

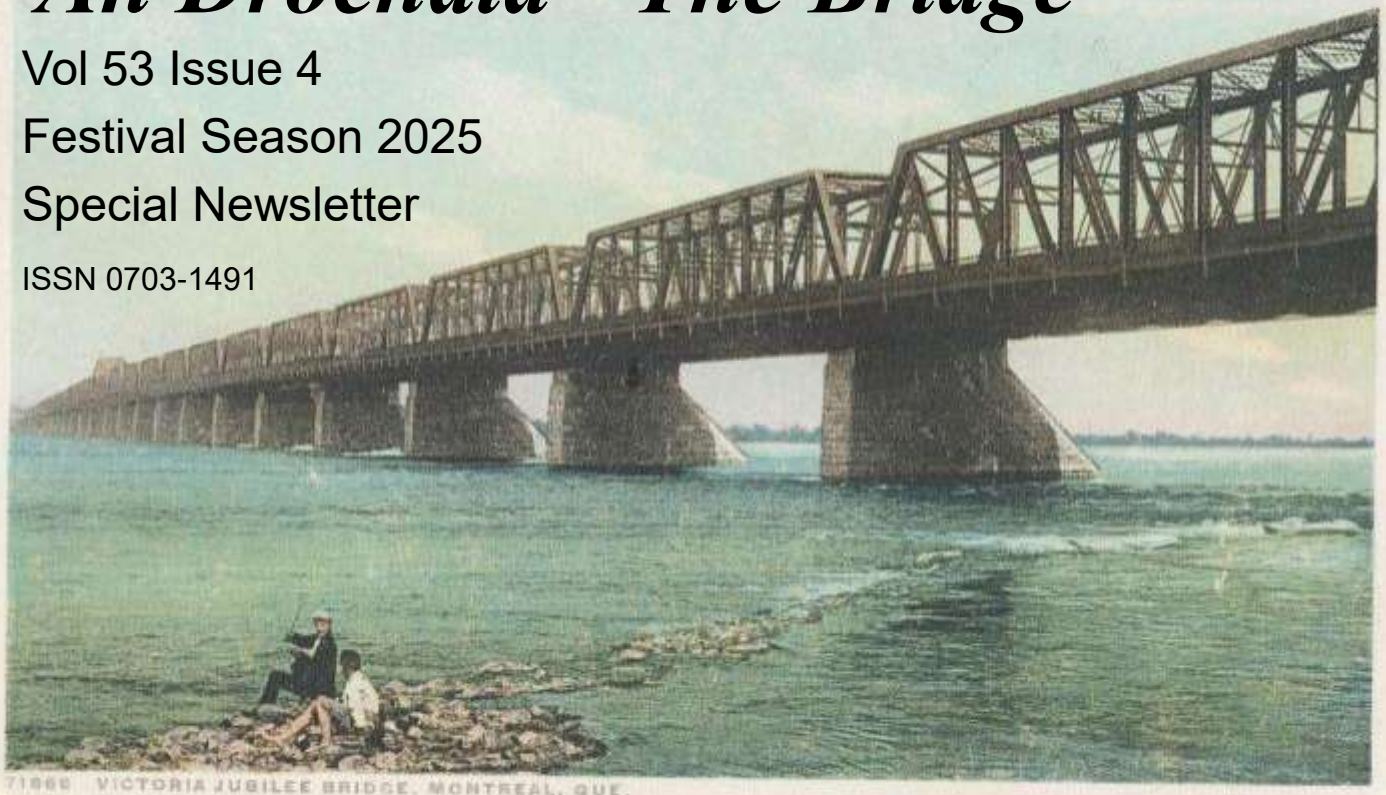
An Drochaid - The Bridge

Vol 53 Issue 4

Festival Season 2025

Special Newsletter

ISSN 0703-1491



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Frae the Chair

Most of the time, when I write something, I'll gather bits and pieces for the topic, which will then ferment in my subconscious before eventually, and hopefully, blooming into coherent prose. As I set about planting the seeds of my editorial, I realized that a common aspect was that they were adages, proverbs, and curses, some of which require leeway in considering them to have, by definition, any elements of truth.

One of these was "May you live in interesting times." Of supposedly Oriental origin, it seems to be a Western invention. Nonetheless, it strikingly resonates because it is a curse cloaked in what appears to be a blessing. It has the right amount of irony, appealing to us as we figure it out while enjoying the complexity of feelings about our lives of paradoxes, injustices, and uncontrollable events, despite our plans to the contrary. The saying's origin may be in a historically accurate saying: "It's better to be a dog in an era of peace than a human in an era of war."

Though we're living in 'quite interesting times', we don't have a choice about being human or canine.

Another of those 'gems of wisdom' was 'Be careful what you wish for'. This ties directly to the size of this publication, with some of the submitted contributions exceeding 20 pages in total. One set of contributions has close to 500 images in all that was provided! A great amount of filtering is keeping the publication in the neighborhood of 120 pages. Offloading longer articles to a web resource is another tactic being tried out. I'm not sure how it will work out, so please let me know your thoughts on this.

Closely related to this is a point that draws from one of my favourite books, "The 48 Laws of Power" by Robert Greene. While described as the "Hollywood back-stabber's bible," I, like many others, publicly refuse to acknowledge its influence on me. Besides being a neat gift for Christmas or a 'parting of ways', I really feel that it is a comedic work. Have a look, judge for yourself, and let me know.

The connection with 'wishing' is the core point of the book's Law 47: knowing when to stop. This is something that I shouldn't take lightly but should pay more attention to, given the size of this newsletter and other initiatives I'm involved with. I would be wise to heed my wife's advice on this.

All this is to say, enjoy this newsletter as a long read that should carry us all through the AGM and to the next edition, which won't be until January at the earliest. My wishes to all to enjoy our interesting times, the huge game of Monopoly being waged in the Western Hemisphere, and the upcoming season of holidays.

See you at the AGM!

William Petrie

Chair, Scots of Canada

chair@scotsofcanada.ca





The following notice was sent to delegates and alternates of record on November 9, 2025. If you are a delegate or alternate delegate and did not receive this notice, please contact us to update your membership information

Notice of Meeting

The next Annual General Assembly Meeting of Scots of Canada will be:

DATE: 30 November 2025

TIME: 3pm ET (12pm PT, 1 pm MT, 2 pm CT, 4 pm AT)

PLACE: Virtual Only

Advance registration by November 29, 2025 is required

Events affecting your Group are important to us all, your presence is important.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- To consider the financial statements and reports
- To elect directors
- To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the Meeting

Note that only delegates from members with a status of Active (dues for current year paid up) will be able to vote.

Should numbers dictate, attendance to the interactive session may be restricted to only those Active members.

For more details and how to register, go to www.scotscanada.ca/en/agm-2025

(Continued on page 4)

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If you are unable to attend, please try to arrange an alternate delegate for your organization.

If an alternate is not possible, a Proxy form may be requested from the Secretary:

Jo Ann Tuskin
78-24 Fundy Bay Blvd
Scarborough, ON, M1W 3A4
416-492-1623
secretary@scotscanada.ca

The following documents are currently available.

Click to view/download.

[Notice of Meeting 2025-11-30.pdf](#)

[Agenda Assembly 2025-11-30.pdf](#)

[Minutes Assembly 2024-11-24.pdf](#)

[Scots of Canada FY2025 Financials.pdf](#)

[Public Accountant Motion.pdf](#)

[Slate of Candidates for Election](#) (see next page)

**More documents and information will be provided, when available, on the website
at: www.scotscanada.ca/agm2025**

**For concerns about the instructions and joining please
contact secretary@scotscanada.ca for assistance.**

A link to watch the meeting on Facebook or YouTube will be provided in a Scots of Canada Update email prior to the meeting. Please use this link if you are not attending as an interactive participant. Only dele-

AGM 2025 - Call for Director and Officer Candidates

Background

In the new bylaws which were approved last Spring, significant changes were made to how directors and officers are elected with the result as follows:

1. Directors are elected for staggered 3 year terms of office.
2. On a one time basis this year, existing directors who are standing for re-election, will be elected across distributed 3 year, 2 year and 1 year terms. The following board approved slate is roughly based upon existing seniority.
3. Up to 15 director positions are available. There currently are only 11 candidates for these 15 positions. There are 4 vacant positions which would be elected for 3 year terms if applied for.
4. Officers are now elected by the Board of Directors, not directly by membership at an AGM. This election of officers will be done at the first board meeting shortly following the AGM.

Please consider applying for election as a director by contacting agm@scotscanada.ca with an email that provides the following:

1. Formal statement of declaration for candidacy in the form of "I, [Your Name], of the organization [The name of your organization] formally submit my candidacy for the position of Scots of Canada Director.
2. What other members of Scots of Canada should know about you in terms of background, qualifications, and what you intend to bring in representation of the interests of all Scots of Canada members and the Scottish community as a whole.

All applications for candidacy will be reviewed and approved by the current board of directors in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

Current Slate of Candidates for Director

One Year Term	Two Year Term	Three Year Term
Jo Ann Tuskin	Terry Myles	Steven Logan
William Petrie	John Duff	Emily Redman
David Carrick	Paul Elliot	Kirstin Hunter
	Robert MacKenzie	Chloe Harris

Clan MacEwen

New Chief Of Clan MacEwen Appoints Gaelic Advisor From Nova Scotia To His Leadership Council

Clan MacEwen is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Emily McEwan of Halifax, Nova Scotia as the first ever Scottish Gaelic Advisor to the Chief of Clan MacEwen. This new role marks an exciting step forward in the Clan's commitment to celebrating and revitalising the Gaelic language and cultural heritage that lie at the heart of its identity.

As Gaelic Advisor, Dr McEwan will work closely with the new Chief, Sir John McEwan, and the wider Clan MacEwen community to strengthen the presence of the language in all aspects of Clan life — from communications and events to education and cultural initiatives.

The new Chief of the Ancient Clan MacEwen, their first Chief in almost six centuries has appointed a Nova Scotian resident and linguistic specialist to be the first Gaelic Advisor to serve a Scottish Clan Chief anywhere in the world.

Dr Emily McEwan is an author and linguistic anthropologist based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. She has been involved with Gaelic in Scotland and Nova Scotia for 35 years. She is the owner and President of [Bradan Press](#), a Celtic-culture book publisher showcasing authors from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean primarily championing Gaelic language and culture.



The new Chief of Clan MacEwen, Sir John McEwen, the first MacEwen Chief to be recognised by the British Crown in more than 575 years. He also holds the title of 5th Baronet of Marchmont and Bardrochat. The Clan MacEwen Family Convention in June 2024 saw the largest gathering of MacEwens in over five centuries take place on the banks of Otter Ferry in Argyll, Scotland, the original home of the Chiefship of MacEwen. There, after a ten-year process, Sir John McEwan was officially nominated as the new Chief of MacEwen, subsequently approved by the Rt Hon. The Lord Lyon King of Arms, the Chief Herald of Scotland with the sole authority to recognise Clan Chiefships on behalf of the Crown.

Given the Chiefship originally collapsed in or around the year 1450, Sir John is wasting no time in seeing to elevate the global reach and efforts of Clan MacEwen and maintaining the great momentum achieved by the Clan MacEwen Society over recent years by appointing his first Council, a group tasked with preserving, safeguarding and promoting the history, heritage, and cultural identity of Clan MacEwen and Scottish culture more widely.

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Dr McEwan and the rest of the new MacEwen Chief's Council are hitting the ground running, with their first meeting taking place in December 2025 where a wide range of initiatives and proposals relating to the cultural character and global influence and engagement of the Clan will be discussed. Principal among these aims will be the Gaelic language strategy which Dr McEwan will be leading on. This will include video and audio resources, online classes, publications, as well as creating tools which can be used by other Clans and Families to help their own memberships with their Scottish Gaelic learning and usage.



Dr Emily McEwan

Given the resurgence in popularity and interest Scottish Gaelic is experiencing across the globe where the Scottish diaspora is located, Dr McEwan is perfectly placed to provide meaningful Gaelic influence, expertise and engagement to communities not only within MacEwen, but for Clans and other Scottish interest groups around the world.

The Chief's Council is international in outlook, including members from Scotland, Canada, Australia, Germany, and the USA. The Canadian members include Dr Emily McEwan of Halifax and Margaret (Maggie) McEwan of Freelton, ON, who is the High Commissioner for Canada.

Scottish members include Ross M. McEwen Esq. as Seanchaidh and appointed Ceann-Tighe, Ewan Rowland as Banner Bearer to the Chief, and Sean A. McCuin as Lieutenant to the Chief. Pipe Major Achim Fuchs of Germany is the Piper to the Chief, Christopher L. McEwan Esq. of Australia is High Commissioner for Oceania. From the USA, Matthew S. McEuen Esq. is Armigerous Advisor to the Chief and Capt. Robert (Bob) Owens is High Commissioner for the USA.

While Chief's Councils throughout history dealt with matters of commerce, the stewarding of land, skirmishes and dispute resolution, this Council will serve as nucleus of Clan MacEwen as a cultural entity and one which is integrated fully into the global Scottish and Clan communities.

QUOTE:

Sir John McEwen, Chief of Clan MacEwen said of Dr McEwan's appointment:

"Dr Emily McEwan's experience, skills and wonderfully friendly and professional approach to Scottish Gaelic have been a breath of fresh air for my own efforts to gain a better grasp of Scottish Gaelic, and I know she is held in very high esteem by Clan members worldwide. I am delighted to support Emily who has all the traits and dedication we look for in Clan MacEwen as we set about re-establishing ourselves on the world stage."

Scottish Gaelic is a most wonderful expression of our culture, which is now found all around the globe, and we are very fortunate indeed to have Emily as a kinswoman, and now as a close colleague. I look forward to working with her and thank her in advance for the great impact and influence I have no doubt she will have".

For more information visit: www.ClanMacEwen.com

Clan MacLennan Canada



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

Greetings Scots of Canada,

Clan MacLennan Canada was represented at three Highland Games this summer in the Avenue of the Clans and at the Light'n of the Hearth Ceremony during the Fergus Friday night Tattoo.

Cambridge Scottish Festival

Sue McLennan and Barbara MacLennan were the tent hosts at the Heritage area of the 49th Cambridge Scottish Festival and Highland Games on July 19th, 2025 at Churchill Park. It was a beautiful sunny day with a slight breeze and not as hot as the weather had been. The Heritage area was more central this year thanks to the backing of The Scots of Canada when last year the Clans petitioned that the Heritage location should be more central. There were about 18 clans registered in The Avenue of the Clans. We had many more guests at our tent this year, many interested in our clan map and finding their own clan on it.

We did have one MacLennan visitor, Ross McLennan who had previously been on our executive. He was one of the pipers with his pipe band and always likes to come to our tent to say Hi. I brought him up to date on what our clan was doing and hope that he will rejoin. There were Highland Games featured, including heavy events like the caber toss, as well as pipe bands, dance competitions, cultural attractions, live music, food vendors and a marketplace. There was a Children's Glen from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. where they learned Axe Throwing, Jousting, other games and had a Bouncy Castle and craft table.



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Sue McLennan and Barbara MacLennan hosting the MacLennan Clan Tent



A little warrior



Opening Ceremonies at Cambridge Scottish Festival , MC is Gayle O'Brien

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Glengarry Highland Games

Marilyn MacLennan Lawlor, her daughters, Leslie, Erin and Kristin, Beverly MacLennan and Donald and Judy McLennan hosted the MacLennan Clan Canada's tent in the clan barns at the Glengarry Highland Games on Saturday, August 2. According to Marilyn it was a very hot weekend and they were glad to keep cooler inside the building. This year was the 76th edition of the Glengarry Games. The featured guest was Colin Patrick MacDonell of Glengarry, the 24th hereditary Chief of Glengarry, who participated in the official ceremonies.

Additionally, Emma Barr, a World Champion Drum Major, served as the Guest Drum Major and led a workshop at the Games. She was a big hit with the fans and led the fifty-three massed bands at the Friday night Tattoo and the Saturday noon and evening massed bands. Donald McLennan agrees that she was Fantastic, the unquestioned star of the show! "Just the sight of this slight woman from Ballygowan, near Belfast, Ireland leading twelve hundred pipers and drummers across the field brought huge cheers from the thousands surrounding the infield."

Up The Glens 5 K Kilt Run was well attended on Saturday. It started at 9:00 a.m., starting and ending at the beer tent. All runners had to run wearing a Kilt.

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Clan MacLennan Canada



Judy and Donald McLennan with Sabryn McLennan at our Clan site in the barn.



Clan MacLennan in The Clan Parade



1200 Pipers and Drummers led by the Emma Barr, a World Champion Drum Major

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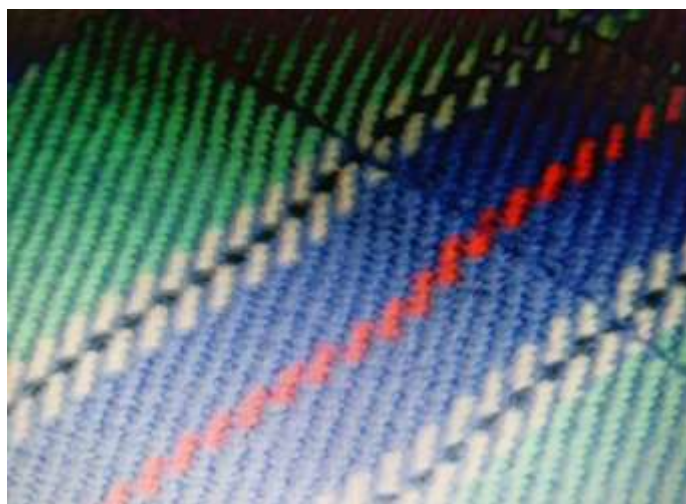
Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

The 2025 Fergus Highland Games on August 8-10th marked the festival's 80th anniversary, drawing a record crowd of 27,900 people. Many Clan Chiefs and The Lord Lyon were present for the special occasion. There was a good turnout for the opening on the Friday night Tattoo. Andy, Jessica and grandson Kade McLennan represented Clan MacLennan, carrying the torch at the traditional Lighting of the Hearth. The evening was comfortably cool after the hot day. The entertainment by The Red Hot Chili Pipers, Bay City Rollers and The Albannach was enjoyed. The clear skies made it perfect for the fireworks.

With the whack of a sword against a shield, Scotland's scarlet and gold bedazzled Lord Lyon King of Arms opened the 80th Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games to cheers and applause on Saturday. Clan MacLennan Canada was one of 66 clans who marched with several pipe bands in the Clan Parade for the Opening Ceremonies. Saturday, August 9th brought very hot 30C weather but it didn't keep people away and we were kept busy at the MacLennan tent talking to the many Scots and stamping the children's passports. Kade McLennan helped with the stamping in the afternoon. One visitor, whose grandmother was a MacLennan, became a member.

The main field Saturday night was filled to standing room only for the concerts in the evening, with young families and young adults packed in until closing since the weather was so beautiful. It was the first Saturday music night the festival has had, headlined by Bay City Rollers and Scottish Rockers including The Red Hot Chili Pipers. There was a special dinner in the evening in Fergus for clan representatives and dignitaries to welcome The Lord Lyon King of Arms and the Clan Chiefs for the 80th Anniversary. Melanie McLennan, Our Canadian Chief's Commissioner and her husband Andy represented our Clan.

