



# THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

WINTER/SPRING 2019

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is no quiet time for the St. Andrew's Society! Kilt Skate and Burns Supper in January, WhiskyFête in mid-February, and Curling for Dummies (and even a few smart people) in mid-March: these events all speak to a vibrant and active membership. Of course, these events all happen because of members who volunteer their time, and who are coordinated via the particularly great organizational and executive skills in our office—thank you Margo and thank you Sara!

When I returned to Montreal in 2002 after a fifteen-year “layover” in Toronto, I knew I wanted to get involved in something that would give back to the community, but do so in a way that would at the same time foster and grow the reputation of Montreal Scots.

This, in a city where that image had regrettably diminished over the decades as more and more Anglos moved away, myself included. In attending my first AGM of the St. Andrew's Society in 2003 when Ian Aitken became president, I realized that the Society was the organization through which I could channel that desire and strive to achieve those goals.

Somewhat, as Montreal has been reborn as a vibrant and growing city after a difficult period economically and politically, I believe that the public's awareness of the contribution of Montreal Scots and Scottish cultural institutions and pastimes has also come back into being recognized as key part of the fabric of this city. However, not just recognized, but also celebrated, as your Society has been pushing the agenda at all levels: governmental, social, educational, medical, and cultural.

But—we cannot rest in our mission. It is too easy in today's world to be assimilated, marginalized and categorized by others as a lesser cultural identity in our own city. Our well-publicized struggle to have the *sgian-dubh* removed from the municipal ordinances as a weapon remains perhaps the best-known point of contention of late. Who of us, who choose to sport the celebrated “fish knife,” hasn't given pause to think if today is the today I will be stopped by the police and given a ticket, and therefore hesitate to put the *accessoire écossais* into your kilt hosiery... *sine causa accusatus*.

The irony of this bylaw challenge in being a Scot in Montreal is that there are now so many events and places to display and be proud of your cultural heritage. There really is no excuse not to wear your tartan! This happy circumstance is a result of the very healthy organizational structure that exists at the Society today to bring these opportunities to you our members, and to all Montrealers.

While the current council, executive and committees run the show on a daily basis, we would be nowhere if we didn't have “depth on our bench” (wishful thinking to have the Expos return?) that sees tremendous dedication from our past presidents, who without exception have all stayed involved and given of their time, expertise and financial support.

Cover: The Tyne Cot cemetery near Passchendale, Belgium is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world.

## ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

### President

Jason W. R. MacCallum

### First Vice President

Marilyn J. Meikle

### Second Vice President

Guthrie J. Stewart

### Executive Director

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Part of the reason your Society has this great pool of talent behind the scenes is the good regulatory structure that exists for incoming executive roles. The two-year terms ascribed to the 2nd vice president, 1st vice president, president, and immediate past president ensure a constant turnover, allowing for new blood and fresh ideas to keep our organization inclusive and forward thinking.

Additionally, in becoming a progressive organization and leveraging today's technological efficiencies such as social media and alternative communication channels, we seek to be more targeted and relevant to our members and event-goers as we move forward with a seemingly ever-expanding agenda.

Since last year, when we chose to assist the Montreal Neurological Institute (the Neuro) with the proceeds of WhiskyFête, we have established a close rapport with not only their advancement team but also many senior doctors at the Neuro. In the past few months, we have further built our relationship, and this has recently culminated in a three-year agreement through 2021 that will see WhiskyFête assist the Neuro and McGill as they embark on a new "International Neurological Collaboration" with the University of Edinburgh.

This exciting new partnership will involve an exchange of research doctors from the two cities and create a trans-Atlantic scientific connection between Montreal and Edinburgh. Thus, it may well be in the coming year that we are able to provide a measure of comfort and welcome to these Scottish medical émigrés as they arrive on our shores—a modern take on our original mission of 1835!

This is my last "President's Message" for the Journal, as I will be finishing my two-year term at our upcoming AGM in May. I have indeed enjoyed the opportunity to serve and lead in this role, and look forward to continuing to contribute as a past president going forward. My thanks to you all for your ongoing dedication.

Your Society needs you! Get involved—Scots Care!

Yours aye,

Jason MacCallum

## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting of the St. Andrew's Society is scheduled to take place on **Monday, May 13, 2019, at 7:00 PM**. Notice is hereby given that nominations to Council may now be submitted in accordance with the Society's by-laws. Section 2 of Article V of the by-laws, as amended, reads as follows:

"Ninety (90) days before the holding of the annual general meeting of members, the General Secretary shall inform members that nominations to Council for the ensuing year may now be submitted. Each individual nomination must be signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing and the nominee's written consent obtained. Nominations, along with written consents of the nominees, must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the annual general meeting. Forthwith, after the close of nominations, the Honorary Secretary shall forward all nominations to the Nominating Committee. These nominations shall be included by the Nominating Committee in the list of nominees submitted to the annual general meeting by the Committee."

Please send your documents to: Honorary Secretary, St. Andrew's Society, 1195 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal QC H3A 1H9. They must be received before March 29, 2019.

