

# The JOURNAL

of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal



April, 2003

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Cairn at Taybridge near Aberfeldy commemorating the founding of the  
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## **OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,

Two years have gone by since I started to write 'A Letter from the President' in each issue of The Journal. This is my last letter to you in this capacity as Mr. Ian Aitken became President on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the night of the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

It has been a happy and interesting term of office for me and, although it is time for change, it is also good to know that I shall be able to continue to serve the Society as a Past President by bringing whatever knowledge I have gained to Council meetings. As President, I have met with many people from different walks of life, some who speak highly of the Society and others who know very little about us, but want to know more. I have made a point of meeting as many members as possible and I hope that as time goes on I shall meet even more of you. The life of the Society is in its membership. If we as a Society want to continue with what we have been mandated to do, then we must keep our membership active and interested.

This matter is being addressed by the Membership and Activities Committee who are trying to respond to what we hear the members are telling us. Social events are being looked at with a view to encouraging wider participation and hopefully new members will be integrated into one of our many committees.

Mr. Ian Aitken, President, Mr. Andrew Kerr, First Vice-President, and Mr. Bruce McNiven, Second Vice-President, have shown interest in, and commitment to, the work of the Society. I have every confidence

that the wellbeing of the Society in the coming years is in their most capable hands ably assisted by our very special Executive Secretary, Mrs. Norma King.

I am grateful to members of Council, Norma, office-bearers of Scottish institutions in the greater Montreal area and many others for their support of me and the Society over the last two years. I wish Ian, Andy and Bruce success in their endeavors on behalf of us all.

With all good wishes,

Moira R. Barclay-Fernie

## **REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The 167<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of the Society took place on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The thirty or so members took part in the proceedings. The President spoke of her term in office and of the recent passing of Mrs. Mhairi Angela McLeod de Castro (see Obituary on page five).

Presentations from each of the Committees followed, all of which can be found in the blue annual report which was previously mailed to all members. Through these we were reminded of the Society's success over the last year in continuing its support of the Scottish community in Montreal.

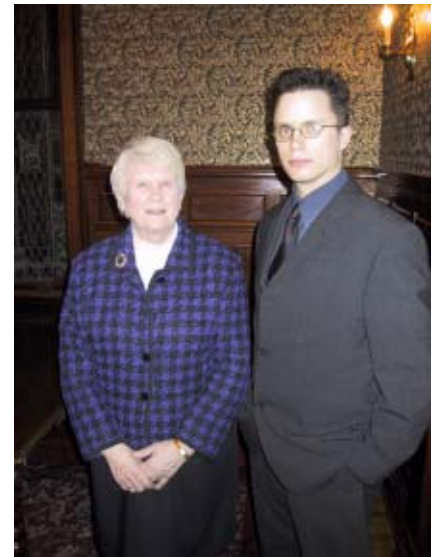
As an example of this success, it was reported that 25 post-secondary and graduate students have benefited from the Society's support over the last year in the form of educational bursaries and grants.

And, thankfully, success was also found in the Finance Report that revealed an investment position that fared reasonably well through the market downturn. Despite the tough financial markets, the unit

value of the portfolio dropped by only 1.9%. Thanks were extended to Mr. Michael McMurray who has shepherded the portfolio with such care.

The financial statements for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002 were then reviewed and approved and Mr. Bob Humphrys CA was appointed by the membership as the Auditor of the Society for the coming year.

The following people were then elected to serve on Council for the ensuing year: Mr. A. Ian Aitken; Dr. Kenneth C. Bentley; Mr. G. Scot Diamond; Capt Andrew G.M. Kerr; Mr. Michael G. McMurray; Mrs. Mary Johnston Cox; Mr. Alexander Highet; Mrs. Joyce I. Kyles; Mr. M. Bruce McNiven.



Ms. Barclay-Fernie and Piper Schaus

Ms. Moira Barclay-Fernie then presented this year's Keith Radley Hutchison Award. It was presented to Piper Brent Schaus, a member of the Black Watch Pipes and Drums, for his many accomplishments as a solo bagpiper. Piper Schaus, who hails from Windsor, Ontario and joined the Black Watch in 1999, has won the coveted Pipers Dirk award in both 2001 and 2002. As a piping

instructor in the Black Watch Cadets piping program, he clearly appreciates not only the honor of receiving the award, but also the support the Society gives to the Cadet program. Please refer to page eight for more information on this award.