The special 80th anniversary celebration also included a newly designed anniversary tartan, a Hall of Fame initiative, and a visit from the Outlander actor Charles Vandervaat, who was the very popular Featured Guest. The anniversary tartan featured a thread count that symbolized the festival's founding date, August 17, 1946.



Immediately as the designer, Robert Paterson saw the six-inch swatch of white, blue, red and green lines he knew he had gotten it right. Eight white diagonal threads signify the eighth month, 17 blue threads represent the 17th day and 46 more green threads mark the year the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games debuted.

New Fergus Scottish Festival Tartan is to the left.

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Clan MacLennan Canada

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What is the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games Hall of Fame? A new Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games Hall of Fame is being introduced as part of their upcoming 80th Anniversary celebrations. There will be two levels of recognition – Fearless Leader, recognizing past presidents of the Festival, and Outstanding Contributor, acknowledging those individuals who have contributed significantly to the Festival and organization. Only individual persons are eligible for nomination.

If your interest is family history, our Clan genealogy pages are a place where your ancestors can be properly recorded for posterity. We already have over 40,000 individuals in our Clan database – with roots going back to Scotland and elsewhere. It includes photos, official record citations, certificates, headstones and much more. For a modest annual membership fee you'll receive a Clan membership certificate, newsletters with local and worldwide Clan news and you'll be granted member only access to the on-line Clan genealogy database Our Clan Genealogy Records will have your Mac/McLennan ancestors – available to any member of a Clan Association. To join a Clan Association today, click: <https://www.clanmaclellan-worldwide.com/join>

Slainte,

Barbara Tyson MacLennan
Vice President
Clan MacLennan Canada



Clockwise from top-left: Andy McLennan and Barbara MacLennan lining up for the parade; 1st Hall of Fame Outstanding Contributor Inductee; Melanie McLennan; Andy McLennan speaking to one of our guests

The Scottish Banner



Dear Friends,

Please find attached the latest issue of the Scottish Banner if you wish to share with your membership.

Some of this edition's content will also be available on our website throughout the month at:
www.scottishbanner.com/category/article/

We hope your membership enjoys our content and we invite all Scottish community organisations to keep us posted on their news or events for future editions.

Keep up with what is happening across the Scottish community, with the world's leading international Scottish event listings, at: www.scottishbanner.com/events/

Please encourage your membership to subscribe with us, in order to help to continue to create our unique content for the international Scottish community at: www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe/

Any queries please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

Susan Leslie

The Scottish Banner

E: info@scottishbanner.com

The following August, September and October editions are also available. Click an image to view.



Almonte Celfest

We have so much to be thankful for this year and it all starts with you; our wonderful patrons, sponsors, and supporters. Celfest continues to be a by-donation festival, 29 years in, and we cannot do it without the generous spirits that come to Gemmill Park every summer.

This year's festival kicked off with a high energy Friday night concert in the park featuring the Bytown Sea Shanty Collective and the Mudmen! Kilts were flying, toes were tapping, and many a drink were had.

Saturday and Sunday continued with dancing and music as the stage filled with pipes, drums, tartan, bodhran's, fiddles, guitars, and the tap and patter of dance shoes. Performances included Ryan Young, Women of Fiddle, the McDades, Maggie's Wake, and Crooked Creek.

The festival grounds were greeted with a steady stream of locals and visitors alike who came to check out the lineup, explore Almonte itself, and indulge in the extra activities that the event has to offer. Guests found additional comforts, entertainment, and activities in the collection of food and craft vendors, engaging children's game and craft area, Youth Showcase on the main stage, Gaelic sports games and demonstrations by the Ottawa Gaels, and a variety of music and cultural workshops taught by professional musicians (many of whom performed on the main stage over the weekend).

A huge thank you to everyone who supports Celfest and we can't wait to see you in 2026 for our 30th anniversary! Slàinte mhath!

Thanks again,

Makayla



Almonte Celtfest



The Muniment Room Revisited - Andrew McMurtry

This article outlines the history and purpose of the Muniment Room. It explains how a member of Scots In Canada has created one in a self-storage locker to both store his family archives and conduct ongoing historical research.

The Vital Importance of Archiving Documents

For centuries, humanity has recognized the importance of preserving knowledge, particularly in the form of documents, manuscripts, and records. The term muniment or “muniment of title” is a legal term for a document, title deed or other written evidence that indicates ownership of an asset. The word muniment comes from the Latin *munimentum*, meaning protection, defence, fortification, bulwark, shelter, or building a wall around. As such, a Muniment Room is a specialized storage space designed for the safekeeping of important documents, charters, royal writs, letters, court judgements, contracts, deeds, manuscripts, wills and testaments, manorial accounts and other official records that provide legal or historical evidence.

The concept can be traced back to the medieval or early modern periods in Europe, particularly within monasteries, castles, universities and large estates. Muniment Rooms were often used by scribes and archivists who organized and catalogued the materials for future reference. By the 18th and 19th centuries, formalized public record-keeping systems, such as national archives, began to replace the private, secure Muniment Rooms. The Muniment Room is now a fascinating historical institution that symbolizes the importance of documentation, preservation, and the safeguarding of history for future generations.

A Modest Muniment Room



On my paternal side, I have served for 30 years as the historian for the McMurtry family of Toronto, which migrated from Carrick, Ayrshire, Scotland, to Co. Londonderry, Ireland, before settling in March Township, Carleton County, Upper Canada in 1823. As a result, I have accumulated a substantial collection of personal research, documents, and family memorabilia, including that of my maternal French-Canadian ancestors.

While I have no siblings, nieces, nephews, or children of my own, I regard safeguarding my research for future generations of my extended family as my top priority, as well as facilitating a smooth transition to my successor as family historian when one eventually emerges. I am not the owner of my family history collection but rather its trustee or custodian in my lifetime.

With just one storage locker per unit in my high-rise building, it occurred to me that I might create my own functioning Muniment or Archive Room to address the challenges related to storing and accessing my family history research.

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The Muniment Room Revisited



(Continued from page 16)

A Small But Effective Space

I currently lease a 5' x 15' locker at a self-storage facility in Toronto. I have furnished it with the necessary shelving and office equipment. The floor and desk lamps are powered by a rechargeable portable power station, which provides up to four hours of power before it needs to be recharged at home. Having a dedicated and tranquil space to access my archives, along with a desk for my laptop, has been a blessing. Sometimes I work in the Muniment Room, and at other times, I take documents home to work on over the course of a week.

When I am working in the Muniment Room, I keep the door closed, and nobody knows that I am there. While this may not be for everyone, I feel safe working there. Every person who rents a locker at that facility enters the building with a unique security code associated with their account. I typically access the locker during business hours when there are staff in the office. The facility is immaculate and well-lit, there is 24-hour surveillance, and all units are climate-controlled. However, the facility does not have Wi-Fi or an internet connection. When I know that I will need to conduct extensive internet searches, I do this research at home. If I merely need to check something or spend a moderate amount of time online at the Muniment Room, I set my phone as a Mobile Hotspot, and my laptop feeds off that signal.

The room also contains a small collection of historical and political books for my easy access. My next step is to catalogue the collection, digitize key documents, and determine what, if any, might be of interest to various public archives. I have left funds in my Will to cover the cost of the locker for years to come, ensuring that there will be no financial or physical storage burden on my successor or any other member of my extended family who may wish to access documents or other materials using the combination lock.

Andrew McMurtry is a historian, genealogist, and archivist for the various branches of his family. He lives in Toronto and can be reached at Andrew_McMurtry@alumni.uwo.ca.

Antigonish Highland Games

A Legacy in Living Colour: The 160th Antigonish Highland Games Celebrates a Milestone with Record-Breaking Success



The 160th Antigonish Highland Games, held from July 6th to 13th, 2025, was not merely an event; it was a vibrant testament to a living tradition. Heralded as one of the biggest and best editions in its storied history, this annual braemar weaved together fierce competition, deep cultural reverence, and community spirit, culminating in a week that will be remembered for its record-breaking attendance and unforgettable moments. From the solemn notes of the opening church service to the raucous cheers of the final tug-of-war pull, the Games proved that a 160-year-old tradition can feel as fresh and vital as ever.

The festivities began even before the official start, with the community building anticipation through sold-out shows of the Ships of 1801 Society's theatrical production, *The Keppoch goes to the Fall Fair*, and Festival Antigonish's intimate Kitchen Ceilidh. The Games were officially inaugurated with a non-denominational church service at St. James United Church, where a Gaelic reading by AHS President Carol Anne MacKenzie and a stirring set from the Clan Thompson Pipe Band set a reflective tone. This blend of the sacred and the celebratory has long been a cornerstone of the event, honouring the deep-rooted faith that has accompanied Scottish culture for centuries.

The week built momentum despite a minor setback when torrential rains on Tuesday forced the cancellation of the annual pilgrimage to the Culloden Memorial Site in Knoydart. However, the community spirit proved unshakable. By Wednesday, over 2,000 people flooded a closed section of Main Street for the Mainstreet Fair, a bustling marketplace of local artisans, food vendors, and continuous live music. A profound highlight of the week was Thursday's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, where eleven new members were enshrined for their lifelong contributions. The class of 2025 was a testament to the diverse pillars of the Games, inducting Highland Dance champions like Brenda (MacAdam) Chisholm, legendary piper and former MLA Jack MacIsaac, Heavy Events specialists, and dedicated builders like Ron Fraser and Kevin Grant, whose behind-the-scenes efforts have shaped the event for decades.

The competitive heart of the Games began beating in earnest on Friday. The day opened with Tir Nan Og, where the infectious energy of nearly 250 children filled Columbus Field for foot races, caber tosses, and step dancing, ensuring the tradition's future is in eager hands. As evening fell, the focus shifted to the "Highland Five Miler" Road Race, a premier event that drew thousands of spectators, including Nova Scotia's Premier Tim Houston. The race showcased exceptional athleticism, with Jacob Benoit and Ali Sandluck claiming top honours in the Open classes, while local heroes like Conlan MacKenzie and Britney Benoit earned trophies as the top local runners. Despite threatening skies, the evening's Opening Ceremony and "Concert Under the Stars" were moved to the ceilidh tent and met with a packed, enthusiastic audience. A poignant tribute was paid by Frank Beaton to his late brother, Donnie, a former AHS president, whose spirit loomed large over the festivities.

Saturday marked a historic high point for the Games. In a generous gesture to the community that has sustained it since 1863, the Society offered free day passes for the first time in its history. The result was staggering: over 8,000 attendees flooded Columbus Field on Saturday alone, an increase of almost 30% from 2024. The day exploded into action with the Elite Mile, where forty of the region's top runners blazed through the streets in under five minutes, followed by the beloved Grand Main Street Parade. For over 60 years, this parade has been a signature spectacle, and this year's procession of floats, pipe bands,

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Antigonish Highland Games

classic cars, and the RCMP did not disappoint, thrilling the thousands who lined the route.

Across the field, a symphony of competition unfolded. The Highland Dance stage was a whirl of precision and grace, from the youngest primary dancers like Nora MacDougall, who swept her category, to the elite competitors in the New Scotland Open Championship. Dancers such as Eilidh Guthrie and Emma Breeze delivered world-class performances, their hours of practice evident in every flawless step. Simultaneously, the ground trembled with the Heavy Events, which featured a promising new youth division. The amateur title was fiercely contested, with local favourite Ryan Kennedy reclaiming his crown, while the powerful Katie Crowley dominated the Women's Pro class, nearly setting a new world record.

The air was filled with the skirl of pipes and the snap of drums as soloists and bands vied for top honours. Alex Gandy was named the Open Piper of the Games, a prestigious title earned against stiff competition. The Nova Scotia Pipe Band Championships saw Dartmouth and District, the Summerside College of Piping, and the Fredericton Society of St. Andrew Pipe Band take home coveted trophies. At noon, a moment of profound cultural significance occurred with Clan Day. Representatives from ten clans, including MacKinnon, Donald, and MacLean, marched to the field's centre for an Ode to the Haggis and the presentation of a scroll honouring the Battle of Culloden, connecting the Nova Scotia present to a Scottish past. The day's festivities crescendoed with a packed Saturday Night Concert, where the world-famous East Pointers headlined to a raucous and energetic crowd, bringing an unforgettable day to a close.

Sunday demonstrated the enduring stamina of both competitors and spectators. The Highland Heart Open Championship featured more breathtaking dance, while the Heavy Events concluded with Damien Fisher being crowned Men's Pro champion and Matt Doherty triumphing in the Masters category. The Tug of War, always a crowd-packer, featured sixteen teams in a thrilling display of raw power, with local Antigonish 4H youths claiming victory and the rivals from Falmouth continuing their dominance in the adult categories. The cultural tent remained a hub of learning with workshops in Gaelic, step-dance, and a milling frolic, ensuring the cultural roots were not just displayed but taught. The weekend's piping concluded with the Atlantic Pipe Band Championships and a deeply moving massed bands performance of "Amazing Grace" in memory of the late Barb Stewart, a moment that brought tears to many and underscored the deep familial bonds within the community.

In the end, the success of the 160th Antigonish Highland Games was a tribute to the collective whole. It was the result of the hundreds of volunteers who dedicated their time, the event chairs who orchestrated the complex logistics, the AHS Board who planned year-round, and the sponsors whose generosity made milestones like free admission possible. As the final notes of the Sunday Closing Ceilidh faded, the Antigonish Highland Society had not only preserved a cherished legacy but had powerfully amplified it, setting the stage for an even brighter future as the community looks forward with great anticipation to the 161st Games in July 2026.



Editor's note: This is a synopsis of the original 9 page submission. To read the entire original, [click here](#)

Beinn Mhàbu: Growing a Gaelic Future in Nova Scotia



Beinn Mhàbu in Cape Breton is steadily establishing itself as a centre for Scottish Gaelic language, culture, and post-secondary education, part of the wider Gaelic renaissance taking place in Nova Scotia and across the diaspora. Rooted in community and heritage, the college offers students the chance to pursue meaningful university education while staying connected to their community and cultural traditions.

A key part of this growth is the development of a new 24-unit residence, now under construction. Scheduled to open in January 2026, the residence will increase Beinn Mhàbu's capacity to welcome students from across the region and from further afield. With modern, private apartments, the facility ensures students have high-quality accommodations while allowing the college to expand its programming opportunities.

Thanks to the generous support of donors — most notably the Shannon Family, who fund significant scholarships — Beinn Mhàbu is making education more accessible for local and visiting students alike. These scholarships remove financial barriers, encouraging young people to pursue post-secondary studies without leaving their home communities.

With its combination of Gaelic-focused programs, generous financial support, and new living spaces, Beinn Mhàbu is becoming an attractive option for families who want their children to learn and grow close to home while helping to carry forward Scotland's language and cultural legacy in Canada.

"This isn't just about education," Beinn Mhàbu's VP Kenneth MacKenzie explained. "It's about building a future for Gaelic, right here in Nova Scotia, through the energy and talents of our young people."

More information & apply for free here: <https://www.beinnmhabu.ca/>



Clan Buchanan Society International

A MAJOR CBSI FUNDRAISING PROJECT

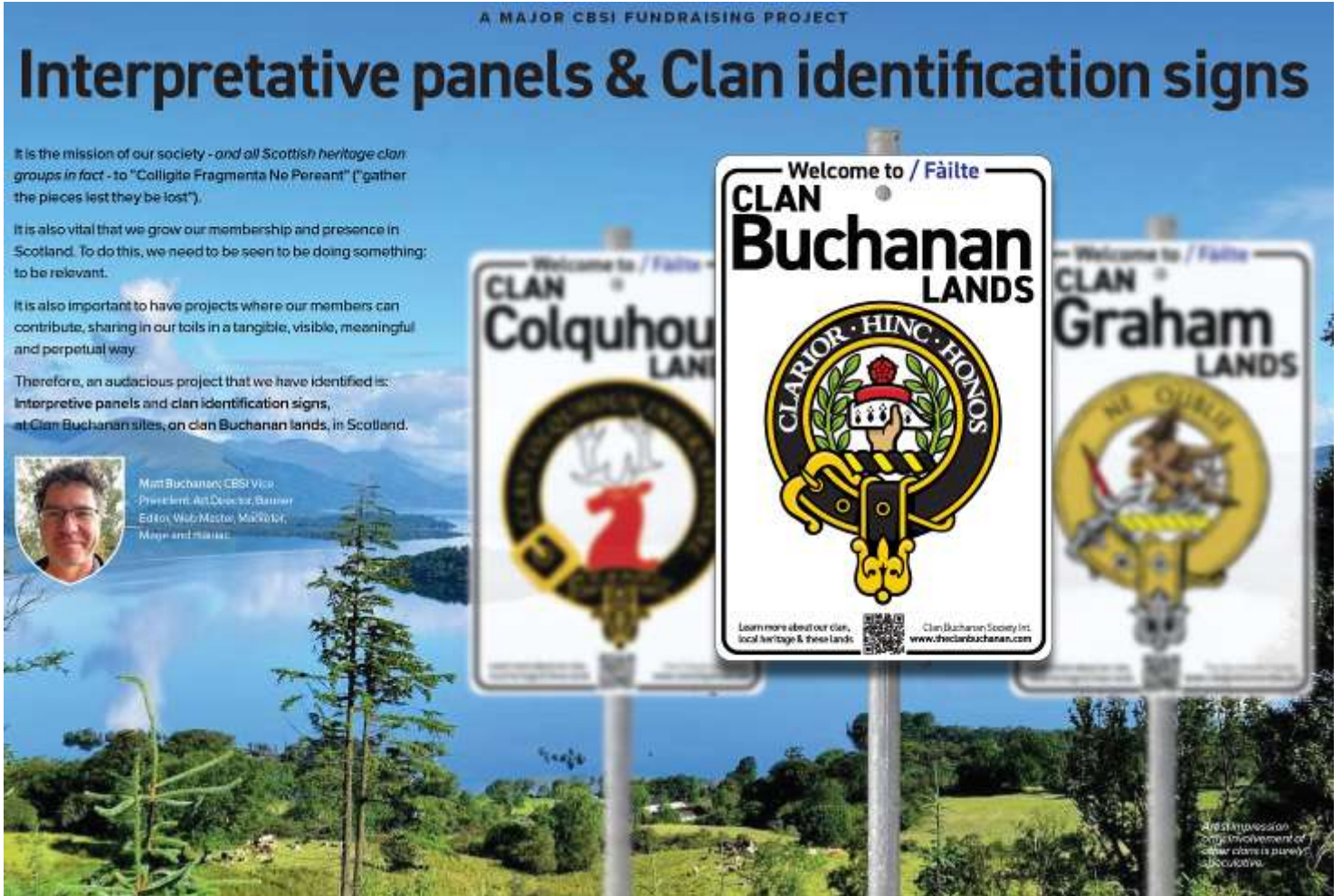
Interpretative panels & Clan identification signs

It is the mission of our society - and all Scottish heritage clan groups in fact - to "Colligite Fragmenta Ne Pereant" ("gather the pieces lest they be lost").

