

THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

January 2008



The Honourable Andrew B. Howard and Mrs. Kate Howard were the Guests of Honour at the St. Andrew's Ball held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on November 24th, 2007.



Upcoming Events

78TH FRASER HIGHLANDERS
BONSPIEL

Saturday, February 2nd

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SAINT DAVID'S SOCIETY
ANNUAL BALL

Saturday, March 1st

*

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY BALL

Friday, March 7th

*

THISTLE COUNCIL AWARDS
DINNER

Saturday, April 5th

*

TARTAN DAY

Sunday, April 6th

President's Letter

I would like to extend my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2008 to all members of the St. Andrew's Society and their families.

Since the last edition of the Journal, the Society has been very active in hosting various events. These include the Taste of Scotland, the St. Andrew's Ball, the Children's Christmas party and the Burns Nicht Dinner.

The Taste of Scotland evening was held in October at the Black Watch Officers' Mess, organized by the Activities Committee under the Chairmanship of Campbell Oliver. The annual Children's Christmas party was also held at the Mess under the able direction of Mary Johnston Cox. Both of these events were resounding successes.

The St. Andrew's Ball, under the Chairmanship of Peter McAuslan, was held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in November. Though fewer guests than usual were in attendance, the ambiance and intimacy provided by the smaller numbers made for a wonderful evening.

The Burns Nicht Dinner was held at the University Club on January 25th under the Chairmanship of Scot Diamond. Over 100 people in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the venue and the food; the evening was a great success.

It bears repeating that the success of all these events is due to the countless volunteers who put in many hours of work to make them all so enjoyable. To Campbell, Peter, Mary and Scot, and their respective committees, I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation.

Ken Bentley



Honourable Andrew B. Howard's exciting rendition of the Address to the Haggis.

St. Andrew's Ball: November 24th, 2007

Peter McAuslan - Ball Chairman

The 2007 St-Andrew's Ball took place Saturday, November 24th at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel where 318 guests feasted and danced until the last reels were done at 3:30 in the morning.

This year's Guests of Honour were the Honourable Andrew B. Howard and Mrs. Kate Howard. Andrew is the great-great grandson of Sir Donald A. Smith, 1st Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, also known as Lord Strathcona - the man who drove the "Last Spike" to complete the Canadian Pacific Railway.

General Hospitals, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Canadian Pacific Archives at Windsor Station, McGill University, the McCord Museum, the Black Watch Museum, the Bank of Montreal Building in Old Montreal, and the Old Fort & Stewart Museum on Île Ste-Hélène. The Guests of Honour were charming and charmed by Mayor Gerald Tremblay at City Hall where they signed the Book of Honour.

Andrew attended the traditional Council dinner appropriately held this year at the Mount Royal Club, which was founded by many famous Montrealers including Donald Smith. The Friends of the Society luncheon took place at the University Club where the 30 guests had an opportunity to meet our



Smith drives the Last Spike of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 7 November 1885, Craigellachie, British Columbia.

Our Guests of Honour spent the ball week seeing first-hand how Andrew's great-great grandfather shaped Montreal's institutional landscape in the 1800's. Visits included the Royal Victoria and Montreal

Guests of Honour. A luncheon was held at the Mount Royal Club for Kate Howard, hosted by Mrs. David M. Stewart. The week also included the Debutantes' Reception at the Black Watch Armoury, held prior to the

Scottish reel practise led by Betty and Tom Speirs. The Guests of Honour, as guests of the Royal Montreal Curling Club, attended their traditional St. Andrew's Day Luncheon on Saturday and Andrew Howard read the morning Lesson at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul at the morning service on Sunday. The events throughout the week were well attended and reinforced again the interest in things Scottish in this the most Scottish of North American cities.

There were some changes to this year's ball – the invitation and program were given an updated look, the decorations at the event included a spectacular castle entranceway and many photos of the famous castles of Scotland. For the first time this year the ball incorporated a silent auction, which raised \$6800 of the \$24,000 raised during ball week to support various educational, community and cultural endeavours.

As always, the performances put on by the Black Watch Pipes and Drums and Montreal Highland Dancers were unforgettable. The Honourable Andrew Howard's address to the Haggis was dramatic, and his speech humourous, touching and relevant to St-Andrew's members and the broader Montreal community, Scots or not. (Andrew Howard's Address and the Donald Smith homily appear elsewhere in the Journal.)

Again, this year, guests at the ball were treated to a complimentary photo. For the first time however, the photos are on-line and available for purchase at <http://www.carriemacpherson.ca/ball/>. These photos will be available online until March 1st, 2008. For those interested, there will also be a DVD available of the 2007 ball – details will be made available on the society website (www.standrews.qc.ca) by February 1st.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all the 2008 St. Andrew's Ball.

Peter McAuslan - Ball Chairman

Ball Sponsors

BMO Capital Markets; Mrs. Mary Leslie-Aitken & Mr. Ian Aitken; Mrs. Jean & Dr. Kenneth C. Bentley; Mr. Thomas E. F. Brady; Mr. John Craig; Mr. Andrew de Courcy Ireland; GBC Asset Management Inc.; Mr. John Hart; Hudson's Bay Company; Mrs. Neil B. Ivory; Mr. Pierre LaPointe; Mr. Malcolm E. McLeod; Mr. M. Bruce McNiven & Mrs. Marie Senécal Tremblay McNiven; Dr. Susan & Dr. Charles Peniston; Power Corporation of Canada; M. François Senécal-Tremblay; Mrs. Helgi & Mr. Ian Soutar; Mr. & Mrs. Guthrie J. Stewart; R. Howard Webster Foundation.

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Ball Donors

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Debutants Report

Stephanie Glezos - Debutantes' Committee

On Saturday the 24th of November, seven lovely young ladies, clad in beautiful white ball gowns and proudly wearing their family tartan, were accompanied by their dashing escorts in tuxedos and traditional Scottish attire through the Grand Salon of the Queen



The group of lovely young ladies and their escorts (no specified order): Mariel Ivette Acosta was escorted by James Michael Shetler, Sarah Emilie Findlay by Vincent DiSciullo, Emily Alexandra Fownes by Thomas Ilyd Mitchell Nicholl, Emily Grace Hutchison by Kyle Adams Goforth, Genevieve Lynn Lalonde by Darren George Navin, Rosalind Sarah Bayne Menzies by William Albert Francys Fletcher and Julia Kathryn Peniston by Thomas William Grace.