**If you have not yet renewed your annual membership for 2019**, you may do so on our website at [www.standrews.qc.ca/membership-renewal](http://www.standrews.qc.ca/membership-renewal), or send your annual dues (\$40 suggested contribution) to our office.

## WELCOME

to our newest St. Andrew's Society members!

Ross Alexander Aitken  
 Robert Blyth  
 David Boyle  
 Martin Clark  
 Michelle Glennie  
 Blair Hardiman  
 Ronald Hornsby  
 Lauren Ierullo  
 Karen Elizabeth Knechtel  
 Taylor Laframboise  
 Shannon Longtin  
 Myles Gordon MacPherson  
 Linda Zema MacPherson  
 Graeme McGravie  
 Andrew Robert Munden  
 Marc-André Nault  
 Florence Regimbald-Roy  
 David Réal Stéphane Ross  
 Laura Somerville  
 Nicholas Synnott

## IN MEMORIAM: SOCIETY HISTORIAN MARY JOHNSTON COX



By Gillian Leitch

Mary Johnston (née Gordon) Cox (1924–2018) passed away on October 5, 2018 in Metcalfe, Ontario after a long illness. Mary joined the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal in 1973 and was a life member. Mary was named the Society's Honourary Historian. She was passionate about history, and in her work for the Society was responsible for the care of its archives from 1973 to 2012. Mary wrote extensively on the Society's past for our newsletter, and wrote the history that has graced our Membership Handbook since 2001. She also served on Council from 1998.

Mary was the wife of Frank M. Cox, also a member of the St. Andrew's Society, and worked for Air Canada for many years. She is survived by her children Moira (Jim), Fiona (Noel), Michael (Susan) and Malcolm (Micheline), as well as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on October 10 at the Collins Funeral Home, and was attended by a number of Society members in tribute to her devoted work for the Society.

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Mary Johnston Cox  
 1924–2018

Col. Stephen F. Angus  
 1933–2018



# THE BLACK WATCH RETURNS TO MONS

By Ian Aitken

It was in Mons that the German and British Armies first met, and on August 21, 1914, Private John Parr of the 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment was the first Commonwealth soldier killed during The Great War. Just over four years later, on November 11, 1918, Private George Lawrence Price of the Canadian Infantry became the last Commonwealth soldier to die in what was then referred to as the “War To End All Wars.” Both soldiers died near Mons and are buried yards apart at St. Symphorien, a Belgian cemetery that contains the remains of 229 Commonwealth soldiers and 284 German soldiers. The small, well-kept cemetery belies the horror of the First World War during which at least 15 million people died, making it among the deadliest conflicts in human history.

The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada recently returned to Mons to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Over one hundred officers, soldiers, reservists, veterans, pipers, drummers and camp followers participated. The trip was memorable and moving as we recalled the efforts of the 11,954 officers and enlisted men who fought, the 6,014 who were wounded and the 2,163 who were killed. The Black Watch delegation was led by Past President of the Society and Honorary Colonel of the Black Watch Dan O'Connor. Past President Bruce Bolton, a former Commanding Officer of the Black Watch, was responsible for organizing the *Return to Mons*, and the tremendous success of the expedition was in no small part due to his efforts. Past Council Member and Pipe Major Andrew Kerr and Eric Booth, a former Fraser Highlander and Black Watch Piper, were also instrumental in the planning and execution of the *Return to Mons*.

On November 8, the Black Watch contingent paraded through the street of Ypres to the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing where they participated in the Last Post ceremony. Between October 1914 and September 1918, hundreds of thousands of servicemen of the British Empire marched



*Piper Major Andy Kerr (far left), in period uniform, leads the band through the streets of Wallers, France*

through the town of Ypres's Menin Gate on their way to the nearby battlefields. Listed on the monument are the names of more than 54,000 soldiers who died before August 16, 1917 and who have no known grave. Past President Bolton played the Black Watch lament *Lochaber No More*, with the sound of his pipes resonating under the high arches of the gate, and later Past President O'Connor, wearing General Loomis' dirk, recited the words of the poet John Maxwell Edmonds:

*When you go Home, tell them of us and say,  
for your Tomorrow, we gave our Today.*

There are only two Canadian National Historic sites that are not located in Canada. The largest is the 100-hectare preserved battlefield of Vimy Ridge near Arras. The striking Canadian National Vimy Memorial unveiled by King Edward VIII during 1936 is the centerpiece of the Park. There was a moving candlelit ceremony on November 9, during which the image of 66,000 poppies projected on the limestone



*Pipe Major Cameron Stevens at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France*

monument disappeared one by one into the heavens as *Amazing Grace* was played. Each poppy represented a Canadian or Newfoundlander who gave their life in the name of peace and freedom. The memorial serves to remind us of the high price of war, and is meant to inspire us to work toward that lasting peace for which those commemorated gave their lives.