It is also vital that we grow our membership and presence in Scotland. To do this, we need to be seen to be doing something; to be relevant.

It is also important to have projects where our members can contribute, sharing in our toils in a tangible, visible, meaningful and perpetual way.

Therefore, an audacious project that we have identified is: Interpretative panels and clan identification signs, at Clan Buchanan sites, on clan Buchanan lands, in Scotland.



Mairi Buchanan, CBSI Vice President, Art Director, Banner Editor, Web Master, Mailbox, Mugs and more...

Learn more about our clan, local heritage & these lands

Clan Buchanan Society Int.
www.theclanbuchanan.com

Any suggestion or involvement of other clans is purely speculative.

The Raison d'être

It is safe to say that there isn't much Clan presence on the ground in Scotland. Or at least to the extent at which we romanticise it in the US and colonies. Clan obsolescence is not necessarily maligned; it may be a combination of ambivalence, cultural cringe, historic deferment or just modernisation. But, we (in the CBSI) have long felt that our presence would be stronger in Scotland if we actually did things in Scotland.

And a clear thing we can do in Scotland is identify historic sites and re-introduce the footprint within clan lands. Not only will that serve to share our heritage, encourage preservation and impart our relevance; it will forge links to local stakeholders and encourage tourism. This project isn't isolated in its reasoning: the need for Scottish articulation comes from within the UK: A 2015 report¹ prepared by BritainThinks for the Heritage Lottery Fund²: 93% of the people that were surveyed saw 'Heritage' as important to their country ...

81% saw heritage as important to them personally ... 80% said that local heritage makes their area a better place to live, in terms of wellbeing, living a good life etc ...

Therefore in a very practical sense, this project is being requested for by local inhabitants on Clan lands.

For more information [click here](#) or the image above

Clan Buchanan Society International



How to Avoid Common Genealogical Research Mistakes

By Christine Conlon

*Clan Genealogist **Clan Buchanan Society International***

As we research our ancestry, we review many different types of information – websites full of “official” records, family Bibles, photographs with faded handwriting, etc. It is easy for mistakes to be introduced into our own work and perpetuated going forward, as we go through all this documentation. We can also introduce errors when entering data, that someone else may continue to use without verifying. In order for our research to be taken seriously and not have to be reworked we must be obsessive about the information. It is not enough to copy information that we find elsewhere, we must always attempt to locate the original resource and verify for ourselves.

Going through our family files we need to look for things such as ages that do not add up correctly. Whenever we locate a document that shows dates of birth or death, we need to closely examine those dates to be certain that they make sense. Does the dating correspond to the known facts about the individual’s life? If the numbers are difficult to read in the source, it is necessary to validate the dates in the context of our ancestor’s life chronology and with other verifiable documentation. We often find things such as children whose birth dates precede their parents’ marriage, folks who have activities shown after a known date of death, women giving birth to children before the age of 13 or after age 50. When we see something like this, we must remember to give these “facts” a closer examination.

A note here about children who have too few or too many years between their ages. This may indicate that other children were born and died between siblings with a longer than normal span. For too few years between children, check for the original birth records to verify the dates & parents – surprisingly, there could be children born of a different set of parents than your ancestors, who may have similar names. There is also the issue of parents who reused names of children who died at a very early age. My own 3rd great grandparents had several children who had the same names and it took a while to figure out that these were indeed different children.

While we can all agree that websites like Ancestry, Family Tree & My Heritage have been a great boon to researching our ancestry, it is common to copy information from trees we might encounter online. If you can review the source documents, this might be fine however caution is advised otherwise. If you can make a mistake entering information, others can as well. Once the data is copied into your files, the chances of it continuing to be used are magnified. All information must be verified by each of us as we

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Clan Buchanan Society International

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research. Always check the source documentation prior to adding someone else's work to your own.

When you are reviewing online indexes bear in mind that these are created from old paper documents. In some cases, the process has been outsourced to another country whose employees may not be familiar with the handwriting, US naming conventions and / or spellings. The documents may have been produced with OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software, which is not infallible. Always make a point to check the original or scanned copy of any documentation to see if you read it differently than the online indexed version. You can often understand a document better by viewing the context within the records.

Be very careful about your own data entry and always check spelling. Spell check isn't a perfect science and many genealogy software programs won't pick up a different spelling or a mistake, it's not part of their job

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Note: Please enjoy Fergus Highland Game 2025 images from Scott Buchanan, Scots of Canada delegate



Clan Buchanan Society International

(Continued from page 23)

description. Make sure to maintain formatting throughout your research, you should use consistency with same date format, naming convention and the proper source citation formats.

Also be cautious about similar names, it is very easy to fall down a rabbit hole in researching when your ancestor has a common name. In my husband's ancestry there were no less than 10 different men with the exact same name, living within a small radius and several of those men married women with the same given name! It is much easier to unravel those kinds of knots before you add information to your files that does not pertain to your ancestor.

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Clan Buchanan Society International



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Remember to check as many facts as possible about ancestors with common names to avoid inadvertently adopting someone that is not a part of your family.

Get in the habit of using and maintaining research logs as you work, so that you can keep track of where you found particular pieces of information. If you do this, you can return to the location where you found a piece of information and review it again if you find something problematic. It is also helpful to keep you from reviewing the exact same information over and over.

Christine Conlon

*Clan Genealogist **Clan Buchanan Society International***

Canada Helps for Charitable Organizations

by John Duff, Vice-Chair - Scots of Canada

You may not be familiar with Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org). Until recently, the directors of Scots of Canada were also unaware of this charity, until we discovered a member was using it for their donations.

If your organization is **not** a registered "Charitable Organization" with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), you do not need to be concerned with this article unless you are interested. However, if you **are** a member of a registered "Charitable Organization" (please note this is different from a "Not-for-Profit"), you should pay close attention and read on. You should also check out their website as soon as possible at:

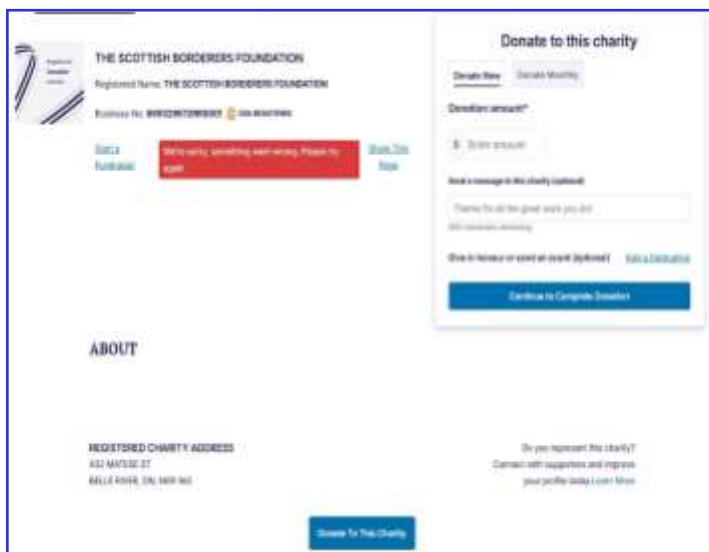
<https://www.canadahelps.org/>

Canada Helps describes itself as "a charity that supports all Canadian Charities no matter how big or small." They offer donation processing, disbursements, reporting, and fundraising technology.

Through direct communication with Canada Helps and by reviewing their website, SoC directors learned that every Canadian Charitable Organization likely has a profile on the Canada Helps website—whether they are aware of it or not. It appears Canada Helps has or had a connection with the CRA that allowed it to obtain basic, publicly available information for all registered charities. This enabled them to create a basic profile for each one.

To our understanding, this is done solely to assist these charities, regardless of their size. You can check for your organization without logging in. Simply go to their homepage, enter your charity's name or a keyword in the search box, and click the dark button with the magnifying glass.

For example, a search for "Toronto" returns 2,123 results, and "Scottish" returns 53. I captured an image of The Scottish Borderers profile without being logged in, which is why the "We're sorry" message appears; this message would not show if I were logged in. This is an example of an unclaimed profile. Many profiles are unclaimed and will only display a grayed-out graphic with the organization's name. See the image below.



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Canada Helps for Charitable Organizations

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Scots of Canada (formerly CASSOC) was one of those unclaimed profiles until recently. If donations are made to an unclaimed profile, Canada Helps will mail a cheque to the charity's registered address once per year.

Another director checked their own Clan organization's profile and found it was also unclaimed, with information that had been out of date since 2013. It seems the information is not automatically updated from the CRA, at least while the profile remains unclaimed. **Therefore, it is wise to at least claim your profile and correct your organization's information.**

The Scots of Canada website now has a red "Donate to Scots of Canada" button on the homepage (<https://www.scotscanada.ca/en/>). We now automatically receive any funds electronically on a weekly basis, deposited directly into our bank account.



Who we are:

- A vibrant community of
 - organizations which, since 1979, has been helping groups through communications, co-operation, organization and funding of activities.
 - households of Scots, Scottish descendants, and all who celebrate Scottish heritage.
- A registered not-for-profit charity advancing Scottish Cultural Heritage in Canada and wherever Scottish culture may be expressed.

DONATE TO SCOTS OF CANADA

Of course, there is a fee for these services, but claiming your profile unlocks other options for your organization. These include linking to and from your website, weekly electronic transfers to your bank account, fundraising campaigns, donation forms, and managing event attendees and ticketed events. Payment processing and security standards are managed by Canada Helps. For more on security standards visit: help.canadahelps.org/s/topic/OTOJR0000001mqj4AA/security-standards

(Continued on page 28)

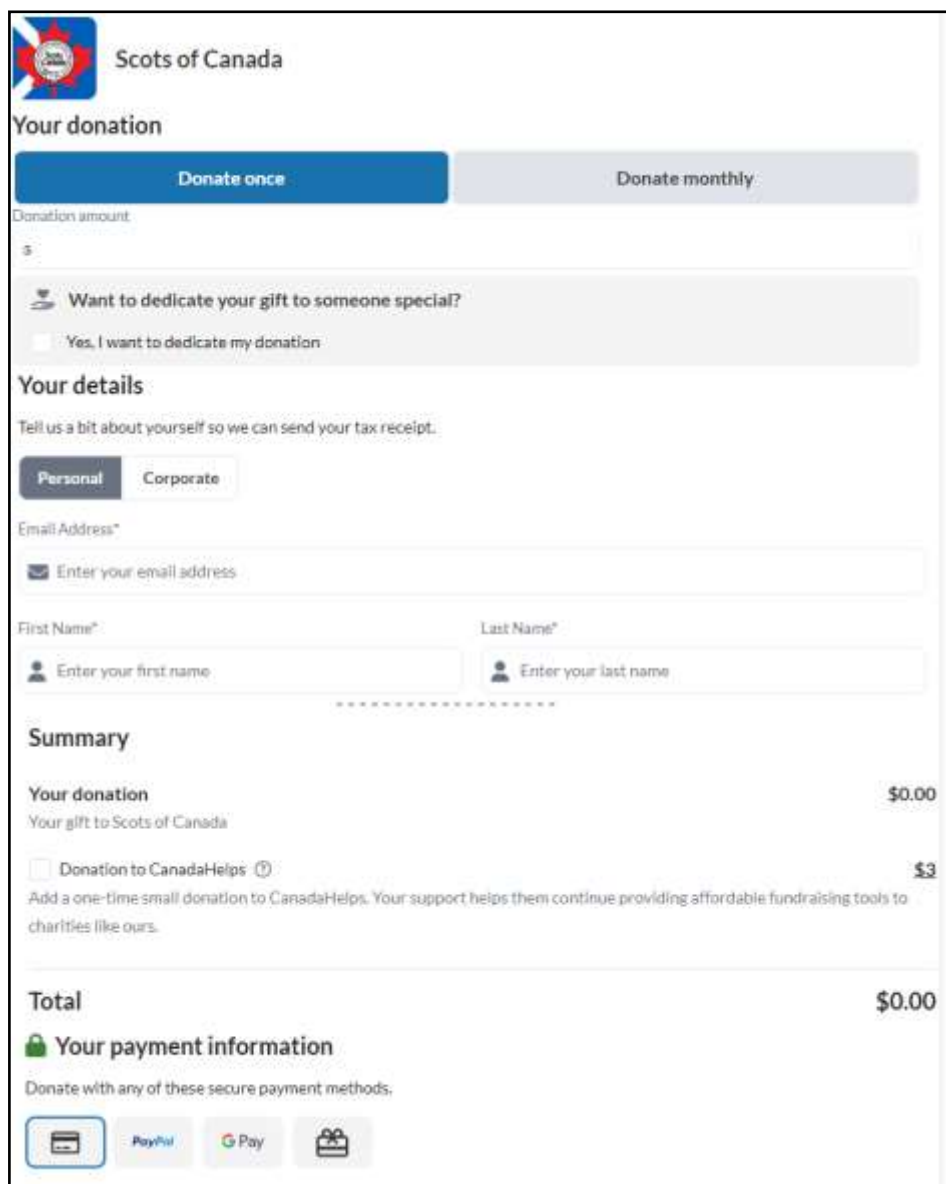
Canada Helps for Charitable Organizations

(Continued from page 27)

Donors can manage all their donation receipts for the CRA, eliminating the need for your organization to print and mail them. Donors can log in using their Google credentials if they prefer not to create a separate account.

Clicking the "Donate to Scots of Canada" link leads to Canada Helps. After filling out the form—which includes options for "In Memory of" or "In Honour of"—and without needing to create a user ID, the system automatically sends a donation receipt to the donor's provided email address. An email is also sent to the organization's email address set up in the Canada Helps profile.

Here's an example of what our donation page looks like.



The screenshot shows a donation form for the Scots of Canada. At the top is the organization's logo and name. Below this is a section titled "Your donation" with two buttons: "Donate once" (highlighted in blue) and "Donate monthly". A "Donation amount" field is present, followed by a question: "Want to dedicate your gift to someone special?" with a radio button option "Yes, I want to dedicate my donation". The "Your details" section asks for contact information, including "Email Address*", "First Name*", and "Last Name*", each with a corresponding input field. Below this is a "Summary" section showing a table with two rows: "Your donation" for "Your gift to Scots of Canada" valued at "\$0.00", and a checkbox option for "Donation to CanadaHelps" valued at "\$3". A note explains that the \$3 donation supports fundraising tools. The "Total" is shown as "\$0.00". The final section, "Your payment information", lists secure payment methods: a credit card icon, PayPal, Google Pay, and a gift icon.

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Canada Helps for Charitable Organizations

(Continued from page 28)

Donors also have the option to create e-cards, with many designs available. I obviously picked a Halloween theme when I tested it.

Feel free to try out the system by sending a charitable donation to Scots of Canada. [Click to donate!](#)



John Duff has made an online charitable donation through CanadaHelps to Scots of Canada in honour of you.

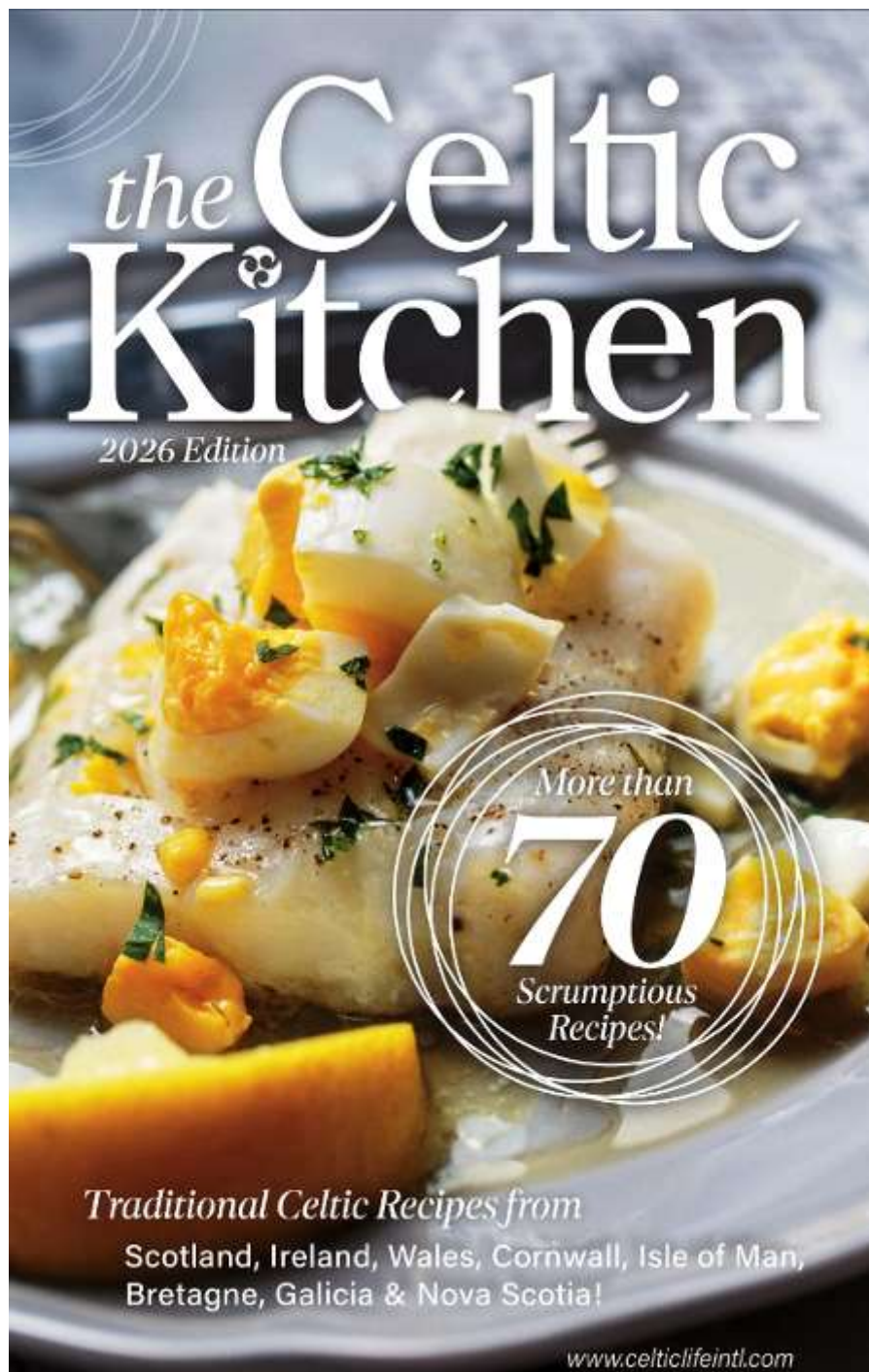
Along with this donation, John Duff wanted to share this e-card and special message with you.



Testing out Scots of Canada Donation portal and sending you hugs.....

Celtic Life International

We're very pleased to share this PDF copy of [THE CELTIC KITCHEN 2026](#) or click image below for a FLIPBOOK



Looking for the special something for that special someone in your life this Christmas?

We've got you covered with our 2025 Holiday Gift Guide! View as a [PDF](#) or as a [FLIPBOOK](#)



Editors Note: Below is our new ad which will be in the upcoming Celtic Life Holiday digital-only edition.