Ms. Marie-Eve Plante was the first of the two educational grant recipients to then speak of her time in Scotland. Ms. Plante, who is currently finishing her Masters degree in Museum Studies at the University of Montreal, spent four months in Edinburgh as an intern at the National Museum of Scotland. Her work there was focused on a new geological map of Scotland, work that included the development of educational kits that were distributed to schools all over Scotland. She was also involved in research for the museum's International Department for an exhibition that will open in October entitled "Trailblazers! Scots in Canada." A very appreciative Ms. Plante then passed the floor to Ms. Catherine Bourbeau.



Ms. Plante and Ms. Bourbeau

Ms. Bourbeau, currently a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Montreal, also studied in Scotland with the

assistance of the Society. Ms. Bourbeau spent eight months at the University of Aberdeen. Her area of interest is in the migration of Scots to Quebec from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onward, their collective memory and identity and the perpetuation of the Scottish culture here in Quebec. Her main goal is to explore the idea of culture and the mechanism by which it is constructed, transmitted, transplanted, etc.

Listening to these two presentations, one common thread was clear: both students, obviously greatly interested in either Scottish soil or soul, are growing more interested as they dig deeper. This is very good evidence that the Society's assistance is well directed.

Just prior to the adjournment of the meeting, Mr. Ian Aitken, the outgoing First Vice-President and incoming President, thanked Ms. Moira Barclay-Fernie for her fine efforts in leading the Society during the past two years as President and for all that she had done for the Society during twenty years of membership.

Once the annual general meeting was adjourned Council retired to elect the officers for the coming year before returning to the New Members Reception where wine cheese and other delights arranged by Mrs. Ethel Enkel were consumed to the general enjoyment of all.

James W. Aitken

### **OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

During the Council meeting that immediately followed the Annual General Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. A. Ian Aitken was installed as President of the Society, Capt Andrew G.M. Kerr was installed

as First Vice President, and Mr. M. Bruce McNiven was installed as Second Vice President. Mr. G.B. Alex Hutchison, the Senior Past President in attendance, then bestowed the Chains of Office of the Society upon each of them, to be held in their custody during their term of office of one year.



Capt Kerr, Mr. Aitken and Mr. McNiven

The following Officers of the Society were also appointed by Council for a period of one year: Mr. E. Thomas Patton, Honorary Treasurer; Mr. M. Bruce McNiven, Honorary Secretary; Mr. G. Scot Diamond, Honorary Solicitor; Dr. Ian D. Malcolm, MD, Honorary Physician; Mr. Michael G. McMurray, Chairman, Finance Committee; Capt Andrew G.M. Kerr, Chairman, St. Andrew's Ball Committee; Mr. Alexander Hight, Chairman, Education Committee; Mrs. Anne Barnes, Chairman, Welfare Committee; Mr. Campbell Oliver, Chairman, Membership & Activities Committee; and P/M (Ret'd) Brian S. MacKenzie, Liaison, Black Watch Cadet Pipes and Drums.

The Honorary Chaplains were appointed as follows: Rev. Dr. Barry Mack, Presbyterian Church; Rev. Frank Giffen, United Church; Ven. J. Wallace Sparling, Anglican Church; and Rev. Msgr. B. Egan-Jones, Catholic Diocese of Montreal.

## **BLACK WATCH CEILIDH**

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada Pipes and Drums will hold their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Ceilidh on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>, with the doors of the Black Watch Armoury opening at 7:30PM and the show starting at 8PM. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Ceilidh 2003 will feature performances by the Black Watch Pipes and Drums and Regimental dancers as well as the Montreal Highland Dancing Association and the band Solstice. There will be plenty of meatpies, bridies and haggis.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call (514) 496-1686 x240.

## **BLACK WATCH CHURCH PARADE**

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, the Black Watch Regiment will attend morning worship at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

The Commanding Officer, LCol Bruce D. Bolton, will lead the officers and soldiers of the Regiment as they march from the Armoury on Bleury Street along Sherbrooke Street to arrive at the church in time for the morning service at 11AM. They will be joined by the Veterans of the Black Watch Association, members of the Black Watch Cadet Corps, Bishop's College School Cadet Corps and the Bombardier Cadet Corps.

The Pipes and Drums of the Regiment will march in the parade to the church and again as all assemble on Redpath Street in preparation for the return to the Armoury at the end of the service.

It is good to be reminded that often the regiment has officers and soldiers on duty in different parts of the world. Although absent, they too should be in our thoughts as we watch this annual parade with pride in a Regiment which we all claim to call our own.

## **ANNUAL BALL OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL**

The annual Ball of the German Society of Montreal will take place on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the Montreal Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel starting with an opening cocktail at 7PM.