The second National Historic site not located in Canada is the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial which is dedicated to the commemoration of Dominion of Newfoundland forces members who were killed during World War I. On July 1, 1916, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the Newfoundland Regiment suffered disastrous casualties. Of the approximately 800 men who went forward, only about 110 survived unscathed, of whom only 68 were available for roll call the following day. The Divisional Com-

mander later wrote of the Newfoundlanders effort:

*It was a magnificent display of trained and disciplined valour, and its assault failed of success because dead men can advance no further.*

In recognition of their sacrifice, Memorial Day in Newfoundland and Labrador is marked on July 1, not November 11, and the regiment was renamed the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Visitors to the memorial can clearly see the Allied and the German trenches, and most are surprised by just how close together they are and just how peaceful it is just over one hundred years later.

Between October 23 and November 4, 1918, the Black Watch was based in the town of Wallers. Major General Loomis, the Divisional Commander overseeing the Black Watch, noted in his war diary that his room had been “previously occupied a short while before by the German Army Commander Von Graff.” And so, one hundred years later, we returned to the town that the Black Watch had liberated for a memorable day of commemoration and celebration. In addition to the Black Watch soldiers and the pipe band wearing period uniforms, a goat by the name of Flora Stuart II also marched with us, just as the 13th Battalion’s mascot had done one hundred years earlier. The day’s events started with a wreath-laying at a monument dedicated to local and Canadian soldiers, and then moved to the town square in front of a church for speeches about Canada’s role in the liberation and songs sung by students and elected officials. Lieutenant-Colonel Bruno Plourde, Commanding Officer of the Black Watch, also addressed the crowd. There was then a parade through the town, led by a large pipe band dressed in period uniforms, to the location where Corporal Hugh Gray was killed by a German mortar shell just days before the end of the war. There a plaque was unveiled, a street was renamed, and the local people then hosted a heartfelt reception for their Canadian liberators. Eric Booth, a former Black Watch reservist said, “To walk in the footsteps of those who came before us, whether in the Black Watch or other regiments—it’s moving. The people have made us feel very welcome.”

The town of Wallers was just one of many towns that the Black Watch passed through during the last week of the First World War as the Canadian army liberated the entire region of Mons, from Quiévrain to Casteau. This “Pursuit to Mons” was part of the “Hundred Days of Canada,” a series of offensives in 1918 on the Western Front during which

the Canadian corps spearheaded the armies of the British Empire. And so, it was in Mons that Her Excellency Julie Payette, the Governor General of Canada, laid a wreath on November 10 and that the Black Watch contingent gathered en masse to unveil a plaque, parade through town and mark the Centenary of the Armistice. The Mayor of Mons wrote:

*On November 11, 2018, Mons will host a festival of events to celebrate the end of World War I. Mons would especially like to thank Canada by "colouring the city" in the colours of the nation that liberated us. The City of Mons would like to acknowledge and commemorate the sacrifices that this young nation made to bring about the end of the Great War.*

During the Remembrance Service in the main square, Cameron Stevens, a Member of Council of our Society and the Senior Pipe Major for the Canadian Army, had the distinct honor of playing *Flowers of the Forest* from the balcony of the Hôtel de Ville. His solo performance had the crowd of more than ten thousand people listening to every note, many of them in tears. Later, Les Violons du Roy from Quebec City and l'Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie were part of an impressive performance of the European anthem, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," which ended the ceremony on an optimistic note.

The *Return to Mons* was an emotional journey for many of us, and I consider myself fortunate to have been able to remember and commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice with The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada along with a small group of friends. As Rudyard Kipling reminds us in the first verse of his *Recessional* poem, the sacrifices of the past should not be forgotten.

*God of our fathers, known of old,  
Lord of our far-flung battle line,  
Beneath whose awful hand we hold  
Dominion over palm and pine—  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*Author's note:* For those interested in learning more about the first day of the war around Mons, I recommend episode one of the BBC *Our World War* series entitled "The First Day." Peter Jackson's masterpiece entitled *They Shall Not Grow Old* is also outstanding. I thank my travel mates Bruce McNiven, Guthrie Stewart, Benn Mikula, Murdoch Laing and Pieter Feith for being a part of the expedition, and Bruce Bolton for allowing camp followers such as ourselves to join the Black Watch group. This article is dedicated to my great-grandfather, Lt. Col. Wm. Drysdale, DSO of the Royal Scots, who died serving as Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment, near Guedecourt on September 29, 1916.



*The Black Watch band in period uniforms at their former barracks in Mons, Belgium*

# SCOTS CARE!

## YOUR ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY AND THE MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES WORKING TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY

By Brian MacKenzie

Your Highland Games team has been busy preparing for the 42nd edition of the Montreal Highland Games. We have already conducted reviews of the 2018 Highland Games back in September and October, we have met with Verdun infrastructure and event managers, and held meetings with the Douglas Hospital Foundation and our committee. This great work is all in support of our 2019 events which include a Caber Parade on August 1, the Wee Ceilidh at the Burgundy Lion Pub on August 2, and, of course, the Highland Games on August 4.