Elizabeth Hotel. Mariel Ivette Acosta was escorted by James Michael Shetler, Sarah Emilie Findlay by Vincent DiSciullo, Emily Alexandra Fownes by Thomas Ilyd Mitchell Nicholl, Emily Grace Hutchison by Kyle Adams Goforth, Genevieve Lynn Lalonde by Darren George Navin, Rosalind Sarah Bayne Menzies by William Albert Francys Fletcher and Julia Kathryn Peniston by Thomas William Grace.

Once all were gathered on the dance floor, the debutantes and their escorts then performed a beautiful traditional Scottish waltz, much to the delight of all in attendance. Debutantes were then presented to the Guests of Honour, The Honourable Andrew B. Howard, son of the 4th Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, and his wife Mrs. Kate Howard, as well as: Honorary Ball Chairman Mr. Bruce McNiven and his wife Mrs. Marie Senécal Tremblay McNiven, St. Andrew's Ball chairman Mr. Peter McAuslan

and Mrs. Ellen Bounsall McAuslan, and President of the St. Andrew's Society, Dr. Kenneth Bentley and Mrs. Jean Bentley.

It should also be mentioned Jaime Girard and Caroline Ivory Stewart, lovely flower girls and guests at the head table, graciously presented the Guests of Honour with a beautiful bouquet.

The ball is the culmination of a whirlwind of wonderful social events and dance practices that the debutantes and their escorts attend for a month prior to the ball. The fourteen young ladies and gentlemen began their preparation for the ball in October under the tutelage of Mrs. Betty Speirs and her wonderful husband Mr. Tom Speirs, at the Black Watch Armoury. The group attended dance practices twice a week to learn and perfect their waltz, curtsy and bow.

In addition to the practices, there were a number of social events were attended by the

debutantes and their escorts. These included: the reception hosted by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas MacKay and the Officers of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada held at the Black Watch Armoury and the traditional Debutantes Tea and Luncheon graciously co-hosted by Mrs. Marie Sénécal Tremblay McNiven and Mrs. Jean Bentley and attended by the debutantes, as well as Mrs. Ellen McAuslan, Mrs. Betty Speirs, dance instructor, Mrs. Mary Leslie Aitken, Mrs. Norma King, and Miss Stephanie Glezos.



Jaime Girard and Caroline Ivory Stewart on their way to present flowers to Mrs. Kate Howard.

At the Luncheon, Mrs. Marie Sénécal Tremblay McNiven presented each of the debutantes with lovely pewter thistle brooch to remember their experience as St. Andrew's Society Debutantes. Each young lady was also presented with a keepsake folder to remember her experience. Miss Glezos and Mrs. Speirs were graciously presented with gifts on behalf of the society and the debutantes.

In keeping with the St. Andrew's

Society's benevolence and emphasis on giving back to the community, the debutantes and their escorts also volunteered their time to serve a meal at the Old Brewery Mission on November 12th.

The events provided the debutantes and their escorts the opportunity to bond with one another, and to get to know the Guests of Honour and the gracious and welcoming members of the St. Andrew's Society who attended the ball and the dance practices. All of the young ladies truly appreciated the once in a lifetime experience of making their debut. The young group of fourteen could be spotted throughout the course of the evening dancing and enjoying themselves which was made evident by their enthusiastic participation in the dances and their wonderful smiles. By the end of the evening, many were already discussing the fun they would have when they got together again, at next year's ball.

The 2007 Debutants

A collection of biographies of each of the debutantes presented at the ball.

Miss Mariel Ivette Acosta

Mariel is twenty-three and works in the accounting department at McAuslan Brewing. Mariel enjoys dancing and photography, and plans on studying marketing at McGill University.

Miss Sarah Emilie Findlay

Sarah is 18 years old and originally from Quebec City and currently in her first year at McGill University in Arts. Sarah is also interested in history, art history and economics. Miss Findlay is a graduate of Trinity College School, in Port Hope Ontario, where she was a boarder for three years. Sarah has also studied abroad in France and Italy. Sarah is involved in the Canadian Cancer Society and Watercan, and enjoys skiing, playing tennis, swimming, waterskiing, reading and travel.

Miss Emily Alexandra Fownes

Emily is currently attending secondary five at the Trafalgar School for Girls. Upon completing high school, Emily is planning on pursuing her D.E.C in the sciences. Miss Fownes began riding when she was eight years old, and currently competes in Dressage at a national level. In addition to dressage, Emily also plays flute in her school's senior band, sings in the school choir and plays soccer and volleyball.

Miss Emily Grace Hutchison

Emily is seventeen years and currently in her first year at Marianopolis College, studying in the Arts and Sciences program. Emily's interests include reading, tennis, travel, golf and volunteer work. Emily has obtained her Bronze and Silver Awards from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program and is currently working on her Gold level. Emily was very excited about making her debut at this year's ball.

Miss Geneviève Lynn Lalonde

Geneviève is twenty-three and currently working at McAuslan Brewing as a receptionist. When not working, Geneviève enjoys the arts, specifically drawing and painting. In the future, she plans on continuing her studies in business at Concordia University.

Miss Rosalind Sarah Bayne Menzies

Rosalind is sixteen years old and currently studying at Trafalgar. Miss Menzies' interests include the sciences, anthropology, volleyball, horseback riding, dancing and running. Most recently, Rosalind qualified for the Cross Country Running Provincials. Rosalind also enjoys traveling, and has visited Ecuador, England, France, the Yukon, USA, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, PEI, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Miss Julia Kathryn Peniston

Miss Miss. Julia is eighteen, and a native of



Scottish dancing anyone?

Toronto, Ontario. She is currently studying Arts and Science at McGill University. Julia is involved with Watercan McGill and Right to Play, and she enjoys rowing, travelling, singing and piano. Julia is not the first in her family to make her debut, her grandmother and great-aunts also made their debut with the St. Andrew's Society.

The 2007 Escorts

Biographies presenting each of the escorts attending the ball with the debutantes.

Mr. Darren George Navin

Darren is currently a student at Université de Montréal studying law. He hopes to become a patent attorney. He enjoys playing tennis and the guitar in his spare time. He practices muay thai, a form of martial art also known as Thai boxing.