Find Your Scottish Family in Canada

Feeling a pull toward your Scottish roots but unsure where to start? You're not alone. Many people feel that connection but haven't yet found the right community to explore it. That's why we're starting an exciting new chapter.

We're becoming Scots of Canada.

This marks the beginning of a fresh, national home for everyone, whether your family has been here for generations or you're just starting your Scottish journey. It's a place where shared heritage can take root and flourish, side by side.

A Place for You & Your Family

We know life is busy, and community can feel hard to find. That's why we've created two simple ways to belong:

1. Find Your Clan.

Is there a family name or tartan you're curious about? Our clans and societies form the heart of specific traditions, offering a direct link to your past.

- **Trace Your Surname:** Get expert help to connect with your ancestral clan.
- **Meet Your Family:** Find people who share your name and history at Highland Games nationwide.
- **Deepen Your Roots:** Become part of a tradition that has endured for centuries.

Find your clan at www.scotscanada.ca

2. Join Your Household.

For your modern, busy family, we created a simple Household Membership. One sign-up covers everyone under your roof.

- **Share the Experience:** Build Scottish traditions together as a family.
- **Simple & Great Value:** One fee unlocks events and resources for all.
- **Connect Nationally:** Be part of a digital community from coast to coast.

Start your family's legacy at
www.scotsofcanada.ca

Your Digital Scottish Home

No matter where you live in Canada, you can stay connected. We're building a new online platform just for you, featuring:

- A national events calendar
- Resources on history, Gaelic, and culture
- A marketplace for Scottish goods

Your Next Step is Easy

This is more than a change of name; it represents a renewed promise. A promise that you have a place here, whether you're Scottish by birth, ancestry, or by choice of the heart.

Want to support this effort but not ready for membership? You can make a donation, and as a registered charity we will issue a tax receipt.

Donate at: www.scotsofcanada.ca/donations

Find your place. Continue the legacy.

Questions? Email us at info@scotsofcanada.ca



House of Gordon

Greetings from the House of Gordon Canada

It was a great year for the House of Gordon. We were blessed to have a visit from our Chief Granville Gordon, 13th Marquess of Huntly. In January, Granville traveled from London, England to Orlando, Florida to attend the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games. The Chief finds it amazing how popular Highland Games and Clans are in North America.



Larry Minnikin and myself with Chief Granville Gordon

This year we had tents at Highland Games in Port Hope, Maxville, and Fergus, all in Ontario. A big thank you to Larry Minnikin for all his help at the games. We enjoy meeting our Gordons and visiting with our fellow clans at the games.

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House of Gordon



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At left, it was a pleasure to have a visit from the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr. Joseph John Morrow in Fergus.

In September, we attended New Hampshire Highland Games (image below) for the House of Gordon USA AGM.

It was a beautiful weekend in the mountains and in attendance were Gordon members from Florida, South Carolina, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The House has a new President, Cynthia Patrick Gordon of Florida. Thank you to our past President Jennifer Martin of Alabama for her leadership. Next year's AGM will be in Texas.

Connect with The House of Gordon Canada on Facebook- House of Gordon-Canada, email- houseofgordoncanada@gmail.com and our website is <https://houseofgordonusa.org/>

All the best,
Shane Kelly,
Convener for Canada, House of Gordon USA



Clan Gregor

Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter

One would think a very long and cold winter would have Canadian's go into sleep mode with life on hold until warmer days return. Not so. Sparked by existential threats to trade, respect for rule of law and democratic process, Canada is more energized and motivated than ever before. It's refreshing. Observers have noted that Canada's "fiercely independent Scottishness" is kicking up it's heels. And indeed, it is. Our diaspora is everywhere. This bodes well for the Society and for Scots of Canada in general.

With the season of highland games and festivals fading into the past, we can say with pride and a sense of accomplishment that the summer of 2025 was a memorable one for Clan Gregor. We expanded our presence in Canada by attending at least a dozen Highland Games including raising our standard in Antigonish, Nova Scotia for the first time. Best of all, our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor and Lady MacGregor, joined us at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games August 7-10.



Fergus is one of the largest gatherings of the Clans in Canada and celebrated it's 80th year by inviting a

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number of Clan Chiefs and the Lord Lyon of Arms to attend. As outgoing Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Sir Malcolm was key to this celebration. Our Chief's lovely wife, Fiona Armstrong, attended in her capacity as Lord Lieutenant, Dumfriesshire, the Crown's representative for that part of Scotland. In addition to their presence in our Clan tent, Sir Malcolm participated in panel discussions and Lady MacGregor gave a talk on "How Scotland got its tartan face"; an interesting subject to all Gregors as Miss MacGregor, daughter of the Chief at that time, was key to Queen Victoria's Highland life and storied love affair with Scotland.

The Canadian Chapter provided a private meet and greet opportunity for members and their families on Sunday morning. Many of our Maple Leaf MacGregors attended this unique and special opportunity to mark the first time our Clan Chief has been in Canada representing the Clan Gregor Society. Our honoured guests were well feted and left with a whole new appreciation for Canada as a country and the open, and creative "Scottishness" of it's peoples. As many know, attending summer Games requires a lot of planning, outfitting, training and hard work. This summer was a busy time and I am grateful for our active cast of volunteers.

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Clan Gregor

(Continued from page 35)

We who struggle behind the scenes to bring the Clan experience and connect diaspora with their roots, often wonder if its all worth it or even if anyone would really care if there were no more Society or Clan. Sometimes we struggle for purpose or relevance in our world today. For me, the payback often comes at the games when the penny drops for a seeker and they, through our efforts, start to connect the dots of their ancestry and heritage.

Here's a wonderful example of a special payback moment.

At Fergus, Callum, the youngest piper of the Rob Roy Pipe Band from Kingston, Ontario, along with his parents Jeremy and Heather Wilson, came by the MacGregor tent and asked if he could pipe a tune for his Chief, Sir Malcolm. We admired his pluck as this confident nine-year-old lad stood in front of the tent in the Avenue of Clans and struck his bag. He played the Road to Passchendaele and did a fine job!

It was a touching scene and received robust applause from the Chief and passersby alike. Right after completing the tune, they shook hands and a Chief's three feather bonnet was placed on Callum's head for photos. A proud moment for both Clan Gregor, the Rob Roy Pipe Band, and the Wilson's. Perhaps you saw the excellent article Fiona wrote in the Banner with a mention and photo of Callum. A payback moment indeed!

That's what Clan Gregor in the True North has been up to.

Respectfully,

Wayne MacGregor Parker

Chair, Clan Gregor Society Canada







Clan Hunter Canada Thrives Off In Person Connections

As much we have all appreciated the opportunity to make connections with fellow Clan Hunter members across Canada, and indeed around the world, over the past several years (thanks to the Covid pandemic that gave us no option but online meetings and gatherings) it has certainly been a pleasure to connect in person with members this spring and summer.

In mid-May, approximately 20 members in Southern Ontario gathered for lunch at Butties of Scotland (in Ancaster, ON - highly recommended!) for a delicious lunch full of traditional Scottish choices along with

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french fries and baked goods. With full bellies we shared some good laughs and talked about the upcoming Highland Games and which ones we were hoping to attend. On the West Coast, member Sheila Massie from Vancouver Island, set up and hosted a tent at the Victoria Highland Games on the May long weekend. She and her daughter enjoyed connecting with fellow Hunters and others interested in learning about Scottish heritage and plan to host again next year.

On July 1st, several of us celebrated Canada Day at the Embro Highland Games. The longest running games in Ontario held their 86th edition this year. Clan Hunter was well represented and it was great to meet members and potential new members at our tent. This is one of the favourite parts of my job as Clan Officer - being able to connect with people, learn about their connections to Scotland and share interesting facts about our Clan and Hunterston Castle with them.

We had a fantastic time at the Sherwood Park Highland Gathering in Alberta in July, where Clan Officer Dale and volunteer Daphne met Kristin Hunter (Scots of Canada Western representative) and Judith Hunter, both long time members of the Clan Association and heavily involved in festivals in the area. Though it rained all day on Saturday, many said it was just like being in Scotland and we persevered to enjoy some sunshine on Sunday. Highlights of this festival included duck and sheep herding, a wide variety of vendors and a vintage car show.

In August, we were proudly represented at the 80th anniversary of the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games. It was an extremely hot and humid weekend. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed seeing so many of our clan members out to support the event and our tent. 12 of us marched behind our new banner in the parade of clans during the opening ceremony. It was a pleasure to welcome David and Monique Hunter from Clan Hunter U.S.A. who spent the weekend with us, enjoying the festival and meeting other members in Canada.

The Annual General Meeting for Clan Hunter Canada will be held in a hybrid format on Sunday November 23 at 3 pm EST. Anyone who lives near Kitchener, Ontario is welcome to join us in person for social time before and a potluck dinner after the meeting. Those who are farther afield and across the country will be able to join via Zoom, similar to the past several years. More details will be shared with members later this fall. We look forward to continuing to make these in person connections and hope to see many members in the near future!

Dale Hill
Clan Officer
Clan Hunter Canada
www.clanhuntercanada.com

Ontario Clan Convenor Network



Attention all clan tent convenors in Ontario!

Do you host or convene a clan tent at a festival or Highland Games in Ontario? An initiative has begun to create a networking community for convenors and clan commissioners in Ontario. The purpose of this community is to communicate throughout the year outside of the festival season, and to gather socially as people are able. As the modern Scottish community continues to face new challenges, we have determined to come together as the larger Scottish community here to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and collaboration to support one another, and to help each other to preserve our collective heritage.

At this point, we have created a shared contact sheet with convenors from twenty-nine clans already registered. We have also created an email group to enable open communication between all parties. We are still in the early stages of developing this initiative, but if you host or convene a clan tent at a festival or Highland Games in Ontario and you would like to be involved in this, then send a message to Nathan at nathan.a.thomson@gmail.com.

If you live in areas adjacent to Ontario such as Quebec, New York, or Michigan, but convene at an Ontario festival, you are also still more than welcome to join! This is meant to be restricted to the community of convenors in Ontario, however, and is not meant to be a Canada-wide community.

I look forward to hearing from people, and our community eagerly anticipates growing to include as many clans as possible.

Slàinte mhath,

Nathan Thomson
Ontario Regional Commissioner
Clan MacTavish
Brampton, ON

Hutchison House - Christmas Market and Snowflake Tea



PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOGOJIWANONG EST. 1897



Christmas Market

Saturday November 22, 2025

Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm

The Christmas Season is upon us, and Hutchison House Museum volunteers will host their annual Christmas Market on Saturday November 22 from 9:30am-12:30pm. Home baking, shortbread, fruit pies, jams, jellies and preserves will be featured, along with other special seasonal treats. In addition to the [Empire Cheese orders \(click for the order form\)](#), we will be offering some of our most popular items for pre-ordering as well including greenery and shortbread. Be sure to order ahead to ensure that you get the items you hope for. The Deadline for all advance orders is Wednesday November 12, 2025.

Snowflake Tea and Dessert

Sunday November 23

Sittings: 1pm and 2:30pm

Cost: \$15

Ring in the holiday season with our annual Snowflake Tea on Sunday November 23 with sittings at 1pm and 2:30pm. Enjoy a light tea with Christmas treats by the Fire in the Keeping Room for \$15 each. There is limited seating and pre-registration and payment is required. Items for sale at the Christmas Market will be available during the tea. For more information or to reserve your seat please contact the Museum office at 705-743-9710. This event is organized by the volunteers of Hutchison House Museum.

Kennedy Society of North America

The last several months have been very active for the Kennedy Society of North America, having had representation at games in multiple locations:

MAY

* David and Irene Phelps once again convened at the Savannah GA games

* Rob and Karen Kennedy, along with Dave Carrick, repped at the Smoky Mountain games in Townsend TN. Shown below is (L-R) Keith and Cynthia Kennedy, Dave Carrick, Karen and Rob Kennedy



Dave and Amy Carrick manned the tent at Greenville SC

JUNE

* Leo Kennedy was once again in Maine at his favorite event, held at Old Orchard Beach

* David and Irene Phelps had their first game at the Georgia Mountain Scottish Festival in Hiawassee. The festival had been a long running event in nearby Blairsville but had outgrown that location

* Colleen and Dan Caldwell convened at the West Virginia Wild and Wonderful Celtic Festival in Beverly

JULY

* once again, the KSNA went to the site of their founding: Grandfather Mountain NC. Hosting were Sa-

(Continued on page 43)

Kennedy Society of North America

(Continued from page 42)

mantha Dodson and Kim and Rick Hageman

* Allison Lares and her brothers were in St. Paul for the Minnesota games

AUGUST

* Lydia Kennedy, ably assisted by her siblings, continued the tradition at Fergus ON. Lydia with Joyce Creighton, on left, are shown below.

(Continued on page 44)



Kennedy Society of North America

(Continued from page 43)

SEPTEMBER

* the AGM was held this year at the Middle Tennessee games in Hendersonville. Thanks goes to Bill and Melissa Kennedy for a good weekend. Pictured below is the clan tent at Middle Tennessee.

* Colleen and Dan Caldwell were at Ligonier PA

* this was the 50th anniversary of the New Hampshire games at Loon Mountain. The Society was well represented by Nina Eppes and Leo Kennedy

Up coming games will be Stone Mountain in Atlanta GA, October 18 and 19, and Central Florida in Winter Springs, mid January. Frank and Suzanne Canada will be convening their last tent at these games as they will be retiring from tent convening as well as professionally. Many thanks for their years of service!

Although there was again going to be representation at the Charleston SC games, the cost of having a tent was increased significantly and made it unaffordable.

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Kennedy Society of North America



Above : The Kennedy contingent in the tartan parade



Right : Nina Eppes, new member Lana Williams, renewing membership Avril Williams at Loon Mountain

Kennedy Society of North America

(Continued from page 44)

Amy and I this past weekend were given the highest award within the Kennedy Society, the Companion of the Oak. This was done at our AGM at the Middle Tennessee Games in the Nashville metro area.

As always,

AVISE LE FIN!

David Carrick

Shown below is Sean Carrick (KSNA Society Chief) between Dave and Amy Carrick after presenting them the Companion of the Oak



Kennedy Society of North America

The 2025 Kennedy Society annual general meeting was held at 2pm on Saturday, September 6 at the Middle Tennessee games in Hendersonville TN. Although it was a bit rainy that morning, the weather improved as the day progressed. Attendance was good, and various reports on financials, membership, and regional and district activities were given. The annual elections were also conducted during the meeting, and the following were re-elected: Sean Carrick (President/Society Chief); Samantha Dodson (Vice President/ Deputy Society Chief); Rick Hageman (Treasurer); Nina Eppes (Secretary). At the conclusion of the meeting, Dave and Amy Carrick were each awarded the highest honor that the KSNA gives: the Companion of the Oak. That night, a group of almost 30 Kennedys enjoyed a festive dinner after a long day at the field.

Sunday was beautiful and sunny, a welcome change from the previous morning - and made the rescheduled tartan parade much nicer.

Next year's AGM will be at Stone Mountain in Atlanta, mid October.

Below: AGM business being conducted at the Middle Tennessee Games.



Kennedy Society of North America

KSNA member and past Robert Burns of North America president Paul Kennedy was elevated to Senior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, on September 6. Next year, also in Kilmarnock, he will be installed as president of that organization.

Below : Paul Kennedy with Clare Leitch, Provost of East Ayrshire





June 27, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrating Celtic Heritage

We are excited to announce the 2026 Kingsville Highland Games will take place on Saturday, June 27 at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Kingsville, Ontario.

Our dedicated committee is bringing together another unforgettable celebration that honors cherished traditions and community spirit. We encourage every clan to join in the opening ceremony, where each will be recognized and celebrated.

We are delighted to extend an open invitation to all clans to participate and play a vital role in this festive gathering. The clan village will be positioned at the heart of the event, ensuring your heritage and signage have maximum visibility. [Click here for a Clan Registration Form](#), please submit by May 1, 2026.

To express our appreciation for your involvement, there will be no participation fee, and each registered clan will receive 2 complimentary admission tickets. Should your group require more, additional tickets will be offered at the early-bird rate until May 1, 2026.

The clan village will be located close to parking areas, minimizing the pain of unloading and loading. We request that all clans stay onsite until closing ceremonies.

Location Details:

- Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, 1550 Road 3 E, Kingsville, ON N9Y 2E5

Colasanti's Tropical Gardens offers the perfect venue for a day of camaraderie, culture, competition and an immersive experience. Join us for another unforgettable, family friendly celebration that honors cherished traditions and community spirit.

We look forward to welcoming you, your tartans, and your stories! In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please contact:

Patricia Reid Crichton
Clan Coordinator
Kingsville Highland Games
patricia.jeanreidcrichton54@gmail.com



Kinlochard Community Launches Global Appeal to Secure “The Field” for Future Generations



KINLOCHARD, SCOTLAND – The community of Kinlochard, nestled in the heart of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, has launched an ambitious crowdfunding campaign to purchase 'The Field,' a vital piece of local land. The initiative aims to bring the land into community ownership, ensuring it is preserved and used for the benefit of residents and visitors for generations to come. The Field is an area rich in flora and fauna. It is a haven for wildlife including some of Scotland's key native species including red squirrels, badgers, beavers, otters, slow worms, bats and adders - not to mention the birds, insects and amphibians.

This project represents a modern-day story of community resilience and land reform. For years, The Field has been an important aspect of village life, but its future is now uncertain. By purchasing it, the community intends to safeguard it forever as a vibrant, open space for recreation, heritage, education and conservation.

The campaign is reaching out to the global Scottish diaspora—the friends, family, and descendants of Scotland—to help preserve this tangible piece of the homeland. This is a unique opportunity for those with Scottish roots to connect with and preserve a living piece of Scottish heritage and help sustain a small Scottish rural community and ensure a stunning part of the Stirlingshire landscape is protected forever.

Your support can make a direct and lasting impact.

To learn more about the campaign and to make a donation, please visit:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-field-kinlochard>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAsyz5bjbSM> - A video about our community and The Field

<https://thefieldkinlochard.co.uk/360-tour-of-the-field/> - Take a Tour of The Field

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada - Unicorns

All great nations have an animal to represent them, a mascot, if you will. Russia has the brown bear; England has the lion; India, the Bengal tiger; China, the Giant panda/Chinese dragon; the U.S., the Bald eagle and Scotland has the Unicorn. What?

All those animals mentioned above represent strength and power. They are all predators except for the panda which is a bamboo-eating bear, and the unicorn. If the panda is too cute and cuddly, the Chinese have a dragon to back it up. What's with the unicorn? It's not even a real animal (of course the dragon isn't either, but it does represent strength and power!)

Alexander the Great, a 3rd Century B.C. Macedonian general, boasted that he rode one into battle. Julius Caesar reportedly sighted one while campaigning against the Gauls in the mid-50's B.C. Pliny the Elder, a Greek historian wrote about them in 79 A.D. and Marco Polo mentioned them in his travels to the Orient in the late 1200s. No less authority than Leonardo da Vinci wrote about how to capture a Unicorn.