Here are a few photos of our Society and the Montreal Highland Games: our organizations reaching out to provide financial assistance to the organizations that in turn step up to help us at the Games.



Laura Fish, Executive Director of the Douglas Institute Foundation, receives a cheque for \$20,000 from Brian MacKenzie, President of the Montreal Highland Games and Marilyn Meikle, Ball Chair for the 2018 St. Andrew's Society Ball.



Our first-ever Athletics Clinic raised \$1000 for the Douglas Hospital Foundation. Suzanne Bélanger receives the cheque from Brian MacKenzie, President of the Montreal Highland Games, and Jason Baines, our Head of Athletics.



Jamie Orchard of Global News and Sean Smith, Coordinator of the Caledonian Run at the Montreal Highland Games, present a cheque to Suzanne Bélanger of the Douglas Hospital Foundation. This year's Run raised \$2000 for the Douglas.



Douglas Leahy receives a cheque for \$500 from our Montreal Highland Games committee lead Greg Hamilton. Our sincere thanks to Scouts Canada for assisting at the Games with waste and recycling management.



Ron Kappert of the Granny Grunts receives a cheque from Montreal Highland Games President Brian MacKenzie in appreciation for the work this group does for the Games and in promoting Scottish culture.



Master Corporal Brook Vivian, on behalf of the Black Watch of Montreal's Red Hackle Club, receives a cheque for \$500 from the Society and Highland Games' own Master Warrant Officer Cameron Stevens. We truly appreciate the work the Black Watch did at our 2018 Games.

## 1ST ANNUAL CALEDONIAN CIRCLE DINNER

With the McGill Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies now up and running, it may seem that we as a Society can put it on the back burner with so many other endeavours underway. However, President Jason MacCallum decided that it was important to keep this cause front and centre with the Society and thus organized the 1st Annual Caledonian Circle Dinner in aid of the Chair.

Held on a snowy Thursday evening, November 16, 2018, this intimate gourmet fundraising dinner with twelve people in attendance took place in the wine-cellar dining room at the Montreal Racket Club. Our guest of honour, most appropriately, was Professor Don Nerbas, who is the professor for the Canadian-Scottish Studies programme. This dinner gave an informal way for our dinner patrons to interact and converse with Professor Nerbas and hear about the Chair as well as potential opportunities to assist grad students in their studies going forward.

Approximately \$5000 was raised in one night by this small but important event. Our thanks go out to all those who attended, and to McGill for being a valued partner in this undertaking. Let us look forward to fall 2019 and our 2nd Caledonian Circle Dinner!



*Clockwise from bottom left: Nicholas Synnott, LCol Bruc Bolton, Peter McAuslan (hidden), Scott MacKenzie, Ross Aitken, Pres. Jason MacCallum, Scott McArthur, John Hart, Prof. Don Nerbas, Martha Hancock, 2nd VP Guthrie Stewart, 1st VP Marilyn Meikle*

## REPORT FROM THE

## 2018 ST. ANDREW'S BALL

Ball week began with the Atwater Library lecture by Elizabeth Kirkland, Ph.D., who discussed Lady Julia Drummond (1860–1942) and her contributions to social reform in Canada and the Great War effort in Montreal and London, where she served as head of the Canadian Red Cross Information Bureau. Society Past President Bruce McNiven is a direct descendant of the Drummond family.

The Cantlie Hotel was the site of the St. Andrew's Luncheon, and Guest of Humour George Bowser reminded guests of how quickly time had passed since he last attended in 2012. His witty comparison of politics, road construction, and life "south of the border" kept the audience well-entertained.

It was joy to chair the Charity Ball and work with a committed group of volunteers. Guest of Honour Ronald Munro Ferguson and his wife Erica thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Montreal. In particular, they were impressed by the many volunteers whose time and effort are invested in the activities of the Society. They also commented on the fun they had dancing the reels!

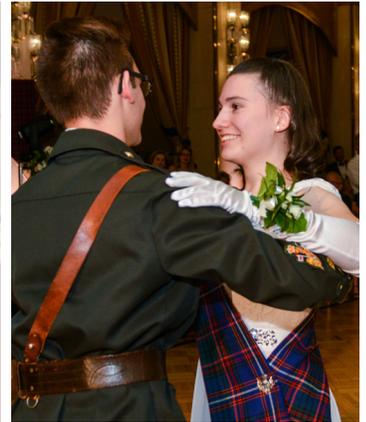
Held on the Patron Saint's holiday this year, guests at the Ball dined on a sumptuous meal that was blessed by the Reverend Rosemary Lambie and Grand Chief Joseph Norton, and danced until the wee hours of the morning in the ballroom and in the Scottish Arms Pub. The "Dance of the War Flowers" presentation was a spectacular and poignant tribute to the evening's theme. The debutantes and escorts danced with ease. Thanks to those who donated items to the Silent Auction and to those who bid, we were able to present a \$20,000 cheque to the Douglas Hospital Foundation.

