservation is made, there is no complimentary changes or cancellation allowed after Friday July 26, 2024.

If you're coming, we'd love to know! Please email Terry at [tmcneill.myles1880@hotmail.com](mailto:tmcneill.myles1880@hotmail.com); he is also available to answer any questions.

We hope to see you in August!



# Clan MacNeil in Canada - Gathering Update

## Gathering Update

By Terry Myles

Here's more reasons for all MacNeils to join us for the MacNeil Gathering at Fergus.

- Clan MacNeil will be part of the **Fergus Friday Night Tattoo** and the "light'n of the hearth" ceremony.
- We'll have a **MacNeil meet and greet** at the Red Door Restaurant at 212 St Andrew St W . in Fergus on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm to 9 pm. There will be some entertainment, food, story telling and more.
- We'll have a large tent with merchandise and MacNeil history to see and some **Scottish treats** during the day on Saturday and Sunday .
- This will be a good opportunity for Clan MacNeil to show our pride with good numbers of us at the opening ceremonies. **We want you there!**

Leading up to Fergus, Clan MacNeil will have booths at the following events this year: Georgetown, Northumberland, Uxbridge, Cambridge, Embro and Glengarry in Maxville , Ontario



# Clan MacFarlane Worldwide



Clan MacFarlane Worldwide will be having our 2024 Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) Saturday April 20th at 2 P.M. Central Time. The venue is Lone Star Celtic Festival and Highland Games (formerly Grapevine) in McKinney, Texas, USA. <https://lonestarceltic.org/>

This is a change from our original location of San Antonio, Texas, and date of April 6th, 2024. The reason for the change as some of you may have heard is due to the Full Eclipse of the Sun which will take place on Monday April 8th.

One of the best viewing points in the USA will be in San Antonio, Texas. Coincidentally, the San Antonio Highland Games are the

weekend before this event. With the eclipse, it is anticipated that hotel accommodation, restaurants, parking etc. will be at a premium price.

Although CMW will still be hosting a tent at the San Antonio Games, the CMW Board of Directors elected to change the date/venue of the AMM to one which would be more economical for our attending members.

McKinney Texas is located approximately 40-45 minutes by car from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The festival organizers are excited about the new location for this event as it is much more expansive than that of its Grapevine predecessor.

Clan MacFarlane Worldwide will have a large tent at the event on both the Saturday and the Sunday and our AMM will occur at that tent. For more details about accommodation, refer to: <https://lonestarceltic.org/plan-your-visit>

Game attendees will get a discounted rate on hotel rooms. For those that cannot attend, CMW is hoping to livestream the event on Facebook. However, if this is not possible, a recording of the event will be available on Facebook and YouTube shortly thereafter.

If you have more questions, you may contact the AMM organizers at: [info@clanmacfarlane.org](mailto:info@clanmacfarlane.org)

# Clan MacFarlane Worldwide



## Annual Member's Meeting

April 20, 2024

2 pm Central

## LoneStar Celtic Festival

for places to stay, events, tickets, etc.

McKinney, Texas

If you are planning to attend and wish to join us for dinner please rsvp to  
[info@clanmacfarlane.org](mailto:info@clanmacfarlane.org)

EST 2002

# SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

## Dressed In Elegance

Discover our collection of tartan dresses



Tartan pictured from top to bottom and left to right: Stirling and Bannockburn, MacLean of Duart Weathered, Lindsay Ancient, Grant Weathered, and on next page, Highland Rose

EST 2002

# SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS



## Hi Clans,

Tartan shift dress, round neck dress, shirt dress; for girls the pretty pinafore dress. Our women's dress range is unique.

Choose your tartan, sleeve and dress length, and round or square neck, to make your shift dress that one in a million.

Whether you're a guest at a wedding, having a night out in the city or want to look smart for work, our dresses are versatile and timeless.

Matching accessories include bags, stoles and heels in the same tartan or a solid colour complimenting your chosen tartan.

Book an appointment [virtually or in store](#) for help with the measurements and choices to ensure the perfect fit.



## Understanding DNA Testing: Why “Y”?

*Article submitted by Stephanie Bell Clements Adams*

As a woman, my DNA test results were a revelation (Where did that Scandinavian connection come from? I have Neanderthal DNA?) and something of a disappointment.

It was great that I got percentages based on results from where on Earth people with similar DNA have lived for a long time, but these percentages can vary greatly, and it was emphasized that they are estimates only. Since I don't have Y-DNA, I don't have the specific markers that would pinpoint where my ancestors came from.

The mitochondrial DNA I inherited from my mother connects me to a particular haplogroup, but that haplogroup covers a very broad swath of Europe.

### Women and Paternal Haplogroups

As reported by DNA testing service 23&Me\*, “...paternal haplogroups are defined by sets of genetic variants on the Y chromosome. Although women inherit roughly 50% of their DNA from their fathers, they do not inherit Y chromosomes and as a result, do not have paternal haplogroups. Women can learn about their paternal haplogroup assignments by connecting results with certain male relatives:

- A biological father
- A brother (full sibling)

After connecting results with one of the relatives listed above, a woman can discover her paternal haplogroup. Her DNA results can then be updated to reflect her male relative's results” In my case, I was not able to connect with any of the male Bells in my direct line .

My grandmother, Lily Blanche Bell Clements, had several brothers, but none of them had living male children. That meant that I didn't even have a male cousin of the Bell surname who could have had Y-DNA tested.

**My recommendation:** If you have a living father or brother of the Bell surname, don't wait! Ask them if they would be willing to join the Bell DNA project.

For more info contact <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/bell-dna-project/about/background>

\*<https://customer.care.23andme.com/hc/en-us/articles/235201447#link>

*There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children.*

*One of these is roots, the other is wings.—anonymous*

**Editor's Note:** *Stephanie's above recommendation on getting your male relatives involved applies to all of us of both genders. Even for males who can 'Y' test themselves, there's changes that occur through the generations. Having males tested in and outside of your line of descent can aid you and your siblings to better understand your entire genealogy.*



*Chair's Note: We will be attending Cambridge this year as part of the 2024 CASSOC Road Show.*

# Edmonstone Clan Society



From Clan High Commissioner Malcolm J. Edmiston

On Thursday 9th November I flew to Christchurch NZ arriving at the Land of the Long White Cloud at 1155pm. Thus, it was 1.00am by the time I disembarked, pick up my bags, went through immigration, picked up a hire car and drove to the airport backpackers hotel. At a more respectable time in the morning, I went to Maccas for breakfast then headed out to Springfield to the motel. It looked very different outside to most motels but the room was very comfortable and the view (shown below ) from the verandah was great.

I drove to Hororata to check out the site where the tents were already erected and put up the ribbon banner ready for the following day.



Saturday morning, I drove to Hororata and completed setting up the tent and greeted all the other Clans there. While visiting another tent the gates were opened to the public and they flooded in causing me to hurry back to the tent. It was a busy day all day with many visitors to the tent. At

11.00am we had a Remembrance Service in the Clan Tent area where I recited the Ode. It was estimated that there were 10,000 people there that day. It was great to have some Clan members visit the tent.

After a busy day it was back to Darfield Hotel for dinner then to Springfield for a well earned rest. The Sunday morning was a visit to church and site seeing around Christchurch. Later in the afternoon was a visit to the Rose and Thistle to join other Clans for a Clan Representative's dinner. A great night was had by all. The following day was a flight back to Brisbane and on to Townsville.

*(Continued on page 33)*



*(Continued from page 32)*

On 24th November I headed to the airport to fly to Brisbane to meet my son Bruce who had arrived in Brisbane from Melbourne before my flight was due to leave Townsville. My flight was delayed and did not leave until an hour after it was due to arrive in Brisbane. Thus, Bruce had a four hour wait for me at the airport. After arriving and picking up a car we headed to the Chermside Motel.

After a rest we changed and headed into the city to the Pullman Hotel where the Society of St Andrew of Scotland (Qld) was having their St Andrew's Day Dinner. I was met by my daughter Kaye and my grandson Grant (son of daughter Karen). Grant was wearing his kilt out to a function

for the first time. There is normally a parade of Armigers into the assembly followed by the guest Speaker, however, on this occasion all the other armigers had sent their apologies so it was just me and Justice Logan of the Federal Court with Bruce carrying my armiger's banner. Grant's wife Stephanie could not be with us as she had to fly out for work in the morning.

A great night was had by all and they all want to come to the Burn's Supper in January.

On Saturday 9th December the RSL Memorial Pipes and Drums Townsville held their St Andrew's Ceilidh at the Townsville RSL. We were entertained by the Townsville Thuringowa Pipe Band, the Veterans Pipe Band, the 3 Bn Royal Australian Regiment Pipes & Drums, and the RSLMP&D. In addition, there were representatives from a number of the Highland Dancing Schools in Townsville giving demonstrations. Of course, there was a lot Scottish Country Dancing called by Margaret Silke.

Christmas was very busy with family visiting and we had twelve around the table for an early Christmas dinner.

The Society of St Andrew Qld will have their Burns Supper at the United Services Club in Brisbane on Burns' Birthday 25 January 2024. The Townsville Scottish Community will have their 'Burns in the Ballroom' on Saturday 3rd February 2024. If you can get to either of those it will be great to see you. Where ever you are, make the effort to attend a Burns event near you. You are sure to enjoy it.

Kind regards and Happy Hogmanay

Mal



*Guest Speaker Justice Logan at the dais.*

## Surrounded by Elliot Tartan and Loving It

Valerie Elliott



I had no idea when I joined the Elliot Clan Society that I'd finally land in Scotland in 2023. I joined the Society just after the 2017 Gathering planning to attend the next which was to be in 2021. Two years of COVID delayed that gathering so I was over the moon to finally attend with my husband (I'm the Elliott) in August.

Nothing was more exciting than meeting Catherine and Elizabeth in Carlisle who were awaiting the bus to Newcastleton. That night we had our first fish and chips with Borderlands beer in the Reivers Bar at the Grapes Hotel. What a thrill to see the Elliot crest and tartan on the wall with other border reiver clans!

and Elliotts from the US, Canada, Scotland, and beyond.

Buildings were opened to display stick dressing, the fine art of carved cane handles on tall walking sticks with Rob and Kate Elliot.



The following day was the first day of the gathering. It began at the Clan Chief Margaret Elliott's home in Redheugh. What an experience to be in Scotland surrounded by the Elliott tartan—modern and ancient—



The Teviotdale Steel Bonnets were dressed in full traditional costume. Historically at least, we were a tough lot as evidenced by their dress. There were items for purchase by local artisans. I made sure to buy some of Lynn Elliott's hand-loomed tactile interpretation of our tartan. Being a fan of stone, we thoroughly enjoyed learning from John Elliot how dry stone walling is done that we witnessed across the country.

# Elliot Clan Society of Canada



A stop at the Elliot Clan room and shop allowed us to collect even more goodies. My visit was complete with a stop at the Genealogy room with the Borders Family History Society. The most important thing I learned in that short visit was about using the asterisk when searching for family to expand the search on Scotland's People. All that happened before lunch!

A full delicious lunch was served to the almost 120 attendees by Liddesdale Country Catering and once finished the blast of the cannon indicated that the formal gathering was about to begin. Pipers Thomas Elliott, Greg Aggs and Iain Bell headed the march. There was a blessing by Bishop John Richardson followed by the Clan Chief's address, and her introduction of Elliot Clan Society regional leaders.



Just before the rain fell and after the photo of the Clan Chief's family looking so wonderfully bright and blue was taken, a photo was taken of all attendees. The skies opened up and although rain didn't occur much again over the next few days, the lone piper closing the event was powerfully emblematic—tough as nails.

A demonstration with Silverband Falconry followed. We watched as three birds found their way through crowds and sometimes between the legs. The rain picked up for the sheepdog demonstrations yet these border collies were amazing to watch. Trainer Martin Andrews



brought his flock while David Braithwaite explained to us what was happening. Needless to say, the collies had the advantage and had the sheep fenced in quickly.

We headed back on the bus returning to Newcastleton resting up for the events to come the next day at the Holm Show.



The annual event did not disappoint. Local products, farm animals, horse jumping, food judging, a car show... it was all there. This is when the suitcase feels too small! Nonetheless we bought some honey and wool felted items.

# Elliot Clan Society of Canada



Photos L to R, top to bottom: cemetery at Hermitage Castle, Hermitage Waters, Caerlaverock Castle, Gilnockie Tower, Happy cows at Esk Parish, Tartan found near Hermitage Castle, Telford Bus with our incredibly skilled driver and our Clan Chief, the beauty of Esk Parish, Holm Show mule.

We took the opportunity in the afternoon as did many others to visit Hermitage Castle. While some had their own transportation, we went by public transit. It was convenient and there was something special about walking from the bus stop up to the castle, a gradual revealing on a spectacular castle. The cemetery right beside it was incredible too. And again we had no rain, just dramatic clouds. A stop where the bus picked us up again had a small shop where I found another Elliott pin. I just couldn't get enough of our tartan!

Sunday was another rewarding day as we headed to the Esk Parish led by Margaret Elliott on what was known as "debatable land". Lying between the kingdoms of England and Scotland, the Esk River was the boundary. Grazing at one time was restricted by law between sunrise and sunset. Today, this rich pasture land remains grazing land and we experienced lively cattle seemingly interested in the flurry of visitors. The history is rich in this place as was reflected in the incredibly ornate though small church. The service included a reading by the Clan Chief.

Our journey with a highly skilled Telford bus driver continued with a visit to the Caerlaverock Castle. The moated triangular castle, was a stronghold of the Maxwell family from the 13th to the 17th century. The castle sits on the edge of a nature reserve extending 55 sq km. It was a fascinating visit.

Our final destination was Gilnockie Tower. Built by Johnnie Armstrong and recognized as the ancestral home of the Armstrong clan, it reopened to the public after reconstruction in 2018. Its impressive 360 degree views of the Esk border area was the perfect end to a day of border sightseeing. As we headed back to Newcastleton we began to talk about the next gathering...

Before the 2027 Gathering I plan to: learn some Gaelic, become more involved with the Society, and do more family research. I'm reminded to relish every aspect of my heritage and to keep alive what my ancestors fought for.

The gathering was the experience of a lifetime. I'd highly recommend both the trip and the people. There's no better company than the Elliots—no matter how they spell their name! The added bonus was being in an incredibly beautiful country at the perfect time of year.





