

THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

September 2010

Upcoming Events

Taste of Scotland's Fine Foods and Malt Whisky
Officers' Mess, The Black Watch Armoury
October 15th, 2010

✂
Meeting of Council & Committee of Management
October 18th, 2010

✂
St. Andrew's Ball Guest of Honour Lecture
Atwater Library and Computer centre
November 24th, 2010

Old Brewery Mission Dinner – Ball Debutantes and Escorts
Volunteers welcome to help serve.
November 17th, 2010

✂
Debutantes' Reception and Debutantes' Reunion
Officers' Mess, Black Watch Armoury
November 24th, 2010

✂
St. Andrew's Society Luncheon with Derek Drummond
Venue to be determined.
November 25th, 2010

St. Andrew's Ball
Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the
St. Andrew's Society of Montreal
Chateau Champlain Hotel
November 26th, 2010

✂
Children's Christmas Party
Officers' Mess, Black Watch Armoury
December 12th, 2010

✂
Burns Supper
University Club of Montreal
January 28th, 2011



You might have found one of these in your garden this year... just like one of our members. Read further and find out! Image courtesy of www.darius1.freeuk.com.

President's Report September 2010

As usual summer has flown by and autumn is upon us with many activities in the Scottish calendar on the horizon which you can read about elsewhere in this number. I enjoyed a number of our events over the past three months including a pub night on the McAuslan brewery terrace attended by some 70 members and friends. For the first time a Celtic music festival (Celtfest) took place on July 31 on the same grounds and in association with the Highland Games. The music festival featured musicians from Montreal and Newfoundland principally and they were much appreciated by the 500 attendees present. The day was combined with rugby matches adding another dimension to the event. For a first time activity, organizers considered the day to have been a success and plans are underway for the 2011 edition. The highland games were a success with great weather and strong attendance. Some changes in the program were made in light of the financial difficulties facing the event due to the disastrous weather of the previous 2 years. The format introduced this year featured performances of very high calibre bands, but the band competition of previous years was dispensed with due to cost considerations which also meant a lack of massed bands at the end of the afternoon. These changes were received negatively by some and very positively by others and the organizing committee will review all feedback in planning for the 2011 event. The Society was very much present at a stand manned by the always involved Activities committee. Blue and white helium balloons were given out to all comers so blue and white was the order of the day. Four applications for membership were received which is a considerable accomplishment.

At the August meeting of Council the commitment to electronically scanned archival material was confirmed with the hope that headway on this important task will be made by year end. As well, an event is in the planning to promote the Society's archives. Also, the updated web site was shown to Council to positive comment. The principle aim is to have a site that is attractive, timely, and accessible for ease of updating by the various committees of the society.

Planning is well underway for the 2010 edition of the St. Andrew's ball. This event celebrates our 175 years of existence as a society. I hope we will see you there, but failing that if you could make the St. Andrew's Luncheon you would have the opportunity to meet our Guest of Honour, Sir Alistair Irwin, and be entertained by Derek Drummond who will be the guest speaker. This event takes place on Thursday, 25th November. All Patrons of the ball (those who donate \$500 or more to the Society) receive a free ticket to this event.

On another note, my wife Ellen and I spent two weeks in Scotland mostly on Islay. We had an opportunity to visit many of the historical, archaeological and just plain beautiful sites on walks designed both to please the eye, and to acquaint one with a history of the Islay peoples going back some 8000 years. Climbs to Bronze Age hill forts followed by visits to mediaeval sites occupied by the Lord of the Isles, Somerled and the clan MacDonald and later the Campbells of Cawdor. Alternatively there are the 7 great single malt whisky distilleries to visit which added a whole other level of pleasure to our trip. We managed to visit all seven plus a relative newcomer, Kilchoman. One visit involved a 13 kilometre walk. A wee dram at the halfway point was well appreciated.

In preparation for The Taste of Scotland event (AKA The Whisky Tasting) to be held on 15th October, I have developed a list of Islay distilleries and how to pronounce names appropriately: First of all: Islay is pronounced as I-la. Drop the y. It is I-la, not eel-a.

Ardbeg - pretty much as written with balance between the 2 syllables: Ard Beg, not ARD beg, or ard BEG

Bowmore - bow MORE

Bruichladdich - Bruck-laddy

Bunnahabhain - Boo-na-ha-venne

Caol Ila - Coll Eela

Lagavulin - lagga-vool-in

Laphroig - La froaig

Kilchoman- Kill Koman (this new, small, distillery will start North American distribution this year)

I would like to thank the various committees of the Society for their continued efforts on behalf of our members.

Aye,

Peter McAuslan, President

The Art of the Toast: St Andrew's Dinners in the Nineteenth Century

By Gillian I Leitch, PhD

I was in the middle of researching St Andrew's celebrations in the nineteenth-century when I had my first opportunity to attend the St Andrew's Ball. After spending long hours in the microfilm stacks reading accounts of the toasts made at these kinds of events between 1800 and 1850, I was mightily disappointed when I heard the toasts being made that evening. After reading long lists of between fifteen and twenty toasts, the four I had heard were just not the same.