Mr. Kyle Goforth

Kyle was born and raised in Montreal and is currently a student at Marianopolis College in honours Social Science. Kyle is especially interested in law and hopes to one day become a lawyer or be involved politics. Kyle's interests also include architecture and travel. In his spare time, Kyle enjoys sketching and designing buildings and taking in the scenery in Old Montreal.

Mr. Vincent Di Sciullo

Vincent was born and raised in Montreal, where he attended Lower Canada College until grade eleven. Vincent then went on to study abroad at the Canadian College in Italy, where he completed his twelfth year. Vincent is presently studying back in his hometown at McGill University.

Mr. Thomas Grace

Thomas grew up in Ottawa before moving to Montreal this autumn to attend University. Thomas is currently attending McGill in the Desautels faculty of Management. Mr. Grace plans on pursuing a major in finance and

hopes to work in the financial sector. Thomas is currently a member of the McGill badminton team. Additionally, Mr. Grace's interests include sports, travelling and spending time at the cottage.

Mr. James Shetler

James Shetler is currently finishing his last semester at Dawson College, majoring in Commerce. Upon his graduation from Dawson, James hopes to attend the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University. While he has decided to put his snowboard-racing career to the side, James' main interest remains snowboarding.

Mr. William Albert Francys Fletcher

William is currently in his last year at Selwyn House. Mr. Fletcher is very interested in human rights, and is an involved activist in working to make a difference in Kenya and Eastern Asia.

Mr. Thomas Ilyd Mitchell Nicholl

Thomas is currently a student at Lower Canada College in Montreal. Thomas is particularly interested in sciences, mathematics and his physical education classes at school. He plays on three sports teams at the school: Football, Hockey and Rugby. Next year, Thomas plans to enrol in the pre-university program at his school where he plans to take economics, advanced Physics and chemistry, as well as AB Calculus.

Whisky Tasting Night

Kirk Johnstone - Activities Committee

Once again, our annual "Taste of Scotland's Whiskies and Fine Foods" was a 'sell-out' event. A capacity crowd enjoyed the ambiance of the Black Watch Officers' Mess, 38 brands of Scotch whisky and a seemingly unending supply of delicious food.

The thirty-eight whiskies included single malts from all the whisky-producing areas of

Scotland: the Highlands; Islands, Lowlands, Islay and the Speyside region. Also included this year, were five blended whiskies, which were very well accepted. Patrons were supplied a written score card of all the brands where they could make notes about each product sampled. All the whiskies offered during the night are available through local Quebec Liquor stores (SAQ).



As for the food, it was outstanding again this year. There was haggis (with Drambuie), smoked salmon, meat pies, sandwiches, crudities, sausage rolls, cakes, trifles and just too many things to list here; A huge ‘THANK YOU’ to all those who provided and donated this magnificent fare. Although the emphasis usually seems to centre on the whisky, the banquet provided was equally important and appreciated.

Another big ‘THANK YOU’ goes to Campbell Oliver and his committee whom organized the event. There have been sufficient inquiries about holding this more than once a year; the committee is looking into the viability of doing it more often. Any comments regarding this idea would be greatly appreciated and can be forwarded to the Society through the contact information provided at the end of the journal.

Christmas Party



Santa Claus presenting one of many gifts to all the children who attended.



One of the many activities at the Children's Christmas Party.

Toronto, a Ph.D. by U. of Edinburgh, and honorary Doctors of Divinity by Montreal Diocesan College, Knox College and Presbyterian College. Dr. McLelland was ordained by The Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1949 and served congregations in Quebec, Scotland and Ontario. In 1959, he was appointed Robert Professor of the History and Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics at The Presbyterian College, Montreal, and became McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion at McGill in 1964 and remains McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion Emeritus, McGill and Robert Professor Emeritus, The Presbyterian College. Dr. McLelland has written extensively -- his 20th book was published last year -- and was contributing editor of The Presbyterian Record. He is founding editor of The Peter Martyr Library. After over 60 years of marriage to Audrey Brunton, they have four children and seven grandchildren. Last year he celebrated fifty years association with The Presbyterian College, which renamed its Library "The Joseph C. McLelland Library". Dr McLelland has had forty years association with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Burns' Dinner

Scot Diamond - Burns Supper Chairman

The Society's annual Burns Supper held at the University Club this year on Burns' birthday, Friday, January 25. The 109 people in attendance were treated to an entertaining and thought provoking Toast to the Immortal Memory by the **Reverend Dr. Joseph Cumming McLelland**, Professor Emeritus, McGill University and The Presbyterian College, and recipient of the Quebec Thistle Council Scotsman of the Year award.

Dr McLelland, who was born in Port - Glasgow, Scotand, and emigrated to Canada with his family in 1927, was awarded a BA by McMaster University, Hamilton, an MA by U. of Toronto, a BD by Knox College,

Dr McLelland has long been a fan of Burns and has updated and delivered to us his Toast to the Immortal Memory and has graciously agreed to allow us to reproduce it herein for all to read. Those who were not fortunate enough to have heard it on Friday will certainly agree that it provides great insight into Burns and the true reasons for his continuing popularity and relevance.

We were also treated to a Toast to the Lassies, by **Thomas Robin McLeod Davis**, where he navigates the rocky shoals of relations between the sexes in the era of the politically correct with wit and finesse. **Lorna Jean Telfer** delivered the reply with equal poise and humour. We are pleased to reproduce the text of their speeches as well.

Once again, **Chef Alain Monod** treated us to a magnificently prepared meal beginning with smoked salmon and Arran potato salad, Auld Reekie Cock-a-Leekie soup, haggis (wi' a' the honours), neeps 'n tatties, roast beef, rumbledethumps and green peas and Topsy Laird for dessert. For those of you wondering, rumbledethumps are a traditional dish from the Scottish Borders similar to Irish Colcannon and English Bubble and Squeak. The main ingredients are potato, cabbage and onion.