AUG 9-11  
2024

THE NEXT  
GENERATION LEAHY

GLEADHRAICH

ALBANNACH

TARTAN TERRORS

DAVID LEASK GILLEBRIDE MACMILLAN

PIPES & DRUMS | HIGHLAND DANCE | CLANS & HERITAGE | HEAVY EVENTS

STAY TUNED FOR THE FULL PROGRAM...



# Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

## Clans

The Fergus Scottish Festival is proud to host many Clan Societies who will help you understand the clan system and your clan in particular. If you are wearing Highland dress you are welcome to participate with your clan. Why not join the Clan Society?

### Clan applications are open!

Please note our clan registration has changed. We will now be requiring all interested to apply first. Clan applications are open to those who wish to host a tent during the Fergus Scottish Festival. Once approved by our team you will be sent a link to complete the registration. See below for important information on Clan Registration and what it includes.

#### Clan registration ensures:

- A tent, tables, and chairs on the Avenue of the Clans
- Two weekend adult passes
- Best Clan award
- Clan recognition on the Festival website
- Recognition of any Clan dignitaries during the Festival



#### Clan events during the weekend include:

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

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

#### Once you complete your application:

- Your application will be reviewed by our Clans & Heritage Committee
- You will be sent an email including your confirmation/approval and a link to pay for your Clan registration.
- Follow the link to pay and you're all set!

#### I don't want to host a tent, but I'd like to walk with my clan?

If you would like to walk with your clan during programming, we recommend getting in touch with the clan tent organizer.

If there is no clan tent and you still wish to represent your clan, get in touch with our Clans & Heritage committee, [clans@fergusscottishfestival.com](mailto:clans@fergusscottishfestival.com)

To apply click the button above or go to <https://www.showclix.com/application/fsf-clan-app-2024>



In Clan Gunn news, David Hunsley has been appointed as the ECB Commissioner of the CGSNA by President Kris Wilson.

The 2024 CGSNA Annual General Meeting will be held April 5th – 7th, 2024 at the San Antonio Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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 41 Years Strong - 1976-2017 [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com) *A' Bhratach Albannach*

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# Clan IRVING The Border Irvings & Irvines - New Member



## Delegate to CASSOC

Rupert Irving of Bonshaw;

irvings@clanirving.com

## Crest:

Ane arme gauntleted holding ane branch of hollin consisting of seven leaves all proper

## Motto:

Haud Ullis Labentia Ventis, Yielding Under No Winds

Across the history of the Clan, in literature, in genealogical records and in writings of all kinds, there have been many variations in the spelling of the name.

## Brief history of the border Irvings/Irvines

The tradition starts with the statement that the Irvings of Bonshaw are descended from Duncan of Eskdale, a younger brother of Crinan, father of Duncan I of Scotland. When Malcolm Caennmor introduced the parish system towards the end of the 11th century, the Irving lands in Kirtledale became the parish of Irving, retaining its identity until the end of the 16th century when it was split into the parishes of Annan and Kirkpatrick-Fleming. The Irving lands during the 11th century were extensive, stretching from Annandale to Liddesdale.

David I (1124-1153 AD) granted feudal superiority of Annandale in 1124 to the Norman family De Brus (Bruce) who retained it until accession of Robert De Brus, Earl of Carrick, to the throne of Scotland in 1306. The Irvings became vassals perhaps for the first time in their history, initially under De Brus and then for more than four centuries, finally achieving independence in close alliance with the Johnstons. Robert De Brus was a guest at Bonshaw Tower in 1298 when he fled the English court of Edward I and there is a cave in the Kirtle cliffs at Cove, within which Robert De Brus was hidden on more than one occasion.

David I (1124-1153 AD) granted feudal superiority of Annandale in 1124 to the Norman family De Brus who retained it until accession to the throne of Scotland in 1306. The Irvings served De Brus and then four centuries later achieving independence in close alliance with the Johnstons. Robert De Brus was a guest at Bonshaw Tower in 1298 when he fled the English court of Edward I and tradition states he was hidden in a cave in the Kirtle cliffs at Cove on more than one occasion. In July 1484, the Duke of Albany and the Douglasses were routed at the battle of the Kirtle, the Master of Maxwell was killed just across the Kirtle water from Bonshaw Tower and the Merkland Cross marks the spot. During the 16th century the Irvings of Bonshaw played a leading part in border warfare under the chiefship of Edward Irving of Bonshaw (1555-1605). During this century a feud existed between the Johnstons and Irvings and the Maxwells with their supporters. At the battle of Solway Moss in 1542, Christopher Irving of Bonshaw commanded the light horse, surviving the battle and continuing the resistance against Henry VIII with continued clashes from 1543 through to 1548.

In 1554, the Kirkpatrick's slew a younger son of Irving of Bonshaw who bided their time until 1563 when Edward Irving of Bonshaw, the new chief, slew the Chief of the Kirkpatrick's of Closeburn. During 1585-1586, the Irvings and Johnstons were at war with the Maxwells and various clashes ensued. In December 1593, the Irving-Johnston alliance, under Sir James Johnston of Lochwood met the Maxwells at Dryfe Sands. This resulted in a crushing defeat on the Maxwells with Lord Maxwell being slain on the field. The Maxwells never fully recovered even to this day. During the Civil War in the middle of the 17th century, the Irvings supported the Royalists and anti-Presbyterians. The years following the 17th century saw a quieter period in the history of the border Irvings & Irvines, with several branches then establishing themselves in Canada, America, Australia and New Zealand.

# Ship Hector



## All Hands on Deck!

Help us restore a piece of history by donating today.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, 189 Scottish settlers landed on the shores of Pictou, Nova Scotia after a harrowing 11 weeks at sea. This voyage was the beginning of an incredible story of survival that cannot be forgotten. These early immigrants made enormous cultural, political, intellectual, and industrial contributions that helped shape Nova Scotia and Canada.

In 2000, the replica of the Ship Hector was launched in Pictou Harbour. The Ship, the site and the Hector Heritage Quay Interpretive Centre allows visitors to experience the life of passengers and their crucial relationship with the Mi'kmaq.

As the restoration of the Ship Hector replica progresses, it is poised to offer tours in Pictou Harbour powered by solar energy, positioning it as the only tall ship in Canada with this eco-friendly feature. At the same time, the Ship Hector Society is spearheading a significant effort to modernize the Hector Heritage Quay Interpretive Centre. Renovations will include innovative interactive displays that offer a comprehensive narrative of the Scottish settlers' partnership with the Indigenous people of Pik'tuk.

### Charting Our Course

The Ship Hector's historic voyage is an integral chapter in Canada's history that needs preservation for the benefit of future generations. Appreciating the efforts newcomers made in pursuit of a better life remains relevant today, shaping our identity, values, and growth.

The Charting our Course campaign team is committed to preserving this important piece of our rich heritage.



### 2024 Launch of the Ship Hector!

As a fully rigged, operational 18th century sailing vessel steeped in history, the Ship Hector is poised to become a provincial tourism icon and an important economic driver for the region.

Our goal is to have the Hector back in the water by 2024 and to achieve full operational capacity by 2025.

The Ship Hector Society is committed to becoming financially sustainable through diverse programs, both shipboard and dockside.

By working together with our community and indigenous partners to enhance attractions and develop innovative visitor experiences, we will create a destination that preserves our cultural heritage for generations to come.

## Ship Hector Society Goals

- To ensure the survival and best use of the Ship Hector replica.
- To ensure the Hector Heritage Quay remains a signature tourism icon for the Northumberland Shore.
- To preserve the history of the Ship Hector and Mi'kmaq relationship to the survival of the Hector settlers.

## Restoration Progress

- ☑ All rotten structural members removed and replaced.
- ☑ All rotten inner and outer hull planks removed and replaced.
- ☑ Composite and wood materials fitted to the hull above and below the waterline ensuring longevity and ease of maintenance.
- ☑ All salvageable existing decks have been repaired, fibreglassed and sheathed in Douglas fir.
- ☑ The five watertight bulkheads fitted below main deck. Below deck display area completed as per 1773.
- Masts yards and their associated components will be refurbished/replaced as required.
- Existing standing and running rigging will be assessed and supplemented with new as per original.
- The ship will be outfitted with synthetic sails that look and feel like canvas, and so rigged to be safely and efficiently operated by the crew and by passengers if so desired.

## Next Steps To Launch

- Installation of electric motors and shafting
- Installation of steering gear components
- Installation of all thru hull fittings below the waterline
- Completion of new upper decks
- Fitting of refurbished deck equipment
- Fitting of secondary joiner bulkheads

### Contact and donation information:

33 Caladh Ave • Pictou • NS • B0K 1H0

1-902-616-9243

shiphectorcampaign@gmail.com

shiphectorcampaign.com



## Funding Campaign

The Hector Heritage Quay project encompasses two components, the Interpretive Centre and the Ship Hector restoration. We are seeking funding from our extended community, town, municipal, federal and provincial government, corporate and major gift donations for the restoration project

### Cost Projections:

#### Ship Restoration Budget:

Removals/Restoration	\$658,784.00
New Construction	\$488,433.00
Masts/Rigging/Sails/Ship outfitting	\$572,165.00
Electrical/Electronics/Safety	\$266,080.00
Machinery/Ship Systems (propulsion)	\$961,406.00
Admin/Operational/Sub-Contractors	\$327,870.00
Launch	\$195,000.00
Paint/Others/Services	\$96,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,566,238.00</b>

<b>Total Ship Cost</b>	<b>\$3,566,238.00</b>
<b>Donations &amp; Pledges (Dec 31/23)</b>	<b>\$1,770,000.00</b>
<b>Goal to Launch</b>	<b>\$1,796,238.00</b>

#### Interpretive Centre Budget:

Total Renovation budget	\$1,617,354.00
Total Interpretive Budget	\$1,912,601.00
Design Consultants/Marketing and Admin	\$737,390.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,267,345.00</b>

<b>Total Interpretive Centre Cost:</b>	<b>\$4,267,345.00</b>
<b>Government Funding (Dec 31/23):</b>	<b>\$4,276,345.00</b>

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all donors and funders whose generous contributions have propelled the restoration efforts of the Ship Hector forward.

Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments

Corporations & Small Businesses

Family Foundations

Individual Donors



## ANCIENT EARLDOM OF CARRICK



ANDREW MCMURTRY

KENNEDY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

In June 2023, I visited Carrick, Ayrshire, Scotland, United Kingdom to explore landmarks and ancient strongholds linked to Robert the Bruce and Clan Kennedy—and I was asked to write an article about it. Over the course of two weeks, I established my research headquarters first at the Woodland Bay Hotel near Girvan, then the Bargany Coach House in Dailly Parish, and finally the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. Throughout my journey, I depended on Girvan Private Car Hire and its indefatigable driver, Tommy. He skillfully transported me from one site to another, providing valuable local insights and contacts along the way.

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## DAY ONE

### CULZEAN CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK – 'A MAGNIFICENT CASTLE'

I dedicated an entire day to exploring Culzean Castle, the ultimate destination for any member of Clan



Kennedy who is visiting Carrick. The castle was initially called Coif Castle, the House of Cove, and later Cullean Castle. What we see today was commissioned in 1777 by Lord David Kennedy, the 10th Earl of Cassillis, 12th Lord Kennedy and 5th Baronet Kennedy. It was designed by Robert Adam and was completed in 1792. The castle tour guides, who are well-versed in the history of the Kennedys who called Culzean home over the centuries, offer valuable insights into every room, the oval staircase, the enormous collection of flintlock

pistols and military swords. The gift shop is chock-full of interesting souvenirs and even sells Culzean Castle branded single-malt whisky. Culzean is the most visited property owned by the National Trust for Scotland. For more information about this magnificent castle, follow the link on the last page of this report.

## DAY TWO

### GREENAN CASTLE

After a short stop in Ayr, Tommy and I headed south on A719 towards Greenan Castle, technically a tower

-house. On May 12, 1602, Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean and his servant, Lancelot Kennedy, had recently spent the night there with Thomas's half-brother, John Kennedy of Baltersan. While en route to Edinburgh, they faced an ambush, resulting in the murder of Sir Thomas. The perpetrators were Thomas Kennedy of Drummurchie, Thomas Kennedy of Bargany, the brother of the Laird of Bargany, and five others. This act was in retaliation for the death of Gilbert Kennedy, 16th Laird or Baron of Bargany & Ardstinchar, in December 1601 at the Battle of Brockloch—near Maybole (see page 6). These events inspired Sir Walter Scott's short play, 'An Ayrshire Tragedy.' (Photo: Scenic Scotland)



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# Kennedy Society of North America

*(Continued from page 45)*

## DUNURE CASTLE



Continuing south on A719, we reached the ancestral grounds of the Kennedys of Carrick, who were granted these lands in 1357. Described in the past as ‘a grand, delightful, and sturdy residence, the oldest dwelling of the Kennedy surname, Lairds of Dunure, now Earles of Castle,’ this location holds great historical significance. During three days in August 1563, Mary, Queen of Scots, was hosted by Gilbert Kennedy, 4th Earl of Cassillis, on her Royal Tour. Notably, at this site, the 4th earl infamously attempted to coerce Allan Stewart, the Commendator of

Crossraguel Abbey, into signing over land belonging to the abbey by subjecting him to slow roasting. Stewart was ultimately rescued by Thomas Kennedy, Laird of Bargany, and his men, who concealed themselves in the chapel and later launched an assault on the castle.

## MAIDENS

Continuing our travels, we made a short stop in Maidens, a locale steeped in historical importance as it is thought to be the landing site of Robert the Bruce in 1307 following his exile. The area doesn’t just feature an informative board recounting Bruce’s story; it also boasts a delightful restaurant with a picturesque view of the harbor, adding to the charm of this location.

## TURNBERRY CASTLE

Tommy patiently waited while I followed the path-way across the Trump Turnberry golf course to the lighthouse halfway house. I took a break on the patio, enjoying a drink while overlooking the Irish Sea. Next to the lighthouse lie the remnants of Turnberry Castle, the former principal residence of the Earls of Carrick and Countess Marjorie de Carrick. This castle is considered the birthplace of Robert the Bruce, who reclaimed it from the English in 1307 in the Battle of Turnberry. However, Bruce ordered its destruction in 1310 to prevent it from falling back into English hands, leaving little to observe today. Here is a painting by Andrew Spratt of Turnberry Castle at the height of its grandeur.



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## DAY THREE

### CARRICK LOWLAND GATHERING



At the Carrick Lowland Gathering, I wore the Carrick Ancient District Tartan, which I call my 'Ancient Earldom of Carrick' Tartan.