This article will discuss the art of the toast, as performed at nineteenth-century St Andrew's dinners. The traditions associated with toasting were not limited to the Scots in Montreal, but were a part of the shared social rituals of English-speaking society in Montreal. The other national societies celebrated their patron saints at dinners in the same way, using the same rituals, and often the same toasts. These events demonstrated the nature of attachment of Montrealers for their lives in Montreal, and for their countries of origin.

Public dinners in the nineteenth-century were very ritualized events. Organisers and participants were sensitive to the meanings of different foods, decorations, order and placement. There were unwritten rules of conduct which guided those along during the evening. They could, by the changing of key elements, make political and social comments. It was subtle, but clearly understood by those present.

The public dinners held in the early nineteenth-century were the dominion of men. Their comportment at these affairs would not have been the same had women been present. The presence of women limited the type of behaviours they could exhibit, men had to present a more civilized demeanor in their company. The male-only environment permitted the use of less than polite language, excessive eating and drinking, and loud laughter and singing.

The St Andrew's dinners were very elaborate affairs. The rooms were specially decorated with symbols of Scotia. Transparencies, glass plates lit from behind, with images painted on them were popular types of decoration. St Andrew was usually presented as a transparency at these events. The rooms also boasted banners and pictures depicting such Scottish luminaries as Robert Burns, Walter Scott, Robert the Bruce and William Wallace. An image of the reigning

New Members

The Society is very pleased to welcome new annual members Mr. Craig Alan Goodwin, Ms. Marilyn Meikle and new life members Senator W. David Angus, annual member since 1978 and Mr. Gary D.D. Morrison, annual member since 2006.

Flowers of the Forest

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Mrs. Helen C. Fenton, life member, 1978.

monarch was always a feature of these events. Flags were also heavily used to decorate the rooms, and reinforce the attachment of those present to Scotland.

The *Montreal Gazette* described the decorations in the Albion Hotel in 1834:

The upper end of the room, immediately behind the chair of the President, was elegantly decorated by Mr. John Grant of this city, and represented a canopy, on the top of which was placed a Highland Chieftain's bonnet and eagle plumes, and in front were arranged a claymore, target and dirks. The drapery from the canopy consisted of ample folds of the Royal Stuart tartan. Immediately in rear of the chair was an excellent transparency of Saint Andrew, painted by the gentleman just mentioned.¹

The food was likewise symbolically linked to Scotland. In 1844, "The Haggis was hot and matchless, the sheep's head garnished with green kale, brought vividly to recollection of many present, the loved and honored land of their fathers."² One year there was as said in the description in the newspapers, a 250 lb haggis, although such a size seems unlikely. However, it is fair to say that the food presented at the dinners was as lavish as the decoration, and in excess of normal dining. Such volume in itself was important to the event, underscoring its importance to the participants.

But the highlight of the evening, and the part which dominated its coverage in the newspapers, was the toasts. "The cloth being removed," the toasts were begun.³ The toasts rarely deviated from a set pattern. Even when the differences in time or in the national groups celebrating were taken into account, the toasts remained fairly

¹ *Montreal Gazette*, 4 December 1834.

² *Montreal Gazette*, 10 December 1844.

³ *Montreal Gazette*, 10 December 1844.

Mount Royal Cemetery Tours

'Highlights' by Gillian Leitch

On September 12th the first of the historical tours of Mount Royal Cemetery took place. Despite the closing of most of the streets leading to the cemetery for a bike race, and a helicopter buzzing around the mountain, the tour went off quite well. Myriam Cloutier, from Mount Royal Cemetery, led ten hardy souls around the site.

The following week, with beautiful weather and no traffic snarls, the English-language tour, led again by Myriam, went off without a hitch. Seventy-five people joined the tour, and were recounted with tales of Montreal's rich Scottish heritage.

Special thanks to Myriam for researching and presenting this tour, and to Helen Meredith for coordinating. Dave Fownes also deserves special mention for greeting visitors to the cemetery both the 12th and 19th of September, with his bagpipes at full wail. It was a marvellous sight and sound.

'Grave Matters' by Sam Allison

On Sunday, Sept. 19th approximately 70 people were given a tour of Mount Royal Cemetery by a knowledgeable guide. The tour centered on the "Great Scots" buried there. It was a wonderful two hours of interesting history and it only touched a tiny proportion of the historically important Scots. These gravesites reflected Canadian history from the Fur Trade through to modern times. The warm sunny day brought home the magnificent setting surrounding us. For those who haven't been to the Cemetery, it stands right on top of Mount Royal. While the gravestones for the dead are often magnificent, the trees, flowers, grass, and wildlife make this a poignant but pleasant place for the living.



One of the monuments presented by Myriam who can be seen just at the edge.

standard.

The first toast of the evening was to the reigning monarch. This was followed by the day being celebrated. The land of their forefathers often came next, although it could also be to the members of the royal family, starting with the royal spouse. The Governor General was next, then the army and the navy, the sister societies (St Patrick's Society, St George's Society, etc.), the land we live in, selected national symbols and the guests. The toasts always ended with a toast to the ladies, referred to as the "Canadian fair." The official toasts at most events numbered between twelve and fifteen, with several volunteer toasts made afterwards by enthusiastic guests.