We thank **Alexander (Sandy) Hight**, member of Council and Chairman of the Society's Education Committee for again delivering the *Address to a Haggis* and Pipe Major Cameron Stevens for a wonderful job on the pipes. We also thank Society President Kenneth Bentley for delivering welcoming remarks, **Moira Barclay-Fernie** for her invaluable suggestions on how to add to the enjoyment of the evening and delivering the Selkirk Grace, Anne Navin and Campbell Oliver for their work with the phone committee, logistics and selling drink tickets at the event, **Louise Warden**, **Elizabeth Tait** and **Kathleen Hardiman** for their work on the phone committee, **Norma King** for taking such care to ensure people were seated at tables which suited them, **Kirk Johnstone** for bringing the music, our sponsors **Bowmore Whisky**, **McAuslan Brewery**, **Shortbread by Gryphon**, **Ye Olde Orchard Pub**, **McKibbin's Pub**, **Hurley's Pub** and **Intrawest - Mont-Tremblant**. Special thanks goes to Caroline O'Connor who spent a great deal of time producing the documentation, picking up and delivering, soliciting door prizes and generally participating in all aspects of the organization of the event. We most importantly thank **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 the Immortal Bard.

Finally, two things: please note that good speakers are the key to the event. This year's speakers will be a hard act to follow - suggestions for guests of honour and people to deliver the toast to the lassies and reply for future years, are most welcome. It was noted and is much appreciated that the vast majority of guests arranged their tickets prior to the week of the event. This makes it much easier for those setting the seating and preparing the food and the hall if the number of persons in attendance is known well in advance of the event. We hope to see you all again next year.

Scot Diamond
Burns Supper Chairman

Burns Dinner Speeches

The Immortal Memory

As prepared by Reverend Dr. Joseph Cumming McLelland

Ladies and Gentlemen – my thanks to those responsible for inviting me to speak tonight. It's an honour to address this historic Society. My Father was Treasurer of the St Andrew's Society of Hamilton, Ontario, and growing up we saw a stream of immigrants, mostly young men, coming for help and guidance, often staying a few days while getting settled.

Tonight we celebrate Scotland's national poet, and we do so along with sister societies around the world. Why is this so? Much is mere nostalgia or romantic lore, and much only occasion for a party. Not that that's so bad. But the question is: "Which Robert Burns?"

The first biographers were biased, assuming the worst and neglecting other data, creating what has been called "the Burns Myth" -- Burns the romantic rogue, Burns the unlettered ploughman, Burns the sentimental patriot, and today even the commercial icon, promoting everything from whisky to shortbread.

First a thumbnail sketch of his life. He was born in 1759 (while a stiff "January'

wind" blew) to William and Agnes Burness, in the little box bed in the kitchen corner of their modest but-and-ben two miles from Ayr, the first of seven children. "Excessive toil and poor food" one biographer has said of his boyhood. Oatmeal was the staple, usually three times daily in different forms, especially porridge hot, or cold from the porridge drawer.

Other farms proved equally toilsome and unrewarding: Mount Oliphant, Lochlea, where he formed the Tarbolton Bachelor's Club, and joined the Freemasons. The Constitution he wrote for the Club is worth repeating: "Every man proper for a member of the Society, must have a frank, honest and open heart ... and must be a professed lover of one or more of the female sex..."

The four years at Mossgiel, near Mauchline, were important for his poetry and for Jean Armour. His last years were spent as an Exciseman; he died in 1796, aged 37. The Burns cottage receives some 100,000 visitors annually. Incidentally, Patrick Miller, the inventive landlord of Ellisland Farm, gave Burns some rutabaga seeds from Sweden, so perhaps we had "neeps" tonight in honour of the "swedes" as the Scots call them.

Look first at Burns the ploughman poet. Yes, a farmer, but far from unlearned. He chose the Scottish dialect to revive it, not because he didn't know English. His aim was to speak to and like his fellows, not to copy the Edinburgh English of the elite.

*"A set o' dull, conceited bashies,
Confuse their brains in college-classes,
They gang in stirks and come out asses!"*

(Can't be McGill -- must be Concordia!)

He was the poet of his people and used their vernacular -- their "joul," perhaps why the plays of our own Michel Tremblay are so popular in Scotland, translated into Broad Scots. He made his literary debut in 1786 with the famous Kilmarnock edition, "Poems, chiefly in the Scottish Dialect," price 3 shillings -- a century later a copy would sell

for £590, and in 1929 Sotheby's copy brought £2,450! He was greeted as a "heaven-taught ploughman," as if an uneducated lout making do with raw talent and inspiration. Even William Cowper stated, "Poor Burns -- loses much of his deserved praise in this country through our ignorance of his language. His candle is bright but shut up in a dark lantern."

But dialect has to do with group identity, and Burns caught the spirit of his age -- an age when Scotland was reeling from military and political defeat, its fortunes at a low ebb. Its language had been relegated to "a despised and exhausted patois" by his time, and it took a poetic genius to restore it to its rightful place. If we require a glossary to understand it today that's our problem, but well worth the effort. (Just think -- a Russian devotee of Burns translating his works into Chinese!)

So, in Robert Burns we have the poet as hero, championing the ordinary people in their misery and low estate. And isn't the Braid Scots a bonny tongue? How can you improve on pawky or couthy or braw or canny -- or sneek the door? When an Aberdonian schoolboy was asked by a visiting Londoner, "What was the ultimate fate of Pharaoh?" he did not understand. So the teacher said, "Jemmy, fat was the hinner end o' Pharaoh?" Or the story of the Wise Men (this version was used in some Scottish parishes last year): "some astrologers came frae the east, askin': 'Whaur's the new-born bairn that they're cryin' the King o' the Jews? 'King Herod was gey rummled ...'".

Another caricature is Burns the womanizer. Certainly, there is foundation here; his exploits are notorious. Remember how he described woman:

*Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!*

(Oh, sorry, wrong page).

Of the three chief women in his life, Jean Armour, Highland Mary and Clarinda, it was

Jean whom he eventually married. Clarinda, the well-read but superficial Edinburgh lady, did not fool Burns with her airs. Mary, of course, was his ideal and idealized heroine, a brief bright hour of ecstasy that haunted him all his days; she died within a year of their meeting. But the truth about this affair eludes us, remaining a mystery to Burns scholars. What we do have is some of his finest poetry in homage:

*My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her
dream.*

In fact, Burns was an early feminist, as in his "Rights of Woman" recognizing a special right generally denied at that period. To Jean Armour and the others we owe his great love poems. Surely, nothing surpasses this:

*O, my luv'e's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June ...
And I will luv'e thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.*

Both Walter Scott and Lord Byron singled out another verse as sheer perfection:

*Had we never lo'ed so kindly,
Had we never lo'ed so blindly,
Never met, or never parted,
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.*

One of my favourites is "The Braw Wooer," where the jealous girl asks her former beau about his new love:

*I spier'd for my cousin fu' couthy and sweet,
Gin she had recover'd her hearin?
And how her new shoon fit her auld, shabl't
feet?*

And here is "John Anderson, my Jo," breathing the enduring quality of love, an old lady's tribute to her lifelong partner, her "jo." So well constructed, each verse rising and falling, like youth and old age; here's the second:

*John Anderson, my jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither,
And many a cantrie day, John
We've had wi' ane anither;*

*Now we maun totter down, John,
And hand in hand we'll go,
And sleep thegither at the foot,
John Anderson, my jo!*

Another view is Burns the profligate. Yet, he was a good parent, teaching his children diligently and starting a local library.