The Carrick Lowland Gathering takes place annually on the first Sunday of June at Victory Park in Girvan. While smaller in scale than many North American games, this event encompasses all essential elements, excluding clan tents. Having reached out to the Girvan Attractions organizers several months beforehand, I secured Patron status for £15, earning me recognition in the program, complimentary food and even alcoholic beverages throughout the day within the Patrons Tent, allowing me to immerse myself in the ambiance of a Scottish festival at the heart of Carrick. The mild and pleasant 17°C / 62.6°F weather allowed me to wear my tweed Crail jacket and waistcoat comfortably.

## DAY FOUR

### MAYBOLE

The following day, I met with James Brown, the owner of Baltersan Castle and a member of the Carrick History Society, at Souter's Inn in Kirkoswald. Our discussion revolved around local history and landmarks. My connection with James originated from the Kennedy Society of North America Facebook page, where he mentioned residing in a house in Ayr built and owned by James McMurtrie, who served as Moderator in the Church of Scotland in 1904. James generously took me on a tour of Maybole, where we visited Maybole Collegiate Church and the cemetery that has been the final resting place for Kennedys for seven centuries. We also explored the exterior of Maybole Castle (pictured), the former townhouse of the Earls of Cassillis. James recommended The Greenside restaurant during our tour for anyone exploring the area. (Photo credit for Maybole Castle: Mary and Angus Hogg)



(Continued on page 48)

# Kennedy Society of North America

*(Continued from page 47)*

## BALTERSAN CASTLE

James Brown personally guided me on an exclusive tour of both the exterior and interior of Baltersan Castle—a property not accessible to the public. He has been the owner for many years, originally intending to restore the castle to its original state and transform it into timeshare accommodations. The inscription above the entrance door indicates that the present tower-house was constructed on the site in 1584 and credited to the efforts of John Kennedy of Pennyglen—near Maybole—and his spouse, Margaret Cathcart. John Kennedy recognized as the ‘apparent of Baltersan,’ served as a royal servant in 1601. In 1721, Captain Hugh Arbuthnot, a cousin to John Kennedy of Baltersan, assumed ownership of the castle. Presently, the castle is listed for sale, and James Brown can be reached for any inquiries at [seumas1584@gmail.com](mailto:seumas1584@gmail.com). (Photo by John McLeish)



## CROSSRAGUEL ABBEY



Established in 1244 by Duncan, 1st Earl of Carrick, Crossraguel Abbey was bestowed upon the monks of Paisley Abbey. There is a belief that Robert the Bruce was baptized on the high altar. Unfortunately, the abbey fell victim to plunder by Edward I's army in 1307. Subsequently, it was reconstructed on a larger scale and functioned as a monastery until 1560, when the Scottish Parliament annulled the Roman Catholic Church within the Realm. As detailed on page 3, under the section on Dunure Castle, the 4th Earl of Cassillis held a particular interest in the lands linked to the abbey. As of the current report, access to the abbey is restricted due to ongoing high-level masonry inspections.

access to the abbey is restricted due to ongoing high-level masonry inspections.

*(Continued on page 49)*



(Continued from page 48)

## DAY FIVE

### BARGANY & ARDSTINCHAR

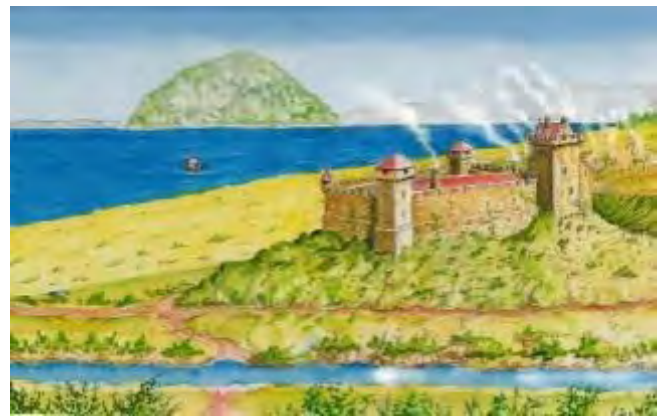


Tommy picked me up from the Bargany Coach House (pictured on the left). It is in Dailly Parish and is located on the estate that the Kennedys of Bargany & Ardstinchar had held for centuries. We took a short drive to Ballantrae to explore the remnants of Ardstinchar Castle, the once-formidable stronghold built by Friar Hew Kennedy of Dunure.

Kennedy commanded a hundred men-at-arms or mercenaries from Carrick as Captain of Joan of Arc's Scots Guards (Gardes Écossaises) at the Siege of Orléans (1428–1429) during the Hundred Years' War.

### ARDSTINCHAR CASTLE

Kennedy was knighted by Charles VII of France for his gallant efforts before returning to build Ardstinchar Castle. In later years, it garrisoned twenty-four men, each with two horses. It would become the main stronghold of the Kennedys of Bargany & Ardstinchar, shown overlooking Ailsa Craig in Andrew Spratt's painting.



### KENNEDY MAUSOLEUM



The Ballantrae Parish Churchyard holds the Kennedy Mausoleum, which encompasses the Kennedy Aisle (also known as the Bargany Aisle) and the crypt of Gilbert Kennedy of Bargany & Ardstinchar, along with his wife, Janet Stewart. Although the doors were locked, I managed to get a clear view through the window. As mentioned in the context of Greenan Castle, Gilbert Kennedy, 16th Laird or Baron of Bargany & Ardstinchar, met his demise in 1601 at the age of 25 during the Battle of Brockloch. He was ambushed in a snowstorm with only around 30 attendants by approximately 200 men, led by John Kennedy, 5th Earl of Cassillis, who was later acquitted of any wrongdoing.

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# Kennedy Society of North America

*(Continued from page 49)*



Above the mausoleum entrance, an intricately carved coat of arms representing the Kennedys of Bargany & Ardstinchar is showcased. The coat of arms is described as ‘Quarterly, 1st and 4th, argent., a chev., gules between three cross crosslets fitchée ea., for Kennedy; 2nd and 3rd, azure three fleurs-de-lis or, the arms of France.’ The supporters include Joan of Arc, acknowledging Hugh Kennedy’s association with her during the Hundred Years’ War, and a Wyvern. Charles VII conferred the arms of France in recognition of services rendered by Sir Hew Kennedy.

## OLD DAILLY

We paused at the Old Dailly Kirk and graveyard, constructed on the grounds of an earlier Celtic chapel in 1225. The parish of Dailly was known as Dalmaolkeran or Dalmakeran, with the latter being an abbreviation. Duncan of Carrick granted the church of Dalmaolkeran, dedicated to St Michael, to the monks at the Monastery at Paisley before he received his earldom. Legend has it that upon returning from exile, Robert the Bruce encamped with his followers in the hills above Dailly. The Bargany lairds rest within the church, the Killochan lairds on the north side and the Penkill lairds at the end next to the gate, alongside several Covenanters. Worship shifted from Old Dailly to a new church in Dailly in 1695, shortly after the Glorious Revolution established a Presbyterian governance structure for the Church of Scotland.



*(Continued on page 51)*

(Continued from page 50)

## DALQUHARRAN CASTLE



Access to Dalquharran Castle, located near the village of Dailly, was closed to the public; however, thanks to one of Tommy's connections, we could drive up close to the abandoned mansion. The Kennedys had owned it since the time of Gilbert Kennedy in 1474. In the late 17th century, the estate, including an older castle, was acquired by Sir Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill, who served as Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The property was later occupied by his son, Thomas Kennedy of Dunure. From 1785 through 1790, a renovation project was undertaken by Kennedy under the guidance and design of Robert Adam, who was also Kennedy's brother-in-law, to

turn it into a country mansion. A walking path that opened in November 2023 now allows proximity to the castle on foot.

Despite Tommy's best efforts to arrange a visit to the interior of Killochan Castle, a stronghold of the Cathcarts, it was already rented out to a bachelor party comprising 41 guests from Saudi Arabia. (Photo: Lisa Treanor)

## CASSILLIS HOUSE

I had come across information in *The Times* indicating that Cassillis House's Australian proprietor sold it for £3.9 million in 2021 and that it currently operates as a private residence, inaccessible to the public. In 1450, James II formally acknowledged Gilbert Kennedy of Dunure as the 'head of the kindred,' and on March 20, 1458, Kennedy was granted the title of 1st Lord Kennedy. While Lord Kennedy and numerous descendants resided and passed away at Cassillis House, neither Tommy nor I successfully gained access to a close-up view. I recommend directing attention to other significant Kennedy landmarks instead.



CASSILLIS HOUSE on the River Doon

(Continued on page 52)

# Kennedy Society of North America

(Continued from page 51)

## BLAIRQUHAN CASTLE

In planning my trip, I considered staying at one of the guest cottages at Blairquhan Castle. The original construction of Blairquhan Castle dates back to 1346 when the McWhirter family built it. An extension to the old castle was later incorporated by the Kennedys, who inherited the property through marriage in 1573. In 1622, Blairquhan Castle changed hands to the Whiteford family and was subsequently purchased by Sir David Hunter Blair in 1798.



## CARRICK SPEARMEN AT BANNOCKBURN



King Robert I and his 'ain men from Carrick



Edward Bruce, Earl of Carrick



After completing my research in Carrick, Tommy drove me to my next headquarters at the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. One of my excursions was to the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre and nearby Stirling Castle. The spearmen of the Earldom of Carrick—part of the Gàidhealtachd at the time—played an essential role as part of King Robert's division, along with the men of Argyle, Kintyre and the Isles. Edward Bruce, made Earl of Carrick by the king on October 24, 1313, commanded his own division of spearmen from Buchan, Mar, Angus, and Galloway. The Scottish spearmen formed into schiltrons, compact troop formations creating very effective phalanxes against the English cavalry. In his poem *'Lord of the Isles,'* Sir Walter Scott captures His Majesty's words in the intensity of battle: 'I, with my Carrick spearmen, charge; Now forward to the shock!' The King of Scots consistently spoke with pride about his 'ain men from Carrick,' individuals whose contributions, alongside others, played a significant role in securing Scottish independence. By an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1469, the title Earl of Carrick is now held by the heir to the throne of Great Britain (and the 14 other Commonwealth Realms). As such, the present Earl of Carrick is His Royal Highness Prince William, Prince of Wales.

(Continued on page 53)

# Kennedy Society of North America

(Continued from page 52)

## BRUCE 750: THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ROBERT THE BRUCE

While in Ayrshire, I joined the Carrick History Society, which actively participates in coordinating events to commemorate the 750th anniversary of Robert the Bruce's birth in 2024. This presents an opportune moment to explore Carrick and appreciate its stunning coastline, countryside, and rich heritage. The key events scheduled in the weeks surrounding Bruce's birthday on July 11 include a medieval-style ecumenical service at Crossraguel Abbey, a re-enactment of the Battle of Turnberry—and the main attraction—The Bruce Anniversary Festival on July 13, 2024.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to everyone in Scotland who helped make my pilgrimage to the historic Earldom of Carrick genuinely memorable and to Chief Dave Carrick of the Kennedy Society of North America for his encouragement and wise counsel.

Explore the following links for additional information:

[Clan Kennedy](#)

[Kennedy Society of North America](#)

[Woodland Bay Hotel](#)

[Bargany Coach House](#)

[House of Kennedy Arms](#)

[Culzean Castle & Country Park](#)

[Greenan Castle](#)

[Maidens](#)

[Turnberry Castle](#)

[Carrick Lowland Gathering](#)

[Souter's Inn, Kirkoswald](#)

[Maybole Collegiate Church](#)

[Maybole Castle](#)

[Baltersan Castle](#)

[Crossraguel Abbey](#)

[Ardstinchar Castle](#)

[Kennedy Mausoleum](#)

[Hugh Kennedy of Ardstinchar by Jean Brittain](#)

[Dalquharran Castle](#)

[Killochan Castle](#)

[Carrick History Society](#)

[Girvan Private Hire](#) Tel: 01465 715715

[The Greenside Restaurant](#)

[The West Kirk Restaurant](#)

[Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada](#)

[The Battle of Bannockburn Experience](#)

[Kennedy One-Name Study](#)

[Bruce 750](#)

ANDREW McMURTRY serves as the Kennedy Society of North America's delegate to the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). His DNA has recently been analyzed through YSEQ as part of the Kennedy One-Name Study, which classified his genetic signature as Carrick-B (R-M222>R-S660>R-A223>R-BY11694), indicating a common ancestor with several other Kennedy families. You can get in touch with him by email at [left-hand@rogers.com](mailto:left-hand@rogers.com).

# Clan Johnston/e in America - Culloden's Fighting Fund

Mentioned as the Culloden Preservation project at the panelist meeting. It looks like they now call it the Culloden's Fighting Fund which you can see at the following link:


<https://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/cullodens-fighting-fund>

In recognition they will put your name on the Commemorative Ceiling at the Visitors Center. They may have a newer form or an online form now instead of the form we used a few years ago. We continue to collect donations and we will make another contribution later this year.

Paul Johnston  
President, Clan Johnston/e in America (and Canada)  
Chief Commissioner to Lord Annandale for North America  
President@ClanJohnstone.org



**Culloden Battlefield**  
**Commemorative Ceiling**

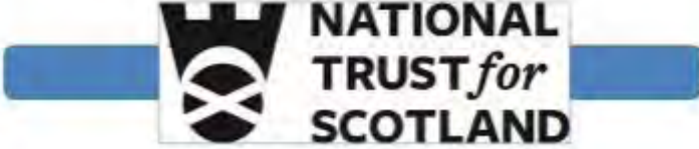


This is to certify that a donation has been made to the Commemorative Ceiling Project at Culloden for

*Clan Johnston/e in America*

All names can be viewed on the ceiling of the restaurant at Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre

*Thank you for your support*



**NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND**



It isn't very often that I am at a loss for words. When I am, however, I look at my past writing for inspiration. It never fails during the time of year with no Highland Games yet started here to get my creativity moving. Ernest Hemingway mused, "all you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed." Well, I sat down at my keyboard and typed.

Hemingway certainly had a way with words, yet I wonder how he might have described this past year 2023-2024. Along with the unusual weather and natural disasters that we have endured and with all the fighting and wars going on in our world, it has been a very disturbing and uneasy time. It seems to have affected almost everyone globally.