Toasts were further enhanced by the addition of music. Many years the St Andrew's dinners included the talents of a military band and pipers. In 1844, for example, the band of the 89th Regiment was present, along with two pipers from the 93rd Regiment.⁴ The Queen's toast was finished off with the playing of *God Save the Queen* in 1847; the day with *In the Garb of the Old Gael*; Prince Albert and the Royal Family with *Prince Albert's March*; the St George's Society with *The Roast Beef of England*; the Land O'Cakes with *Auld Lang Syne*,

etc.⁵

Toasts often necessitated speeches. Peter McGill's remarks to the first toast of the night took up three paragraphs in the *Gazette*, the second a further paragraph.⁶ A lot was said. Replies to the evening's toasts were likewise long winded. This was all a part of the toasting, which served to foster good will and a sense of community. They never said anything that the assembled would not agree with.

This sense of conviviality and community was greased by alcohol. Every toast was followed by the drinking of wine. To drink water or not to drink at all, after a toast was proposed was considered an insult. To take the glass and turn it upside down was the ultimate insult. Drinking then was an integral part of the ritual. After twelve to fifteen toasts and the wine consumed with the meal, it can be gathered that many present were inebriated.

John Greenshields wrote about his experience at the St Andrew's dinner in 1845 to his wife Eliza:

I proposed the health of the "ladies," and made a speech in their praise, but it was the last toast of the night, and some people were pretty far gone and there was such a noise that I could hardly hear

⁴ *Montreal Gazette*, 10 December 1844.

⁵ *Montreal Courier*, 2 December 1847.

⁶ *Montreal Gazette*, 3 December 1836.

*the sound of my own voice.*⁷

The newspaper accounts gloss over such drunken behaviour. And while it can be viewed negatively, as uncontrolled or even dangerous, it should not be seen solely in that light. As noted by Margaret Visser, alcohol lowers inhibitions, relaxes the participants, allowing them to "meld better into a group."⁸ Greenshields finished off his description saying that "the dinner went off very well."⁹ This was all a part of the tradition of toasting, and the participants would not have wanted it any other way.

This year, as we celebrate the society's 175th Anniversary lift up a glass to the St Andrew's members of old, who loved a good toast, or fifteen.

100 Years Ago – From the Society's Archives:

75TH Annual Report of 1910

Mary Johnston Cox, Honorary Historian

The following excerpt has been taken from the Society's Charitable Committee's Report for the year ending October 31st, 1910:

"To the President, Officers and Members:

Another mile-stone has been passed, yet we do not stop. For three-quarters of a century your Committees have presented these Annual reports, setting forth the work which has been done each preceding year among our needy country-men and country-women, showing how this Society has extended a welcome to Scottish immigrants to our shores; how they have helped the widows and the orphans, attended the sick and buried the dead.

These reports do not vary to any great extent but they never grow old and it is only through them that our members are brought in touch with the working of our Society and its aim and object, viz. - to relieve the distressed and give decent burial to the dead.

⁷ John Greenshields to Eliza Greenshields, 9 December 1845, McCord Museum of Canadian History, Greenshields Family Fonds P011].

⁸ Margaret Visser, *The Rituals of Dinner*, Toronto, Harper Perennial, 1991, 274.

⁹ John Greenshields to Eliza Greenshields, 9 December 1845, McCord Museum of Canadian History, Greenshields Family Fonds P011].



Setting up for the 2010 edition of the Montreal Scottish Festival (Highland Games).

And while we do not stop even at the seventy-fifth mile-stone of time in our history, we may well pause and pass in review the work which has been accomplished by the St. Andrew's Society during the past year. Before proceeding to this, however, we would briefly call the attention of our members to the volume of work that has been done during the past seventy-five years. During that period we find approximately \$161, 277.00 has been expended in the charitable work of this Society, the number of persons assisted being 36,165, while 155 have been buried in the Society's lot in the cemetery since that lot was acquired in 1857. In addition to this, the sick have been visited by our doctors and advice given to many in need of it. These figures speak for themselves and should inspire our members, to whom we now appeal, to come forward and assist in the active work of the Society in order that we may accomplish more in the future.

During the year just ended, 180 persons passed through the Home, remaining for various periods; 7,369 meals were served to inmates and others not staying in the Home; 125 situations were found, 103 being for men, 18 for women and 2 for married couples. There were 9 interments, 6 being at the Society's expense; 3 bodies were claimed at the morgue and

Accorded decent burial, 2 children were placed in the Protestant Infants' Home and 1 in the Ladies' Benevolent Institution. Two women were sent to Scotland, one at the Society's expense and the

other, in part by the Society and by private subscription and five men were sent over on cattle steamers. At the Christmas distribution, 74 dinners and 26 parcels, chiefly of new garments, were given; 65 families in receipt of relief throughout the winter."

In addition to the above, the Society assisted generous volunteer citizens at a time of "great emergency" to establish an Emergency Typhoid Hospital in buildings adjoining the St. Andrew's Home and also provided accommodation at the Home for 26 members of the Nursing Staff during a period of approximately twelve weeks. During the year, the Committee met regularly once a month and also attended the weekly distributions.