The Ball's theme honoured the touring art exhibition *War Flowers*, and the centrepieces represented two flowers in particular: the daisy, for innocence, and the yellow rose, for familial love. These two themes can have many personal interpretations. I choose to believe that for one night a year, in a ballroom filled with the skirl of bagpipes, we can choose to celebrate the innocence and joy of youth among a group of people who, though not related by blood, have grown to become our family.

It has been a wonderful two years as Ball Chair and I look forward to supporting Guthrie Stewart as I hand over the reins to him for 2019.

Marilyn Meikle  
1st Vice President  
Ball Chair





MEET OUR  
**DEBUTANTES AND ESCORTS**  
 FROM THE 2018 BALL

**Elizabeth Giagnacovo** and **Christina Wagner**, Chairladies of the Debutante Programme, served as mentors for our debutantes and stepped into their roles with dedication, all while maintaining their own university course loads. Each year, the Youth Committee of the St. Andrew's Society welcomes all debutantes and escorts into its ranks as both full and associate members. Debs and escorts are fabulous volunteers at the Children's Christmas party in December. I couldn't think of a better group to represent the future of our Society. This year we had four exceptional debutantes and their escorts:

**FRANCES GRACE MARGARET D'ANCY CHAMBERS**

Frances is in her first year of CEGEP at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf in Arts and Sciences. She is a graduate of Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School, having attended since kindergarten. During the summer, Frances teaches at a sailing camp in Memphremagog, where she is a sailing instructor to junior campers. She has also sailed competitively for six years. During the school year, she is part of Brébeuf's debate team and competes in tournaments provincially and nationally. In her free time, she enjoys playing piano and singing.

*Accompanied by*

**ALLAN ANGUS OGILVY AITKEN**

While his full name is Allan Angus Ogilvy Aitken, most people call him Angus and, "recognize me because of my red hair." Angus graduated from Selwyn House School with the Veritas diploma and is currently a student at Lower Canada College in the Pre-U program. During the summer, he coaches sailing and builds things. In the winter, he is part of the Orford cross-country ski team and last year completed the Canadian Ski Marathon as a Coureur des Bois Gold for the second time. He enjoys designing and making things and spending time outdoors. Although he doesn't play the bagpipes, he has been to Scotland and has been a page and an escort at the St. Andrews Ball.

**MALINA ALEXANDRA MAGAZIN**

Alexandra is a 20-year-old McGill University student, pursuing a major in law and a minor in mathematics. She hails from Romania, but considers Montreal her home. She enjoys all things dance-related, and is always looking for new dance genres to add to her repertoire. In her spare time, you can find her perfecting her ballet technique, choreographing to a range of songs or reading fiction. She enjoyed the opportunity to be a debutante at the St Andrew's Ball.

*Accompanied by*

**TUDOR GURAU**

Tudor is a 20-year-old student at McGill University where he is currently in his second year of software engineering. Hailing from a small town in Transylvania, Romania, he now resides in Montreal. He spends most of his free time hanging out with friends or playing video games. It was in CEGEP, at Marianopolis College's Swing Dance Club, that Tudor's passion for dancing was born. Part of the McGill robotics team, Tudor aspires to work in software development in the hopes of creating a more technologically proficient future.

If you know of a young lady or gentleman who would like to be a debutante or escort at the 2019 Ball, please contact our office at 514-842-2030.

**SABRINA ELIZABETH MRUCZEK**

Sabrina is a graduate of Queen of Angels Academy and Marianopolis College, and is currently a second-year student on the Dean's List at Concordia University where she is studying environmental sciences. Passionate about the environment, she hopes to one day work in river and natural water restoration. She is a seasoned traveller and loves learning about new cultures. This year, she will add Sweden and Denmark to her list of countries visited. She loves the outdoors, skiing, biking, rock climbing and canoeing. Sabrina has volunteered in a dog adoption centre and hopes to next volunteer in a song bird sanctuary.

*Accompanied by*

**GREGORY ALEK ABEDI**

Gregory was dedicated to the Black Watch Cadet Corps from 2012 to 2018, and just recently aged out in November. In 2017, Gregory travelled to the Yukon for the Army Cadet National Expedition as one of the top 18 cadets in Canada. While there, he canoed 400 kilometers of the Yukon River and hiked 60 kilometers in Tombstone Territorial Park. Gregory now teaches survival training, sports and fitness to younger cadets. In the summer of 2018, he was one of 50 cadets who attempted the Canadian Armed Forces Basic Parachutist course, and now wears his jump wings with pride. Among his many awards and badges, he is most proud of receiving the Lord Strathcona Medal. Gregory is the Co-Chairman of the Saint Andrew's Society Youth Committee.

**MIRIAM ELSPETH PATERSON**

Miriam will be graduating from Collège Jean-de Brébeuf this year in international studies. Having grown up arguing and debating around the dinner table every night, she now participates in intercollegial debate with Brébeuf's English debate team. She plans on taking a year off after CEGEP to travel in Europe and work in Southeast Asia to fulfill her lifelong goal of travelling to her birthplace, Tokyo, Japan. She spends her summers lounging in the middle of lakes under the pretext that she is coaching the Sargent's Bay Yacht Club's race team. Long term, she wants to complete a Bachelor of Arts to then go into human resources or law.