We all continue to search for better times as we look forward to a great season of Highland Games and Festivals for 2024. As such, our

core mission remains to build positive relationships with our members and other clans and communicate what works back and forth.

Our Society President, Bill MacRae was very busy working on a great event for Robbie Burns in Halifax, NS., along with the Federation of Scottish Culture. Bill is also getting ready to celebrate Tartan Day in April. MacRaes, please share with us your photos if you are attending Tartan Day celebrations anywhere this year.

Clan MacRae is also now approaching that time of year when they are searching for new volunteer Directors to share their time and talents. MacRaes or Septs should think about giving some of their time to volunteer for our clan society. Directors are needed for our team to fill those spots for Directors who have completed their terms on the board. They are also looking for those interested in volunteering to be an editor for the "Kintail" our newsletter. The Treasurer's term is now up also, so a volunteer for this spot is required as well as the Membership Secretary. If any of these volunteer spots are of interest to you, please get in touch. The jobs are not difficult and there are people to guide you through the learning process. If interested, please contact our President Bill McRae at email: [William\\_mcræ@telus.net](mailto:William_mcræ@telus.net)

Our AGM this year is being planned to take place in Calgary, Alberta. The time and dates will be posted on our website at [www.clanmacraecanada.org](http://www.clanmacraecanada.org)

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time and wish them all well in their retirement. Since COVID, it has been a challenging several years for many, but Clan MacRae have strived to grow and adapt. We look forward to seeing you at the Highland Games.

Regards,

Director, Barb Duff



# Kingsville-Essex Highland Games - Clan Registration



**June 22, 2024**

## Clan Village Information and Registration 2024

In 2024, there will be a table and 2 chairs made available for all Registered Clans. It is asked that all Registered Clans participate in the parade during the Opening Ceremonies at noon. All will be recognized and welcomed at that time.

The Kingsville-Essex Highland Games will run from 8am until 5pm on Saturday, June 22nd, Clans are asked to stay on-site until the Official closing around 5pm. Vehicles will be escorted onto the site for set up on Friday evening or very early Saturday morning and will be permitted to return for tear down.

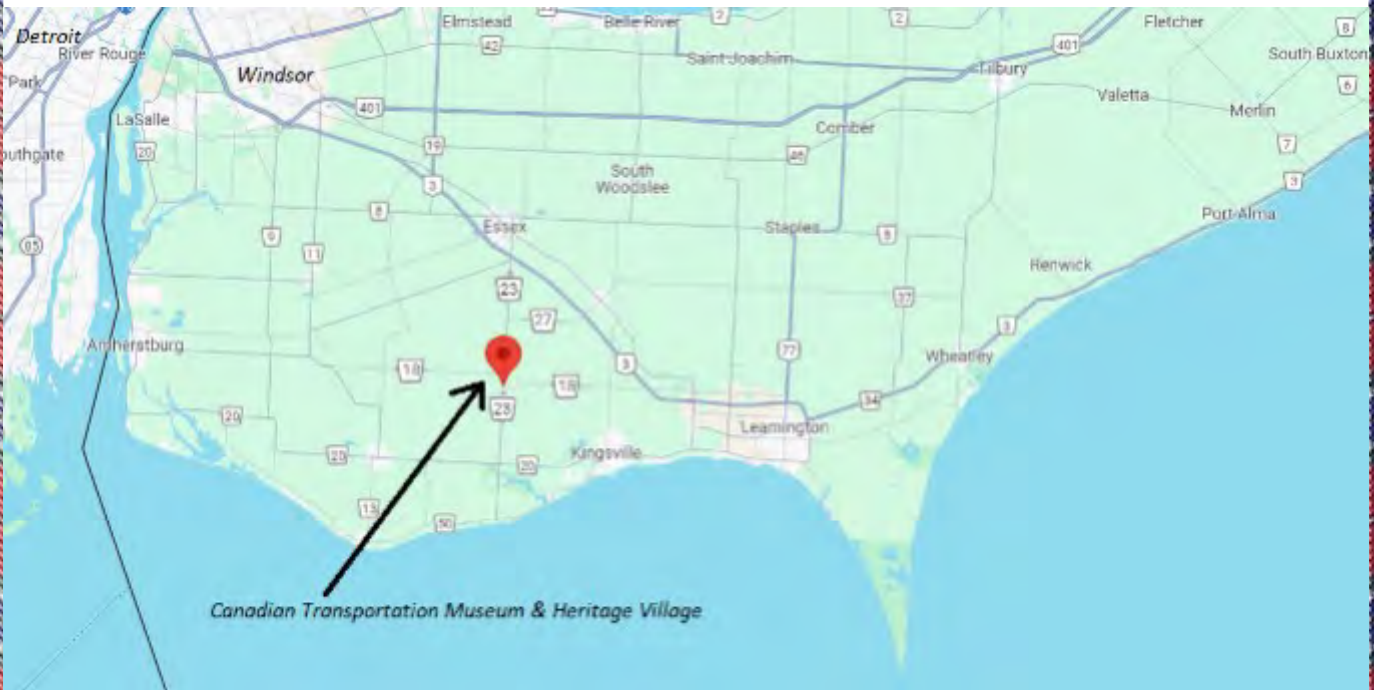
There will be volunteers available to assist with setup and/or tear down if needed.

Clans are to supply their own 10' X 10' Tent or Pop-up.

2 free tickets will be provided to all Registered Clans. Parking will be available nearby.

If you require more than 2 tickets, Early Bird tickets are on sale for \$15 until May 31st (1,000 available or while supplies last) and then will be \$25 at the gate on June 22nd. Check our Facebook Page or our new website regularly for updates on events and schedules.

Please complete the online registration form on our Clan Village page ([click to open](#)) and return to Clan Coordinator Don Noels at [dnoelsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:dnoelsgroup@gmail.com). **Deadline for registration: May 10, 2024.** Note our new location is Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village at 6155 Arner Townline, Kingsville, ON N9Y 2E5





# Kingsville-Essex Highland Games - Pipe Band Press Release

## Canada's Premiere Pipe Band Coming to Kingsville-Essex Highland Games

While modern day Highland Games have changed significantly over the years, there are still 3 pillar competitions that are consistent throughout the world; Highland Dancing; Scottish Athletic Heavy Events; and Piping, Drumming & Pipe Bands. Since it's return in 2019, the Kingsville-Essex Highland Games has always proudly presented all 3 of these events and 2024 will be no exception.



The Committee is beyond excited to announce that the prestigious 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band will be competing in Kingsville on June 22nd. The 78th Fraser Highlanders are a top-tier pipe band, one of 18 Grade 1 Pipe Bands in the World, only 3 of which are in Canada. Since its inception in 1982, The 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band has been an international leader in bagpiping and drumming, boldly presenting innovative music with subtle hints of Celtic tradition. The band travels to Glasgow, Scotland every year to compete on the international stage at the most advanced level (Grade 1), in the World Pipe Band Championships. The 78th holds 14 Canadian Championship titles, 14 North American Championship titles, a ranking position as one of the top 12 bands in the world 20+ times, as well as a very prestigious and historic title: that of being the first non-Scottish pipe band to win the World Pipe Band Championships in Grade 1 (1987).

Also, the Toronto Police Pipe Band has now registered to return for the Kingsville-Essex Highland Games competition. As ambassadors of both the Toronto Police Service and the City of Toronto, the band is dedicated to playing good music well and to help bring the ancient sounds of the bagpipe and drum to the people. The Toronto Police Pipe Band are currently a Grade 2 Pipe Band and have competed on the National and World stage over decades. There are 5 grade levels for competing pipers, drummers, and pipe bands, with 1 being the highest.

"We are truly honoured to have these bands choose to compete in Kingsville as they don't attend all Highland Games. This year is shaping up to be a real treat for everyone who comes to the Kingsville-Essex Games on June 22nd, it's not every day you have the chance to hear bands of this caliber" said founder and chairman, Doug Plumb. And it doesn't end there! Check the website regularly for updates on the bands that will be joining these 2 Canadian icons on June 2nd, 2024, at: [www.kingsvillehighlandgames.com](http://www.kingsvillehighlandgames.com)

For Further Information Please Contact: Kingsville-Essex Highland Games – Doug Plumb  
[kingsvillegames@gmail.com](mailto:kingsvillegames@gmail.com)



<https://www.78thfrasers.net/>



<https://www.facebook.com/torontopolicepipeband/>

# Clan Lachlan Association of Canada



Click! The sound of a camera. In a fraction of a second, the camera captures a detailed, colored rendition of whatever it may be focused on. So simple, so easy, so quick, and so accurate in every detail. Today, nearly everyone has a camera built into their cellphone and those cellphones even capture movement when the video feature is selected. It wasn't always this way.

The optical phenomenon of light traveling through a small hole and producing an inverted image on a darkened surface has been known since it was explained by a Chinese philosopher about 400 BC. It wasn't until the mid-1500s that devices referred to as "Camera Obscuras" were used as drawing aids. Another 150 years passed and in the late 1600s, portable versions began to be used by artists for drawings. The development of photographs took longer.

The first permanent photograph of a camera image, which took an 8-hour exposure, wasn't made until 1826. Since then, various chemicals have been used to improve photographic film, camera bodies and lens have gone through numerous upgrades and improvements leading to today's cameras that fit into a handheld cellphone, use electronic microchip technology instead of film and can be viewed or transmitted almost instantly.

So it was that in the late 1700s, if you wanted a likeness of yourself, someone close to you, or a famous person, you had to hire a portrait painter. One of the better know and more prolific of these painters in Scotland was a man named Henry Raeburn.

Henry was born in March 1756 to a successful Edinburgh businessman, Robert Raeburn, and his wife Ann Elder. They owned an estate in Annandale, in the Borders area of Scotland near the home of Sir Walter Scott. Upon the death of Robert and Ann, Henry's older brother William, placed him in Heriot's Hospital, a school for orphans.

When young Henry turned 15, he apprenticed to a goldsmith, where among other things, he painted small drawings on jewelry. From there, with no formal training, he began painting miniature portraits. In his early twenties, he was asked to paint a young countess named Ann Edgar. She was also a wealthy widow. They married within a month, bringing Henry a small fortune.

At that time, it was normal for artists to visit Italy, so Henry and Ann set off with a letter of introduction from the president of the Royal Academy, who advised Henry to study the works of Michelangelo, specifically the painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. While in Italy, another associate advised him to never copy an object from memory, but to have the principal figure



*Henry Raeburn Self Portrait - National Gallery of Scotland (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)*

*(Continued on page 59)*

# Clan Lachlan Association of Canada

*(Continued from page 58)*

placed in front of him. After two years, Henry returned to Edinburgh in 1787 and began a successful career painting portraits.

He went on to become president of the Edinburgh Society of Artists and a member of the Royal Scottish Academy. In 1822, he was knighted by King George IV, "...in recognition of his distinguished merit as a painter" and he was appointed as the Royal Household's "Painter and Limner for Scotland", an honorary, life-time position as portrait painter of the Royal Family.

Raeburn typically worked from 9 am until 5 pm with three to four people each sitting for no more than two hours per day. He preferred painting heads and hands and found painting the folds and shadows of clothing more difficult. He stood the entire time that he applied brush to canvas and never sketched beforehand but started with his oil paints. He painted freehand, without the use of a stick to support his hand. Raeburn's works display realistic likenesses, powerful characteristics, dramatic and unusual lighting. A contemporary of his said, "He paints the truth, and he paints it with love."

Raeburn kept no records of whom he painted but it's believed that he produced more than 600 portraits during his thirty-year career. Most are in private collections in Scotland.

A few days after he was knighted, he became ill. Doctors were unable to determine the cause and he died a week later on July 8, 1823, at the age of 67. He is buried at the episcopal church of St. John's in Edinburgh. His wife, who was twelve years older than he, outlived him by ten years. Ann Street in Edinburgh is named in her honor.



*A Sampling of Raeburn's Paintings in the National Gallery of Scotland*

*(Left to right): Elizabeth Forbes, Rev. Robert Walker, and Sir Walter Scott (Photos: Wikimedia Commons)*



## Famine Walls

*By Lewis & Christine Johnson*

While traveling to Galway in Ireland by bus, the guide pointed out long rock walls build across the landscape. While there are rock walls in fields to serve as fences, the rock walls I saw were across barren rocky land. The guide referred to these rock walls as famine walls. As we traveled into rural Ireland, there were in some locations six-foot-high walls set back off the road. I thought the walls were intended to wall in an estate and prevent entry onto the property, but I was wrong.

We found out that Castle Leslie Estate had those walls. During the famine of 1840's, under the compassionate efforts of Christina Leslie and her son Charles Powell Leslie III, the Estate initiated the Leslie Relief Programme that paid members of the local community to build the walls to provide employment and support. The relief effort resulted in building 4 km of walls and saved many families from starvation or migration away from their homes. In the area two other estates employed community members to build famine walls. Today these famine walls serve as reminders of the Famine and as a monument to the compassion and generosity of the estate landowners.

Currently, the famine walls of the Castle Leslie Estate are overgrown and in need of restoration. The walls serve as a reminder of the Leslie legacy of contributing to and supporting the Glaslough community during these dark years of Irish history. They are an awesome sight, and we hope others visiting the Estate area will appreciate their significance.





## Rue: Grace, protection and...Cheese?

*Chaplain's Corner*

*Samantha Gray, Chaplain, CLSI*

According to several botanical sources, the plant badge of Clan Leslie is related to oranges, kumquats and lemons. Apparently the family Rutaceae contains more species than *Ruta Graveolens*, the common rue plant. Leslies have claimed rue as our plant badge for centuries, primarily owing to its nickname even mentioned by Shakespeare, "herb of Grace." It stands for repentance and a bestowal of Grace thereafter. It also stands for a purity of spirit and was considered a "strewing" or cleansing herb (Wikipedia.com). Consider: hundreds of years ago before hygiene was understood much less practiced regularly, lack of cleanliness was an issue, so much so it contributed to several historical plagues, written about in this column several years ago. Decaying matter was often left where it lay, washing linens was tedious and done infrequently, woolens were never washed, sanitary measures were scarce for most people by the middle ages.