A Passion for Philanthropy:

The St. Andrew's Society in the Diaspora

Dr Graeme Morton, University of Guelph

The Scots have always travelled. In whatever period we look to, there be signs of Scots having popped up in different parts of the world and, from the last quarter of the eighteenth century, especially in North America. They left in waves but always with regularity: just under two million Scots cried goodbye to family and friends as they sailed to non-European ports in the period 1825-1914. Remarkably, Scotland's population still grew, but its share of the UK total fell, from 12.5% in 1861 to 8.6% in 2001.

If there is one story in the history of the people of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries who comprised the Scottish diaspora, then it's not the usual flag waving of inventions and philosophical scribbling. Scots in those centuries were certainly

skilled at fiddling their way to entrepreneurial innovation, exploiting all manner of technology and opportunism, and so many great thinkers and well-read clerics came out of that nation's abundance of schools and universities. But what the Scots brought with them on their travels was more than a keen intellect and technological know-



Hon. Peter McGill, Society's 1st President (1835-1842 & 1844-1846)

how: the story of the Scots that left is their passion for philanthropy and their fierce belief in the importance of kith and kin in the New World.

In Canada these values were embodied in St Andrew's societies, with the St Andrew's Society of Montreal taking the lead. It was not the first. Halifax had a Scottish society in 1768 – the North British Society – and the St Andrew's Society of St John was formed in 1798, but when in February 1835 the founding members gathered in Montreal they were to lead a Scottish zeal for creating societies to help the disadvantaged that would immediately be copied by others.

What founding member Hugh Allen envisaged was a society 'regulating charity in a systematic manner' that would 'advance the cause and welfare of Scotsman and their descendents'. Timing, as every historian will stamp, is everything, and with Montreal incorporated as a city in 1832, it



Ray Baillie Book Launch

The Macdonald Stewart Foundation Building provided the perfect venue for author Ray Baillie to provide details of his work. A number of interested members attended, including our President Peter McAuslin who indicated that, "... Anyone with an interest in the impact of Scots in

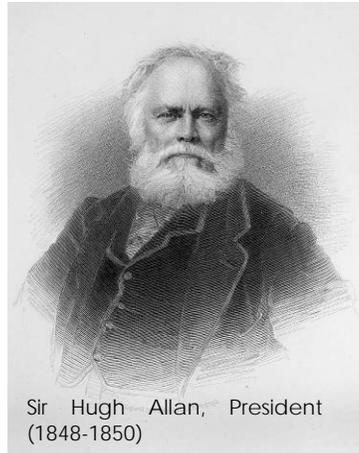
Quebec should buy a copy. I think this would make a great Christmas or

birthday gift to anyone interested in Quebec Scottish heritage."

Author Ray Baillie dedicated *Scottish Imprints in Quebec* to "The descendents of immigrants who continue to preserve the Scottish culture and legacy in Quebec". The book covers the various regions of Quebec through photographs and historical sketches.



was the political need to face down discord between Francophone and Anglophone Montrealers that was the imperative behind its formation. As historian Catherine Bourbeau has argued, while the Society was not itself about politics, its members were politically active: nearly one third of the general committee of the Anglophone Constitutional Association were also founding members of the St Andrew's Society.



Sir Hugh Allan, President (1848-1850)

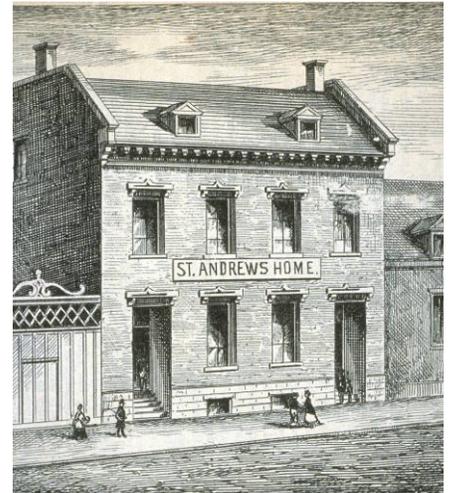
These were special pressures, and class as well as political stability was uppermost in their minds, but the primary aim remained to help those indigent Scots in their community. It would be the lasting endeavour. As its first decade approached, Peter McGill insisted the Society's philanthropic purpose be again made clear: 'Gentlemen, this society is not a political, but a charitable one ... Our object is to relieve the distressed, an object which I hope we shall always carry out to the utmost of our power'.

It was the philanthropic purpose that was mirrored by others. In October of 1835, the St. Andrew's Society of Quebec was formed by a group of gentlemen native of Scotland or of Scottish origin. Their intention was to help a Scotsman 'find in a land far from his fathers, an Association of his countrymen, whose benevolent design is to afford relief without lessening that feeling.' The cities of Hamilton (1835), Toronto (1836) and Kingston (1840) are just some of the places where the local citizenry followed the Montrealers to institute St Andrew's societies upon the principle that ties of blood, kin and country unite them as Scots and, ultimately, as Canadians. Along with Caledonian societies, Burns societies, and Sons and Daughters of Scotland societies, ethnic identity was used to maintain a network of self-help and philanthropic intervention; they were associational gatherings invariably chivvied along with fine food, good whisky, and convivial companionship. The fiftieth annual report of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal in 1895 has one example of this network in action, showing the telegrams of support received from other St Andrew's societies in Canada and the United States.