*Accompanied by*

**CYRIL-VINCENT ALÖS MANI**

Cyril is in his final year at College Jean-de-Brébeuf in pure and applied sciences. Since he's been lost in space for as long as he can remember, he's planning to study aerospace engineering at McGill next year and eventually pursue an MBA. Being a rhetoric fanatic, he's also captain of the French debate team of his school and presently ranks first in the CEGEP circuit. He lives every day with the philosophy of bettering himself and pushing others to do the same. This is helped by his start-up MICREAU, where he develops the ingenuity of youngsters by assisting them in innovating projects such as aquaponics. Cyril relaxes by going on hikes or singing Elvis Presley songs while cooking.



*2018 Ball debutantes, escorts, mentors, and guests of honour*

# GREG'S GUIDE TO SCOTLAND

## THE AYRSHIRE COAST

By Gregory Doyle

At this time of year all thoughts turn to the Bard of Ayrshire, and a trip down the Ayrshire coast to Burns' country is full of fun for the whole family.

The cottage in which Burns was born on January 25, 1759 still stands and is just a couple of miles down the road from Ayr. For the more ambitious, park your car at the Low Green in Ayr itself and enjoy a beautiful walk along the beach towards the River Doon. Follow the river up to the Secret Garden café and enjoy a light lunch washed down with the ubiquitous Irn Bru. From there, it is just another fifteen minutes up the road to the cottage itself. While just a modest two-room building built by his father, there is also a more modern Burns museum down the road in Alloway itself which also has plenty of parking. The museum stands not far from Auld Alloway Kirkyard, the infamous site where the De'il himself holds court in Burns' great poem *Tam O'Shanter*. Whisk out your handy anthology of Burns or just find the poem on your mobile and scare the we'ans with a couple of stanzas. Although now reduced to a picturesque ruin, it is a fascinating spot surrounded by graves, including one for Burns' father himself. Not far further down the road stands the famous Brig o' Doon where Tam's brave mare Meg just manages to make her escape at the cost of losing her tail.

For the golfers in the family, there is nowhere to beat the Ayrshire coast: not one, not two, but three Open Championship courses are all within a stone's throw of each other. Prestwick is the home of the first ever Open Championship, held there in 1860. You will also find Royal Troon and Turnberry, where you may even bump into President Trump who has owned the Hotel and golf club since



*Burns Cottage, Ayrshire*

2014. The magnificent Ailsa Course at Turnberry has hosted the Open on four occasions and will always be remembered for Tom Watson's famous victory over Jack Nicklaus in 1977.

The Ailsa Course is named after the lonely island of Ailsa Craig which stand a few miles offshore. In fact, the curlers amongst you may have a piece of it in your basement as its blue hone granite is widely considered the world's best for curling stones. While scientists may tell you that Ailsa Craig is the volcanic plug of an extinct volcano, we all know that it was one of the rocks that the giant Finn MacCool threw at the giant Benandonner during their epic battle over the Giant's Causeway.

The jewel of South Ayrshire, and somewhere I remember only ever blessed in glorious sunshine, is Culzean Castle. Now part of the National Trust for Scotland, this was the family seat of the Clan Kennedy who gifted it to the nation in 1945. Park your car at the old stable block which serves as a visitors' centre and restaurant, then make your way through the beautiful gardens up to the castle itself built in the neoclassical style by Robert Adam. The interiors are a sumptuous mix of Scottish baronial and *Pride and Prejudice*. You can spend a whole day exploring the gardens and grounds which are straight out of an Edwardian fairy tale, and the children can explore the rock-pools down on the beach.

Wherever you spend your day, no trip to Ayrshire is complete without a fish supper. While the standard is generally high, the Doyles invariably end up in the Piersland House Hotel where it would be considered rude not to toast the former owner (a scion of the Johnny Walker whisky family) and, of course, the Immortal Memory!

# MARGARET MURRAY ROBERTSON (1823–1861): AN EARLY SHERBROOKE STORYTELLER

By Gérard Coté (LAHMS) and Jean-Marie Dubois (Université de Sherbrooke)

Opened last autumn near du Parc Avenue in Deauville sector, a street of Sherbrooke is named after an important and so forgotten storyteller of our region. Margaret Murray Robinson was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1823, the seventh child of Elizabeth Murray and James Robertson, who was both a weaver and Congregationalist minister.

Margaret was nine years old in 1832 at the time of her mother's death, after which the family emigrated, first to Derby, Vermont. Four years later her father brought the family to Sherbrooke where he became the first minister of the local Congregationalists. In December 1835 they had formally established their congregation, and in 1855 built Plymouth Church (now known as Plymouth-Trinity), the oldest church building in Sherbrooke. Robertson served the congregation until his death in 1861.