His own father was remarkable, not only home schooling his children to supplement their meagre formal education, even writing a manual of theology for them. "The Cotter's Saturday Night" may be a bit overdrawn but in general reflects the simple piety of common folk. Here Burns shows his knowledge of Scripture, and his appreciation of proper piety:

*From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur
springs,
That makes her lov'd at home, rever'd abroad.*

He could also write:

*To make a happy fire-side clime
To weans and wife;
That's the true pathos and sublime Of human
life.*

Unfortunately, by temperament Burns was melancholic, even hypochondriac.

He could pen, "Man was Made to Mourn," "Despondency," and – one with which we can sympathize these days -- "Winter: a Dirge." Indeed, he would have been at home here: "I prefer the melancholy grandeur of autumn, or the savage gloom of winter." Yes he was a braw drinking companion, in an age "when hard drinking was fashionable." Hear him on the subject of "Scotch Drink":

*Let other Poets raise a fracas
Bout vines, an' wines, an' drucken Bacchus,
I sing the juice Scotch bear [barley] can mak
us,
In glass or jug.*

Even during the period of dissipation at Mauchline, in the tavern he was more conversationalist than drunkard, having a good "crack" over his dram. He once said I

have "a strong appetite for sociability." And what wonderful poetry such occasions created!

He had learned stories of folklore and superstition in his childhood from Betty Davidson. So strong was the effect "that to this hour, on my nocturnal rambles, I sometimes keep a sharp look-out in suspicious places." ("Lest bogles catch him unaware!")

Above all his masterpiece Tam O'Shanter -- which he composed in a single day! What wondrous characters -- Souter Johnnie, drunken Charlie, Auld Nick, Cutty Sark, Maggie the mare and of course Tam himself:

*Ah, Tam! Ah, Tam! thou'll get thy fairin!
In hell they'll roast thee like a herrin!*

...
*Now, who this tale o' truth shall read,
Ilk man and mother's son take heed:
Whene'er to drink you are inclin'd,
Or cutty sarks run in your mind,
Think! ye may buy the joys o'er dear,
Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare.*

Then there's the richly descriptive "Halloween," and "The Jolly Beggars," inspired by a visit to Poesie Nancy's, and fittingly made into an opera.

He also attended dancing school. Is that what he meant when he wrote:

*... nae rules or roads observin,
To right and left eternal swerving,
They zig-zag on.*

And perhaps he had that challenging dance "Muirland Willie" in mind here: I own it's past my comprehension. A better view is Burns the critic of hypocrisy. With shrewd eye he saw the difference between sanctity and sanctimoniousness.

Burns went to church every Sunday, and ridiculed "Their three-mile prayers an' hauf-mile graces." Another author has called their sermons "Like pease brose, made o' half a pun o' peas to the boilerfu' o' water."

Ironically, the Scottish Enlightenment had begun, led by Adam Smith in economics, David Hume and Thomas Reid in Philosophy, Francis Hutcheson in theology. But in his southwest region, a rigid Calvinism maintained a strong grip, producing a "polemical divinity putting the country half mad" as Lockhart states. Rightly, Burns wrote:

*See, up he's got the word o' God,
An' meek an' mim had view'd it,`
While Common sense has taen the road
An' aff, an' up the Congate.*

The "Auld Licht" preachers made the doctrine of double predestination their foundation, thus distorting the Gospel and making a new religion of harsh judgment and Pharisaic legalism. You know how the doctrine works -- like the Princeton student asked by the Presbytery if he was willing to be damned for the sake of heaven. "Certainly," he replied, "in fact for heaven's sake I'd see this whole presbytery damned!" The New Light clergy opposed them with a moderate theology, which Burns, like his father, embraced. When his friend Gavin Hamilton was charged by the Presbytery of Ayr with "habitual neglect" of church ordinances, Burns caricatured the opposing Elder in "Holy Willie's Prayer," a masterful exposé of bad Calvinism. Six lines sum up classically its worst feature:

*O Thou that in the Heavens dost dwell!
Wha, as it pleases best Thyself,
Sends aye to heaven and ten to Hell,
A' for Thy glory!
And no for onie guid or ill
They've done before Thee!*

His "Holy Fair" exposed the irony of those annual gatherings at the Communion Season, where the farther you got from the preacher the more dalliance you find. (In Mauchline the preaching tent was erected in the churchyard, which had a back entrance to Nance Tinnock's tavern.) Similar is his "Twa

Herds," "Address to the Unco' Guid, or the Rigidly Righteous."

Speaking of Presbyterian Elders, a Minister once met one of his elders staggering up the street. "What have ye been up to, man?" "Oh Meenister, juist deliverin' ma communion cards, and the hospitality is that fine." "But are there no teetotalers in your district?" "Och aye, but I send them by the post."

Now here's the real Robert Burns: paramount in poetising those ordinary moments of our human life -- a daisy turned over by his plough, a mouse disturbed from her burrow, a wounded hare; he could address a toothache, or a haggis! And what of that exquisite take-down of the proud lady in church with a louse on her bonnet:

*O wad some power the giftie gie us
to see oursels as others see us!*

I suggest that the two most important facets of the true Burns are his libertarianism and his recovery of Scottish song. It was those expressions of freedom and equality that still resound round the globe -- it's reckoned that there are more statues in the world to Burns than to any other single individual.

His biographer James Barke remarks that for other nations "Burns is a torch, a symbol, a source of inspiration ... on behalf of human worth and human freedom. They are immune from the virus of haggis-tasting, heather and wha's-like-us ... not so much a poet as a portent." Like the English Lake district poets, he embraced the French Revolution, only to be saddened by its tyrannical outcome.