Such fraternal greetings on 30 November - as on 25 January - were common, as they were also in South Africa, New Zealand and even closer to

home in Northern Ireland, England and in Scotland. The Scots (and others) who attended the annual St Andrew's Day ball or dinner in Montreal wanted their support to go to the deserving poor, not the intemperate or the feckless. Doctors and ministers were engaged to help the managerial committee reach their recommendations; visits would be conducted, information gathered, accounts would be published to show the good work that was done, to encourage subscriptions and donations, and to warn of how easily drink, bad attitudes, illness or ill-fortune could disrupt the life of the ordinary pioneer.

These Scots in Canada were generally a religious people who took to action the preaching they heard: St Andrew's Day sermons were a staple of many communities. One Cornwall congregation was told - as they celebrated Scotland's national day in 1893 - that when characterising the Scot what stands out is 'the energy and the ability with which they have displayed, through the kindness of God, in the service of their nation, in various parts of the world'. Earnestness, yes, and not all would attend such sermons, but those that did were left with a clear sense that as diasporic Scots they had a special role to play.



The passion for philanthropy that so defined the emigrant Scot is a characteristic still to be found; it has sustained the St Andrew's Society of Montreal throughout the first 175 years of its history; and it will continue so to do.

Society's Piping and Highland Dancing Scholarship Recipients

Sacha Mathew at the Seumas MacNeill Summer School of Piping

I am very grateful to the St-Andrew's Society's Council and members for sending me to the Seumas MacNeill Summer School of Piping (in conjunction with the College of Piping, Glasgow). The school was in its 39th year and the course was

Facebook

The St Andrew's Society has a Facebook page! We welcome all to become friends with the society. Share your thoughts and your pictures with other members. and keep abreast of upcoming events.

held at the Army Navy Academy in Carlsbad California from June 18th to 25th, 2010.

The school has been running annually in California and many of the students return year after year.



The best part of the course was having such high quality instructors. The five instructors were:
Dugald MacNeill

(former principal of the College of Piping, Glasgow), Major Bruce Hitchings (former Senior Pipe Major of the British Army), Andrew Frater (teacher at the College of Piping, Glasgow), Harry McNulty (teacher at the College of Piping, Glasgow) and Aaron Shaw (among the top American pipers and former student of the College of Piping, Glasgow).

The instructors kept us busy with a full schedule of classes and practice time. The average day started with the entire college meeting at 8am. There, announcements were made and we students sang Canntaireachd, the traditional style of singing Piobaireachd. The students were then divided into small classes for individual lessons. After lunch electives were offered. These classes ranged in subject from beginner and intermediate Piobaireachd, bagpipe maintenance, as well as reed making and manipulation. Later on in the week massed band practice was also held instead of the third class. After dinner all the students would gather together to hear one of the instructors play followed by a lecture on some aspect of bagpipes. The massed band practices led up to the final night's performance for a public



audience.

I was able to gain a wealth of knowledge during this one week. Even after playing pipes for 16 years, I was given many new insights and perspectives on the beauty of pipe music. In all these years I had very little interest in Piobaireachd but thanks to this course I received a very good introduction. The lectures on the history and development of bagpipes and its music were very interesting and have inspired me to learn more. In general, the course has given me a greater appreciation of piping. The course offered me new knowledge on an old subject and has helped to motivate me to take even greater interest in and attention to my playing.

I must again thank the St-Andrew's Society for this superb opportunity to study with some of the best instructors. I cannot express how grateful I am and how much I learned. My quality as a piper has certainly improved and it will undoubtedly have a positive influence on my band.

Sacha Mathew

Geneviève Clavet's Experience at the Gaelic College in Cape Breton

This summer, I discovered a remarkable place for those who particularly enjoy Scottish culture. Hidden in the heart of Cape Breton, the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts is proud of its origins and has undertaken the important task of promoting and preserving Scottish traditions through language, music, dance and arts and crafts. Because of the reputation of its teachers and the flexibility of its courses, the Gaelic College appeared to me to be the right place to improve my dance technique and my knowledge of various Scottish arts.

The College provides a wide range of courses consisting of bagpipes, drums, fiddle, bodhran, piano, and Celtic harp to step dance, weaving, and Gaelic language. Through these various courses, one is able to discover many aspects of Scottish culture and to develop new interests. Apart from Highland dancing, which was the purpose and main focus of my sojourn, I also took the opportunity to attend step dancing and fiddle classes.

Upon my arrival at the College, I was not sure what to expect since I had not chosen to register for the week that was especially designed for adults. My apprehension quickly vanished as I discovered how well organised the institution is. The course selection and the registration process went smoothly and I was located in an accommodation hosting adults and teachers only. There was even a complimentary internet access.