Even with descendants of the Celts, known for their good personal habits and cleanliness, this eventually deteriorated by the early middle ages and people, clothing, linens and castles in general stank. Strewing herbs were plants with sweet or aromatic scents. These were cut and brought indoors and were strewn on the castle or cottage floors. When walked upon they gave off a pleasant odor to counteract the usual noxious ones present in dwellings of all sizes. It is believed that rue was brought to Europe along with other Mediterranean herbs by the conquering Romans. Some were discovered to have medicinal or healing properties. Others repelled vermin and insects (such as fleas which carried the organism responsible for spreading Bubonic Plague). One of the latter protective herbs was rue. It was grown around homes to keep unwanted beasties out, and for the spiritual qualities attributed to it. Because it was also used to flavor liquor and several cheeses, it was grown in cottage herb gardens.

Rue takes its name from the middle English/vernacular "hreow" meaning "sorrow". The spelling changed over the years, typical in linguistic shifts, and it was first noted to be spelt "rue" in the 12th century.

According to Spiceography ([Spiceography.com/common-rue/](https://spiceography.com/common-rue/)) Such worthies as Hippocrates, the 'father of medicine', and the famed philosopher Aristotle believed rue was an antidote to venomous bites, poisons, anxiety and witches. Pliny the Elder, another noted thinker, declared it was good for eyesight and advised artists to use it. Yet another source considered rue could open up the 'third eye' or second sight. In churches, penitents were sprinkled with holy water from a branch of rue. Aside from the more esthetic uses, Ethiopian cooking employed rue as a popular spice, especially in coffee, for centuries and still does.

As written about in an earlier edition of Grip Fast, plague doctors wore masks with hollow beaks, stuffed with herbs and facing downward to prevent the plants from falling out. One of the cleansing and protective herbs used during the plague was rue, as its scent was believed to purify the air inside the doctor's mask. *Info on growing Rue has been omitted, visit <https://www.ufseeds.com/rue-seed-to-harvest.html>*



Moncton will reprise its 'feats of strength, feasts of lobster' tagline as it hosts the 2024 CSAF Junior Men's & Women's Championships on June 15.

The Greater Moncton Scottish Association is proud to host the inaugural Women's Juniors Championship, marking a new era of growth in the sport.

In addition to the Championships, the Games will host

its annual heavy events, pipe band, and Highland Dance competitions, each having grown in size over the past few years. There will be agricultural displays, Clan tents, live music, a 5K Tartan Run, demonstrations of swordsmanship, sheep shearing, spinning, fly casting, blacksmithing, and more.

The festivities kick off with two free community concerts during the week, while the main event takes place in Downtown Moncton on Saturday, June 15.

A great way to kick off the summer festival season on Canada's East Coast!

The Greater Moncton Scottish Association welcomes our friends from across the country & around the world to support these young athletes through sponsorships & advertising opportunities.

Email [greatermonctonscots@gmail.com](mailto:greatermonctonscots@gmail.com) for information.

# Montreal Highland Games



It is with great pleasure that I announce that [registration for Clans and Communities](#) to the Montreal Highland games 2024 is now open! Feel free to go to our website and fill out our form to attend if you haven't already done so!

I look forward to serving you all again as your Clans and Communities Director and warmly welcome you back! We would like to thank you on behalf of the Montreal Highland Games!

Il me fait énormément plaisir de vous annoncer l'ouverture officielle de la période [d'enregistrement pour les Clans et Communautés](#) pour nos jeux Écossais de 2024! N'hésitez pas d'aller sur notre site internet pour remplir le formulaire disponible à cette fin si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait!

J'aurais le plaisir de vous servir à titre de Directeur des Clans et Communautés encore une fois et vous souhaite la bienvenue! Nous voulons vous remercier de la part des jeux Écossais de Montréal!!

A promotional graphic for the 2024 Clans and NPO registration. It features a background of a colorful tartan pattern. At the top center is the logo for JEUX ÉCOSSAIS DE MONTRÉAL HIGHLAND GAMES DEPUIS 1855 | SINCE 1855. Below the logo, the text reads: 2024 Clans and NPO registration is now open!! Les inscriptions pour 2024 sont désormais ouvertes! <https://www.montrealhighlandgames.com/clans-npos-registration.html>. On the right side, there is a portrait of Steven Logan, Clans and Communities Director.



## From the President's Keyboard

Dear Cousins,

'Beware the Ides of March', so says the Soothsayer in Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar', as a portent of disaster. In Caesar's case it was his imminent assassination by some of his nearest and dearest. In our technologically wonderful world, thanks to the news media, we are bombarded by messages of disasters and traumas, huge and small in scale.

I was in Monreal a few weeks ago and the temperature changed 28C in twelve hours. I can't recall experiencing anything like that. I feel it's just another indication that our world is changing rapidly around us, while we as a species still worry about immigration, quarrel and kill each other and damn our leadership for all our immediate individual woes and wants. We're funny creatures, human beings, but we're also tremendously resourceful when we are pressed.

Apologies for a somewhat gloomy start to this quarter's President's Pen. But forewarned is fore-armed and what better time for personal re-adjustment, than Springtime?



*Cheery Blossoms in bloom in front of Edinburgh Castle – Credit: Visit Scotland*

*(Continued on page 65)*



*(Continued from page 64)*

Spring has always represented a time for renewal and making commitments to positive change. The heck with New Year's Resolutions, I'm making my promises now. Just this afternoon I made a promise to my medics to make the lifestyle changes necessary to improve my health and longevity. I have every reason to get healthy as my youngest grandson, Theodore Cohen Munro was born today!

It is very easy to let the negativity that surrounds us, draw us down into the self-deprecation that is always just an insult, annoyance or aggravation away. The trick to being happier is to dust ourselves off regularly and do what we can to help uplift ourselves, and thereby, help uplift others.

A very cheerful chap I follow on Facebook is Gurdeep Pandher who lives in a cabin in the Yukon. He regularly posts positively about his life in the bush, often accompanied by a short video of him dancing with others to a Punjabi beat out in the snow.



Gurdeep Pandher's 'mantra' of Dancing for Joy is a welcome tonic for those dark-er days that beset us all occasionally. His exuberance never fails to cheer me up.

This is a YouTube video clip guaranteed to make you make you smile showing Gurdeep dancing in the snow to bag-pipes music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYfCBPuWell>

Ultimately, it's down to us to make those first steps towards a better place. Each day is another opportunity to explore those destinations that are lighter and better for you and those around you.

Robert Burns said it more eloquently than I ever could. "The voice of Nature loudly cries, And many a message from the skies, That something in us never dies." What a legacy and a personal responsibility to consider and adopt! Image courtesy of Nova Scotia Tourism

So, here's to a healthier, happier, more harmonious year ahead for all of us.

Yours aye,  
John



# Clan Munro Association of Canada

## The Black Baron of Fowlis

The Black Baron of Fowlis, an emblematic figure of the Munro Clan, epitomized the volatile nature of 18th-century Scottish nobility. His early tenure as Baron Fowlis was marked by prosperity and strength, earning him respect for his formidable presence in court and on the battlefield. However, his fortune took a drastic turn due to intricate clan politics and personal rivalries, leading to his swift and stunning fall from grace and subsequent exile.

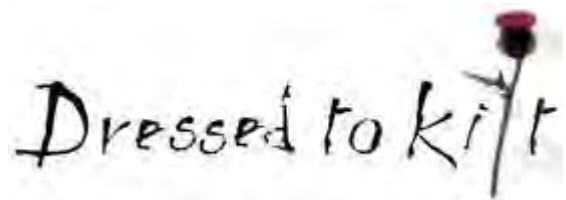
In a quest for redemption, the Black Baron ventured across Europe, aligning himself with the forces of Gustavus Adolphus during the Thirty Years' War. His military prowess shone anew on European battlefields, allowing him to regain his honor and contribute significantly to the Swedish victories.

This period not only restored his standing but also enriched his life with invaluable military and political insights. Returning to Scotland, the Black Baron was a transformed figure, his experiences having tempered his spirit and broadened his perspective. His legacy within the Munro Clan and Scottish history stands as a testament to resilience and the capacity for profound transformation.

The story of the Black Baron, with its intense highs and lows, echoes the turbulent nature of Scottish clan history, embodying the perpetual dance of loyalty, power, and the enduring human spirit against the backdrop of Scotland's ever-changing landscape.

*From Scottish Clan Connection Newsletter*

*February 2024*



Following a very successful sold-out 20th anniversary Dressed to Kilt (DTK) fashion show in Washington DC, DTK has been invited to hold its 2024 show in Toronto, Canada. This will be a very important show as it will be the first time that the Dressed to Kilt show has been held outside the United States. The next show is now confirmed for Saturday evening, April 6, 2024 – Tartan Day. This day is a celebration of Scottish heritage and the cultural contributions of Scottish and Scottish-diaspora figures of history. It is not well known that Tartan Day was actually created in Canada. Founded in Nova Scotia in 1986 and then passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1991. The US Congress followed in 1998.

For those of you being introduced to Dressed to Kilt for the first time, it is the most prestigious and largest Scottish fashion show in the world. It is also one of the highest profile fashion shows in the United States in terms of press and media generation. It was co-founded in 2003 by the late Sir Sean Connery and Dr. Geoffrey Scott Carroll. Though the fashion runways of New York City are the home of Dressed to Kilt, this annual celebrity show has also performed to sold-out audiences in Los Angeles, California; Houston, Texas; and most recently Washington DC.

*From Jo Ann Tuskin: I have heard that the Toronto DTK show will support the Royal Canadian Legion.*



# Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games



*Formerly Cobourg Highland Games*

<https://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca/>

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

[https://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca/  
info@cobourghighlandgames.ca](https://www.northumberlandhighlandgames.ca/info@cobourghighlandgames.ca)

<https://www.facebook.com/cobourghighlandgames>  
<https://twitter.com/CobourgHG>



Meet [Bruce Fummey](#), our Honourary Chieftain for 2024, Scottish comedian and YouTube presenter of "[Scottish History Tours](#)".

Bruce is taking time out of his "Stories of Scotland" Canadian Tour to take on the Honourary Chieftain role.

Check out [performance dates and locations](#) for the tour.

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



Ewen has been preparing a presentation which was planned for April but is now to be rescheduled later in the spring.

He is working with the [4-Korners](#) group, north of Montreal to give an initial presentation on the “*First Scottish Migrations to Canada (Quebec) up until the 1900s*”.

It will be presented in person and via a web site, so the link will be supplied later to all once a date has been arranged. He had to end it at the 1900s as the presentation would be 2 hours long.

An in fact, the Scottish migrations after the 1900s is pretty boring compared to the first migration patterns. We do not want anybody falling asleep!

This is a kick off for the series which will follow on web sites and YouTube in both French and English of the history as Ewen has discovered later in the year.

This first presentation will serve as a base and introduction to other presentations, as well as should not only entertain and educate at the same time but offers some surprisingly new information to some in the audience.

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# The Thistle and the Fleur de Lys : Le chardon et la fleur de lys



*(Continued from page 68)*

Ewen has also been in discussion with a Scottish historian and comedian “Bruce Fummey”. Bruce is a dynamic and no-nonsense presenter who teaches history in a manner that is both interesting and not in conformity of what others may not want us to really learn. Being a comedian, he also finds a way to entertain along the way. Bruce is travelling to Canada and will be doing his comedy shows in numerous cities. Ewen is planning to tag along with Bruce to assist when he can, and to learn a few tricks.

**Toronto, Ontario:** April 27, 2024

**Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia:** May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**Halifax, Nova Scotia:** May 16 & 17, 2024

**New Glasgow, Nova Scotia:** May 18, 2024

**Moncton, New Brunswick:** May 24, 2024

**Montreal, Quebec:** May 31, 2024

**Perth, Ontario:** June 1, 2024

**Ottawa, Ontario:** June 7, 2024

**Hamilton, Ontario:** June 20, 2024

**Seaforth, Ontario:** June 22, 2024

**Fergus, Ontario:** June 28, 2024

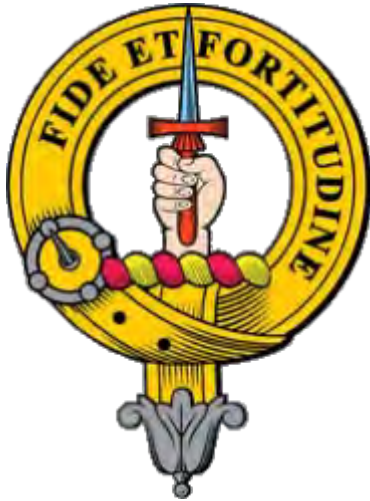
**Calgary, Ontario:** July 4, 2024

**Vancouver, British Columbia:** July 12, 2024

**Victoria, British Columbia:** July 13, 2024

Get your tickets here: <https://www.brucefummey.co.uk/shows.aspx>  
To watch his videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@ScotlandHistoryTours>

# Clan Shaw of North America - New Member



**Crest:** A dexter arm, the hand holding the dagger, pale, proper

**Motto:** fide et Fortitudine; by Faith and by Fortitude.

**Septs:** Ay, MacAy, MacHay, Seath, Seth, Search, Shiach

## A SHORT HISTORY:

From our common background within the Clan Mackintosh and the great Clan Chattan Confederation of tribes, the never-ending Clan Shaw family story begins at the ancient hill-fort at The Daune in Rothiemurchus Forest in the late fourteenth century. The early Mackintosh Shaws, or "Ciars" (nickname for swarthy or brown) soon sprouted a vigorous northern branch or sept in Strathnairn in 1468 called Clan Ay. A generation later, the main chiefly stem family established other vigorous and powerful septs in Rothiemurchus at Dell and Dalnavert and established a branch in the Western Isles on Skye, called the Clan Mhic Iver. This sept quickly spread to Harris and Jura. During this time of consolidation, a branch was also started over the Cairngorms in Deeside, settling eventually at Invercauld. This eastern branch of the family quickly became a powerful and independent clan in their own right, the Clan Fhionnlaigh, later called Clan Farquharson.

Because of Tribal and National Geopolitics, (a long story filled with politics and intrigue) by the close of the sixteenth century, the main Mackintosh Shaw chiefly family at the Daune of Rothiemurchus had lost its position of eminence and hegemony. Eventually, the second and now senior branch of the Clan Shaw up north at Tordarroch began to act as Heads of the Shaws within the Clan Chattan Confederacy. By 1629, our Clan Farquharson cousins were joined by a scion of the Shaw of Dell Chieftains. This Shaw established a new branch of the clan at Crathienaird in Deeside under the territorial hegemony of the Chief of Clan Farquharson.