*By oppression's woes and pains,
By your sons in servile chains,
We will drain our dearest veins,
But they shall be free!*

The poem that carries most of this freight is "A Man's A Man," a manifesto of freedom and equality:

*Then let us pray, that come it may,
As come it will, for a' that,*

...
*That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be, for a' that!*

The impetuous Burns went so far in support of the French that his offer of cannons made him suspicious as a traitor. Ostracized in Dumfries because of his lifestyle and revolutionary ideas, he regained stature in part by joining the Volunteers.

His final years were devoted to work on James Johnson's "Scots Musical Museum" and George Thomson's "Scottish Airs," fitting his great lyrics to old Scots tunes. This was his finest hour, travelling the land in search of authentic Scots heritage, producing both a recovery of past musical glory and giving a rich heritage to future generations. He said of himself: "Scottish scenes, and Scottish story, are the themes I could wish to sing."

One literary critic has stated: "among us, on a time, a great miracle was wrought, the appearance on Scottish soil of a man with a seraph's speech who bequeathed to a poor but proud people such a treasure of natural music as the world had not known until his day." For instance, surely one of the few treasures of the whole world is "Auld Lang Syne". It breathes of emigrant nostalgia:

*We tva hae paid't i' the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd.
Sin' auld lang syne.*

Let me close with an anecdote from Lockhart's biography, which to me embodies the proper image of Robert Burns, and tells us why he is Scotland's beloved Bard. Late one night after completing his excise rounds, he stopped at a village inn. (He rode some 200 miles every week on his duties). While he was settling down to a late supper, the landlord knocked at every door and roused the guests with the news: "Burns is here!"

And they all came down to join him for his wit and songs, late into the night.

Such events, combining conviviality and sleeplessness, helped shorten his life, already weakened by rheumatic fever. He died in his thirty-eighth year, saying to his fellow volunteer, "John, don't let the awkward squad fire over me." But they did!

Now rise with me to toast the Immortal Memory of Scotland's national Bard, Robert Burns!

The Toast To The Lassies

As presented by Thomas R. M. Davis

Mr. President, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great privilege and honour this evening to propose the toast to the Lassies.

When the Supper Chairman asked me to undertake this task, I accepted with enthusiasm. It would be my first Burns Supper. I knew the gentlemen would be upstanding and that my good friend and ally, Lorna Telfer, would reply to my toast.

But, since then my initial hubris has worn thin. How exactly does one navigate the rocky shoals of relations between the sexes in the era of the politically correct? Think of the neophyte back country skier venturing into avalanche territory. Knowing the snow base in the bowls is unstable.

So, to prepare for this daunting task, I studied the sages. After deep research, confined mainly to Dave Barry's "Complete Guide to Guys," I am forced to a humbling conclusion. The bare truth is that we males are spectacularly ignorant of what it takes to please women.

Based on my research, one question has universally plagued men through the ages. What causes our affinity for that elusive subject who only rarely reveals her true nature?

First, let me remind you, it is our sublime fate to be forever linked to the lassies. A

pithy adage of King James V of Scotland sums up this point nicely:

*"It cam' wi' a lass
And it'll gang wi' a lass"*

Four centuries ago, the French thinker Pascal revealed a basic paradox: "The strength of women comes from the fact that psychology cannot explain them. Men can be analyzed, women adored". Today, his point is made tersely in planetary terms: "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus." Though, in reality, we all live on Earth, midway between those emotional extremes, our natures fused in a vital embrace.

But the stakes in this game are high: For Shakespeare, Cleopatra was "an unparalleled lass." For Octavian Caesar, Cleo was worth a detour, if not the whole trip. Pascal gives us a stunning take on this storied beauty: "Si le nez de Cléopâtre eut été plus court, toute la face de la Terre aurait été changée". But nose lengths aside, it's clear one must master the relationship rules to reap the rich rewards of enduring love.

Just what are these rules? Boiled down like the haggis, advice in storefront magazines holds that women live to explore their feelings. Communication, they say, is the key to a happy relationship. For men, it seems, action is critical, not talk. Indeed, I am told, the four words most feared by men in any relationship are: "Honey, can we talk?"

Even marriage, that sacred union blessed in heaven, but grounded in law, sparks controversy. Oscar Wilde, who knew that "in married households, the champagne is rarely first rate", tartly observed that "marriage is the one topic on which all women can agree and all men disagree". Intuitively though, who can fault that Scottish lassie who, when warned by her father how solemn a thing it is to get married, replied: "I ken that father, but 'tis a great deal solemnner to be single".

Our Immortal Bard, who we celebrate tonight, led a charmed life, dallying in a dynamic equilibrium between his patient wife and willing lasses. Listen to his youthful exuberance for the ladies:

*Green grow the rashes, O
Green grow the rashes, O
The sweetest hours that e'er I spend
Are spent among the lasses, O!*

Even more to the point:

*What signifies the life o' man?
An 'twere na' for the lasses, O!*

And he captured well the dilemma of the passionate male, faced by conflicting female signals:

*Their tricks an' craft hae put me daft
They've taen me in, an' a' that,
But clear your decks, an' here's the sex
I like the jades for a' that!*

Wilde reminds us that "Girls never marry men they flirt with". Thankfully, in this age of tango lessons and Cialis, wives no longer follow this other Wildean admonition: "Women who flirt with their own husbands are perfectly scandalous. It looks so bad. It is simply washing one's clean underwear."

Modern lasses may heed Edna St-Vincent Millay who, comparing her publishers to suitors, famously declared: "Although I reject their proposals, I welcome their advances." Now, that's all action, no talk!

Why are men so attracted to, yet confused by, the ladies? Well men, plainly our confusion comes from our earliest memories of our mothers who gave unselfishly of their love and time, nurtured us in our youth, overlooked our faults and praised us, despite our startling mediocrity. Like overcooking liver. This was a recipe for disaster. For too long, we lads just didn't "Get it".

Importantly, times changed. Now we enjoy and foster an ethos that salutes the lasses for their achievements, talents and

strong leadership at the highest levels in all fields: politics, business, science and the professions. Let us all rejoice for a' that!

Yet, despite this progress, men may still look through a glass darkly. Women may appear as a collage. A garment constantly being altered, let out and taken in. The seams do not quite match up. Her guises constantly contrive to surprise. That element of mystery, of course, is what makes it all so fascinating. The surprises and the unknown drive the passion that endures.