My daily schedule was very busy and consisted of a fiddle class, a Highland dance class and followed by another fiddle class. After lunch, I attended three dance classes: two Highland and one step dancing. During the well-earned break before dinner, most students enjoyed basking in the sun while listening to the Lawn Band. The evenings were designated practice time for most students. I could hear someone playing the fiddle in the next room, people step dancing a little further away, and bagpipers practicing outside. The ambiance thus created was extremely stimulating. Some nights, there were impromptu music jams and Cape Breton dances to which we could attend or take part. One night, I saw a ceilidh performed by the teachers and I was astounded to discover so much talent in one place. The week ended with a large ceilidh that took place on the campus which was performed this time by the students.

I learnt much during my week at the Gaelic College. I never had as much time to dedicate to Highland dancing in a single week and, under the guidance of the College's teachers, I was able to correct certain flaws in my technique. A fresh eye often contributes to one's improvement – such was the case for me. The teachers are extremely competent, generous and passionate about their craft. Most have been teaching at the College for a long time and love working there.

My week at Cape Breton's Gaelic College was an unforgettable experience and I hope to return in the future. I am pleased and very proud of what I learnt during those five days of intense training. I greatly improved my technique and, most of all, my stamina. It also helped me to cross the boundaries of my own discipline and to open up to other areas of Scottish culture. Indeed, while I initially wanted to focus exclusively on Highland dancing, the program offered by the College gave me the opportunity to explore Scottish traditional music and to initiate myself to the fiddle – which is something I would really like to pursue further. But most important of all, it was the opportunity to share my passion for Scottish culture and its perpetuation with talented and likeminded

people. Thank you for supporting my apprenticeship at Cape Breton's Gaelic College. This session has afforded me the chance to share my knowledge with my fellow Highland dancers and future students!

Geneviève Clavet

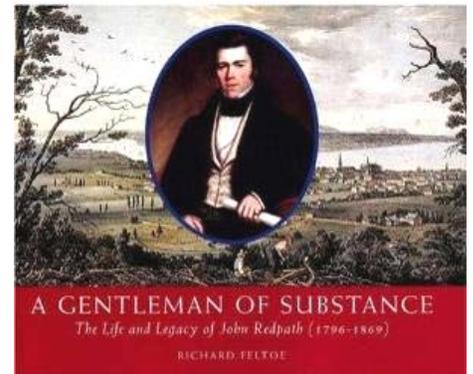
Book Reviews

By Mark W. Gallop

A Gentleman of Substance: The Life and Legacy of John Redpath (1796-1869), by Richard Feltoe, Natural Heritage / Natural History Inc., 2004.

Staying Connected: How MacDougall Family Traditions Built a Business over 160 Years, by James Ferrabee and Michael St. B. Harrison, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009.

Histories sponsored and published by corporations have a reputation as dry and self-serving, and of modest interest to anyone outside the inner corporate circles. Two relatively recently published volumes centring on Scottish Montreal founding families break that stereotype and will appeal to a much broader audience. While having dynamic individuals at the heart of their stories, they spend as much time informing us of the evolution of Montreal and Canada's economic and social history. While both start with Scottish births and arrivals in Montreal as young men, they also emphasize



the importance of the extended family as half-brothers, sons, nephews and sons-in-law are recruited to the family businesses. In the case of the Redpaths, the Drummond name is repeatedly woven into the story. It is the Molsons and the Prices who are similarly integrated into the MacDougall clan.

Both books were intended to mark the 150th anniversaries of the founding of the sponsoring corporations. However in the case of MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc. (the 3 Macs, as it is commonly known) research for the book discovered that the firm's origins could be traced back as far as 1849, instead of the 1858 date being marked. After celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2008, the firm was eligible for a 160th anniversary

party the following year!

Richard Feltoe who has worked at the Redpath Sugar Museum in Toronto since 1977 and presently holds the position of Museum Curator and Corporate Archivist authored *A Gentleman of Substance*. He has previously published a two-volume corporate history of the sugar company but reaches back further here, covering John Redpath's significant contribution to the fabric of Canada before founding the sugar refinery in 1854.

John Redpath was born and raised in Earlston, a village south of Edinburgh and sailed for Canada in 1816. He brought with him skills in stonemasonry, which set the course for the foundation of his fortune. Within two years of his arrival he had established his own building and contracting firm. Early repair work and building garden walls and outhouses led to larger and more prominent contracts including provision of stone work for the construction of Notre Dame Basilica, military fortifications on St. Helen's Island and sections of the Lachine Canal. His reputation and fortune was made with the contract for the Rideau Canal. He spent the following two decades consolidating his position in Montreal society with widespread business interests and social and political involvement, before turning to sugar refining.

Staying Connected is a joint effort of two authors. James Ferrabee, the journalist, writer and retired business editor of *The Gazette* was engaged. Ferrabee completed the history through to the mid-twentieth century when ill health forced him to pass the authorship over to Michael Harrison, a retired president of the firm known for his way with words.