One of the last "significant and reliable" sightings of a Unicorn occurred when one approached Genghis Khan (1162-1227) as he was preparing for an invasion of India. Khan interpreted this as a sign from heaven not to attack and turned his army away. The Jewish Talmud makes several references to Unicorns. Jewish folklore says the Unicorn is the fiercest of animals and able to kill an elephant with a single thrust of its horn. There are seven references to Unicorns in the Old Testament.

Because of its Biblical connections the Unicorn has come to represent purity and virtue. In Christian circles, they are usually portrayed as good, selfless, yet solitary and always beautiful creatures. In medieval times they came to represent Christ himself. It's believed that the horn of a Unicorn can neutralize poison and thus serve as a protection against evil. Ceremonial drinking cups were supposedly fashioned from them, and French kings used eating utensils made from them. The royal throne of Denmark was reportedly made of Unicorn horns. Queen Elizabeth I of England owned a complete Unicorn horn, which was valued at 3,000 ounces of gold (nearly six million dollars today). The Queen's horn and the Danish throne were probably tusks from narwhals (a whale with a single protruding tooth).

(Continued on page 52)



Holyroodhouse



Stirling Castle



British Coat-of-Arms



Mercat Cross

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada - Unicorns



Narwhal : Credit Wikipedia

(Continued from page 51)

Inspired by the purity and strength of the Unicorn and the belief that Unicorns are the natural enemy of lions (England's symbolic animal), it's no surprise that King Robert III, incorporated it into the Royal Seal of Scotland about 1400 A.D. While some other heraldic portrayals of Unicorns show them collared, indicating that they have been tamed, the collar on the Scottish Unicorns have broken chains symbolizing freedom from bondage and refusal to be taken again. No wonder the Scots have embraced this mythological animal, it truly represents the Scottish ethos/view of themselves as hard to tame, wild, elusive and difficult to pin down.

Unicorns are everywhere in Scotland from the doors of the King's quarters in Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh to the seven large "Mystic Hunt of the Unicorn" tapestries in Sterling Castle, to the British Coat-of-Arms to the tops of the Mercat crosses in town centers across the country.

Then there's the eleven warships that have borne the name "HMS Unicorn". One of the earliest of these as a 36-gun ship captured by the English in a raid on Edinburgh in 1544. Another was a 56-gun ship launched in 1634 that her first commanding officer claimed was too narrow and "could hold no sail". She was placed in the shipyard and made 20 inches wider before being put into service.

A 38-gun, three-masted fast frigate launched in 1824 was another to bear the Unicorn name. Since she was built right after the wars against Napoleon ended, she never received her masts and riggings. A super-structure was built over her main deck and for the next 140 years she served in numerous capacities.

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Clan Lachlan Association of Canada - Unicorns

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She was used as a floating gunpowder storage ship and a drill ship for the Royal Navy Reserves. Between 1939 and 1959 she was renamed Unicorn II and RMS Cressy (see HMS Unicorn (I-72) below). During

World War II, she was the center for training more than 1,500 women for the Women's Royal Navy Service. Since 1968 she has been tied up alongside a pier in Dundee, Scotland as a museum ship. With her covered superstructure, she is the most original old ship in the world, the oldest ship in Scotland and one of the six oldest ships in the world. A \$12 million restoration program is currently in process.



Museum Ship HMS Unicorn Bowsprite

In 1941, a light aircraft carrier HMS Unicorn (I-72) was launched. She saw action at the Allied landing in Salerno, Italy in 1943. She was subsequently transferred to the British Pacific Fleet in Australia where she participated in the invasion of Okinawa. She spent most of the Korean War ferrying aircraft, troops and supplies. Notably, she is the only aircraft carrier to have conducted a shore bombardment with her guns



HMS Unicorn (I-72)



Museum Ship HMS Unicorn



HMCS Winsor (SSK-877)

when she attacked North Korean observers on the coast. She was sold for scrap in 1959.

Lastly is HMS Unicorn (S43), one of four diesel-electric submarines launched in 1992 that were sold to Canada in 2001. The Canadian Navy changed her name and hull number to HMCS Winsor (SSK-877). She is currently homeported in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

By Rick Gilchrist, Clan MacLachlan Society WUSA

From Bagpipes, Kilt & Caber - August 2025

Reprinted with permission of the author

Clan Logan Society of Canada

Reviving Legacy, Building Bonds: Reflections on Our Investiture in the Order of Saint George

By Steven Logan, KStG

On October 11th, 2025, I had the honour of standing alongside Laurent Audar, KStG, and Gulnar Mousa, DStG, as we were invested into the Order of Saint George. For Clan Logan Canada, this was more than a ceremonial milestone, it was a moment of legacy, unity, and reaffirmation of the values we hold dear.

As the first Knight of Saint George from Clan Logan in the 21st century, I felt the weight and wonder of history. The last Logan knight was Sir William Edmund Logan, knighted by Queen Victoria in 1856. To revive that lineage in our time is both humbling and empowering. It reminds me that heritage is not static, it lives through those who choose to carry it forward with intention and grace.

The ceremony was enriched by the presence of Scott Buchanan, piper to the Chief of Clan Buchanan, who travelled from afar to honour the occasion. His bagpiping during the investiture added ancestral resonance to the moment, and his attendance at the Cercle de la Garnison event the evening before on October 10th, alongside Patrice MacLeod, former President of Clan MacLeod Quebec, reflected the growing bonds between our clans. These connections are not just symbolic; they are the foundation of a shared ceremonial future rooted in mutual respect and collaboration.

I've long believed that chivalric orders still have a place in our lives and within the Scottish clan tradition. The Order of Saint George exemplifies this. It supports military, veteran, and cadet communities, offering recognition and fellowship to those who serve. Its values: honour, courage, loyalty, and service resonate

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Clan Logan Society of Canada

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deeply with the ethos of clan life and ceremonial leadership.

As someone who has been involved with civic and military organizations like the Montreal Central Lion's Club and the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada for many years, I see the Order's work as a bridge between tradition and service. It reminds us that ceremonial life is not just about regalia, it's about responsibility.

Laurent Audar, KStG, and Gulnar Mousa, DStG, bring their own strengths and stories to this moment. Together, we represent a renewed chapter for Clan Logan Canada, one that embraces diversity, honours legacy, and builds bridges across clans and communities.

This investiture was not just a rite, it was a declaration. That knighthood still matters. That heritage lives through action. And that when we gather in ceremony, we do so not to look back, but to step forward, arm in arm, clan by clan, with dignity and vision.

Below left to right: Steven Logan, KstG, Laurent Audar, KstG, Scott Buchanan, Gulnar Mousa, DstG, RSM Keith Fuller of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Clan MacDougall Society of North America has had an enjoyable and busy 2025 season thus far!! It is a pleasure to share our season of activities and tent hosting with you! We look forward to meeting you in the future!

Our season began by attending the Grand NYC Tartan Parade on Tartan Day April 5th!! What an extraordinary event to march as a Clan down 6th Avenue!! We also have a tradition that day to share lunch together!



That very same day our season began in sunny Florida at the Dunedin Games, Hosted by our Florida State Rep. We hope to be present at the Central Florida Games in January of 2026!!

In May Brad McDougall and his wife represented the clan at the Great Smokey Mt Scottish Festival on May 17th and 18th! That very same day tent was hosted up in Maryland at Fair Hill!

The very next weekend Greenville, SC was hosted and enjoyed, along with Scottish Fest in Costa Mesa, CA!!

Early June brought us to Old Orchard Beach on June 7th. It was a rainy day but still enjoyable as it was our first time there.

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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That same day John and Lynn Cowen hosted at the Garrett County Celtic Festival in Friendsville, MD!!

Canada began their season the next weekend on June 14th at the Georgetown Highland Games in Ontario and was hosted by our VP of Canada, Scott MacDougall!!

June 21st brought us to Northumberland SF and hosted by Barry McDougall! That same day Jon McLucas hosted at the Wild and Wonderful Celtic Festival in West Virginia!!

Canada Day! July 1st, was celebrated by being at the Embro Highland Games!! Canada was busy again the next weekend at Kincardine SF in Ontario!

Our Clan's 60th Anniversary was celebrated at Grandfather Mt Highland Games, where we began!! We celebrated with a dinner banquet at Stonewalls!!

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America



(Continued from page 57)

Journeyed back north to MA for Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival on July 19th! Nearly 600 band members proudly play here in the beautiful Look Park!

That same day, July 19th, Barry was at the Sherwood Park HG in Alberta, Canada!! Thirdly on that day Valerie hosted at the Cambridge Scottish Festival in Ontario!!

August began with being well hosted at Fergus Scottish Festival on Aug 8-10th!

We hosted the Maine Highland Games at their new home of Windsor Fairgrounds in Windsor, ME on August 16th and 17th!!

We enjoy being a part of the quaint and friendly Quechee, VT Highland Games the next weekend, Aug 23rd!!

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America

(Continued from page 58)

On Labor Day weekend next year 2026, we will be present at the 160th Scottish Festival in Pleasanton, CA, hosted by Victor Kottinger!!!

Labor Day 2025 brought us to Capitol District Games in Altamont Fairgrounds, NY, near Albany!!

Also that holiday weekend,

John and Cynthia Dowdle were delighted to be at the Virginia Scottish Games!

September 6th and 7th brought us back to Tennessee at the Middle Tennessee HG hosted by Mandi Pitt Reed! That same weekend Covenanter Scottish Festival took place in Quarryville, PA. John and Lynn Cowen hosted again the next weekend at Ligonier HG on the 12th !! Catherine MacDougall Dunham brought us to Columbus Scottish Festival in Indiana on Sept 13th!

NH Highland Games brought us to the beautiful White Mts at Loon Mt for a three day weekend!

John and Lynn took us back to a new and unique venue!! Libations Winery Scottish Festival on Sept 20th in Grove City, PA!

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America



(Continued from page 59)

We hope to be back at the Estes Park Games in Colorado next year!!

We were unable to host at the Scotland County HG in NC this year but hope to be there next!

Lovely October brings the Clan to Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games on the 11th and Brooklyn, CT Fairgrounds on October 12th!

That same weekend Misha Lowther, our current president, will be proudly representing at the Oklahoma HG at Choctaw Creek Park!

Thirdly, this weekend is the Seaside HG in Ventura, CA! Lastly in October, our Lester Howell will host at the beautiful Stone Mt HG at Stone Park, GA on 17th - 19th!

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America

(Continued from page 60)

Our last Games for the season will be November 1st in the lovely Charleston, SC!!

Our year will end with participation in the Alexandria Christmas Walk on December 6th!

We look forward to meeting many of you and welcome you to the family!!

Anne MacDougal Carine,
Clan MacDougall Society NA



MacFie Clan Society in Canada



Our Name

The surname MacFie, derived from the Gaelic MacDubhsith, is a personal ancestor name and one of the oldest such names in existence. The origin of the name has been lost in antiquity. The Gaelic (Scottish pronunciation is "gallic") spelling of our name was derived from two Gaelic words 'Dubh' (roughly pronounced 'dew') meaning Black, and Sith (pronounced 'she') meaning peace. 'Mac' (pronounced "Mahk") means son of. The Sith were the peaceful 'Little People' who were supposed to have inhabited Colonsay. The literal translation of our name is, therefore 'Black (one) of Peace' or 'The Dark Featured Clan'. In spoken Gaelic, the syllables in the word caused the name to sound like Macduhe or Macduffie.

Hi all,

I trust all is well and you have enjoyed a wonderful summer. Time flies by and just like that it is now October, and I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving weekend. May you enjoy this long weekend with family and friends wherever you live in this great country.

I wanted to let you know a few announcements occurring within our MacFie Clan Society in Canada and our Clan MacDubhsith. I am very happy to hear that the Lord Lyon, agreed to calling our Clan with the original Gaelic name. MacDubhsith. This incorporates all surnames like MacDuffie, MacPhee, McAfee, MacPhie and Macfie and other surnames. These are the most common. (With the letter "a" or without the letter "a".) So, there is no confusion. We are all one related by our past as all having the same surname hundreds of years ago.

Our Very Own Clan Website

First and foremost, I want to personally thank Jan Stenseth, who has undertaken the major responsibility of putting together our very own Canadian MacFie webpage. Jan lives in BC, and I had the pleasure of speaking with her and her husband over lunch in Osoyoos, BC last Sunday. I was visiting a friend in Trail, BC and we drove to meet with up Jan. It is magnificent country to say the least. West coast has a lot to offer for people who enjoy the outdoors, that is for sure.

It will be important for all of you know, you can certainly send Jan updates of any kind of MacFie news happenings in and around you communities and with your own families. We can add this to our newsletters.

Here is our new website: <https://macfieclancanada.ca/>

Clan Commander : Following is the latest information for anyone interested in putting their name forward for the Clan Commander

All the best,

Gary MacPhie - President of Clan MacFie Society in Canada

Clan MacDubhsith

Search for a Commander

1 October 2025

Submitted by the Council of Presidents of the Societies representing the families of the Clan MacDubhsith

The Clan that comprises the surnames MacDuffie, MacDuffee, MacDuffy, MacFee, MacFie, MacPhee, MacPhie, and other accepted cognates is currently without a Chief or a Clan Commander (Ceann-Cath).

The Clan MacDubhsith Commander will provide leadership, carry forward development of the Clan, and drive the process to identify a suitable Chief.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms will be petitioned for authorization to convene a Family Convention to be held in May 2026. At this event nominees for the position of Commander will be considered by eligible members of the worldwide Clan for selection as their nominee to be presented to the Lord Lyon for review and approval if accepted.

In its search for a qualified and appropriate person to lead the Clan, the Council of Presidents, (representing the seven Clan societies, Family groups and all other eligible Clan members) worldwide, has prepared reference information and the necessary Forms to be submitted by eligible candidates which includes a Notice of Intent to be considered as a Candidate for Commander. These can be found on the Council's webpage:

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

Eligible Clan members worldwide who wish to be considered are invited to submit their fully completed Notice of Intent (NoI) by email to:

clannameandcommandersearch@mail.com or send an email via the website above.

Alternatively please write to:

Clan Commander Selection
11, Ewart Drive
Dumfries DG2 7LT UK

The deadline for submission of your Notice of Intent is 30 November 2025.

Clan MacNeil in Canada

Clan MacNeil, Atlantic Provinces, a division of Clan MacNeil in Canada, held their annual Clan MacNeil Day at the Christmas Island Fire Hall in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia on Friday, August 1st, 2025. This gathering is held annually on the first Friday in August in conjunction with Highland Village Day which is always the following day. Highland Village Day is held on the hill at the Highland Village Museum at Iona, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia annually.

Both events, Clan MacNeil Day and Highland Village Day are wonderful celebrations of Gaelic language and culture in Cape Breton's Barra Gaidhealtachd. While our MacNeil Day focuses specifically on our Clan, Highland Village Day is for all Scots and also sometimes features a variety of East Coast musicians!!! This year, Clan MacNeil featured a number of students from the Rankin School of the Narrows at Iona performing tradition Celtic music, both vocal and instrumental. It is wonderful to see these young MacNeil descendants embracing their culture. They were all students in the Gaelic program at Rankin.

The stage at the Highland Village has played host to many talented performers including Great Big Sea, The Barra MacNeils, J.P. Cormier, Slainte Math, Carl MacKenzie, The Cottars, and in this year Adam Baldwin! Adam Baldwin's song Lighthouse in Little Lorraine was inspiration for a movie by that name which was filmed in Cape Breton. This movie was recently shown as part of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2025 and the Atlantic International Film Festival (AIFF) in September 2025.

Here are some pictures from Clan MacNeil Day held at the Christmas Island Firehall, in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Vince MacNeil
President
Clan MacNeil in Canada



Clan MacNeil in Canada



Clan MacNicol Society of North America



News from MacNicol's clan

The 2026 International Gathering of Clan MacNicol will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from September 11–14, 2026. This special event will be hosted at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, footsteps away from the city's historic waterfront. This four-day celebration promises to be a memorable occasion filled with culture, connection, and community.

Planned events include a flag raising ceremony at Halifax Grand Parade, a lively ceilidh, storytelling sessions entitled. Our Stories Past and Present, and an exciting bus tour to northern Nova Scotia to showcase some of Nova Scotia's natural beauty and Scottish Highlander heritage and culture.

The Chief of Clan MacNicol personally requested that this Gathering be held in Nova Scotia, recognizing both its Scottish roots and its unique role as a place where Highland traditions continue to thrive. It will be a very historic moment as Clan members from around the

world come together in Halifax for the very first time.

Special Day Excursion

A special day excursion is being planned during the Gathering to the Town of Pictou, known as the "Birthplace of New Scotland". Step aboard the legendary Ship Hector replica and imagine what it was like for the many Scottish immigrants who voyaged across the Atlantic Ocean in 1773. Excursion details will be available with registration information – stay tuned!

Getting Here & Getting Around

Halifax is so easily accessible by air, land and sea; you'll be here before you know it!

Halifax Stanfield International Airport is Atlantic Canada's centre for domestic, regional and international flight service offering direct flights to and from other Canadian cities, major city centres in the U.S., as well as the UK and Continental Europe.

It is approximately a 30 minute drive from Halifax Stanfield International Airport to downtown Halifax. There are several options from limo, taxi or Uber to express shuttle service and local transit – more details on options can be found [here](#).

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Clan MacNicol Society of North America

(Continued from page 66)

Registration and Information

To register, please contact Joe Nicholson at macnicolhalifax2026@gmail.com.

Hotel Information

The 2026 International Gathering of Clan MacNicol will be held at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront situated along the scenic Halifax waterfront. The hotel offers easy access to the shops and restaurants along the boardwalk as well as Historic Properties. You'll enjoy luxury accommodations, excellent on-site dining, and a stylishly designed room with pillow top bedding, marble bathroom, Wi-Fi, and an ergonomic work desk. Additional hotel amenities include indoor swimming pool, fully-equipped gym, expansive venue spaces and on-site underground parking. Stay tuned for hotel booking details.

We warmly invite all members, families, and friends to join us in Halifax in 2026 for what promises to be a Gathering to remember. Come celebrate our heritage, share stories, enjoy music and laughter, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Clan MacNicol. We look forward to welcoming you to our first Clan Gathering in Alba Nuadh (Nova Scotia)!

Jacques Mc Nicoll

(514) 912-5439

(Below : October 2024 International Gathering on the Isle of Skye)



Clan Munro Association

Frae the President's Pen:

Dear Cousins; As I sit down to write this autumn letter, the leaves here in Yorkshire are showing their fiery colours, much the same as it must be doing across Canada and the air has that unmistakable crispness of the season.



Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire: courtesy The Forestry Commission, UK

Only a few short weeks ago a few of you were together at Foulis Castle for the Gathering. What a memorable occasion it must have been – full of friendship, stories, music, and of course, a dram or two. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Clan Gathering myself this year. However, I know the Clan Chief, Hector Munro of Foulis, was delighted with the strength of representation from across the Atlantic.

This year's Gathering was another reminder that our



Photo courtesy of Jo Ann Tuskin

Clan is truly global. From Europe to North America and beyond, Munros and Monroes and Dingwalls and all the other aligned septs of the Clan Munro, continue to honour their shared history while forging new connections. The ceilidh in Inverness, with dancing well into the wee hours, is still ringing in the ears of those lucky enough to have attended.