Ticket are priced at \$155 per person and \$60 for those under 30. People interested in attending should contact the Ball President, Mrs. Astrid Jaegar, at (514) 624-5678 or the German Society's Secretary, Ms Renate Taylor, at (450) 465-0872.

The German Society is one of our Sister Societies.

## **HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM PRESENTS ARCHBISHOP ANDREW HUTCHISON**

The Montreal Commandery of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem will hold a dinner at the Black Watch Officers' Mess on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30PM. After the dinner, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison will discuss "Residential Schools – in retrospect" and the Church's responsibility (if any) for government imposed Residential Schools.

Tickets cost \$50, including wine and may be obtained by communicating with Ms. Mildred Benoit at (514) 849 4134.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We extend a very warm welcome to six new members: Mrs. Judith MacPherson Adams, LCol Mark Macpherson, Mr. Peter McNaughton, Ms. Helen Meredith, Mr. Darren Navin, and Ms. Elizabeth Ross.

We are pleased to report that 9 members joined the Society during calendar 2002 and that 6 have joined so far this year. If you know of people who might be interested in joining, please encourage them to do so.

## **FLOWERS OF THE FOREST**

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of four members who passed away recently: Mrs. Mhairi Angela McLeod de Castro, a Life member since 1975 (please refer to the Obituary which follows), Dr. Alan E. Heuser, a Life member since 1981, Mr. Alex Maclean, a Life member since 1947 and Mrs. Cynthia Mellanby-Harris, an Annual member since 1990.

We also extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Eileen Drysdale, the grandmother of Mr. Ian Aitken, Mr. James Aitken and Ms. Jennifer Aitken, who passed away recently in St. Andrews. She was the wife of the late Mr. William R. Drysdale, a member of the Society from 1938 until his return to Scotland in 1966. A donation in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Drysdale has recently been received by the Society. This money will be used for the transcription of the Society's archives.

## OBITUARY

### MHAIRI ANGELA MCLEOD DE CASTRO NEE FENTON- MCEUEN

Nov. 30, 1918 – Mar. 19, 2003

Mhairi lived in Ste. Agathe, Québec with her parents until she was five, when her mother died. Her uncle and aunt in Scotland, Dr. and Mrs. Stuart McEuen, took her back with them to St. Andrews, Fife. On the death of her grandmother, Dr. Huntington in St. Andrews, the McEuens returned to Montreal and Lac Ouimet in the Mont Tremblant area.

Mhairi was educated in Montreal and Ottawa, where she was a pupil at Elmwood School for a while before finishing her education at a private school in Scotland. She left the U.K. at the outbreak of World War II, but not before having an adventure in France driving ambulances.

In 1937, Dr. McEuen became an annual member of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. In that same year, Mhairi accompanied the McEuens to the Canadian Arctic. Her uncle was conducting research into the health of the native people in that area.

During World War II Mhairi spent much of her time helping her aunt, Dolly McEuen run the Ajax Club for British sailors in Halifax. Many comforts and brief holiday respites were made available to the sailors in private homes. As well, the club provided a place to go when they had leave from their duties on board ship. After the war the success of this venture produced enough funds to create 15 scholarships for young men who were unable to attend university because of their service in the Navy during the war. Now, the

McEuen Scholarship would provide them with an opportunity to continue their education at McGill University. The McEuens knew all the scholars well, meeting them at the dock when they first set foot in Canada. For many of them the McEuen house became a home away from home.

After the war Mhairi lived at "Ottir", the house the McEuens built on the side of a mountain overlooking Lac Ouimet, Québec, until the late sixties when she and her aunt moved to Ottawa. Mhairi and her aunt both became annual members of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal in 1962, and both became life members in 1975. Mhairi married her beloved Henry de Castro in 1976, who died in 1989.



Henry and Mhairi de Castro, circa 1976

Mhairi and her aunt created another scholarship for a Canadian to attend St. Andrew's University in Fife, Scotland, and this will continue indefinitely. She cared a lot about the students and loved to hear from them, their progression and successes while at University and afterwards. Mhairi also maintained her interest in the Fraser Highlanders in the Fort St. Helen Garrison in Montreal, of which she was a member.

Mhairi will be remembered for her generosity in providing donations of Canadian artifacts to Government House and to the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, as well as to the Louisburg Fortress and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Nova Scotia.