This semi-independent sept, called Clan Seumas also spread north of Crathienaird to Glengairn and south to lovely Glenshee and Glenisla, settling at Easter Lair, Crandard, Blacklunans, Finegand, Little Forter, Achavan, Auchenree, the Balloch, Cray, Auchenleish, Drumjork, Broughdearg, and many other farms up and down the two glens. From these and many other septs, branches and families, the Clan Shaw has spread throughout Scotland, Eire and England, scattering during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries 'to all the Airts' throughout the world. by William G.A. Shaw of Easter Lair

**Modern**



**Ancient**



**Tordarroch Ancient**



# House of Cassady

Independent goldsmith and kiltmaker

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

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



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VISIT THE GALLERIES



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

Visit the Kiltmaking Services Page to find  
out more.

I WANT A KILT!



# Clan MacLennan Canada

*Greetings Clans and Scottish Societies,*

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



*Sue McLennan & Andy McLennan holding the banner*

Clan MacLennan Worldwide has a worldwide Gathering in Scotland every four years. Our last one was in 2018 which was a great success but due to Covid we had to postpone our next one until 2024. Our Clan is geared with enthusiasm in preparation for The 2024 Clan MacLennan Worldwide Gathering in Strathpeffer, Scotland. Strathpeffer is a village and Victorian spa town in Ross and Cromarty, Highland, Scotland, with a population of 1,469. During its heyday Strathpeffer was a renowned European health resort. A recent facelift is redeveloping the grand pavilion as a performing arts centre and has recently restored the Pump Room where visitors drank water from wells to treat all manner of ailments.



The Victorian spa village of Strathpeffer



Chief Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan at Loch Duich



## Calling MacLennan descendants to Strathpeffer, Scotland

The romantic Highland spa village of Strathpeffer will be the backdrop for the Clan MacLennan Gathering in July this year. Chief Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan says: “I hope MacLennan descendants from all parts of the world will join us at Strathpeffer for six days of fun and fellowship”.

The storied origins of the Clan MacLennan focus on the area around the Five Sisters of Kintail – located in the West Coast mountains inland from Skye. The Clan became loyal supporters of the McKenzie (later “Seaforth”) chiefs from the 1300s – including roles at their strategically located Donan’s island (Eilean Donan), Kintail. By the 1500s, the McKenzies, with McLennans and other supporters, had acquired the main route from west to east – through Strathconon, and, by 1630, controlled Lochalsh, Lochcarron, Applecross, Gairloch, the Isle of Lewis, and parts of the Black Isle. In the 1620s, the powerful Seaforths established their principal castle at Brahan near Strathpeffer. The fort on Eilean Donan was destroyed by English forces in 1719 and would remain in ruin for over 200 years. The parts mentioned above are the main districts where MacLennans were to be found in earlier times.

Neil McLennan, Chair of the Scotland committee, says: “We’ve developed a highly varied program to suit a range of interests and different ages”. Events will run from Wednesday, July 3 to Tuesday, July 9. He notes: “Due to the success of our 2018 Gathering, this year, we have found a larger venue for the 2024 Gathering in an attempt to accommodate greater numbers than ever”. Strathpeffer is half an hour by car west of Inverness. The historic Ben Wyvis Hotel will be the venue for many of the activities.

Many MacLennan descendants from Canada have already committed to attending the Gathering. Usually visitors plan to stay additional days and explore places where their ancestors lived. To help identify these places, a free eBook can be easily be found on the internet by searching “A guide to some MacLennan Places across Scotland” – this resource includes map co-ordinates that enable directions straight from the book on your phone or tablet.

In the past, many MacLennans lived in and around Strathpeffer and the first activity of the Gathering on Wednesday July 3 will be a guided tour to the ancient vitrified fort on Knockfarrel, above the village. From there, a Clan guide will point out places where MacLennans lived and other significant locations.

On Thursday July 4 – the focus will be on Clan Genealogy with a full day of activities and a wide range of speakers, including: a Member of the Scottish Parliament, an author of a book about Auldearn, a leading DNA researcher from Strathclyde University, and much more. The Clan has developed an extensive genealogy resource which consists of a database and books collection at [www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com) to be highlighted throughout the day. Many on-line talks about districts that are important to the Clan are available from “Finding your Ancestors videos” on the Clan Genealogy webpage.

The next day, Friday July 5, will include the key event, the Clan Parliament, to be held in the spectacular Inverness Town House. In the afternoon there’ll be a guided tour of MacLennan places around the village of

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# Clan MacLennan Canada

*(Continued from page 73)*

Strathpeffer. And in the evening, a grand ceilidh will take place in the Strathpeffer Pavilion. The music to be provided by Matthew MacLennan from Edinburgh, an award-winning accordionist, with his professional Scottish Dance and Ceilidh band. The ceilidh is expected to be one of the most popular events.



*Castle Leod,- Craig Wallace / Wikipedia*

Saturday July 6 will offer a tour of a distillery that was started in 1838 by a Donald McLennan (1806-1894). A visit to a nearby water-powered corn mill also as part of this event. Later this day, there'll be an alternative tour to Castle Leod that might suit younger attendees. In the evening, there will be a formal dinner with a special guest speaker.

On Sunday July 7 a church service is available, followed in the evening by lively musical entertainment.

A full day of activity on the Monday July 8 sees an opportunity to “walk in the footsteps of our ancestors” on the “McLennan Way” as described in the free eBook “A guide to some MacLennan Places across Scotland”. This event will take us through the beautiful Strathconon glen, and finish with lunch at a baronial lodge. En route the attendees will stop at places significant to MacLennans.

On the Tuesday July 9 - a “fringe” event gives Clan members a chance to enjoy a day in the famously beautiful Tomnahurich Cemetery on the edge of Inverness. Interested parties are advised to book early as some events have limited numbers. Bookings can be made via a link on the Clan MacLennan worldwide website -[www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com) .

Neil McLennan says: “We look forward to warmly welcoming MacLennan descendants from around the world to our 2024 Gathering in the heart of the Highlands”.

I've gone to the Gatherings in 2014 and 2018 and explored my husband's ancestral part of the Highlands and I can promise you it is the most wonderful experience of a lifetime.

Cheers,

Barbara MacLennan



## 23rd Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games

September 14 & 15, 2024

Saturday 10am-10:30pm; Sunday 10am-7:00pm

### Greetings Clans and Societies!

Niagara Celtic Festival invites you to participate in the 23rd Annual Niagara Celtic Festival. Festival dates are September 14th and 15th. [Click here for the Clan Contract.](#) [Return to me no later than August 1st.](#)

Contracts can be returned to this email or to [clans@niagaraceltic.com](mailto:clans@niagaraceltic.com). If completing the online, please be sure to download the contract before completing. If you are mailing your contract, please send to 115 Ferndale Road, Williamsville, NY 14221.

#### Important Information:

- Each Clan will be provided free entry for four participants only.
- A Saturday evening Clan dinner will be held for those who wish to participate. More information to come!
- All vehicles must be off the grounds by 9am each day.
- Vehicles cannot drive on the grounds during festival hours (Saturday: TBD; Sunday: 7:15pm)
- A map of Clan Village will be provided to all participating Clans.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

*Vince and Robbin Zaleski*

NiagaraCeltic.com: WNY's Home for all things Irish, Scottish, Welsh & More!

# MacFie Clan Society in Canada



*From Gary MacPhie, President*

Spring is here and I trust you and families are well. It has certainly been a winter without much snow in southern Ontario. As part of my work in helping Canadians look for work in International Schools, I traveled to teaching conferences in Edmonton and Calgary earlier in the year, and I noticed there was not a lot of snow on the ground. I wonder how this will affect climate change. We need the snow and it's run off to help combat the rise of forest fires all across the grasslands and forests from coast to coast in Canada. Wishing for a wonderful spring and fantastic summer ahead.

## **Clan Commander**

Just to give you an update and reminder that the process of looking for a Clan Commander is well underway.

As discussed in last news update, the Presidents Council was formed to help this process and consists of the following people:

Thomas McDuffee (Chair, USA), Vanessa Duffy (Secretary, Macfie Clan Society, UK), Barbara McPhee (Macfie Clan Society of Australia), James McAfee (Clan Macfie Society of America), Christer Hemberg (Macfie Thorburn Family, Sweden), Kris Marsh (McPhee Clan Society of NZ), Gary MacPhie (Macfie Clan Society of Canada), Finlay McFee (Treasurer Clan MacFie Trust, UK).

## **Council of Presidents Progress Update**

As reported previously, the Council of Presidents for our Clan was formed in the Spring of 2023 to lead the process for finding a new Commander. Our Previous Commander Iain McFie of Kincaig, Scotland, following many years of service had stepped down in 2021.

During our Clan Gathering in September 2023 in Glasgow, Dr. Bruce Durie, our consultant, presented to the attendees what the process would entail and held a Q&A session for attendees as an integral part of communications.

Since the Gathering in Scotland the Council has made considerable progress on behalf of all Clan members worldwide with the guidance of Bruce Durie.

The Petition to convene a Family Convention for selection of a Commander candidate was presented to the Lord Lyon King of Arms Dr. Joseph Morrow. That Petition has now been approved (hooray) and in the last few weeks, the Lord Lyon has appointed Linlithgow Pursuivant Extraordinary, Professor Gillian Black as our Supervisory Officer. Linlithgow's role will be to monitor our progress for communication, openness and how we build consensus for our actions. The Lord Lyon has also asked the Council to settle the name of the clan prior to submission of a candidate for Commander. These de-

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cisions will be made by eligible clan members. Please note that membership in a Clan Society is not required for individuals to put their name forward to be Clan Commander.

Our next actions as a Council are to effectively and broadly communicate our opening for a new Commander to all members of our clan worldwide. There will be a dedicated website for all individuals to access multiple background documents in order to review the necessary information regarding the process. We are working on the website.

In Canada, we will definitely use CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada) and advertise in their newsletter. We will also have to think of a few newspapers or publications as well to place the advertisement for Clan Commander. I have already spoken to Doug Macfie of New Brunswick, and he has shared some ideas with me as well.

Our goal is to create a website so we can upload all the documents related to how individuals wishing to be considered for 1) the position of Clan Commander, for registering to participate and 2) for input related to the selection of a clan name. As mentioned in the last news update, for the first 600-700 years our Gaelic name was always MacDhubhsith (pronounced Mac Du he). Then from around the 1600's onward as the English language was introduced to the highlands and the Scots immigrated all over the world, the various spellings morphed into: MacDuffee, Macfie, MacPhee, MacHaffie, McAfee, Duffy and so on. Eventually the letter "a" was also dropped so the most common spelling of our surname is definitely McPhee and McDuffee.

Our thought now is to call our Clan Dhubhsith. (no need for the Mac as it means son of) However, the names of all societies would remain the same. So, in Canada, it would say Clan Dhubhsith, The Macfie Clan Society in Canada. All societies then would have a paragraph on the Gaelic spelling and history of our name before the English spelling appeared of our surname.

We will announce when this site is completed for your use and reference. You are highly encouraged to review the material and understand eligibility when we upload documents to the sight. In addition, there will be a dedicated email account for specific questions that may arise. Based on discussions with the Court all communications with the Court regarding this process will be made via a designated representative of the Council of Presidents.

As part of the Petition process the Lord Lyon requested that a date for the Family Convention be set before any assignment of a Supervisory Officer from the Lyon Court would be made. For planning purposes, the Council of Presidents has set Saturday May 17th, 2025 (and May 18 for New Zealand and Australia) as the date of our Family Convention to be convened in Scotland. It is proposed that the Family Convention be held at the Golden Jubilee Conference Centre, Strathclyde, Scotland which has a new high-tech auditorium with facilities for large on-line participation. This is where we held our Gathering last Oct, so we do have contacts here. However, nothing has been scheduled to date. As there could be other locations as well.

*(Continued on page 78)*

# MacFie Clan Society in Canada

*(Continued from page 77)*

The plan is for eligible members to attend in person or virtually as we prefer broad input from the clan. We need to remember that the Court requires that we reach a consensus for our decisions as voting is not an option. The Council has been successful in maintaining a consensus throughout the process to date and look forward to settling the Clan name and identifying our next Clan Commander.

Obviously, we have many additional details to consider and will maintain an open communication channel. We look forward to your participation in these important and historical decisions.

*Sincerely,*

*Council Of Presidents*

## **Highland Games Across Canada**

We are very happy to see we had Clan Macfie tents set up in Penticton, BC thanks to Jan Day Stenseth. As well, Heather Day will be attending a Scottish Games in Victoria and will be setting up a Clan Macfie tent. Love seeing our Clan Macfie's from coast to coast.

Wendy Beckett will be attending Scottish Games in Fredericton, so Doug will assist her in setting up materials for her Macfie Clan Tent.

As well, we would like to extend a special thank you to Jan Stenseth as she went ahead and purchased two Clan MacFie banners. She will use one for her participation in the Games in BC and she will send me one to me, for my set up in two Highland Games this summer.

Barbara and I attending the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxwell, Ontario and the Fergus Games both taking place in August 2024. Doug Macfie will be setting up our Clan Macfie tents in Moncton and hopefully Nova Scotia this year as well. Doug attends the games in Maxville, so I will see him there.

Wishing everyone a wonderful warm spring. Time to think about the garden.

Yours Aye,

Gary MacPhie

President

The Macfie Clan Society in Canada

gmacphie19@hotmail.com

# Glengarry Highland Games



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

34 Fair Street, Maxville, ON K0C 1T0

Greetings from the Glengarry Highland Games! We're brimming with excitement as we make plans for our **75th Edition** this coming August.

This year's special edition of the Gathering of the Clans is taking place on Friday August 2nd and Saturday August 3rd. We hope a record number of clans will answer the call of the pipes this year and join us to celebrate our Celtic heritage and the warmth of our Scottish community as we mark our 75th Games in our beloved county.

To register for the 2024 Glengarry Highland Games, please fill out the following form: <https://forms.gle/1JckEUMqtX7o4dGd9>

I look forward to seeing you again. 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 an email to let us know.

Additionally, as we look to celebrate this important milestone edition, we are gathering any and all ideas for how to mark the event with the Clans. If you have an idea you'd like to share, please reach out!

See you at the Games!

Mòran taing,

William Hinse-MacCulloch,  
Director, Clans

Glengarry Highland Games  
[clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com](mailto:clans@glengarryhighlandgames.com)

# Clan MacEwen Society



## An Australian MacEwen and a Scottish Armiger

Chris McEwan, Australian Commissioner Clan MacEwen

### Introduction

It is my great pleasure in the following article to delve into my recent Grant of Arms from the Lord Lyon King of Arms. As far as we are aware, I am the first Australian MacEwen to be granted Arms by any Heraldic Authority.