Closer to home, autumn also brings reflection. I was recently reading an article on the Calanais Standing Stones in Lewis, thought to be over 4,000 years old. Much like the Orkney stones I mentioned in my last letter, they carry with them that sense of timelessness – a reminder that people have always sought meaning, ceremony, and community in gathering together, sharing what we have with each other. Perhaps our Clan gatherings are not so different in spirit.



Photo courtesy of National Geographic

On a lighter note, I was amused to hear of the discovery of 2000 years-old Roman gaming pieces found in the Highlands, near Aberdeen. Evidently, our ancestors and their local tourists, enjoyed a good board game as much as we enjoy our quizzes, raffles, and ceilidh reels today.



Image courtesy of DigitScotland.com

As the nights draw in and the year edges toward its close, I wish you and your families health, warmth, and peace. May your hearths be bright, your tables plentiful, and your spirits lifted by the knowledge that, across the miles, your Clan stands, parties and reclines with you.

Yours Aye,





Donald Munro - Weaver

The Middleville and District Museum is in the Twp. of Lanark Highlands, ON, west of Ottawa and north of Perth and Smith's Falls.

This area was settled around 1820 by the Irish and Scottish, mostly weavers and stone masons. Many of those original families are still located here. The museum has a very large genealogy section that traces family histories of from the area. This area has been referred to as the "cradle of the Irish and Scottish immigration". From here the families dispersed to different areas.

One of the items in the Museum is a Barn Frame Loom that belonged to Donald Munro. In 1832, Donald, Margaret and their young family traveled from Scotland to Canada. He was born on 17 Dec. 1799 in Creich, Sutherland, Scotland and passed away in 1881 just up the road from the museum in Tatlock, Lanark Highlands, ON

The loom is still operational today. There has been an event featuring Layne, the 5X great-granddaughter of Donald Munro, a weaving artisan herself. She can operate her g-g-g-g-g-grandfather's loom creating a piece that is based on the colours of the Lanark Highlands registered tartan. Last year she was there and produced an item that was based on the Munro tartan.

<http://www.middlevillemuseum.org>

This pioneer barn-frame loom belonged to an early settler, Donald Munro. He was a weaver from Scotland who brought the loom reeds and other essential pieces with him when he emigrated in the 1820s. The main part of this loom was probably made upon arrival at the new homestead. The heavy board frame would have been too cumbersome to transport through the deep forests of early Lanark.

The Munro loom, with its hand-hewn beams, pegged together with wooden pegs, was restored to working order by Gordon James of Middleville. He lay all the pieces out and suddenly it began make sense as he matched a corner marked A to another part marked A. Two other corners were marked with matching numbers. Other various uncoded wooden loom parts were a challenge for Mr. James.

The loom is made with different kinds of wood as there are different stresses on the loom in the weaving process. The frame is made of cedar and the beater which pulls the weft threads into place is made of ash. The brake handle is made of beech and bits of bark still cling to the wood. The edges of the cloth beam were whittled or done with a draw knife and the original metal dogs that acted as a brake are still in place. Note the beautifully turned clean-edged wooden screws in the beater which hold the reed tight.

Long years ago Donald Munro sat at a bench with his feet on the treadles and the clacking sound of the loom filled the air. A measuring tape hung on the side of the loom in easy reach to measure the patterns stripes or the length of the web of cloth. He may have done custom weaving in his home for neighbours in exchange for field work or on a barter system or he may have been an itinerant weaver. The loom could be dismantled fairly readily and packed into a wagon or buggy, travelling with his warping boards as he travelled from house to house in the roughly opened townships.



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association

NEW BRUNSWICK SCOTTISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC.

AN DROCHAID OCTOBER 2025

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association had a busy and interesting season participating in events with our displays in New Brunswick starting with the Anglophone School District West Heritage Fair .This is an annual event that sees an average of sixty students taking part with displays covering a range of students on Canadian and New Brunswick Heritage and Culture . Our Association sponsors an award for a project on Scottish Heritage and Culture which was awarded for the thirteenth time to Christina Dixon-Brewer for her project on the History of Highland Dancing in Atlantic Canada . Christina is an active participant in dance competitions in Atlantic Canada , Maine, and Ontario . She won the Overall Nationals Winner at the Scot dance Canada Championship Series held in Ottawa this last summer .Congratulations to a great dancer .

(Continued on page 71)



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association

(Continued from page 70)

The Gathering of the Scots in Perth-Andover located along the banks of the Wolastok River (St.John River) enjoyed a good year with the return of Medieval Jousting which is a crowd pleaser along with the heavy weight competitions , band presentations , music , food , and fellowship . The Tobique First Nation presented a special drumming demonstration at the opening ceremonies followed by the naming of the Honorary Clan Chieftain as Adena Robinson by Mel Fitton . Next year the games will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with several special events being planned, June 4-7, 2026 .

(Continued on page 72)



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association

(Continued from page 71)

Next was the Greater Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival which hosted the CSAF 2025 Women's Open and Women's Masters Championships which were of course a main attraction, along with band and dance competitions, clans, demonstrations, and displays. This year entry to the games was free of charge which was a boost to the attendance. Next year the games will celebrate its 20th anniversary June 9-13, 2026.

The grounds of New Brunswick's Government House is the location of the New Brunswick Highland Games Festival in Fredericton. The games have been held annually since 1981 celebrating New Brunswick's Scottish Heritage and Culture by way of traditional Scottish activities, piping and drumming, heavy weight, and dancing, entertainment clans and workshops. The Haggis Café and Scottish Bake Shop, our associations major fundraiser had a great year with record profits, we sold all of our Haggis, Scotch eggs scones, bacon butties, baked goods and irn bru, not even a crumb was left. The exact date was the 45th anniversary in 2026 has not yet been set.

The Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi organizes the Miramichi Scottish Festival annually each August. Planned events included a Tartan Candlelight Banquet, an old-fashioned family picnic at Wilson's Point Historic Site, Memorial Church

(Continued on page 73)





(Continued from page 72)

Service , and afternoon of music and dance .Due to the extreme fire danger events at Wilson's Point had to be cancelled .This however did not dull the celebrations which were rescheduled and included musical entertainment , special awards , and fellowship . Next years Festival is being planned for mid-august 2026 .

All of these games and festivals would not have been possible without the dedicated commitment of a small number of volunteers associated with each of these events who give freely of their time and energy to make them possible .

The Annual General Meeting (Image above) of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc; occurred on October 4th hosted by the Fredericton Society of St.Andrew (FSSA) which has been celebrating it's 200th anniversary this year with several special events and projects . One of the projects involves researching and locating the sites Scottish settlers buried in Fredericton's Old Burial Ground , we were fortunate to be given a tour of the burial grounds where we visited the graves of several of the founding members of the FSSA , a Scottish flag was placed in recognition at each grave site visited .The agenda of the AGM included reports from member associations from around New Brunswick which demonstrated that Scottish Heritage and Culture very active . Mel Fitton was returned as president of the NBSCA .

On October 18th, the NBSCA will be participating in the annual Fredericton North Heritage Fair along with our Celtic cousins The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick ,and The Central New Brunswick Welsh Association . The fair is an annual event that attracts visitors from around the Fredericton region with interesting heritage displays .

Upcoming events include the Raising of the Saltire at the New Brunswick Legislature on November 30th in recognition of St.Andrew 's day . Several banquets are in the planning stages including Fredericton ,Saint John , Miramichi ,and Bathurst.

Articles and images courtesy of Mel Fitton, President

Quigrich - St. Fillan's Crozier

St. Fillan's Crozier is an 8th century Insular crozier crook (or head) traditionally associated with the Irish monk St. Fillan (Gaelic: Fáelán; "little wolf"), who lived in the eighth century at Glendochart in Perthshire, central Scotland. Only the crook survives; the staff was lost at an unknown date.

Sometime around the late 13th century it was encased in the Coigreach (or Quigrich), a crosier-shrine of similar size and form built as a protective case, made from silver, gold and rock crystal and dating from the late 13th century, with additions c. the 14th or 15th centuries. The Coigreach was rediscovered in the mid-19th century by the archaeologist Daniel Wilson, who opened it and found St. Fillan's Crozier inside.



Records show that the original wooden crozier (Scottish Gaelic: Baculus) was used for blessings and as a talisman or battle standard: it is recorded as having been brought onto the field at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. It was later thought to be able to heal people and animals, and under the ownership of the Dewars of Glendochart—its hereditary keepers until the mid-18th century—acted as a ceremonial object for oaths of loyalty and dispute settlement, mostly related to the recovery of stolen cattle.

Both St. Fillan's Crozier and the Coigreach are in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where they are displayed in the Kingdom of the Scots gallery, and are described by the museum as an "object-pair"

Both St. Fillan's Crozier and the Coigreach are in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where they are displayed in the Kingdom of the Scots gallery, and are described by the museum as an "object-pair"

Description

The crozier head is designed in the West Highland style, and like all contemporary Insular croziers formed from a wooden core lined with bronze plates, which are decorated with niello, lead sulphide, copper and silver. It is thought to date from c. 800 AD and was reworked in the 11th century. It was found inside the late-14th or 15th century Coigreach (or "Coigrich", sometimes spelt "Quigrich"), an ornamented crosier-shrine built as a protective case to hold what was left of the earlier object.

The Coigreach is made from a bronze base lined with a series of plaques decorated with raised bands of engraved metal ornamented with niello. Some of the bands have silver gilt and filigree; a number of these elements were removed from the crosier and transferred onto the Coigreach.

The head is 23.5 cm (9.3 in) in height and 20.0 cm (7.9 in) long.[7] The rest of the crozier (i.e. its staff) is lost.

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Quigrich - St. Fillan's Crozier

(Continued from page 74)

Provenance

Fillan travelled from Ireland to Strath Fillan, central Scotland, in 730AD, apparently to Christianize the Picts. He founded a prior at Glendochart, and became greatly venerated in the region and eventually became a national saint.[9] At his death, Fillan bequeathed his relics to laymen in Glendochart rather than the priory monks. These relics included his bell (or bernane), and a lost arm relic today known as the Shrine of St. Fillan's Hand, which for a period was mistakenly identified as the 14th-century object now known as Shrine of Saint Patrick's Hand.[10][11]

Sometime around the 13th or 14th century the crozier was enshrined within the Coigreach. It then fell into the possession of the Dewar (sometimes spelled "Deoir" or "Jore") family sometime around 1400. They became its hereditary keepers and passed it from father to son for five centuries. Ownership of the crozier entitled its possessor to ownership of lands and the right to tax local sales of grain; effectively retaining its original function as a staff of office and sign of authority.[3] The Coigreach was kept at the family home at Eyich, outside Crianlarich, Perthshire.[4][12]

In 1819 Archibald Dewar (d. 1831) emigrated to Ontario in Canada and took the Coigreach with him. According to the National Museum of Scotland, while there and "as had been the custom in Scotland, the Coigreach was used to bless the drinking water of cattle of Scottish emigrants". Soon afterwards the antiquarian and archaeologist Daniel Wilson realised its value and arranged for its return to Scotland, under the ownership of the Wuigrich to the Society of Antiquaries for the National Museum of Scotland. Shortly after this rediscovery, the Coigreach was opened and found to contain the much earlier crozier.

Reprinted from Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Fillan%27s_Crozier)



A Quigrich Memorial Stone is in the Kennedy Cemetery at the west corner (45.132476,-76.035030), 446 Glenashton Rd, Beckwith, ON K7C 3P2

Other links of interest:

<https://www.perthhs.org/documents/keepers-of-the-quigrich.pdf>

<https://www.ambaile.org.uk/asset/31693/1/EN31693-the-quigrich-or-crozier-of-st-fillan.htm/>

Our thanks to Robert Lowe Barnett for bringing this info and resources to us.



Sheena's Scottish Shortbread

Our Fall and Christmas events are now live. You can find them all here.

<http://www.sheenasscottishshortbread.com/events--shows.html>

Perfect for friends, neighbours, co-workers, client gifts, stocking stuffers, hostess gifts or just for yourself. Come by and visit us at any of our events for free samples of our delicious handmade Scottish Shortbread. Flavours include, Traditional, Maple, Lemon, Ginger (great with your favourite Single Malt), chocolate chip, toasted coconut, toffee and gluten free.

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Sheena's Scottish Shortbread



(Continued from page 76)

If you cannot make it out to one of our events you can also order online.

<http://www.sheenasscottishshortbread.com/buy-online.html>

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas and Nollaig Chridheil

Clan Sinclair Association of Canada



Pipes on the Distant Hills

Clan Sinclair International recently spent time together in Caithness, Scotland our ancestral home. It was a very happy event. Now that we are making our way back to our various corners of the world, I felt it was time to recall some categories that tell us who we are.

The first is **"Roots and Wings"**. We come from somewhere with a central thrust. In the late 19th century, my great-grandfather was drowned in a fishing boat, along with eight or nine of his village friends. It was a terrible disaster. As a result, his children, my family, emigrated to Canada. A few years ago, my cousins realized that there was no marker on my great grandfather's grave. We organized that one would be fashioned. It simply names him, and his dates, and says that he is remembered by his great-grandchildren in Canada. We all have roots that have given the wings.

The second category is **"Homeland and Wide-World"**. We are all citizens of our nations, and are closely tied in with the political and cultural events that make it home. But we are also part of a wider world, and carry the tartans of our tradition in our flesh and bones. In Canada, where I live, more than one and ten of our citizens claim Scottish descent. Indeed, scratch the surface anywhere, and you hear bagpipes sounding through the floorboards. "Homeland and World-Wide".

"Heroes and Hopefuls" is another category worth remembering. Many of us were present together on the shores of Nova Scotia to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the voyage of Prince Henry Sinclair to the New World. We shared proud moments as the prow of a Viking ship was raised up in the park where he landed. And in my own country, we celebrate Christine Sinclair, an international superstar in women's soccer. To see her play, and to hear her name makes us proud. "Heroes and "Hopefuls".

The last category is **"Stories and Sentinels"**. We have family stories to tell each other around the dining-table, or over a glass of whisky in the evening. My grandparents and my father, when coming to Canada. had been booked on RMS Titanic, and were "bumped" at the last minute. That story is like porridge for me. It sticks to my ribs. We have "sentinels" too. Like haggis, neeps and tatties. A spicy sense of a presence that promises a feast, a song and a dream.

As the season changes where you live, and political and social fortunes rise and fall, there is something in our name, in our history, in our strength, and in our unity that will shelter us, and lead us and empower us to do good things in the world.

*The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair,
Chaplain, Clan Sinclair International*

Editors Note: The following pages contain a small selection of images of the Gathering and Events provided



2025 Clan Sinclair International Gathering



July 25 - 28, 2025 • Thurso, Scotland

*Special thanks to
Roger, Andrea, Sharon and anyone else, who shared their photos.*

Friday, July 25 - Welcome Reception - Pentland Hotel



Rory piping in Viscount John Thurso and Chief Malcolm



Clan Reception in Garden at Pentland



Chief Malcolm welcoming Clan members



*Rory with new members Danielle, Jan and Jo-anne,
who only found out 3 years ago that they were Sinclairs.
Look for the story of their journey in the next newsletter.*

Countries represented at our Clan Gathering



Australia



Canada



Italy



Norway



Romania



Scotland



UK



USA

Saturday, July 26 Halkirk Games



Dolina, her daughter Allison, Lorne



Viscount John Thurso, Luke, Ally, Liane



*Scott, Inger,
Lorne, Sharon*



Rory piping in front of Clan Sinclair tent



Sunday, July 27 Church Service



Thurso West Church



Abigail singing Ave Maria



Abigail, Lisa, Malcolm, Penny, Roger

Monday, July 28 - Gala Dinner - Pentland Hotel

Rory piping in the Chief and haggis.

Mary Newberry is stabbing the haggis.

Luke - Canada



Address To The Haggis



Sven - Italy



John - Norway



*Gathering
Group Photo*

Summer Events Attended

Submitted by Rory Sinclair

I was fortunate to hear from David Radley who organized all the Clans for the last 5 years at The Fergus Highland Games, the biggest in Ontario.

Here is his message:

Thank you for joining us at Fergus this year and helping to make our 80th one of the most successful years yet. Your attendance makes it extra special for me. Thanks for the piping.

We had a total of 56 clans represented and welcomed over 27,900 visitors.

The clans area seemed to be busy all weekend and I, and my team, sincerely hope you enjoyed yourselves and that the experience was rewarding.

I have included a few photos that may be of interest.

Looking forward to seeing you again next year.

Best regards,

Dave Radley and the Clans Team.



Roger and Lisa attending the

*Lieutenant Governor of
Nova Scotia
Annual Garden Party*

*Government House - Halifax
June 18, 2025*





Summer Events Attended



Git yer tartan on!

August 30/31

CELEBRATING CELTIC CULTURE IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES!

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES

CANMORE HIGHLAND GAMES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 & SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
TASTE OF THE HIGHLANDS
WEDNESDAY, AUG 29
THE CANMORE CEILIDH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Advance tickets & info at: canmorehighlandgames.ca



Lorne and Luke



Clan Village



Lorne and Sharon



Luke, Paul, Jan, Kathryn, Mary Ellen, Sharon



THE CUTIEST WOOLY COOs EVER !!



Clans Represented

Buchanan Old 78th Fraser Highlanders Hope Macpherson Sinclair Sinclair Wallace

Don't miss the 2025

St. Andrew's Charity Ball

Buy your tickets!

In support of the Douglas Hospital Foundation

Friday, November 28

Marriott Château Champlain, Montreal

Don't miss this gala evening of dining, dancing and Scottish pageantry!

Tickets

Adults: \$325/person

Juniors (35 and under) & Black Watch (active officers): \$195/person

Premium tickets: \$395/person

Tickets are over 60 percent sold—don't delay!

Ormstown Fall Festival and Highland Games a great success!

Many thanks to everyone who came out to Ormstown on Sunday, September 21 for “Scottish Day” at the LBA Fall Festival! It was wonderful to see so many Society members supporting this new initiative from our

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St. Andrew's Society of Montreal



Margo Pollock, Executive Director, St. Andrew's Society (centre); with Sue Morrison and Mark Anderson of the Livestock Breeders Association (LBA)

(Continued from page 84)

friends at the Ormstown Fair. The weather couldn't have been better, and guests enjoyed a lovely afternoon of Scottish sport, music, and dance. A highlight of the day was the RCMP Musical Ride! The St. Andrew's Society is proud to be a supporter of this exciting event, and we look forward to seeing it return in the future.



The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys



Editors Note: We had great contributions from Ewen Booth of The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys which, in total, come up to 25 or more pages!

In order to still provide them to our readership but keep the publication manageable in size, we're trying out providing a synopsis for each article with a link to the full article contents on our website. You may also click on the title as a link as well.