Over her last years after Alzheimer's disease took away the life she loved, Mhairi has been cared for by Luci Pereira, her employee, friend, and loving caregiver at the Villa Marguerite at the Elizabeth Bruyère Health Centre in Ottawa.

A funeral service for Mhairi de Castro was held at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church in Ottawa on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal was represented at the funeral service by the President, Ms. Moira Barclay-Fernie, and LCol (ret'd) Dan O'Connor, a past president of the Society and a Trustee of the McEuen-St. Andrew's Society Trust, and Mrs. Barbara O'Connor.

Pursuant to the wishes of the late Dr. Charles Stuart McEuen and the terms of the McEuen-St. Andrew's Society Trust, upon the death of Mhairi de Castro the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal became the owner of a portfolio of investments valued at approximately \$1.9 million. The terms of this bequest require that "*The Charles Stuart and Janet Evelyn McEuen Endowment Fund*" be established with the proceeds of the bequest. The Society may use the annual income from this fund in pursuit of the objects of the Society, without encroaching on the capital.

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal shall be eternally grateful to Dr. McEuen and his family for their generosity and support of Scottish culture and traditions.

## BURNS NICHT REPORT

The Society's Burns Supper was held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Montreal Curling Club. A great many people actively promoted the evening and filled the hall and all reports are to the effect that the 107 people in attendance were not disappointed. The food and the service were excellent, the slate proposing the toasts was particularly strong and the evening moved briskly, finishing off with several reels of Scottish country dancing. Particular thanks go to:

Mr. David Lank: for researching, writing and delivering with wit and eloquence the *Toast to the Immortal Memory* highlighting the fact that the Scottish people, though among the poorest in Europe, were the most universally educated, providing Burns with a large market for his writing and thus opening the door to his success;

Mr. Martin Barnes: for keeping the laughs coming during his Toast to

the Lassies. We are especially grateful to Martin not only because he risked a "Burns out" to contribute to the success of our evening, having been guest of honour at the Curling Club's Burns Supper the Saturday before and having participated in two other Burns Suppers that week but also because he allowed us to let his wife Anne have the last word in delivering the reply;

Mrs. Anne Barnes, Chairwoman of the Society's Welfare Committee: for her Reply to the Toast to the Lassies. It may come as a surprise to those in attendance that this was Anne's first foray into the world of stand-up comedy. To those who know her, it will, however, be no surprise that she had the courage to take on this challenge, after all, she said "I do" to Martin Barnes!;

Mr. T. R. Anthony (TRAM) Malcolm: for delivering a brief but theatrical Toast to John Barleycorn. TRAM organized the Society's first Burns Supper and we were delighted that he accepted to participate in this year's;

Mr. Alexander (Sandy) Hight, Chairman of the Society's Education Committee: for delivering the Address to a Haggis with enthusiasm and such animation that at one point the undersigned was required to dodge his dirk so as to avoid the severance of an ear;

Pipe Major Cameron Stevens: for yet another solid performance on the pipes; Mrs. Linda Slade and her staff at the Curling Club: for the excellent food, for having the hall in top shape and for keeping to the schedule to the minute;

Ms. Moira Barclay-Fernie: for discharging her various presidential duties during the evening, for providing a door prize and for suggesting numerous improvements over the previous year's Burns Supper, notably the preparation of plaid table decorations and the Burns Quiz which tested and educated those in attendance about Burns' life and work;



TRAM Malcolm, Martin Barnes, Anne Barnes and Alexander Hight at the Burns Nicht

Mr. Campbell Oliver, Chairman of the Membership and Activities Committee: for his efforts in planning and coordinating preparations for the event and for providing a door prize;

Capt Andrew Kerr: for sharing with us his invaluable knowledge and experience on how to properly hold the event. Andrew has for many years, in his former capacity as Chairman of the Membership and Activities Committee, been in charge of the Burns Supper and the event just would not be the same without him; Mr. Ian Aitken: for his closing remarks, wearing a colourful tartan jacket and taking photographs to immortalize the event;

Mrs. Eileen Clark: for her presence at the head table and delivering the Selkirk Grace; Mrs. Veronica Gray: for organizing the phone committee that was so successful in filling the hall. Mrs. Joyce Kyles: for suggesting David Lank as guest of honour and approaching him on behalf of the Society;

Mrs. Betty Speirs: for her eternal patience in leading the Scottish country dancing; young Ms. MacKenzie Myatt: for courageously playing the fiddle between courses over the din of the crowd; Mrs. Louise Warden: for procuring the heather and making and pinning on the corsages;

the Italian Trade Commission, Intrawest / Mont Tremblant, Scottish Central, the Society's Whisky Tasting Committee and McCarthy Tétrault for donating door prizes; and

all others who manned the phones, encouraged others to attend or otherwise helped and especially all

of you who chose to attend the event: as it is only as a result of your support and active participation that we were able to have such a successful celebration of Burns and his poetry.