In 1847–48, Margaret was sent to study at the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in Massachusetts. On her return she taught until 1865 at the Sherbrooke Ladies Academy. She lived in her father's home

with her older brother Joseph Gibb who, in 1867, became Sherbrooke's first member of the Quebec Legislative Assembly and later provincial treasurer for many years. Following Joseph's wedding in 1870, Margaret went to live in Montreal after having cared for many years for both her father and her brother Joseph.

A few years before leaving Sherbrooke, Margaret had started to write. The first work of which we are aware is *An Essay on Common School Education—Wisdom is the Principal Thing*, for which she won



Margaret Murray Robertson

the Alexander Tilloch Galt prize. She followed with several highly edifying novels for Sunday school children. She dealt openly with the problems of daily life: poverty, lack of faith, doubt in God's justice, emigration, homesickness, illness, alcoholism and child abuse. *Christie Redfern's Trouble* (1866) was her first full-length book, at first published by the Sunday School Union of Philadelphia under Margaret's own title, *Christie, Or the Way Home*. Christie had a lot in common with the author. The novel was a great success, so much so that Margaret was able to give up teaching and, for the next 25 years, devote herself to writing. Many of her stories are set in the Eastern Townships and Scotland, four of them in Scotland only.

In 1874, Margaret travelled to Great Britain with her brother Joseph and took the opportunity to visit her native Scotland. Her novel *Allison Bain—by a Way She Knew Not* takes place in a location much the same as her birthplace. Events close to the life of the Robertson family in Scotland are described in *The Bairns; or, Janet's Love and Service*. Both *The Two Miss Dawsons* and *The Orphans of Glen Elder* are also set in Scotland. Nine other novels followed. Margaret's heroines are young girls and mothers, often sickly or burdened with grief, having to take care of children and household chores, with indifferent fathers or brothers. Such is the story of *Shenac's Work at Home*, which was republished in 1993. Margaret Robertson's books won great success in Canada, the U.S.A. and Great Britain. Her final novel, *Eunice, a Story of Domestic Life* (1887), again contains strong autobiographical reminiscences. Margaret died in Westmount on St. Valentine's Day, 1897. She is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery in Outremont. Margaret Robertson is registered in the Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec.

*We thank Maura Mckeon-Wilkins for spotting this article in the Sherbrooke Record and sharing it with us; we are reproducing it in the Journal with the permission of the authors.*

# RECENT HAPPENINGS

Our annual **Taste of Scotland** event on October 12 was a great success again this year, with a sold-out crowd enthusiastically sampling a wide variety of fine whiskies under the skilled guidance of expert Jean-François Pilon. The historic and comfortable surroundings of the Officer's Mess at the Black Watch Armoury contributed to the genial atmosphere of the evening, as did the fine selection of gourmet foods on offer—including, of course, the traditional haggis with neeps and tatties. The event also raised money for the annual Children's Christmas Party through its raffle and leftover bottle auction, a very worthy cause for our families.



*Jean-François Pilon displaying the wares at the Taste of Scotland*

The annual **Children's Christmas Party** took place on December 16 at the Black Watch Armoury. The festivities included piping, dancing, and—of course!—Santa Claus. Many thanks to our Youth Committee, including the 2018 Ball debutantes and escorts, for arranging this fun family event. We hope to see you there next year!

For the second year in a row, the annual **Great Canadian Kilt Skate** was rescheduled due to bad weather—in this case, an extreme and dangerous cold snap that resulted in events being postponed or canceled all over the city. A small but keen group showed up on the new date of January 26 to sport their tartans on the ice. We were especially pleased to welcome former NHL player Troy Crowder who bravely skated bare-kneed in his kilt and New Jersey Devils hockey sweater. Many thanks to the Activities Committee for organizing this fun event, and to the Scottish government for their financial support.



*Braving the cold at the Kilt Skate*

We were very happy to return to the elegant Mount Royal Club on January 24 for our annual **Burns Supper**. The traditional meal of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and English trifle was accompanied by the usual Scottish pageantry in honour of Robert Burns. Campbell Oliver's retelling of the story of Tam O'Shanter was especially entertaining. Our guest of honour Peter McAuslan delivered a riveting and informative Toast to the Immortal Memory, and even sang a few nostalgic strains of *Green Grow the Rashies* for his rapt audience. Gregory Doyle gave a memorably comic Toast to the Lasses which was answered in kind by Marilyn Meikle's sharp-witted reply. Many thanks to our Dinner Chairman and piper Cameron Stevens, and to MJ Squared and Ian Aitken of Pembroke Private Wealth Management for their generous support of this event.



*Peter McAuslan at the Burns Supper*

Visit the St. Andrew's Society photo page at [standrewsmontreal.smugmug.com](http://standrewsmontreal.smugmug.com) for more pictures from these and other events!