Les ancetres des familles Mckinnon de la basse-cote-nord : The ancestors of the McKinnon families of the lower north shore (In French only)

This genealogical article by Joyce Racine traces the Scottish origins of the McKinnon families of Quebec's Lower North Shore, debunking the long-held belief that they were of Irish descent. The family's progenitor was Daniel McKinnon, a Scottish soldier from the 78th Fraser Highlanders who arrived in 1757. After being demobilized, he settled in Berthier-sur-Mer, married French-Canadian Marie-Angélique Rinfret, and raised a large, francophone family.

While many of Daniel's descendants remained in the Berthier and Matane regions, his grandson, Jacques McKinnon, became the pivotal figure for the Lower North Shore branch. In 1837, Jacques, a fisherman, purchased a fishing concession in Kecarpoui Bay, establishing himself as a permanent settler in this remote area. He married Héloïse Fortier, and their numerous children ensured the McKinnon name took root in the region.

The article details how subsequent generations, like Jacques's son Samuel Adolphe, continued to live and work on the Lower North Shore. A key finding is the linguistic shift that occurred; while the early McKinnons in Quebec were francophone, the influx of English-speaking settlers from Newfoundland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries led their descendants to become primarily anglophone, unaware of their French-speaking and Scottish soldier ancestor until this research was conducted. The article thus uncovers the forgotten history of a pioneer family, connecting their Scottish roots, their francophone intermediary generations in Berthier, and their eventual establishment as an English-speaking community on the Lower North Shore.

[Click here to read the entire article](#)

(Continued on page 87)



The Scottish Migration to Quebec : La migration écossaise vers le Québec (Bilingual)

This article details the significant, yet often overlooked, migration of Scottish Highlanders to Quebec following the Seven Years' War. It focuses on the 78th Regiment (Fraser's Highlanders), who were garrisoned in the St. Lawrence Valley from 1760-1763. After the war, over 150 of these Gaelic-speaking soldiers chose to settle in Canada. They married French-Canadian women and integrated into local parishes, with their descendants largely becoming francophone. This group formed a foundational Scottish settlement, and their descendants, bearing names like Fraser, McKinnon, and Ross, played important roles in Quebec's development. The article posits that a substantial percentage of traditional French-Canadian families may have DNA from these Highlanders.

[Click here to read the entire article](#)

Two Fraser Highlanders on the streets of Vieux Quebec : Deux Highlanders Fraser dans les rues du Vieux-Québec (Bilingual)

This article highlights a partnership between two tour companies in Quebec City that brings Scottish history to life. Cicerone Tours has acquired a Fraser Highlander uniform and hired Jacques Fraser, a descendant of Lieutenant Malcolm Fraser from the 78th Regiment, to lead costumed tours. He is being mentored by Captain Ewen Booth of the Montreal garrison, who runs his own historical tour business. Booth, who portrays a different soldier, Donald McKinnon, is guiding Jacques on the history and the uniform. The piece promotes their respective tours: Cicerone's family-friendly walks and Booth's more in-depth, adult-oriented historical excursions focused on Quebec's Scottish history and battles. This initiative underscores the enduring Scottish roots within Quebec's predominantly French historical narrative.

[Click here to read the entire article](#)



(Continued on page 88)

The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys

(Continued from page 87)

The Search for a Tartan - Update (Bilingual)

This press release announces a search for a historic piece of tartan fabric ahead of Tartan Day 2025. Peter Eslea MacDonald, a world-renowned tartan historian, is seeking the "Holy Grail" of Scottish military textiles: a surviving piece of the original Black Watch tartan worn by Highland regiments in North America during the 18th century, including the 78th Fraser's Highlanders. Despite an estimated 40 miles of the fabric being woven, no original sample is known to exist. Local Quebec researcher Ewen Booth is supporting the effort by reaching out to the francophone population, many of whom are descendants of these Scottish soldiers. The hope is that a family heirloom—a blanket, kilt, or piece of cloth—may be preserved somewhere in Quebec, which could definitively identify the tartan worn by the Fraser's Highlanders when they settled in the region after 1763.



[Click here to read the entire article](#)

Shankbone - Quebec Commissioner -Spring 2025

The work on “Maison McKinnon” continues, although the future of it remaining within family hands is shortening. With it located in a high traffic area, the noise and light pollution is becoming intolerable and moving is the only option to retain mental and physical health.



(Continued on page 89)

The Thistle and The Fleur De Lys

(Continued from page 88)

As such the “Boutique McKinnon” that had commenced construction inside the building may become a travelling boutique in a trailer to visit Highland Games and other public events to sell Clan MacKinnon and other Scottish and artisans products. Ewen has started his new business as a tour guide with the “ClanMobile” as the means to transport tourists when they visit the local area. Ewen has designed 10 different tour routes in the area touching on both the Scottish and French history of the area. Bespoke tours can also be undertaken, custom made to your desire or based on genealogy searches.



The Montreal Highland Games is cancelled this year, and the Festival Celtique de Quebec is on the same weekend (5-7 September) as a military reenactment camp to be held on the Plains d'Abraham in Quebec City. The camp will include the 84th regiment, also known as the “Royal Highland Emigrants.” This was a provincial regiment raised from former Scottish soldiers who remained in North America to defend the colony of Canada from the invading “Rebels”. Donald McKinnon served as a Lieutenant in the regiment fighting shoulder to

shoulder with French Canadians to defend their homeland from Rebels, having his house and store looted and everything stolen by the rebels as he was away in Quebec City. December 31st, 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the attack on Quebec City. Ewen will be wearing the uniform of the 84th regiment in commemoration of Donald McKinnon at this event. Ewen now hopes to profit from the new Rebel (American) friendly invasion of tourists who visit Quebec City and area yearly.

Joyce Racine, of Quebec received an award from the “Federation Histoire de Quebec”, for her document on tracing her family roots in Quebec. It is included in this publication, but sadly it is only in French. She is descended from the same Donald McKinnon as Kathleen McKen, the Quebec Provincial Commissioner. (This is a different Donald McKinnon from the house noted earlier)

At the same event Ewen made a presentation on the Scottish migration to Quebec (Canada) as a guest speaker. Kathleen did the presentation in French and Ewen in English, and it was well received with many people lined up after to ask further questions. Ewen was asked to write an article as a follow up but due to space restrictions only concentrated on one of the identified immigration points. This publication is also attached.

Ewen remains searching for pieces of military tartan that may be hidden away in some forgotten trunk. A press release was sent out for Tartan Day which is included in this publication.

Note that articles are as bilingual hoping that the international MacKinnons may benefit from this inclusion.

June 2025.





St. Andrew's Society of Toronto

St. Andrew's Charity Ball

22nd November 2025

**Fairmont Royal York Hotel,
100 Front St. West, Toronto**

Tickets for the 2025 St. Andrew's Charity Ball are now on sale! Hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and the 48th Highlanders of Canada, our Ball is Toronto's preeminent Scottish event where we celebrate Scottish culture and the Society's philanthropic work.

Join us for a fantastic evening of Scottish camaraderie at the prestigious Royal York Hotel on November 22nd. Enjoy a four course meal, including haggis, neeps and tatties, then ceilidh dance the night away to the pipes and drums of the 48th Highlanders. Included in the evening is a Highland dancing display by Highlandinthe6 dancers and a Silent Auction.

- Dinner and Ceilidh Dancing Ticket \$250
- Table packages may be purchased for tables of 8, 9 or 10.
- Ceilidh Ticket (dancing only) \$80 (after 9pm)

***Please note that ticket prices don't include Eventbrite fees**

Buy Ball tickets here

For more information, visit https://standrewstoronto.ca/sast_event/charity-ball/

If interested in purchasing table packages of 8 to 10 via cheque or e-transfer, please send an email to info@standrewstoronto.ca for further instructions.

Road Show Statistics

The report that follows shows where some clicked through a QR Code for each member on their poster at a Road Show event. It doesn't show how many actually viewed the poster, just who clicked and thus a counter incremented.

This is, of course, a very small sample since it represents only those who know how to and can click through using a QR Code. We often saw booth visitors just taking an image of a poster with the intent to go deeper at a later time.

Instead of looking at raw numbers, it is more valuable to look at relative numbers as a way to possibly determine which events should your group consider having a presence at. A high count group such as the MacKenzies can use the data to emphasis Fergus(6), Glengarry(4), and Victoria (9) before the other most 1 and 2 for other events. Please contact us at editor@scotscanada.ca for further info or questions.

Poster QR code accesses for a member at an event	Almonte CeltFest	Antigonish	Cambridge	Canmore	Embro	Fall Celtic Festival	Fergus	Georgetown	Glengarry	Guelph	Kincardine	LBA Highland Games	Niagara Celtic	North Lanark	Northumberland	Orillia	Red Deer	ScotFestBC	Sedgewick	Sherwood Park	Ship Hector	Sydney Mines	Uxbridge	Victoria	Member Total
Ailsa Craig Highland Games...					1																				1
Almonte Celtfest	1																								1
Antigonish Highland Society					1																	1			2
Bradan Press			1	1																					2
Burnett's & Struth Scottish Regalia Ltd																									0
Cambridge Scottish Festival					1															1					2
Canadian Hemochromatosis Society	1		1			1									1										4
Canmore Highland Games																									0
Celtic Life International		1							1																2
Celtic Students Society of UofG					1	1		1										2							5
Clan Anderson					1																				1
Clan Baird Society - Canada					1		1							9				2	1	1					15
Clan Bell North America			1			3	2					1						2					1	2	12
Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc.	1	1			1	2	2	1				2		1	1								1	3	16
Clan Cameron Ontario Branch		2		1	2	10	3	5				1	1	4	2		1	3	2	2		2	3		44
Clan Campbell Society (North America)	2			1	2	1	5	2	2		1		1	4	3	6	2		1			2	5	1	41
Clan Carruthers- Canada																									0
Clan Chisholm Society - Canada Branch		1	1			2										2			1		1			2	10
Clan Colquhoun of Canada					1	1	4		1				1			2					1				11
Clan Cunningham International					2																				2
Clan Davidson Society of North America				4		3	1	1		1	2		3	2	1		2		1						21
Clan Designer																							1		1
Clan Donald Canada		3	1	3	1	1	6	1	3						1	6	2	3					2	1	34
Clan Farquharson Canada		1				2	4	5				1			2	1	2					1		7	26
Clan Fergusson				1		3	3	1		1				2	3	1			1				1	1	18
Clan Forbes Society, Inc.	1	2			1	2							3						1	4		1		3	18
Clan Fraser Society of North America	2	4	2			1	1		2		1		7	3	1	5		1	1	3	3	1			38
Clan Graham Society of North America		2	1	1					1		2		1	1		3	1	1		3	5			1	23
Clan Grant Canada	1	2			1	4	1	1		1		1						1					1		14
Clan Grant Society UK		2			2			1									1			1			1		8

Poster QR code accesses for a member at an event	Almonte CeltFest	Antigonish	Cambridge	Canmore	Embro	Fall Celtic Festival	Fergus	Georgetown	Glengarry	Guelph	Kincardine	LBA Highland Games	Niagara Celtic	North Lanark	Northumberland	Orillia	Red Deer	ScotFestBC	Sedgewick	Sherwood Park	Ship Hector	Sydney Mines	Uxbridge	Victoria	Member Total
Clan Gregor Society - Canada Chapter	1			1			3		3				1	1					1		1		2		14
Clan Gunn Society of North America	1			6			4	2	4				1	2		2				1	1		1	2	27
Clan Hay Society							1	2						1			1	1	2						8
Clan Hope of Craighall Society																							1		1
Clan Hunter Association Canada		1		2			2								2	5				2			1	6	21
Clan Irving - The Border Irvings & Irvines			1	3			2		3			1		1							3				14
Clan Irwin Association												1		1										4	6
Clan Johnston/e in America	1	1	1	2			2				3	1	2	3		3		1		4				1	25
Clan Kincaid Association International								1																	1
Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc							3					1				2		1		1					8
Clan Lamont Society of N.A. Inc		2		2	3	1	2	1	2	1			2	2		1		2	2	2			1	1	27
Clan Lennox							2	1								1	2						1		7
Clan Leslie Society International		1			1													1		1			1		5
Clan Logan Canada		1		1			2				1				1			1		1			3		11
Clan MacAlpine Society				1			4									1									6
Clan MacAulay Associaton		1		1					2							1		1		1				2	9
Clan MacBeth							3					1					1	1							6
Clan MacDougall Society of NA	3	3		3	2		3	1	4				2			1			2	2				3	29
Clan MacDowall																								1	1
Clan MacEwen Society Cdn Branch		1			1		1	1	2						1	1								2	10
Clan MacFarlane Worldwide		1	1	8	2		1		3		1	1	1			3	1	2		1		1	1		28
Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada	3	1	2	2	1		6	2	4		1	1		1	2	1	2	4	1	2	2		3	9	50
Clan MacKinnon Society		2					3					1	1					1			4	2	1		15
Clan MacLellan of America	1	1			1	1	3		2						2	1				4	1				17
Clan MacLennan Canada			2		1		2									1			1						7
Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada	1	2	1	3			4	1	1		2		1	1	2	1		2	4			1		4	31
Clan Macnachtan Assc. Worldwide					1		2	1			1					3				1					9
Clan MacNeil in Canada		1		1	3					1	1						1	1				2	1	3	15
Clan MacNicol	1	2				1	2		1	3					1	2		3		1	1		1	2	21
Clan Macpherson Assc. Cdn Branch	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	2	1		2		1	1	1					2				5	29
Clan MacRae Society of Canada		4		1			4		3		1					2		1					1	3	20
Clan MacTavish							2	1					1			1		1	2	1			1	5	15
Clan MacThomas Society		1		2			4						1					3							11
Clan Matheson Society							3							2		1									6
Clan Munro Association of Canada		1	1	2		1	7	1	1												1		1	2	18
Clan Ramsay International			1		1		3	1	1														1	1	9
Clan Shaw of Canada		3		5		1	5	2		2									1	2					21
Clan Sinclair Association (Canada)	1					1	7		3	1					1				1	3			1	1	20
Clan Skene Association, Inc.							2		3														1		6
Clan Strachan Society				2			2	1								2							2		9
The Gaelic Society of Toronto						1																			1
Edmonstone Clan Society				1			2																		3
Elliot Clan Society of Canada				1												7		1		1					10
Fall Celtic Festival			1		1																2				4
Family of Bruce International, Inc.					1		2	2						1					1	1	1		1	3	13
Fergus Scottish Festival ...					1																				1
Flagstaff Scottish Club			1																						1
Georgetown Highland Games						1																			1
Glengarry Highland Games	1																								1
Greater Moncton Scottish Assc																									0

Poster QR code accesses for a member at an event	Almonte CeltFest	Antigonish	Cambridge	Canmore	Embro	Fall Celtic Festival	Fergus	Georgetown	Glengarry	Guelph	Kincardine	LBA Highland Games	Niagara Celtic	North Lanark	Northumberland	Orillia	Red Deer	ScotFestBC	Sedgewick	Sherwood Park	Ship Hector	Sydney Mines	Uxbridge	Victoria	Member Total
Guthrie School of Dance						1																			1
Halifax Highland Games...	1					4								1											6
House of Burnett International, Inc.						2			1							1									4
House of Cassady																								1	1
House of Gordon			2	4	1	1	5		3		1	1		3				1		4				4	30
Hutchison House Museum		1																							1
International Assc. Clan MacInnes		6							1						1	1		1	1	1	1			1	14
Kennedy Society of North America		1		1				3		1							1	1	2					5	16
Kincardine Scottish Festival...						1																			1
Kingsville Highland Games Inc.						1	1				1														3
Links On The Bookmark				1													11			1				2	15
LBA Highland Games		2							1																3
MacFie Clan Society in Canada				5		1						2					1	1	1			1	1		13
Montreal Highland Games		1							3															1	5
Murray Clan Society of North America		1		1		1	5				1	1	2		2	3				2				2	21
National Capital Highland Games																								2	2
New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Assc														1											1
Niagara Celtic Heritage Society, Inc.																									0
North Lanark Highland Games	1																								1
Northumberland Scottish Festival ...								1																	1
Orillia Scottish Festival				1												1									2
Red Deer Highland Games																									0
Rugby Canada								2						3											5
ScotlandShop		1															1								2
Scottish Studies Foundation					1	1	2																		4
Sheena's Scottish Shortbread																									0
Sherwood Park Highland Gathering																				1					1
Ship Hector Society			1			1																	1		3
St. Andrew's and ... Vancouver																									0
St. Andrew's Society of Montreal									1			2													3
St. Andrew's Society of Toronto						1																			1
Sydney Mines Highland Games														1											1
Tay Piping																									0
Taylor's Tartans		1							2			1	1					1		1				2	9
The Clan MacKay Assc of Canada		1	2	1	2	4	5	2		2		4	2	1	3		3		1				1	10	44
The Clan Watson Society	3				2	1	3				1		1							1			2	2	16
The Devil's Brigade		1				2								2											5
The Learned Kindred of Currie	1					2	3	1						1				1		2			1	2	14
The Old 78th Fraser Highlanders...													2												2
The Scottish Banner		1																							1
The Scottish Society of Ottawa																									0
The Thistle & the Fleur de Lys																									0
United Scottish Cultural Society																								1	1
Uxbridge Scottish Festival						1																			1
Victoria Highland Games Association																									0
Westman Scottish Association																									0
William Glen & Son						1														1					2
Youngs of Scotland						1		1						2								1		1	6
Zorra Caledonian Society																									0
Event Total	30	68	28	77	36	26	193	60	84	10	26	16	42	62	30	82	30	56	30	65	28	16	49	117	1261

SCOTFESTBC

BRITISH COLUMBIA HIGHLAND GAMES

The 128th British Columbia Highland Games (ScotFestBC) was held June 20 and 21 in Town Centre Park, Coquitlam, BC. Despite some poor weather in the morning for solo piping competitions, crowds were good as the weather improved to sunshine in the afternoon.

Seventeen pipe bands competed, including a strong three-band Grade II competition. Bands attended from BC, Alberta, Arizona, Oregon and Washington. A full competitive program of highland dancing and heavy events were held, complimented by a well-attended whisky school, cultural tent, Scottish country dancing, live Celtic music with headliner Tiller's Folly, a bit of international fusion with highland dances and a mariachi band, and lots of activities for the kids.

Planning is now underway for the 129th Games on June 19 & 20, 2026.

Opening ceremony shown below



(Continued from page 94)

Upcoming BC events:

November 29, 2025 - St. Andrew's Ball, Scottish Cultural Centre, Vancouver. Tickets at; <https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/st-andrews-ball>

Mike Chisholm

Executive Director

United Scottish Cultural Soc.

Images Below, top to bottom. Whiskey Tasting 2025, BC Pipers Association at Scotfest 2025



Images Below, top to bottom. Performances at ScotFestBC 2025, Highland Dancing - Big Stage Saturday morning



Clan Ramsay International

Hello SCOTS OF CANADA friends. This past summer, I was pleased to host a tent for Clan Ramsay at three Ontario/Canada festivals: the Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games, the Uxbridge Scottish Festival and the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games. As you know, the latter event in Fergus is one of the biggest in Canada and this year, they celebrated their 80th anniversary. Clan Ramsay was one of over 55 clans at the event. The weather was particularly hot and humid for a Canadian summer (over 90F) but that did not deter visitors from dropping by our tent. The photograph below shows me welcoming guests; the second is of myself and my husband Robert Grieve in the Clan parade.