We hope to see you at next year's supper on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 when Mr. Douglas Gibson, President and Publisher of McClelland & Stewart Ltd. will deliver his "traveling" Toast to the Immortal Memory!

Scot Diamond  
Burns Supper Chairman

### POT LUCK SUPPER REPORT

We held our first Pot Luck Supper on March 1<sup>st</sup> at St. Columba's By the Lake in Pointe Claire. It turned out to be a wonderful evening with 59 adults and 16 children in attendance.

I would like to thank all the people who helped to make the evening a success including: Matthew, Andrew and Elizabeth – from the younger set - who helped arrange the hall and make the place attractive and inviting with white table covers, tartan squares and runners; and the ladies who willingly volunteered their services in the kitchen to do the washing and drying and cleaning up afterwards.

We had hoped to hold this event in February but unfortunately the hall was booked so it was changed to March 1<sup>st</sup> not thinking that it was St David's Day and it was also the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St. David's Ball. We learned not to arrange anything on someone else's National Day!

There was lots of wonderful food and I am happy to say that not too much was left over.

As the guests arrived Mrs. Annabel McLauchlan took the children to a corner where they made Loch Ness monsters and the results were put up on the walls.

After the main course we had a childrens' sing a long accompanied by Mrs. June Hunter on the piano and later a communal sing a long.



Sing a long at the Pot Luck Supper

Capt Andy Kerr acted as M.C. and also provided the pipe music for the Highland Dancing performed by his daughters and for the Scottish Country Dancing which took place under the supervision of Mrs. Betty Speirs.

The evening finished with the singing of Auld Lang Syne. It was very gratifying to be asked by several of the guests when we were holding our next Pot Luck Supper.

Campbell Oliver

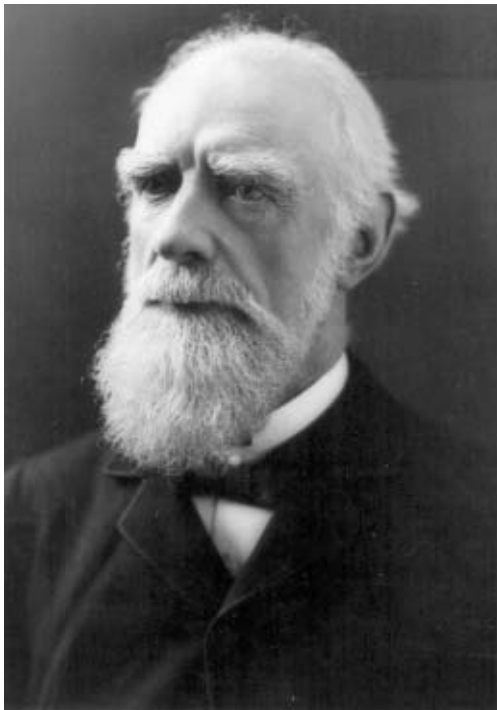
### QUOTE

"The finest Scottish wine, known as whisky, is really the oil that makes the Parliamentary system work."

Lord Strathclyde  
Conservative Leader in the House of Lords  
Wall Street Journal, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003

## THE STRATHCONA CUP

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003, Ms. Moira R. Barclay-Fernie, President, attended a very special dinner held in the Royal Montreal Curling Club to honor twenty-eight curlers who had traveled from Scotland to compete for The Strathcona Cup. These twenty-eight Scots had played against clubs throughout the Maritimes. After their visit to Montreal they would curl in several places in Ontario before meeting up with another twenty-eight curlers who had started from Victoria and competed in the Western Provinces as they traveled eastwards to Toronto.



Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal

The competition for this very special trophy comes up every five years alternately in Scotland and in Canada. The last matches were held in Canada in 1993 and in Scotland in 1998. As this event only comes up on home ground every ten years or, for most curlers, once in a lifetime, this is an exciting, much anticipated event and leaves all the curlers

with many memories of an extremely happy and enjoyable nature.