Robbie Burns celebrated the lassies in word and deed. The flame of his passion for them lights his poetry and songs. Burns would agree with that very modern lassie, Ms. Millay, who, with searing clarity, evokes the energy, passion and pathos of the modern romantic spirit, shining her light on why love is so critical to the human condition:

*My candle burns at both ends
It will not last the night
But ah, my foes and oh, my friends
It gives a lovely light.*

So, I remind you all that to love someone and to have that love returned is to love life itself.

Gentlemen, please be upstanding and raise your glasses in a toast to the lassies.

Reply to the Laddies

As presented by Lorna Jean Telfer

Thank you Tam. Mr. President, honoured guests, lassies and ladies,

It is a pleasure to respond to so charming a toast. I admit that my knowledge of Robbie Burns dinners and of the traditions involved was exceedingly limited when I agreed to Scot's request to reply on behalf of the lassies tonight. My Scottish roots do run deep however with my mother's side tracing her roots to King Fergus I whose reign began b.c. 330, a contemporary of Alexander the Great. The Telfers on the other hand are made famous in an ancient ballad relating to

their prowess in stealing sheep from the English.

Any dour image of Scottish men must surely be changed by the fact that Scottish men around the world "raise their glasses and toast the lassies" on Robbie Burns birthday. It is a wonderful tradition. Ladies, before we feel too important we must also remember one of the other toasts of honour goes to the Haggis!

This is a night to not only remember the Scot poet but also to celebrate our Scottish heritage. In Montreal, it is an important part of our history with many of our streets and important institutions bearing the names of our Scottish forefathers. As a Scottish lassie, I certainly should not forget the heritage by which I come. Having married a wonderful Canadian of Irish descent with whom I have three sons. I discovered that somehow or other our boys had always been more aware of their Irish background than of things Scottish. One Sunday when they were all quite young, we were driving along Sherbrooke Street when outside of the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul came the pipers of the Black Watch brigade. I instantly told Peter to pull aside and to stop the car so the boys could see a little of their heritage. I pointed out the kilts, the tartan and the bagpipes but none of them seemed to be paying attention until the youngest, who clearly had not been listening, interrupted yelling "Look Mom - Indians". I knew that I was failing in my job. My three sons now are well aware of their Scottish heritage and that it is part of the mixture of cultures that has made Montreal a great city.

But - what of the romantic side of Scottish men – the legacy of Burns and his adoration and admiration of women (and many of them)? Have Scottish men lost their romance? I think not! The fun and romantic side of the Scottish men is never more evident than in a night such as tonight where we ladies have been toasted for our mystery and charm. Whereas women today have very

different roles in societies, there isn't one of us who would not appreciate the fact that Burns, as romantic and inconsistent as he was, had an appreciation for women that has seldom been matched.

So I'll end my thanks on behalf of the lassies by saying to all men present - our thanks for Tam's kind words, for bringing us out to dinner on what is always the coldest night of the year and for sharing a fun filled evening. And for those gentlemen whose minds have wandered during this reply I will close with an adaption of the words of the immortal bard written for a lovely lass who had lifted her eyes from the bible during church and was looking a little guilty.

*"Fair Laddie you need not take the hint
Nor idle texts pursue
Twas guilty sinners that he meant
Not angels such as you!"*

Membership

The Society is very pleased to welcome life member, Ms. Annabel Soutar and the following six annual members: Mr. Angus Bell, Mr. Steven Calafatis, Mr. Kenneth Fraser, Mrs. Crystal Gale Rember, Mr. John Mark Stockdale and Mrs. Anne Fraser (annual associate).

We encourage all current members and associate members to let their friends know about the St. Andrew's Society and to come and participate in our functions. The Society plays an important role in the preservation of Scottish culture and traditions in addition to providing assistance with education and welfare.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the Society or becoming more involved, please contact the Society's Offices.

Future Member

We are pleased to announce that Karen Beaulieu and Clarence Epstein have had a

daughter, Marlo Alexandra Noemie Epstein, born on October 11, 2007.

Three New Books at the Atwater Library

Atwater Library is the home of the St. Andrew's Society's Scottish Collection, a collection of books on Scotland, Scots in Canada, by Scots or about Scottish subjects. The Scottish Collection, launched in 2005, now contains more than 900 books. The Atwater Library is located at 1200 Atwater (corner Tupper). For more information check out the website at www.atwaterlibrary.ca or call 514.935.7344. Book donations are most welcome.

Sir William C. Macdonald

A Biography by Montrealer William Fong, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007.

The first biography of one of the most important Canadians of the nineteenth century offers fresh insights into the birth of the tobacco industry and educational philanthropy in Canada.

Sir William Macdonald (1831-1917) is the father of the Canadian tobacco industry and one of the country's foremost educational philanthropists. His contributions to McGill University transformed it into one of the world's foremost research and teaching institutions. William Fong's biography places Macdonald's life in its historical context, painting a vivid portrait of Victorian Canada.

Born into a prominent Scottish family on Prince Edward Island, Macdonald rejected his Catholic upbringing and left home when he was eighteen. After three years in Boston as a bookkeeper, he headed to Montreal and began to work as a commission agent. By 1868, Macdonald had become the leading manufacturer of chewing tobacco in Canada, and by 1885, he may have been the richest person in the country.

Macdonald turned to philanthropy when he was in his fifties; his endowments to institutions from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia made professionalism and practical education central to Canadian life. Fong describes in particular how McGill University evolved, largely through Macdonald's financial contributions, from an impoverished institution into an intellectual powerhouse. Most famously, he financed the research that led to Ernest Rutherford's Nobel Prize and to the start of the atomic age. Sir William Macdonald offers the first detailed look at the development of engineering, physics, and law at McGill. *Text courtesy of McGill Queen's University Press.*

Love over Scotland

Fiction by Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith, Anchor, 2007.

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of over sixty books on a wide array of subjects. For many years, he was Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh and served on national and international bioethics bodies. Then in 1999, he achieved global recognition for his award-winning No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, and thereafter devoted his time to the writing of fiction, including the 44 Scotland Street.