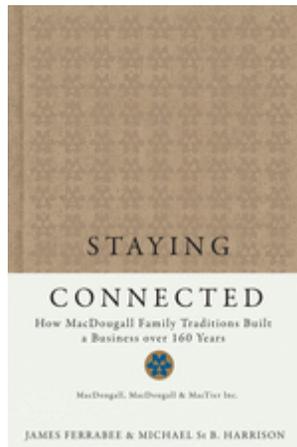
The first of the MacDougalls to arrive in Montreal

Debutantes and Escorts

Interested in being a debutante at this year's St. Andrew's Ball on November 26th. It is a once in a life-time experience and a wonderful opportunity to experience an old tradition first hand.

Feel like a princess for one evening of music, dancing, dining, tradition, sweeping gowns and glittering jewels. Learn to waltz and dance highland reels. Meet new and interesting people. Attend cocktails and brunches. Volunteer in the community.

Ladies between the ages of 16 and 23 years of age who are interested in becoming debutantes and young men who would be willing to act as escorts should contact Stephanie at: irishangel26@hotmail.com.



was Lorn in 1840. He was born in the Western Isles of Scotland but spent most of his early years in Devon, as his father was an officer in the British army. While the initial decades of John Redpath's mark on Montreal was literally set in stone, Lorn MacDougall made his name in finance, with a brokerage business based initially on flour and grain, with a much more ephemeral history. Indeed the roots of our pre-Confederation trading and financial industries have been understudied and poorly recorded.

There was money to be made matching buyers and sellers and the business of the MacDougalls evolved with opportunities. Lorn MacDougall also saw the need for order in the markets and was a leader in establishing regulations for different types of brokers through the Board of Trade, and the adoption of the Canadian dollar and a decimal currency through the legislature. A quarter century after establishing himself in business, he was the founding president of the Montreal Stock Exchange.

The stories of the two families and firms follow interesting parallels beyond Scottish roots, Montreal successes and 150th anniversaries. John Redpath and Lorn MacDougall were signatories to the 1849 Annexation Manifesto, and both books devote attention to this fascinating and understudied moment in Canadian history. Involvement with prominent English Montreal institutions such as

Thistle in the Garden

Moira Barclay

In the Spring I found a little thistle plant growing wild in a corner of my garden. I left it just to see if it would grow and it did! By May it was 3 feet high, by June even higher and then in July when this photograph was taken it was about 7 feet.

Not sure if this is a record or not, but several Society members, Campbell Oliver for one, have seen it and can vouch for this report on height being true. Wonder if any others in the Society have had a thistle grow to this size? My son Keith who is well over 6 foot stands beside the plant just to confirm the truth of the above statement.



This corner of my little garden does very well as tomatoes grow in abundance along with raspberries and rhubarb and this year, for the first time, pumpkin plants!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY REMINDER

Mary Johnston Cox Co-ordinator - Children's Christmas Party

The date of the party this year will be Sunday, December 12th and, as usual, it will be held at The Black Watch Officers' Mess from 2:30 p.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. As always, in addition to the children/grandchildren of the Society's members as well as other young guests, the adult Society members are also invited to attend this fun event. While there is no entrance charge, a voluntary contribution of cookies, baked goods or sandwiches would, however, be very much appreciated - especially by the children!

Voluntary assistance on the day of the party would also be most welcome, as would any monetary donations that would enable many loyal and dedicated members to fulfil another successful annual endeavour whereby this happy event will not only be enjoyed by so many delighted children but will be achieved, as it has been for many years, without any cost to the Society's charitable funds. Further details will be included in the usual flyer which will be sent at a later date.



McGill University, the General Hospital and Mount Royal Cemetery are also common to both families. But the institution with the greatest influence on the two families and firms, and indeed of the economic growth of the city and country, is the Bank of Montreal, meriting almost a dozen references in the Redpath book and over thirty in the MacDougall one. I think my next step in exploring the economic evolution of Montreal and Canada will have to be the corporate history of the Bank of Montreal - although I fear it won't be half as engaging and readable as the stories of the Redpaths and the MacDougalls.

Atwater Library Talks by Authors John Aylen and Ken McGoogan

Lynn Verge

This fall the Atwater Library's popular Lunchtime Series will feature talks by the authors of new books that promise to delight members of the St. Andrew's Society. Everyone is welcome and coffee and biscuits are served. Admission is free but donations are invited.

Thursday, September 23, Montrealese John Aylen read from and discussed his book *Revive and Grow Strong: The Story of the McEuens and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation*.

On Thursday, October 28 at 12:30 pm author Ken McGoogan will give a talk on his soon-to-be published book with the marvellous title, *How the Scots Invented Canada*. Here's a quote from the publisher's website:

"No matter where you enter the history of Canada—through exploration, politics, business, education or literature—you find that the Scots and their descendants have played a leading role. Today, almost five million Canadians identify themselves as Scottish, and their influence is felt throughout the land. Starting with his own deep roots in Scotland and early Canada, Ken

McGoogan has created a lively, entertaining narrative that focuses on more than sixty Scots who have led the way in shaping this country."¹⁰

Scottish Collection

The Atwater Library's Scottish Collection comprises over 1,300 books, DVDs and audiotapes with a Scottish connection. The authors, actors, producers and other participants are Scots or people of Scottish heritage from anywhere in the world. In books, the topics range from serious history, current affairs, politics, travel, biography, arts and culture to light-hearted humour, cooking and food.