The Strathcona Cup was presented in 1909 by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, then High Commissioner of Canada to Great Britain and President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, as a trophy for competition between Canadian and Scottish teams. One inscription on the cup reads:

*Presented by Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club to commemorate his Presidency of the Club and the First Visit of the Canadian Curling Team to Scotland, January 1909.*

The story of the Strathcona Cup had its beginnings in the winter of 1902-03 when a party from the Royal Caledonian Curling Club was touring Canada and the United States of America for the Royal Caledonian Tankard. Since that time the Strathcona Cup has been competed for eighteen times, as some visits were missed due to war years.

Over these eighteen competitions, usually the Home Team has won the Trophy. However on five occasions the Visiting team has won. Canada won in Scotland in 1909, 1988 and 1998. Scotland won in Canada in 1949 and 1993. In 1998 the Canadian Team outscored the Scots by 373 points and in 2003 Scotland won by 108 points.

For those who are statistically minded the following may be interesting...56 Scots and 1,600 Canadians took part in the competition, Scotland won 1,547 ends and Canada 1,545 ends, Canada won 185 games, Scotland 176 and 51 games were tied.

It should be noted that Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal was President of the Saint Andrew's Society from 1888 to 1890 and that many members of the Society are also members of the Royal Montreal Curling Club.

Moira Barclay-Fernie

## KEITH RADLEY HUTCHISON AWARD DINNER

A dinner was organized by Mr. John Hart and Mr. Ian Aitken during March to raise additional funds to support the Keith Radley Hutchison Award that is presented annually by the Society to a piper at the Black Watch.

Pipe Major Cameron Stevens, Piper Brent Schaus, Drummer Sean Kovaks and Dancer Caitlyn O'Boyle were guests at the dinner and also performed several times during the evening. The Pipe Major, who is also a member of the Society, said that the Hutchison Award and the support that the Black Watch Pipes and Drums receive from the community through the St. Andrew's Society are both tremendously appreciated.

The Hutchison Award was created in 1998 by friends of the late Mr. Keith Hutchison to reward a piper at the Black Watch who possesses exceptional piping skills, demonstrates a strong ability to play the instrument alone and who possesses an excellent character. Mr. Keith Hutchison, the son of Past President Mr. Alex Hutchison, became a life member in 1969 and was an active member of the Society and of the Scottish community in Montreal. He passed away before his time on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1997.

## LOTTERY CASH TO SAVE BURNS COTTAGE FROM CLOSURE

The Burns Cottage Museum of Scotland's national bard is to be saved from closure after an 11<sup>th</sup> hour rescue deal was agreed.

The future of the 18<sup>th</sup> century thatched cottage where Robert Burns was born has been uncertain for months.

But tomorrow a rescue package will be announced by the Lottery Heritage Fund to safeguard Robert Burns' birthplace "for future generations".

Earlier this year, the trustees of the Burns National Heritage Park in Alloway revealed they were in the red and could no longer afford to maintain and run the cottage and adjoining museum.

Yesterday Colin McLean, the fund's Scottish manager, said: "Burns is an icon of Scotland, his works are renowned worldwide.

"The preservation of Burns Cottage and Museum, a fundamental part of our Scottish heritage, deserves the best.

"We are delighted to be able to do this by funding an expert team who will develop a project to preserve Burns' birthplace and make sure the works of our national bard are accessible for everyone to enjoy today and are kept safe for future generations."

The fund is to make a £50,000 grant available immediately to finance the rescue mission.

The cash will enable a team of architects, surveyors, designers and conservationists to be employed and produce a detailed plan for the complete conservation

of preservation of the cottage and museum.

Later this year the team will present their detailed proposals to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a major grant, expected to be in excess of £2 million.

A spokesman for the Burns Heritage Park said: "This is amazing news. We have been desperately trying to raise money all over the world to save the cottage and museum but this news about Lottery funding is fantastic.

"In the past, years of neglect of the fabric of the building have taken its toll and when the roof leaked the Burns family bible was damaged

"The bible, which has a hand written inscription, was saved, but its restoration at Dundee University will be a long process."

Also under threat have been the manuscripts of two of Burns' most famous poems, 'Tam O'Shanter' and 'Auld Lang Syne'. Some have already been sent to the National Library of Scotland for safe keeping. The Burns Collection at Alloway has over 300 manuscripts.

"The collection is recognized by scholars around the world as the most important anywhere, yet we do not receive a penny of public revenue funding," said the spokesman.

"It has broken my heart to see millions of public money spent on all sort of spurious cultural events when probably Scotland's most significant cultural legacy has been under threat."

He added that fewer tourists had been visiting the cottage in recent years because of foot and mouth disease and September 11<sup>th</sup>.

"Because of the drop in the number of visitors we could only afford to do patchy repairs and the thatched roof of Burns Cottage needs to be completely renovated," he said.