With his characteristic warmth, inventiveness and brilliant wit, Alexander McCall Smith gives us more of the gloriously entertaining comings and goings at 44 Scotland Street, the Edinburgh townhouse. Six-year-old prodigy Bertie perseveres in his heroic struggle for truth and balanced good sense against his insufferable mother and her crony, the psychotherapist Dr Fairbairn. Domenica sets off on an anthropological odyssey with pirates in the Malacca Straits, while Pat attracts several handsome admirers, including a toothsome suitor named Wolf. And Big Lou, eternal source of coffee and good advice to her friends, has love, heartbreak and erstwhile boyfriend Eddie's

misdemeanours on her own mind. *Text courtesy of Alexander McCall Smith's website.*

TARTAN – Romancing the Plaid

Fashion and Lifestyle book by Jeffrey Banks and Doriade LaChapelle, Rizzoli, 2007.



William "Braveheart" Wallace did battle in it. Queen Victoria decked Balmoral in it. Madonna donned it to strut around the stage. Tartan, the beloved symbol of kin, clan and nation to the Scots, has evolved into the one of the world's favourite fabrics. Serving as inspiration for designers of everything from haute couture to furniture, tartan mania is in full swing. Fashion world insiders Jeffrey Banks and Doria de La Chapelle have written the definitive book on tartan, bringing together a dizzying array of images to tell the story of tartan's humble beginnings to its current status as the ultimate emblem of great taste and high fashion. In addition to chronicling tartan enthusiasts from every age—including the incomparably fashionable Duke of Windsor whose closet was jam-packed with tartan kilts—Tartan profiles the designers who've made tartan an integral part of their work, from punk-inspired provocateurs Vivienne Westwood, Jean-Paul Gaultier, and Alexander McQueen to the

more refined fashions of titan Ralph Lauren and Burberry. The perfect mix of a fashion and lifestyle book, this volume explores the global phenomena of tartan mania. *Text courtesy of Rizzoli's website.*

This article was prepared by Mary Leslie-Aitken, Member of the Board of Directors of the Atwater Library and Life Member of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.



The First Minister's New Years Message

Source:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2007/12/28092343>

In a special video New Year message, recorded at Kinnaird Head Lighthouse in Fraserburgh, First Minister Alex Salmond says that 2007 was a good year for Scotland, but 2008 can be even better.

This is Kinnaird Head lighthouse - just about, but not quite, the most easterly point in Scotland. Over there - that's Norway.

The light from here used to shine some 28 miles into the North Sea guiding fishermen home to harbour, just like they came home for this holiday season.

I love New Year - a time for family, for reunions, for taking stock, for looking back and looking forward.

2007 was a good year for Scotland but, you know what, 2008 will be even better.

In 2008 we can keep up the momentum and keep the country moving forward. If 2007 was a year of optimism, then 2008 can be a year of achievement and success.

We have plenty of social problems to meet in Scotland but we can overcome them if we set about them with a will.

There are chill winds blowing in the international economy but Scotland can be the exception if we match and marry our human talent to our competitive advantage.

There is more recognition of Scotland, people are becoming more aware of Scotland internationally. That is one of our great advantages if we capture and market that.

Now, 2007 saw triumphs for Scotland in sport, culture and in politics.

In sport our football team restored national pride. We won the world cup in golf, a Scot won the Indy 500 and even a Wimbledon title.

In a vibrant cultural scene the National Theatre conquered America with its production of *The Black Watch* and a Scot won the X Factor.

And we had a bit of progress in politics as well.

Best of all, 70 other countries from around the world entrusted Glasgow and Scotland with hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

And so the Scottish Government's policies will reflect the new mood in the nation by realising that the days of waiting for Westminster to do things for Scotland - these days are over.

We need to make our own initiatives now, solve our own problems, take our own opportunities.

There is a growing realisation that this country has the talent and ability to stand on its own two feet and we have got to find the democratic structure that will allow us to do that. That is what 2008 is going to be all about.

So, wherever you are this Ne'erday have a happy and successful 2008.



Editor's Words...



My name is Jennifer and in searching for a way to become more involved with the Society and some of its activities, I have volunteered to help in publishing the Journal. Originally from Shelburne, Ontario, I graduated from the University of Toronto in Engineering Science. After a short while, I moved on to complete my Masters in Forensic Engineering and Science at Cranfield University – Royal Military College in Shrivenham, England. Now, I find myself in Montreal with my employment at the Canadian Space Agency.

My appreciation of Scotland, its people and culture come primarily from my parents: both immigrants to Canada in the late sixties. My mother, who is my Scottish connection, had my sister and I wearing kilts from when we were babies. She always told us little stories of growing up in Glasgow as a little girl and what it was like to work in a shipbuilder along the Clyde as a young woman. Also, she made sure we were aware of our family connection to the Isle of Islay and Mull.

I have been fortunate enough to have travelled to Scotland many times; to see the generous people in my grandparent's neighbourhood, to cherish those few opportunities to eat fish & chips from a newspaper wrapper, to experience the awe inspiring landscapes and of course each Scotsman who is fiercely proud of it and his history.

I know that being a part of the Society will allow me to know and experience more about what it is to be Scottish and I hope that through some of the small articles printed in the Journal and Society's activities, you will be able to explore your own heritage as well.

I encourage anyone who would like to write an article about the Society, its events and history, about your experiences and travels to Scotland or some interesting tidbits

you would like to share with the member's as a whole, please send your letters, stories and articles to the Society. From there, I will be glad to review and find a place for them in the Journal.

Book: The Scots of Montreal

This 156 page illustrated book, based on the McCord Museum exhibition, *The Scots: Dyed-in-the-Wool Montrealers*, was published with the generous assistance of the Society. Members may purchase their copy of the book directly from the Society for \$25. Discover just how rooted the Scottish thistle is in Montreal's soil.

Private Rental Spaces: Households and Business Storage

Lock-It Storage Inc. has been providing a storage locker to the Society for many years. Their clean and secure facility is located five minutes from downtown just below Westmount, off the Glen at 4840 Acorn Street.

Mini storage is an inexpensive way to safely store personal and business items. They offer sizes as small as a closet or as large as a garage.

Society Ties

The Society ties are still available. The embroidered logo on the tie is a golden rampant lion on a cross. These navy blue ties are similar to the Society's previous ties, except that the logo is larger and they are made of silk. The price of these ties, including taxes and delivery, is only \$20. If you are interested in purchasing one of these ties, please contact the Society's office.

Homecoming Scotland 2009

Festivities are scheduled to take place marking the 250th anniversary of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, in 2009. Burns

is only to be the backdrop of the yearlong celebrations, which will highlight Scottish contributions: golf, whiskey, innovation and enlightenment. For more information visit: <http://www.homecomingscotland.com/>.

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