This is an exciting development for me personally, for my family, and for the Clan as a whole as we seek to demonstrate that we are once again, alive and active, participating in the unfolding history and culture of Scotland.

### Heraldry in Australia

For some of you the first question that might spring to mind is “How did an Australian end up with a Grant of Arms from the Scottish Heraldic Authority?” To fully understand this you first need to understand a little bit of the context of heraldry in Australia. Being part of the Commonwealth, our Head of State is King Charles III, while this is the same monarch as both Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom, technically speaking the Crown of Australia is a separate crown just as the Crown of Scotland is separate from the Crown of England. This also goes for other Commonwealth countries as well.

It just so happens that all of these Crowns are held by the one person. Heraldry is, strictly speaking, governed by the monarch who delegates responsibility for this to Heraldic Officers. While some Commonwealth countries such as Canada and South Africa have their own Heraldic Authorities governed by Heraldic Officers in their respective Countries, Australia (and New Zealand for that matter) do not. This means to obtain a legally granted Coat of Arms Australians need to petition one of the United Kingdom’s Heraldic Officers for arms. As my reason for gaining arms was largely in support of our Scottish Clan the Lord Lyon was the obvious choice for me.

### What was Required?

After determining that I would petition the Lord Lyon in Scotland I needed to prove in my petition that I was a person of upright character and that I could legitimately fall under his jurisdiction to grant arms.

There are a number of ways you can do this, for me it meant tracing my genealogy back to an ancestor who was born in Scotland and providing supporting documentation to prove this descent. This was a labour of love that I conducted during the 2021 Covid lockdown and had me dive deeply into

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*(Continued from page 80)*

the records of births, deaths and marriages in both Australia and Scotland, eventually tracing my family's story through five generations to find my ancestors who made the decision to leave Scotland and emigrate to Australia.

## Blazon

A blazon is the written description of a Grant of Arms. It is this written description that is recorded in the Public Register of all Armorial Bearings in Scotland and protected by law. Any renditions of a Grant are merely that particular artist's interpretation of the blazon. The blazon for my ensigns armorial reads as follows:

Or, a lion rampant tail nowed Azure armed and langued Gules, on a chief enarched Azure a lymphad sail unfurled reversed Or, pennants Gules, sail Argent between two mullets of seven points Or. Above the Shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree with a Mantling Azure doubled Or, and on a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest a blasted Eucalypt burnt Sable, sprouting in a phyllotactic spiral Vert, and in an Escrol over the same this Motto "DEARBHAIDH MO LÀMH".

## Explaining the Symbols

In terms of symbolism, to begin with I can't help but think of the shield in a coat of arms in terms of cardinal directions i.e. chief - North, base - South, dexter - West, and sinister - East. The lymphad shown reversed and in full sail represents my family's eastward sea journey to Australia. The two seven pointed mullets have a dual significance. Firstly, the seven-pointed star is a reference to the Australian Federation star which is not only found on our national flag but is also the crest of the Australian Coat of Arms. Secondly, the presence of two stars is meant to reference the Southern Pointers.

Most people know of the Southern Cross and that it can be used to find South in the Southern Hemisphere in the same way that Polaris can be used to find North in the Northern Hemisphere, fewer people know that you actually also need to use the Southern Pointers to make this calculation. While the Southern Cross has become somewhat cheapened and, at certain times in Australia's history, a symbol of unhelpful nationalism, the Southern Pointers carry no such burden.

They do, however, still carry the significance of both the southern sky I live under and the concept of being guided and finding my way in this part of the world.



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The Azure Lion, as well as being a regular symbol in MacEwen Heraldry, is facing dexter and therefore represents me looking Westward back towards Scotland, its tail is Nowed (tied into a figure eight knot) as a nod to my profession as an outdoor educator and guide. The figure 8 knot and the family of knots which stem from it are highly important in both roping activities such as climbing, abseiling, canyoning, and rescue; as well as in sailing. All of which are activities which I regularly guide students on as well as being areas of personal interest.

The crest is an Australian take on the classic re-sprouting oak of MacEwen Crests. It is amazing to see the way in which our Eucalypts re-sprout after fire and they are known to do so in this spectacular bloom of bright green growth that spirals up the trunk and main branches (see <https://southernforestlife.net/happenings/2020/fuzzy-trees> for some stunning examples). I think this is true to the spirit of the classic MacEwen crest but also honours the place that my family has made its home for many generations.

## **Understanding my Motto**

I was very passionate about having my motto rendered in Gaelic as I have spent the last five years learning the language and it is my great hope that my children and their descendants will be able to speak it as a first language moving forward.

I had the privilege of collaborating closely with friend of the MacEwen Clan, and Gaelic Consultant, Adhamh O'Broin, to construct something that is meaningful to me, an appropriate response to our Commander's motto of "Reviresco" (Latin for "I grow strong again") and importantly something that is authentically Gaelic rather than being just a Google translation of an English or Latin motto. It is in the Gaelic dialect of Cowal and Argyll which is the language of our ancestral home and the dialect I am seeking to learn as I continue my own journey to Gaelic fluency.

The motto that Lyon agreed to grant me, "Dearbhaidh Mo Làmh," translates to "my hand will prove." It is an extract from the longer Gaelic proverb that Adhamh and I crafted, "Mar a bhitheas mo chridhe, 's ann a dhearbhas mo làmh" which translates to "as is my heart, so proves my hand." It is aspirational in nature, expressing the desire that the good things in my heart (for example my desire to uphold the "Reviresco" motto) will be proved by the actions of my hands. My hope is that my motto being in Gaelic will become a touch stone that keeps future generations of my family connected to our ancestral language and culture.

*Reprinted from the Scottish Australian Heritage Council Newsletter - Spring 2023*

# CASSOC Member Program Fund Application



The CASSOC Member Program Fund is designed to support member group participation in activities or events.

Matching funds of up to \$250 per member event are available after approval of an application for Not-For-Profit events promoting Scottish Culture and Heritage during the 2024 fiscal year.

One or more member organizations are required to be explicitly involved in this event. For annual events, a new application would be required each fiscal year.

The distribution of monies in the fund will be assessed and decided upon by the Member Program Fund Committee or, if not formed and active then, by the CASSOC Board of Directors.

Pre-approval in principle for funding of the event requires this application to be submitted by the member or members a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the event. Inclusion of CASSOC's banner or other means of showing CASSOC support in advertising, media and during the event is expected along with an expenses budget to substantiate the request.

For those events that are approved, payment will occur only after the activity ends and CASSOC is provided with the final financial statement including receipts.

CASSOC expects a post-event summary of the activity and an article and photos for publishing in the An Drochaid newsletter. The article should include information regarding the success of the event and how CASSOC support aided in the outcome.

Note that a cap of overall funds available is set for each fiscal year. Applications are reviewed on a first come first served basis.

*For more information visit : <https://www.scotscanada.ca/Member-Program-Fund>*

## *Book Promotion*

Two brothers living on a croft, on a small Scottish island, but is it big enough for both of them? Alex with his roving eye, insatiable 'biadh gnèitheach' and increasingly misogynistic attitude, finds he is in conflict with his younger brother, Malcolm, whose new romance raises already festering tensions between them.

A Scottish drama with highly charged emotions, tempered by a touch of humour & a drop of whisky.

By Gordon MacLeod



# Clan Ramsay International

## March Book Review - A History and Guide to Scottish Castles

In *A History and Guide to Scottish Castles*, Jenna Maxwell invites readers on a journey through Scotland's rich and storied past, illuminated by the towering fortresses that have stood sentinel across the Scottish landscape for centuries. Maxwell delves in- to the captivating histories of these castles, blending scholarly insight with an appreciation of the architectural marvels that define Scotland's heritage.

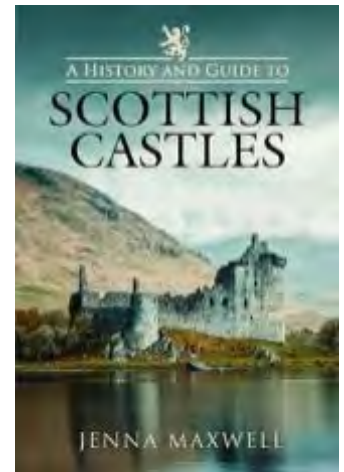
Maxwell's book is both a historical narrative and a practical guide, weaving together detailed accounts of each castle's origins, construction, and significance with practical tips for modern-day travelers. Divided into geographical regions, the book takes you on a comprehensive tour of Scotland's most iconic castles, from the rugged Highlands to the picturesque Lowlands.

One of the book's most compelling aspects is Maxwell's ability to breathe life into the stone walls and battlements of these ancient fortresses. She transports you back in time, offering glimpses into the lives of the kings, queens, warriors, and nobles who once inhabited the strongholds. Maxwell infuses each castle with a sense of drama and intrigue that captivates the imagination.

In addition to its historical depth, "*A History and Guide to Scottish Castles*" serves as a valuable resource for travelers seeking to explore these magnificent landmarks firsthand. Maxwell offers practical advice on planning castle visits, including tips on transportation, accommodation, and nearby attractions.

Jenna Maxwell's *A History and Guide to Scottish Castles* is a masterful blend of scholarship, storytelling, and practical advice, offering readers a captivating glimpse into the heart and soul of Scotland's most iconic landmarks.

Submitted by Dick McGraw With Help from ChatGPT



## Scholarship Opportunity

Clan Ramsay is soliciting scholarship applications for 2024. If you know of someone who might be a candidate for a scholarship for someone that promotes and encourages Scottish Arts and Culture, have them apply to Clan Ramsay for information.

Application for the scholarship will be in the form of a letter from the applicant addressed to Clan Ramsay Scholarship, 434 Skinner Blvd, Dunedin FL 34698. The application must be received by May 1, 2024. The winning applicant or applicants will be announced in June and the funds will be available through the end of 2024.

The application letter must include:

- the applicant's name, age, address, email address and phone number;
- the amount of training, if any, the applicant has had;
- a brief (300 word) essay that states why the applicant wants the scholarship;
- the name of the academy or teaching facility or institution the applicant wants to attend
- a letter of recommendation from an accredited instructor or teacher of the instrument or dance the applicant wants to pursue.



## EP 13: "Mary Queen of Scots" with Océane Lopez

The simple story of Mary, Queen of Scots, is that she was born royal, killed her husband, was driven from Scotland and died after spending half her life in prison. But, if that story was the whole story, we wouldn't be talking about her - or making glitzy Hollywood movies about her - 400+ years later.

Why has Mary's story endured?

In this episode, Eamon O'Flynn talks to Océane Lopez. Océane is a teacher and researcher who has spent considerable time studying Mary, as well as the concepts of religion and gender in Scottish history. She's also a well-known on [Instagram for sharing a fun mix of history and books](#).

We cover:

- Mary's biography
- The reasons we remember Mary centuries later
- A few things people might not know about Mary
- Océane's thoughts on the recent film starring Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie
- A few books about Mary that you might want to check out



## Notes on the Highland Dress

### (Part 2 of 3)

By RORY SINCLAIR

*Honorary President, Clan Sinclair Canada*

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

In our last episode, we received some sense of the reasons for the 'Highland Revival' of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. For, if the truth be known, the usages of Highland customs as we practice them today, really became established during this period. At the same time, this fact is rife with irony because this was also the time that the bulk of ordinary Highlanders were being forcibly cleared off their meagre lands into exile in places like the country in which we now live. And Sinclairs were to play a prominent role in both these processes.

The major part of the mandate of the Highland Societies of London and of Scotland was: the preserving and promotion of Highland culture of pre-Culloden days which was in danger of becoming lost and the introduction of scientific methods of agriculture and animal husbandry so that the lands of this depressed area of Scotland could be more productive. The results were, to oversimplify, that the glens became filled with sheep not people and wherever Scots now congregate, there is a proliferation of kilts, tartans, Burns and bagpipes.

Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster was described by a contemporary as "The most indefatigable man in Europe." He compiled the Statistical Account of Scotland, the first of its kind, and he wrote on innumerable subjects from the treatment of lumbago to travel in Eastern Europe. He was a promoter of the raising of sheep but in his retrospective defence, he was more than any other land owner, solicitous of those who were being displaced in the process. He even proposed a co-operative arrangement whereby agricultural workers could participate in their own enterprise. Unfortunately, it came to nought.

Sir John had an enormous fascination for Highland culture and was very active in reviving interest in Highland poetry as well as piping (a separate article on Sinclairs and piping was presented last year in earlier issues). He was a vociferous partisan in the authenticity of the Ossian epic which has pretty much been debunked. With respect to the Highland Dress, he firmly believed that the trews were the more ancient form of clothing for the Gael (a view that Logan was sure was mistaken).

He personally designed the uniform of the Rothesay and Caithness Fencibles in which he was portrayed by Raeburn in the famous painting (See the next instalment). And so the Highland Dress begins to be worn again but this time it is not so much the dress of the common man as it is for the

*(Continued on page 87)*

## 19th - 21st Century Highland Dress



Piper circa 1825



Staff at Balmoral in 1870

*(Continued from page 86)*

leaders of Scottish society as embodied by the men of the Highland Societies where full Highland regalia was expected at all meetings. For one thing, the outfit was, and is, very expensive.

We have now arrived at the watershed of tartanophilia. It is 1822, George IV is about to visit Scotland and Sir Walter Scott has taken over the complete management of the royal progress. There are theatrical events, balls, and receptions at which all invitees are expected to wear the Highland Garb. Wilson's, the major weaver of tartan, was completely inundated with orders. And then came the real innovation: everyone had known that the use of Tartan was ancient, but now families were told that particular setts or tartans had been theirs from long antiquity. In reality, what occurred was the assignment of what had been number XY in the Wilson book to Clan Z as their venerable family tartan. A few years later, two Polish brothers arrived in

Scotland bringing with them *The Vestiarum Scoticum*, supposedly based on an ancient manuscript and which purported to authenticate these very family tartans. The brothers' names soon metamorphosed from Sobieski to Allen and finally to Sobieski-Stuart when they claimed descent from Bonnie Prince

*(Continued on page 88)*

# Clan Sinclair Association (Canada)

## 19th - 21st Century Highland Dress



Causal Dress, 1950



Penny, Countess of Caithness, Malcolm, Earl of Caithness & Lady Iona Sinclair

*(Continued from page 87)*

Charlie! They were declared frauds by no less a person than Walter Scott himself! Whatever the fate of the Sobieskis and the truth or no of the antiquity of Clan tartans, of this there can be no doubt: tartans associated with individual clans was an idea whose time had come. All Scotland participated in this movement including we Sinclairs. Next issue, see the dash and panache with which three Earls of Caithness wore the Kilt of the Gael!