The Burns Heritage Park does not have modern environmental controls which prevent fluctuations in humidity and temperature that can damage manuscripts.


"We have done our best, but we cannot fix fundamental problems without spending a lot of money, at least £2 million" said the spokesman. "This magnificent funding from the Lottery Heritage Fund means that we can now look to the future."

Meg Milne  
Scotland on Sunday

More information on the Burns Cottage is available on the internet at: [www.burnsheritagepark.com](http://www.burnsheritagepark.com)



ESTABLISHED 1842. *Levan. All. n.* **LAND O'CAKES.**  
**CHAS. ALEXANDER & SONS,**  
 (ESTABLISHED 1842)  
 Have on hand a full supply of all descriptions of  
**CONFECTIONERY**  
 SUITABLE FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.  
 Crystalized Fruits, Bon-Bons, Horns of Plenty, Christmas De-  
 corations, Holly and Mistletoe Wreaths, Hanging Baskets, etc.  
 Also, Candied Peel.  
 CHAS. ALEXANDER & SONS respectfully request that orders  
 may be left or sent in as early as possible.  
 SHOW-ROOMS NOW OPEN.  
**387 and 389 NOTRE DAME STREET,**  
 AND CATHEDRAL BLOCK, CORNER ST. CATHERINE AND UNIVER-  
 SITY STREETS.  
*25-12-75*



Announcement for Chas. Alexander's store. From the Bibliothèque national du Québec, Albums de rues E.-Z. Massicotte

## THE LAND O' CAKES & THE GRAND OLD MAN

The expression "Land o' Cakes", the nickname for Scotland has been used since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the Edinburgh poet Robert Fergusson used it in one of his poems: "For Scotland, alias the Land O' Cakes", as did his admirer, Robert Burns:

*"Hear, Land o' Cakes, and brither Scots,  
 Frae Maidenkirk to Johnny Groats;  
 If there's a hole in a' your coats,  
 I rede you tent it:  
 A chield's amang you taking notes,  
 And, faith, he'll prent it."*

It is also mentioned many times in the Society's earlier records, particularly in the November 30<sup>th</sup> yearly exchange of greetings between the various St. Andrew's Societies. As you will see from the 1875 image pictured above, Charles Alexander and his sons identified their Confectionery

Store by this popular sobriquet. Since the store was also well-known for its coffee, lunch and dining rooms, it would be very appropriate to associate "Land O' Cakes" with pleasant thoughts of afternoon tea served with delicious scones and cakes.

Charles Alexander was a long-time member of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, his name first being shown on the 1856 Membership List, although it is possible that he may have joined earlier. For a number of years he served on the Charitable Committee and was a regular donor to the Society's relief funds.

Born in Dundee, Scotland in 1816, he followed a varied career as book-binder, rope-spinner, sailor, ship's cook, baker and was finally apprenticed to the principal confectioner in Dundee, who lodged and educated him. Having obviously made the decision to emigrate to Canada, he sailed from Dundee with his wife and child on

April 5<sup>th</sup> 1840, to fill a situation in Montreal. Tragically, the ship "Atlantic" foundered at night, off the Newfoundland coast. Mr. Alexander with his child in his arms, was drawn up from the sea by rescuers to an overhanging rock. While all of the Alexanders were saved, they, along with other passengers, lost all their effects. However, the Scots in Newfoundland kindly fed and clothed both his family and himself, then sent them all to Montreal where he began working for John Keiller, Confectioner on Notre Dame Street who would soon make him his partner. Although the business steadily prospered, Mr. Keiller persuaded him to go to London, Upper Canada, from where he later went to Kingston. He returned, however, to Montreal where he was introduced by the Rev. Wilkes to a capitalist who enabled him to start his own business on McGill Street where with his wife's assistance and his good habit of paying for one supply before ordering

another, he was able to repay his debt within two years. In 1843 he purchased a store for the sum of 4,500 Pounds on Notre Dame Street, then the centre of business. Again by his Scottish caniness, he was able to pay off this amount within five years.