The Library's online catalogue is an easy way to check for titles or topics of interest: www.atwaterlibrary.ca.

Recent additions include: *Strip the Willow* by John Aberdein - winner of the 2010 Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book Award for Fiction; *Glasgow Kiss* by Alex Gray; *What Becomes* by A. L. Kennedy; *Dark Blood* by Stuart MacBride; *All the Colours of the Town* by Liam McIlvanney; *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir* by Donald Worster - winner of the 2010 Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book Award for Book of the Year; and *Stone of Destiny* - DVD of the 2008 movie directed by Charles Martin Smith

New titles are selected from reviews in Scottish magazines and websites as well as from the offerings of local bookstores. They are purchased with funding generously provided by the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. Many items come from donations by friends of the Atwater Library. Donations and suggestions for new titles are welcome and can be sent to the attention of the Library's Executive Director, Lynn Verge: lverge@atwaterlibrary.ca.

¹⁰ For more information please see: <http://kenmcgoogan.blogspot.com/p/scots.html>.

Anticipation building for St. Andrew's Ball 2010

A few weeks away, just before the snow falls, the 2010 edition of the St. Andrew's Ball will recall two historic milestones - The 175th Anniversary of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal and the 250th Anniversary of the arrival of the Black Watch in Montreal. Our guests of honour, LGen Sir Alistair Irwin and Lady Nicola Irwin have booked their flights, reviewed their full agenda and are looking forward to celebrating St. Andrew's week in Montreal.



LGen Alistair Irwin -
Keeper of the Quaich

Lieutenant General Irwin is the senior Black Watch officer in Scotland and is involved in a number of social and charitable causes, as well as being a Keeper of the Quaich. In fact, he lives in the heart of malt whisky country within sight of the Cardhu distillery. In his honour "The Kandahar Reel", composed recently by Black Watch Officers in Kandahar, Afghanistan will be danced

by a set of expert country dancers.

The Ball is returning to the elegant Chateau Champlain Hotel, with an enlarged dance floor. The fabulous band "1945" will rock the atmosphere for the 3rd year and be augmented by Fred Moyes who will provide traditional Scottish music for dancing and background. The pub musicians will hold court, as well, and of course the Black Watch Pipes & Drums will be there in full and resplendent force.

A number of debutants have come forward to the presented, the pages and flower girls are practicing, and reels practices have been scheduled at the Black Watch Armoury every Wednesday starting October 21st. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come to the practices which build from a beginner's level and progress gradually in preparation for public dancing at the Ball. (They are a lot of fun too!)

There will be a silent auction and raffle draw to augment the proceeds for the charitable work of the Society. Donations of prizes would be most appreciated.

Although the Ball is the highlight of St. Andrew's week, the Guest of Honour will give a lecture at the Atwater Library on Wednesday, 24 November at lunch hour, and Derek Drummond will regale the audience at our St. Andrew's Luncheon to take place on Thursday, 25 November. More details will be forthcoming. Watch the Society's web page and for further mailings.

Please join us at the St. Andrew's Ball 2010! What a wonderful way to mark the long tradition of a Scottish presence in Montreal - with tartans, haggis, bagpipes, dancers, debutants and whiskey!

Book Review

Scottish Imprints in Quebec by Ray Baillie

(published by Price-Patterson Ltd., Montreal, September 2010)
ISBN: 978-1-897336-47-2

Helen Meredith

What do John A. Macdonald's summer home in Rivière-du-Loup, the Marchand covered bridge in Fort Coulonge, the Ross General Store in Gould and the Mount Royal Club in Montreal and have in common? If you concluded that they were built by or for Scots, you are right. But what you may not know is that these buildings, and dozens of others, can be found between the pages of Ray Baillie's recently launched *Scottish Imprints in Quebec*.

After the successful three-volume edition of *Imprints-Discovering the Historic Face of English Quebec* that he and his wife Diana produced to document the built heritage of Quebec's English-speaking community, author and photographer Ray Baillie has done it again. With *Scottish Imprints in Quebec* Ray has now produced a book specific to the built heritage of the Scots of Quebec. The title and layout will be familiar to fans of the first *Imprints* books though the content has some surprises in store.

Scottish Imprints introduces the reader to hundreds of buildings and monuments in 108 communities spread across nine regions of the province. Churches, schools, private residences and farmhouses, cemeteries, civic buildings, statues, monuments (and more) are all presented in words and pictures and their connection to Scots and the Scottish community are described.

I have often taken my copies of *Imprints* on road trips and enjoyed finding and learning about buildings with ties to the history of Quebec's English-speaking community - buildings I might have paid scant attention to otherwise. With *Scottish Imprints* I have a new roster of road trips waiting and a new way to learn about the history of Quebec's Scottish community.

Society Ties

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 the logo is larger and they are made of silk. The price, including taxes and delivery, is only \$20. If you are interested, please contact the Society.

Private Rental Spaces: Household 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. Telephone is: 514 934-0386. 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.

Published by: **The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal**

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Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 1H9

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