From this time forward, with new books on Tartan and Highland Dress from Logan and Maclan and with the royal approval of Queen Victoria herself, (she had each member of her entire staff at Balmoral outfitted in the tartan of his/her family name), the Highland Dress as we know it, became established. And at nearly 200 years old, this sartorial custom can now claim to have a long history all its own.

**(Part 3 to be continued)**



## The 2024 OttScots Burns Supper

By Patrick Dionne-Kuno, Clan Logan Representative of Ontario and OttScot Youth Director.

I arrived on the 5th of January at the Ottawa JR Ranks Mess. I met up with Dave Johnstone who is the OttScots Volunteer Director as well as secretary. He needed help with some last minute preparations before the dinner started. I helped him set up the signing booth, a whiskey bar for shots as well as to pour some for dinner (our own whiskey since the mess only served beer and soda) and other various little things.

Once done I went down to the first floor kitchen. The kitchen was used for tuning up. the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa were the band chosen to pipe in the Haggis. Their Regimental Headquarters is located next door at Cartier Drill Hall. The Cameron's only had a mini 5 person band because of the limited space available at the mess. I got to see my award winning best friends Walter Chaytor and Cameron Aldous. (see my recent PPBSO Knockout articles for more information about their win) As people were starting to arrive. Cameron played near the stairs to the 2nd floor, to let people know the dinner would be held in the dining room upstairs and not downstairs on the 1st.

As people walked up the stairs, two lovely ladies stamped the guests into the event. Unfortunately, some of the couples didn't realize that they had to buy two tickets each. They thought it was a +1 situation. The society was able to accommodate by literally squeezing them in. Once everyone was stamped in, we all went to the main hall to watch the highland dancers. The 5 dancers that were chosen to dance with the Cameron's are the directors of the Ottawa Highland Dancing Association as opposed to the Cameron's own dancing team.

Once done, we had the piping of the haggis. Jen Lea is the host and Burns Director for the society. She gave the immortal memory to Robbie Burns at 7. At 7:30 we all headed to the dinning hall for are 4 course meal. As we sat down we enjoyed are first meal, cock a leekie soup. In between meal we would have the Cameron-on's and the dancer performing in between the tables. I was unfortunately stuck at table 8, a table the was situated in the middle of the room. The Cameron's as well as the dancers were moving back and forth between both sides of the room and because of it I was not able to get good footage. The 2nd meal was the famous haggis, neeps and tatties. Finally, the 3rd meal was beef with a glazed, carrots, celery and broccoli. The dessert was a jello sorbet with blueberries, strawberries, raspberry and blackberries. It was all topped off with whipped cream.



Patrick, John McLucky - OttScots president,  
Whitney Brooks- Social Media Coordinator



Jen Hill, the Burns Director

To end the night, we head to the main hall to dance the night away! Shabraque Celtic who is the informal band of the RCMP was the band playing the rest of the night. I also had a chance to talk to the rest of the board of directors of the OttScots as well as other guests. I met several people that have moved from Scotland in their life time as well as well several people explaining how they are connected to a certain clan or tartan.

# Clan MacDougall Society of North America



## The Scottish Wildcat

By Kyra Monsam

Deep in the woodlands of Scotland lives the elusive Scottish Wildcat, a small feral cat once found all across Britain. The Scottish Wildcat looks similar to its domestic relatives, but its heavier, more robust skull and longer limbs set it apart. The wildcat's fur is distinctly solid-striped with a tabby pattern, and it has a bushy, ringed

tail with a black tip. Males weigh between 8 and 16 pounds (3.6 to 7.2 kg), while females are smaller at 5 to 10 pounds (2.2 to 4.5 kg). The Scottish Wildcat occupies a large territory and is most active at night, preying mainly on small mammals such as the European rabbit and field vole. The Scottish Wildcat has inhabited Britain since the early Holocene era, a time when the British Isles were connected to continental Europe via the Doggerland land bridge, but is now threatened with extinction.

The wildcat disappeared first from Southern England in the 16th century and by the 19th century its range had shrunk to west-central Wales and Northumberland due to hunting and persecution. By the 1880's, the wildcat survived only in northern and western Scotland, and by 1915 it could be found only in northwestern Scotland. However, thanks to a decrease in professional hunters after World War 1 and various re-forestation projects, the wildcat population has re-colonized some areas of western and northern Scotland.



*(Continued on page 91)*



*'Saving Wildcats' project photo [www.savingwildcats.org.uk](http://www.savingwildcats.org.uk)*

# Clan MacDougall Society of North America



*'Saving Wildcats' project photo [www.savingwildcats.org.uk](http://www.savingwildcats.org.uk)*

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Scottish Wildcats are continuously threatened with habitat loss and hunting, as well as interbreeding and hybridization with feral domestic cats. Domestic cats also carry a host of viruses that, if transmitted to the wildcat, can be deadly. In a conservation effort the Scottish Wildcat has been given protected status under the United Kingdom's Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. Since 2007, it has been listed as a priority species in the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan. The Scottish Wildcat Conservation Action Plan, developed by the Scottish Wildcat Conservation Action Group (SWCAG), set national action priorities regarding the wildcat, and defined responsibilities of agencies and funding priorities for the group's conservation efforts between 2013 and 2019. Conservation efforts include neutering feral cats and euthanizing diseased feral cats to prevent hybridization and the spread of diseases. Despite these conservation efforts, the Scottish Wild Cat population continues to decline.



*Wikipedia image of the Cat-sith  
from More English Fairy Tales illustration by John D. Batten*

A captive breeding program for the Scottish Wildcat has been established in accordance with the Scottish Wildcat Conservation Action Plan to ensure the survival of the species. In 2015, six wildcat kittens were born at the Highland Wildlife Park in Kingussie, Scotland. Since then the birth count within the UK conservation breeding programme has risen to a record 57 wildcat kittens born in 2020.

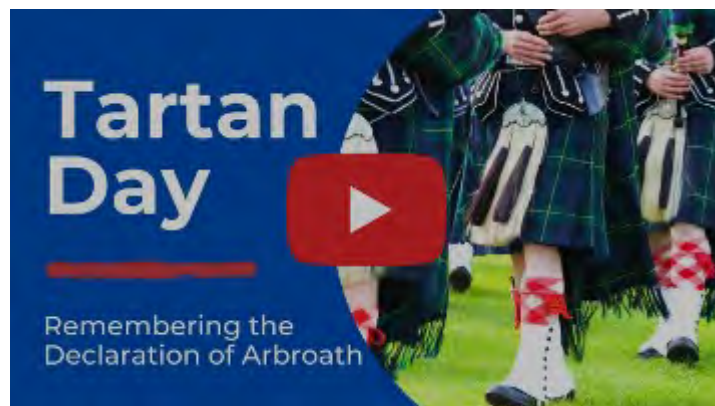
The Scottish Wildcat is a traditional icon of the Scottish wilderness and is thought to have inspired the mythological Scottish fairy creature, the Cat-sith. The clans within the Clan Chattan confederacy have displayed the Scottish Wildcat as their clan symbol since the 13th century and have actively participated in Scottish Wildcat conservation efforts since 2010.

To learn more about how you can help support the conservation of the Scottish wildcat, visit [www.savingwildcats.org.uk](http://www.savingwildcats.org.uk) or <https://www.scottishwildcataction.org/how-you-can-help/>

On Saturday we celebrate Tartan Day, an annual celebration of Scottish culture and heritage. The celebration was inspired by Scotland but originated in Canada. The idea can be traced back to a Federation of Scottish Clans meeting on March 9, 1986 in Nova Scotia. Attendees proposed a day to recognize the contributions of Scottish immigrants and their descendants to Canadian society.

The date was chosen to recognise the Declaration of Arbroath which was signed on April 6th, 1320. The Declaration was a diplomatic letter from Scots nobility to Pope John XXII. It was written during the Wars of Independence as Scotland looked to remain free of English rule. The Declaration's passionate advocacy for nationhood has earned it recognition around the world.

To find out more about Tartan Day, read our [blog post here](#).



## Canadian Whisky wins at World Whisky Awards



A young Alberta distillery has beaten out Scotland, Ireland and Japan at the World Whiskies Awards in London. Anohka Distillery won "World's Best New Make and Young Spirit" for its "This is Not Whisky" heavily peated single malt spirit. In Canada, you can't legally market whisky as whisky until it's been aged for three years, hence the quirky name. Alberta grows more barley than any other country in the western hemisphere so they have some of the best barley growing conditions in the world. To read more, [click here](#).

# John Sawyer

St. Andrew's Society of Toronto



## EP 14: Scottish Community - Everyone Welcome

This month's episode of 63% Scottish features our very own President, John Sawyer! Listen to John's interview as he talks to Eamon about his own entry-point into Scottish culture and the benefits of joining the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto.

This is the last in the series of 63% Scottish podcasts. Huge thanks to Eamon O'Flynn for allowing us to share them with our readers.

Click the image above to listen to the interview

# About CASSOC

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

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

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

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

## **Patrons:**

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

## **Meetings 2024:**

The 2024 Spring Delegate's meeting date will be April 21, 2024 Online.

The next General Assembly meeting will be held in November 2024. Format of in-person, virtual or blended is to be determined.

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

## **Guidelines for submissions are:**

Submissions due by the first of the month of the season for the edition, word/text readable format is preferred. A grant of right of use for publication and posting on the web is implied. Submitter must be able to legally provide the contents. For instance, please ensure that you have image rights for persons in photographs.

Publication of material is at the sole final discretion of the newsletter editor. Format, length and content may be adjusted by the editor as deemed necessary. CASSOC, the editor and agents assume no responsibility nor liability for submitted content in terms of factual correctness or right of use. All submissions will be published with the implied or explicit attribution of source.

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

## **Websites and Emails:**

We are in the process of transition for our web and mail services. During this time we will be using two domains, a legacy HTML site at CASSOC.CA and a modern responsive site at SCOTSCANADA.CA.

Equivalent email addresses are in place for each domain name. We will progressively attempt to use SCOTSCANADA.CA for sending email however you may still receive and send to the equivalent email at CASSOC.CA until further notice.

# Membership Report

## Clans and Families

Clan Baird Society Canada  
Clan Bell North America  
Family of Bruce International, Inc.  
Clan Buchanan Society International  
Clan Campbell Society (North America)  
Clan Cameron Canadian Branch  
Clan Carruthers Society International  
Clan Chisholm Society Canada Branch  
Clan Colquhoun of Canada  
Clan Davidson Society of North America  
Edmonstone Clan Society  
Elliot Clan Society of Canada  
Clan Farquharson Canada  
Clan Fergusson Society of North America  
Clan Forbes Society, Inc  
House of Gordon Canada  
Clan Graham Society Inc  
Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter  
Clan Gunn Society of North America  
Clan Hope of Craighall Society  
Clan Hunter Association of Canada  
Clan Irving  
Clan Irwin Association  
Clan Johnston/e in America  
Kennedy Society of North America  
Clan Kincaid Association International  
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.  
Clan Lamont Society of North America  
Clan Leslie Society International  
Clan Logan Society of Canada

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# Membership Report

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

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# Membership Report

*(Continued from page 96)*

## Societies

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

## Games/Festivals

Cambridge Scottish Festival  
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Georgetown Highland Games  
Glengarry Highland Games  
Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Kingsville-Essex Highland Games  
Montréal Highland Games  
National Capital Highland Games  
Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival  
Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games  
Red Deer Highland Games  
Sherwood Park Highland Games  
Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival

## Businesses

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

## An Drochaid The Bridge

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

Our spring cover is the site of the Battle of Bothwell Brig' on 22 June 1679 between government troops and militant Presbyterian Covenanters which signalled the end of their brief rebellion.

It soon led to what is know as "the Killing time" of religious repression and strife.

[upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8e/The\\_Battle\\_of\\_Bothwell\\_Bridge.\\_1679.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8e/The_Battle_of_Bothwell_Bridge._1679.jpg)

(J. Robertson. 1879., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

An Drochaid is published quarterly for each season.

Submissions are extraordinarily welcome, though articles may be edited for length or content.

CASSOC assumes no responsibility for content including dates for events.

Please verify by contacting organizers, visiting websites and other sources.

Whenever possible, please provide Word, RTF or text formats

Please try to provide submissions by the first day of the season of publication.

Spring: March 21, Summer: June 21, Fall: September 21, Winter: December 11.

**TAYLORS TARTANS.COM**

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

# Wordsearch - Clans and Families in this edition

The following word search contains the indicative part of all the clans and families who have contributions to this edition. For example Clan Shaw of North America will simply be 'SHAW'. The list of 21 'names' are on the next page of this edition. Enjoy!



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

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William Morrison	Western Ontario	226-600-3472 piperwilly@hotmail.com
Jenna Denisson	Greater Montreal Area	514-835-6320 <a href="http://www.jennadennison.com">www.jennadennison.com</a> dennison.jenna@gmail.com

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Rory Sinclair	Scottish History and Culture	<a href="http://www.caledoncounty.com">http://www.caledoncounty.com</a> rorygus.sinclair@outlook.com

BELL	EDMONSTON	MACFARLANE	MACEWEN
GUNN	MACDOUGALL	LACHLAN	SINCLAIR
ELLIOT	KENNEDY	LOGAN	MACLENNAN
MACRAE	THOMAS	MUNRO	IRVING
MACFIE	JOHNSTON	RAMSAY	SHAW
LESLIE			

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Jenna Denisson	Greater Montreal Area	514-835-6320 <a href="http://www.jennadennison.com">www.jennadennison.com</a> dennison.jenna@gmail.com

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Rory Sinclair	Scottish History and Culture	<a href="http://www.caledoncounty.com">http://www.caledoncounty.com</a> rorygus.sinclair@outlook.com

BELL	EDMONSTON	MACFARLANE	MACEWEN
GUNN	MACDOUGALL	LACHLAN	SINCLAIR
ELLIOT	KENNEDY	LOGAN	MACLENNAN
MACRAE	THOMAS	MUNRO	IRVING
MACFIE	JOHNSTON	RAMSAY	SHAW
LESLIE			