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## WHISKYFÊTE



WhiskyFête, Montreal's premier whisky-tasting event, takes place on **Thursday, February 21** at the exclusive Mount Royal Club. This is an exceptional opportunity to sample rare and unique whiskies, accompanied by a wide variety of specially-chosen gourmet food delicacies. Monies raised at this event will benefit the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, supporting world-class research into neurological diseases and disorders such as ALS, MS, and autism. For more information, visit our website at [www.whiskyfete.org](http://www.whiskyfete.org). *As of press time, masterclass tickets are sold out, and regular tickets are going fast!*



### *Examples of the fine whiskies that will be served:*

#### THE GLENDRONACH 24 YEAR OLD 1993 (CASK 55)

We are so excited to have this incredible expression at WhiskyFête! This is a heavily-sherried release from GlenDronach's sixteenth batch of single-cask bottlings. Selected by Master Blender Rachel Barrie, the spirit was aged in a single sherry butt for 24 years, from January 1993 to 2017, before being bottled at cask strength. Only 567 bottles were produced!



#### GLENFARCLAS 25 YEAR OLD

An all-time classic, Glenfarclas 25 Year Old is the epitome of long-aged sherried Speyside, gorgeously smooth and silkily-textured, with rich, generous flavours of fruitcake, hazelnuts, dried fruit and a hint of dark chocolate and coffee. A thoroughly delightful dram.



## CURLING FOR DUMMIES

Join us on the ice on **Saturday, March 16** at 6:00 PM for our annual Curling for Dummies event. This fun and friendly game takes place at the Montreal West Curling Club, and is open to players of all ages and with any level of experience—including complete novices! Instruction will be provided to help out beginners so that everyone will have a good time on the ice. Pizza and soft drinks will be served to all players and spectators. Tickets are available on our website at [www.standrews.qc.ca/curling-for-dummies](http://www.standrews.qc.ca/curling-for-dummies). Don't delay! Spaces for players are limited, and this event is expected to sell out.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The St. Andrew's Society will again be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held this year on **Sunday, March 17** at noon. The parade route stretches through the heart of downtown Montreal, eastward along St. Catherine Street from Fort to Metcalfe. Let's show up in great number, to support our sister society and to share our pride in our Scottish heritage with the community at large!



## THE QUEBEC THISTLE COUNCIL AULD ALLIANCE AWARDS CEREMONY

The ceremony takes place on **Saturday, April 13** at 4:00 PM at the Officer's Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada. The Auld Alliance Awards are presented annually by the Quebec Thistle Committee to winners in several categories, including Scottish music, cuisine, culture, country and Highland dancing, piping, and awards for Athlete of the Year and Scotsman/Scotswoman of the year. The festivities include performances by award winners. Wine, beer and light refreshments will be served. For tickets and more information, visit the Quebec Thistle Council website at [www.quebecthistle.org](http://www.quebecthistle.org).

If you would like to nominate a candidate for an award, the deadline for nominations is March 29. Please visit the website at [www.quebecthistle.org](http://www.quebecthistle.org) for more information.



## MONTREAL 1642 TARTAN FEATURED AT THE 2019 CANADIAN SKI MARATHON

Thanks to the efforts of Society Past President Ian Aitken, the official tuque at this year's Canadian Ski Marathon features the design of the Montreal 1642 tartan. About 2,000 skiers received one of these tuques upon registration. We are proud to see our Scottish heritage in general, and the Society's efforts in particular, displayed so prominently at this iconic Canadian event.

Many thanks, Ian!

Be sure to stock up on your own Montreal 1642 accessories! Ties, scarves, sashes and yardage are available on our website at [standrews.qc.ca](http://standrews.qc.ca) or by contacting the office at 514-842-2030.

## MONTREAL 1642 TARTAN ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

The Montreal 1642 Tartan is woven by Lochcarron of Scotland and is a medium-weight tartan (13 ounce) made with 100 percent fine wool.

The St. Andrew's Society has worked with SAS member Glen Nobes of Henry Marks to create 1642 accessories, including ties, sashes and scarves. You can order these items online via the Society website.



TIE  
\$30.00



BOW TIE  
\$35.00



BOW TIE  
(PRE-TIED)  
\$35.00



SCARF  
\$70.00



SASH  
\$90.00



# ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 21, 6:30 PM

## **WHISKYFÊTE**

Mount Royal Club, Montreal

Saturday, March 16, 6 PM

## **CURLING FOR DUMMIES**

Montreal West Curling Club

Sunday, March 17, 12 PM

## **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

Downtown Montreal

Saturday, April 13, 4 PM

## **QUEBEC THISTLE COUNCIL AWARDS CEREMONY**

Officers' Mess, Black Watch Armoury, Montreal

Monday, May 13, 7 PM

## **ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

St. Andrew's Society Offices, Montreal

June (date and location to be confirmed)

## **ANNUAL SAS SUMMER BARBECUE**

Sunday, August 4

## **42ND ANNUAL MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES**

Douglas Hospital Grounds, Verdun

### **ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY ON THE WEB**

Website: [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)

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

Twitter: [twitter.com/StAndrewSociety](https://twitter.com/StAndrewSociety)