I hope to be able to continue to host tents for Clan Ramsay in 2026 and look forward to welcoming new members to our organization.

*Andrea MacFarlane-Grieve
Commissioner for Ontario/Canada*

Festival Season Special Reports - Antigonish and Ship Hector

Antigonish Highland Games & Ship Hector's Big Splash

by Barb & John Duff

The Antigonish Highland Games have a long history with this year being 160 years while the Antigonish Highland Society was founded in 1861. The Antigonish Highland Society hosted the Games during July 6-13th, 2025. This year was one of their largest and best editions.

John and I arrived on Friday, July 11th in the afternoon and set up our Scots of Canada tent with a 10' wide by 6' high banner and posters for our first time even attending these games. We set up beside the Clan MacRae of Canada tent hosted by their President William McRae and his wife Lynn. These games had a popular "Highland 5-miler" kilt race which is a great opportunity for healthy competition with friends on a course that takes advantage of the scenic Antigonish Landing. This 5 Mile Road Race took place at 6 pm that evening, on the track at the Columbus Field End of Main Street. It is a 3-mile, graveled path with the remainder on paved streets and then back to the starting point. They had over 300 participants for this race.

One thing that registered with me while learning about this race was that they made up a "Hall of Fame" inductees list for this race to honour those who have been winners of this race.

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Festival Season Special Reports - Antigonish and Ship Hector



(Continued from page 98)

The next morning, July 12th we travelled to Pictou, Nova Scotia to watch and experience the “Big Splash” while Clan McRae watched the Scots of Canada tent for us at Antigonish. The big day had finally come for a replica of the Hector which originally arrived in Pictou in 1773 to be relaunched. This “Historic Immigrant Ship Hector” replica was to be relaunched after a five-year restoration project. The organizers had assigned our location in a new park on Caladh Avenue near the waterfront and about two blocks from the Hector Heritage Quay. We pitched our tent in the corner of the park close to the Clan Donald monument mentioned in the Clan Donald article within a recent *An Drochaid* (August 2025). In that tent we put up another 10’ wide by 6’ high banner. Unfortunately, John forgot the canopy for the second tent so we both got more sun than we had bargained for by the end of that day but there was lots of tent traffic throughout the day.

My husband John had mentioned this event for weeks and said that he wanted to travel to Pictou, Nova Scotia to see the “Launch of the Hector”. This gave us a chance to experience the Antigonish Games as well as the launch of Hector while show casing Scots of Canada at both events and having quick visits with some

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Festival Season Special Reports - Antigonish and Ship Hector



(Continued from page 99)

of our relatives in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. So, it all worked out.

There is a modernized Hector Heritage Quay Interpretive Centre with interactive displays very close to the replica ship. As the Hector hit the water of Pictou Harbour once more, this was the continuation of a story that still resonates today, with many immigrant's descendants watching from their front row seats on the shore nearby and beside the Interpretive Centre. This replica ship was originally launched in the year 2000. It was a hot day with many spectators sunburned and windburned by the end of the day.

After this burning hot day celebrating the Hector, on Sunday we returned to Antigonish Highland Games. As Sunday progressed, I noticed that their Scottish Highland dancing competition created a lot of attention. There were about 300 dancers and so many little ones. Highland dance is a style of competitive solo dancing like ballet and Irish dancing that was developed in the Scottish Highlands centuries ago. The dances

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Festival Season Special Reports - Antigonish and Ship Hector

(Continued from page 100)

were passed down over the years to preserve the rich heritage of the Scottish people. It is a competitive and technical dance form that requires technique, stamina, and grace to perform. Highland dancing has a rich history rooted in military tradition while later evolving into a formalized art form. Originally it served as a method for clan chiefs to assess the strength and agility of potential typically male warriors. Dances like the Sword Dance were used to predict battle outcomes. Later the Highland dancing became integrated into Highland Games, with a public celebration of Scottish culture, and then developed into competitive discipline.

Antigonish Games also hosted the Men's and Women's North American Challenge on Sunday the 13th as well as Maritime Athletes in all categories, including Juniors. One of the features of the Antigonish Highland Games is the sounds of bagpipes and drums filling the air throughout the day.

Their TUG-OF-WAR drew crowds to cheer on their favourite team. The girls were just as tough as the boys in competition but even if they lost, they would give the other team a "HIGH FIVE" with good sportsmanship.

There was a huge lineup of entertainment for that weekend. Mary Beth Carty with her new album "Crossing the Causeway", Heather MacIsaac who played bagpipes with the 78th Halifax Highlanders, Bill & John Pellerin who danced at a young age and now are some of the best fiddlers and so many more. The event that caught my attention was the "Concert Under the Stars". What a relaxing thing to do for an evening.

This game seemed to have something for everyone, both young and old. I encourage you all to try and make time to go and see these games at least once. It is the largest in the Maritimes and still going strong at 160 years. You will not be sorry as you drive through this beautiful town with all its beautiful architecture and heritage. Consider making it part of one of your summer vacations.

Image to the right: Milling of the cloth at Antigonish



Festival Season Special Reports - Antigonish and Ship Hector

Images top to bottom: The Scots of Canada display in Pictou; The Free Pirates of Halifax



Festival Season Special Reports - Cambridge Scottish Festival

CAMBRIDGE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

By Barb Duff

After a long road trip to Nova Scotia, and a heatwave of the previous weeks, we've settled into more of a typical Ontario weather with cooler evenings. The Cambridge Scottish Festival was on Saturday, July 18-19, 2025 with live music, local shopping and an epic live performance. People came out in larger numbers this year. Cambridge Scottish Festival has been the source of many happy memories over the past few decades through music, food, and culture. This year they have won the Diamond Winner for Best Local Festivals by the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce. The festival has been located at Churchill Park.

There is always the excitement of pageantry with the Traditional Games Day and Cambridge certainly is no exception. They have the Dance competitions, the children's Glen, the athleticism of heavy events with a

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Festival Season Special Reports - Cambridge Scottish Festival



Clan Avenue at Cambridge

(Continued from page 103)

host of vendors and a host of cultural attractions and much more.

The Heritage Avenue of the Clans is a big contributor of these games: The word “Clan” is derived from the Gaelic word “Clann”. The literal translation for clan is “Children”. Scottish Clans consist of extended families (children) headed by a Clan Chieftain. Usually, the Clan was named after the Clan Chieftain.

As far back as the 12th century, Clans were recognized for their history and culture and were part of the political systems of Scotland.

Throughout their history, Clans had to defend their property. Under the leadership of the Clan Chieftain, Clan members were required to be ready to defend their territory at any time. Members were responsible for being physically fit and ready for war. During peace times, Clan Chieftains would invite other clans to compete in “Games” of strength and endurance. These Games consisted of heavy events, dancing, and friendly competition. These gatherings or Games are the origin of today’s Highland Games and Festivals.

Today, Clan members are encouraged to learn about their history and traditions and the history of the Scottish culture and heritage of Canada. One popular method of implementing fact and information is through the affiliation of Scottish Festivals. The Clan gatherings play a vital role in bringing to life the tradition and culture of our



Young ones enjoying the Scots of Canada display

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Festival Season Special Reports - Cambridge Scottish Festival

(Continued from page 104)

forefathers. Visitors are encouraged to visit with the Clans to find out more about their traditions and culture and perhaps something about their own family history.

Next year will be Cambridge's "Golden Thistle Year-2026". Hopefully, when leaving the games, everyone should feel like you are truly part of something. Why not come next year and create a few more memories for yourself.

Images below, top to bottom. Happy booth visitors, Director Terry Myles and a reenactor at Cambridge



Festival Season Special Reports - Embro Highland Games



Zorra Caledonian Society - EMBRO HIGHLAND GAMES

By Barb Duff

On July 1, 2025, Embro Highland Games celebrated their 88th year of Games.

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

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

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Festival Season Special Reports - Embro Highland Games

(Continued from page 106)

I have noticed that the Embro Games have really embraced bringing back the TUG-OF-WAR that originated from Asia, Africa and Europe in the 1800's.

The TUG-OF-War seemed to be the main attraction here with adult teams as well as junior teams from all around. People really cheer them on as they struggle to win.

The heritage of this sport runs deep in the area that surrounds Embro. In 1893 a team of farmers who became known as the 'Mighty Men of Zorra' won the world championships in Chicago at the World's Fair when they competed against teams from all over the world! Brought to Oxford County by its Scottish settlers, tug-o-war has been a popular sport in the area since the 19th century.

Requiring only a rope, two teams face each other in a test of strength and determination. Competing teams from across North America have returned.

The clans are a symbol of unity and strength, binding Scots all over the world in spirit and tradition. Games and Festivals benefit by including Scottish clans because they draw a lot of people looking for information about their family names, tartans and heritage. Clans add greatly to the games and festivals. I was pleasant-

(Continued on page 108)



Clan Hunter in their July 1-Canada Day attire.

Festival Season Special Reports - Embro Highland Games



Lindsay McFarlane with family (Stella, Ruby, Rancisco, & Lindsey)

(Continued from page 107)

ly surprised from the last time we went to the Embro Games in 2019 to see an increase in clan numbers in attendance.

At the Celtic Festivals and Highland Games you tend to experience world class culture at its finest so I dove into discovering and experiencing all that I could while tending our clan tent.

Dogs were able to roam with owners- The Sheep herding dogs were there as well along with the Scottie Dog Parade.

This one-day Highland Game is always on Canada Day which I think some people plan to attend. It tends not to be a big game but it is enjoyed by all with its Heavies, Sheep herding dogs, and the TUG-OF-WAR. A great game to start the season with.

Festival Season Special Reports - Embro Highland Games



Images Top to Bottom: Sheep herding dogs, Tinker Knot Inn, Oban Pottery



Festival Season Special Reports - Fergus

80th FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND HIGHLAND GAMES

By Barb Duff

It was almost like a huge family reunion celebrating its 80th year run since 1946. The dates were from August 8-10th 2025. Bagpipes and drums were heard in the town of Fergus, and the town was bustling while awaiting their big weekend. Everyone in attendance seemed to have a shared Scottish history. The initial festival in 1946 kicked off as a celebration of Scottish culture and immigrants who made Fergus their home. Eighty years later, the theme may be the same, but it has certainly grown over the years.

They even had a custom-made tartan kilt which many of their volunteers wore this year and they were lovely. Apparently, the tartan thread counts symbolize the date of Aug 17th, 1946, which was the date the festival was founded with lovely colours of blue and green.

Thursday started the four-day festival beginning with the “Pipes, Plaid and Pageantry” parade and what a spectacular sight it was while celebrating generations of Scottish heritage in Fergus. The Clydesdale horses pulled a huge carriage with the Lord Lyon atop front, and center accompanied by the clan chiefs and their wives and the 2 commanders as well all wearing their clan tartans. I believe they must have enjoyed it with all their laughter and huge smiles. The clans followed on foot with many others joining as well. The town was alive and ready to party and display their Scottish pride. It was the perfect way to kick off a weekend of music, competition, food, beverages, history and culture.

Friday night was the Tattoo with the lighting of the hearth. The gates opened at 5:30 to start admitting the crowds while the field was buzzing with energy, community spirit and incredible talent. Of course, the opening began with a few songs to entertain the crowds of people as they waited in anticipation. David Leask was there again to perform his own special song “FERGUS” to the huge crowd as they clapped with joy and excitement. David is a special entertainer with all his songs that tell stories not to mention his talent.



The newly added mascot “Thistle” (at left with Barb Duff), paraded in accompanied by the powerful sound of the pipes while both old and young marched. The Highland Dancers walked with graceful steps and pride beaming on their young faces. It was a true celebration of tradition and passion. As night fell with darkness settling around the Hearth, the clan chiefs and clan representatives paraded over to the cauldron with their burning torches. It was a spectacular sight to watch them all parade to the center field, in the darkness of evening with their lit torches then to extinguish the flames later.

Saturday, opening ceremonies started with the Lord Lyon, “King of Arms” from Scotland, opening the 80th Festival and Highland Games to a huge cheering crowd. I can’t imagine what the field looked like standing on the stage as the Lord Lyon whacked the sword against the shield. Locals and travelers packed the grounds as Scotland the Brave was piped through the air in Centre field officially starting all things

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Festival Season Special Reports - Fergus



Barb Duff with the Lord Lyon

(Continued from page 110)

Scottish for the weekend. The outer fields were crowded and overflowing with RV's, campers and tents.

The Heavies had 4 competitors from Canada, 2 American, and 2 from Scotland, as well as others. Jamie Trask won the "Canadian Caber Champion". Tulacek secured a \$6,000 cash prize for the "Feat of Strength".

Charles Vandervaat, who plays William Ramson in the Outlander series grew up not too far from Fergus in Orangeville. He embraced his Scottish roots from his grandmother's side and enjoyed himself very much by dancing at a scheduled Ceilidh. He said, "its all about having fun". Charles also stated "It was important to understand why he is Canadian and his own story to understand himself. It's important to keep the history going".

The high energy "Red-Hot Chili Pipers" accompanied with two nimble, high-energy dancers and both daughters of one of the band members performed Saturday evening at the "Scottish Saturday Night". What

(Continued on page 112)

Festival Season Special Reports - Fergus



Clan Fraser, winner of best Clan, between on left, Andrew Morrison, the Viscount Dunrossil the Lord Lyon on the right.

(Continued from page 111)

an evening! John and I do not usually stay for this but this year we had some friends that we had invited and who joined us. We all enjoyed the evening's stage entertainment before heading home or to the motel. The Bay City Rollers were the headliners and concluded the stage show with roars of excitement from the crowd. This seemed to be what our visitors came to watch and couldn't wait for them to sing one of their well-known songs "Saturday Night". Well as usual, it was their closing song for the evening which made sense for a Saturday evening concert. It was well received by the crowd with shouts and cheers of appreciation.

Throughout the weekend, there were historical demonstrations, kids' activities, vendors, rows of food trucks and music while they apparently welcomed 27,900 people surpassing all previous Fergus Games numbers before this. All told it seemed to be a great success and accomplishment with everyone looking forward to next year.

Festival Season Special Reports - Fergus



Images Top to bottom: Ceilidh Dancers, Command Baird, Jacobite Encampment with the Lord Lyon



Festival Season Special Reports - Kincardine Highland Games

KINCARDINE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES July 4-6

By Barb Duff

This year Kincardine celebrated their 25th year with a new President, Tony Doherty as unfortunately the past President David McFarlane passed away in the past year. The festival welcomed thousands of visitors from all over North America to their beautiful lakeside town to join in celebration at Victoria Park and surrounding area. This festival is in the heart of Kincardine beside Lake Huron.

Some came and cheered on their favourite heavy athletes or dancers; some to trace their ancestry and others just came to enjoy the sights and sounds of over 30 Scottish pipe bands from across Canada and United States.

The Games started on Friday evening with a concert of the 80's Tribute of Lively music called "UK Calling". The next days followed with exciting competitions, cultural workshops, dancers, and the Heavies at Robinson Park. They had the Amateur for the women, and the Heavy Athletics were sponsored by the Ontario Power Generator.

On Saturday, the clans set up their spaces to welcome the visitors. Scots of Canada was busy, and I looked after Clan MacFarlane. Not many McFarlane's stopped by, but I was busy helping others with their questions. The large group of Scottish dancers were not there this year, but they had several doing traditional dances on the Main Stage.

Ally the Piper was back again. She is sensational with lots of energy. Ally plays the bagpipes, the flute, and sings a bit as well. A young energetic girl who played Taylor's Story (a Taylor Swift Tribute). This show was for the younger crowd which they wisely try to entertain each year.

I have learned that the Heavies Games and the Pipe bands are a couple of the favourites at this festival. The pipers, clans and dignitaries' parade down the middle of the people-lined street and march into Victoria Park in front of the Main Stage.

In the town of Kincardine they are blessed with having their own pipe band, the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band, who are believed to be the oldest street pipe band with unbroken service in Ontario! Their sounds can be heard throughout town all summer long on Saturday nights when they parade and play their pipes and drums down the middle of town.

Modern bagpipes are usually associated with Scotland, Ireland, and England. However, there is ample evidence that this instrument originated in the Middle East several centuries BC. The first documented bagpipe is displayed on a Hittite slab at Eyuk dating to 1,000 BC. Yet obviously they are the Heart of Scottish Culture.

The Clan's Avenue was very small, but I am sure that the Camerons, MacPhersons, MacFarlanes and others were sharing stories that might take you on a fascinating journey of history and cultural heritage while others enjoy the bustle of the festival.

Sunday brought the Kirkin of the Tartans at the Presbyterian Church in town and then Family Day at the Festival. Family Day really brings out the children for some activities, but it can be at times annoying to be interrupted and requested to stamp their booklets while you are in the middle of a conversation and trying to discuss history with adults but patience prevailed.

There is great spirit in this community shown while honouring their Scottish roots. Every week on Saturday evenings at the lighthouse a lone piper plays a tune. What a great tradition!

Festival Season Special Reports - Kincardine Highland Games



Festival Season Special - Uxbridge Scottish Festival Images



Festival Season Special - Uxbridge Scottish Festival Images



Festival Season Special - Georgetown Highland Games Images



Festival Season Special - Georgetown Highland Games Images



Festival Season Special - Georgetown Highland Games Images



Festival Season Special - Georgetown Highland Games Images



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

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

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

Media Guidelines Reminder

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

Here are guidelines to help with this:

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

About Scots of Canada

Founded in 1976 as Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, our purpose is:

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

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

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

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

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

Household Memberships are open to any household with a postal address where one or more residents of the household identify with a Scottish Heritage by birth, descent or an inclination. Over the next couple of months a new site scotsofcanada.ca will be extended to provide registration, services and benefits to this new membership class. Extension of the same will be extended to Organization Members over the next few months.

Patrons:

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

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

Meetings 2025: Fall Annual General Assembly - November 30, 2025 3PM Virtual

Websites and Emails:

We are now in the process of transition for our web and mail services from a legacy domain of cas-soc.ca, a transitional domain of scotscanada.ca to a new domain of ScotsOfCanada.ca. During this time we will be using all three domains for email with automatic readdressing or forwarding depending on where we are in the migration of services and email accounts

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

An Drochaid - The Bridge

This Special 2025 edition features as its cover the Great Victoria Bridge opened in 1859. Now just known as the Victoria Bridge, it was the first to span the St. Lawrence River. It remains in use today as part of major rail and road networks. The bridge was co-designed by Alexander McKenzie Ross who was born in Ulladale, Logie-Easter, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland

An Drochaid - The Bridge is usually published quarterly for each season.
Submissions are welcome, though articles may be edited for length and content.
Whenever possible, please provide Word, RTF or text formats

Submissions are due as follows :

Winter: January 11, Spring April 12, Summer: July 12, Fall: October 11,

Any member of Scots of Canada may submit an article or ad at no cost. A grant of right of use for publication and posting on the web is implied. Submitter must be able to legally provide the contents. For instance, please ensure that you have image rights for persons in photographs.

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

TAYLORS TARTANS.COM

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