Mr. Charles Alexander, circa 1875 from the Bibliothèque national du Québec, Albums de rues E.-Z. Massicotte

Among his other charitable endeavours, Charles Alexander was the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the Protestant House of Industry and Refuge and was very active in promoting the much-needed outdoor relief which was annually ministered to hundreds of families in Montreal. Because of his many public services he acquired a seat in the local Legislature and in this capacity brought about the classification of prisoners to protect the young. Subsequently, instead of being influenced by association with older criminals, the younger ones were instructed in useful trades. He also founded a Boys' Home of which he was President. The well-known Scottish respect for thrift and the steady accumulation of savings by

regularly banking a certain percentage of one's earnings had obviously been instilled in these young men because records show that the boys had eventually made deposits in the Savings Bank amounting to nearly \$2,000. As an encouragement to these new clients the bank generously paid them 10 per cent interest. Among other good deeds to various institutions and the General Hospital, Charles Alexander also aided McGill College "without forgetting that food and fuel are prior necessities to education".

In 1879, through the fault of others, he lost Two Hundred Thousand dollars and at sixty-five years of age began again "at the lower rungs of the ladder of fortune, as bravely as if nature had promised renewal of youth, without deprivation of experience". With his stoic efforts and the help of his two sons Charles and John, his partners, he obviously successfully regained his prosperity because in later years the firm of Charles Alexander & Sons was described as being "praised by almost universal patronage". In addition, "the grand old man" as he was known, was in a position, in 1892, to generously aid the people of Newfoundland at a time of their acute economic distress in return for the never to be forgotten assistance he and his family had received from his fellow compatriots 52 years earlier.

Mary Johnston Cox, Historian

Glossary:  
 rede: advice  
 tent: attend to; look after  
 chield: young man, fellow  
 prent: print



### COCONUT CHOCOLATE MARSHMALLOW SNOWBALLS

It is my happy duty to inform you that there has been a recent and exciting development in the availability in Canada of Scotland's other national biscuit.

Tunnock's, established in 1890, inventor of the chocolate marshmallow teacake, caramel wafer and most unforgettably the coconut chocolate marshmallow snowball (beloved of chocolate fingered children wearing their Sunday best) are now available at your local Zellers superstore. The downside is that the product is available on a trial basis only pending sales statistics. So if you want a regular supply, show your support now by picking up a package or two at the week-end and tell your friends.

If you've been away from the home country for so long that you've forgotten all about Tunnocks, take a look at their website ([www.tunnock.co.uk](http://www.tunnock.co.uk)) for a reminder.

Debbie Fern  
 British Consul Commercial in Montreal

## DEBUTANTES AND ESCORTS



Young Ladies between the ages of 17 and 23 are invited to become Debutantes at the 2003 St. Andrew's Ball that will take place on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

Young Gentlemen to act as escorts are also needed.

Please contact Ms. Andrea Navin at (514) 254-3895 or via e-mail at [andrea.navin@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:andrea.navin@mail.mcgill.ca) before August 31, 2003 for more information.

## CANCELLATION OF CELTIC FESTIVAL

The Montreal International Celtic Festival, originally scheduled to take place on the Douglas Hospital grounds in early August, has been cancelled. Although the organizers were able to attract 30,000 people to the festival last summer, the attendance was substantially less than the 50,000 that they had hoped for.



Sign near Innerwick, Glenn Lyon

## COVER PHOTOGRAPH: THE BLACK WATCH MONUMENT

The Black Watch was raised in a unique way. In the wake of the 1715 Jacobite rebellion companies of trustworthy Highlanders were raised from loyal clans, Campbells, Grants, Frasers and Munros. Six companies were formed from 1725 and stationed in small detachments across the Highlands to prevent fighting between the clans, deter raiding and assist in enforcing the laws against the carrying of weapons. In 1739 King George II authorized the raising of four additional companies and these all to be formed into a Regiment of the Line of the regular army with the Earl of Crawford as the Colonel. The men were to be "natives of that country and none other to be taken". The first muster of the new Regiment took place near Aberfeldy the following year and is commemorated by a monument in the form of a soldier dressed in the uniform of those days. A photograph of this monument appears on the cover of this issue.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The Society is making an effort to place more content on its web site. Since the publication of the last issue in January of this year, the complete Handbook of the Society as well as copies of The Journal, including this issue, have been added to the "Archive" section of the Society's web site.

You will require a freely available program called Adobe Acrobat Reader in order to view these documents, but you will be rewarded as the content will appear in full colour.

If you have a high speed connection to the internet and would prefer to receive future issues of The Journal via e-mail rather than via regular mail, please call the Society's office or send us an e-mail.

The creation of The Journal is only possible due to the contribution of many people, and I would like to thank them all for making this issue possible. If you have any suggestions regarding content that should be included in future issues, would like to participate in the preparation of The Journal or have any comments whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact us. This Journal is prepared for the members of the Society by the members of the Society.

Ian Aitken  
Interim Editor

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