

THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

May 2012

Upcoming Events

Society BBQ

McAuslan's Brewery
Tuesday, 19th June, 2012



Montreal Highland Games and Scottish Festival

George Springate Park, Pierrefonds
Weekend of August 4th & 5th, 2012



Meeting of Council & Committee of Management

Monday, 13th August, 2012

Pub Night

McAuslan's Brewery
Saturday, 12th May, 2012



Meeting of Council & Committee of Management & Annual General Meeting of Members

Monday, 14th May, 2012

Taste of Scotland's Malt Whiskies and Fine Foods

October 2012



St. Andrew's Ball

Friday, 23rd November, 2012



One fantabulous day for a St. Patrick's Parade; even the flowers (Brian Llewellyn-ap-Dafydd, President, St. David's Society of Montreal) were enticed out for a walk!

President's Letter

As summer approaches, we start thinking about the Montreal Highland Games – the most public event of Montreal's Scottish community. In existence for more than 35 years, these Games, which benefit from the proximity to the Maxville Games the same weekend, started at Seaway Park in St. Lambert, moved to the grounds of the Douglas Hospital in Verdun and are now held at the George Springate Park in Pierrefonds. Over the years they have welcomed pipe bands, highland dancers and Scottish athletes from around the world, and we have been entertained by fiddlers, pipers and singers recreating a small part of Scotland's culture here for everyone to enjoy.

There have been wonderful years, with huge crowds and other years when rain dampened the fun, but where the beer tent maintained its reputation as the best one on the games circuit. Montreal gained an aura for our traditional hospitality, a reflection of the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France.

Following a series of bad rain days, the games committee began to struggle over finances and approached the St. Andrew's Society for assistance. At a recent meeting of Council it was agreed that the SAS should take a leadership role and become partner in the Games' organizing committee. This is to allow for a longer term stable solution, one which we hope will see the Games flourish again. In the coming months you will see an offer for free tickets to members. This is hoped will persuade you to bring a friend along to the Games. Mark the date now - Sunday, August 5th in Pierrefonds.

Hope to see you there.

Yours,

Bruce B. Bolton

Toast to the Immortal Memory Burns Nicht Supper 2012

Richard W. Pound

I must start by saying that I do not know whether I would be more at ease, wrapped in a Union Jack on the campus of l'Université de Montréal, than I am with a name like Pound, masquerading in Highland dress, trying to speak to an audience of Scottophiles on the subject of Robbie Burns.

At least in the former scenario, I would know how to start praying in the fifteen remaining seconds of my life.

Here, however, in the ninety minutes allotted to me, I will be forced to speak on a subject about which I have limited knowledge and no expertise.

I can almost hear you saying to yourselves, "But when has that ever stopped a lawyer from speaking?"

In the spirit of candidness and transparency which should characterize an evening of this nature, I confess that, until I began preparing for this ordeal, my only formal exposure to Robbie Burns occurred at the commencement of my reckless pursuit of knowledge at McGill University. This was some 57 years ago, in the first-year survey course, imaginatively described as "English 100." It was at the beginning of the process of changing from a callow high school graduate into a callow Bachelor of Commerce.

English 100 was inflicted, three times a week, in Moyses Hall, and was filled with resolutely uninterested freshmen plus a significant number of sweating and terrified upperclassmen from the Faculty of Engineering, for whom passing English 100 was a requirement for graduation, and who were savouring the pleasure of the course for the third or fourth time. McGill entertained the rather quaint view at that time (no doubt a tradition inherited from its Scottish founders and academic leaders) that even Engineers ought to have a modicum of ability to speak, read and write English.

If the students were unreceptive to a fault, their lack of interest was exceeded only by the boredom of the professors called upon to administer the cultural medicine of an introductory course in English literature. It certainly gave proof to Frank Scott's description of a college lecture: the process of transferring the notes of the lecturer to the notebook of the student, without passing through the minds of either.

In any event, to return to the fragile connection between first-year McGill and this evening, I confess, in this role of speaker, to identifying with the subject of one of Burns' odes:

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

Yes, this fellow called Robert Burns actually composed an Ode to a Mouse. He also composed

an Ode to a Louse, having observed one on the hat of a lady seated in front of him in church.

So, there we were, at McGill, ready to learn about the sacking of Rome, rape and pillage, suppression of the lower classes, and other weighty topics, and we had to read a poem about a mouse, written by someone with apparently too much time on his hands, not enough great thoughts on his mind and with an apparent serious inability to spell two words in a row correctly.

Now, there must obviously have been something more to Burns than a perverse penchant for scholars to impose him on the sensibilities of those aspiring to become leaders in their own generation. The admiration expressed for Robbie Burns borders on cult-like. This evening's celebration is but an example. So is the huge statue we find in Dominion Square, although there appear to have been some non-Scottish pigeons in the area, all determined to express and display their literary criticism.

What is it, then, that fascinates people about Burns? And, how is it that this fascination extends so far beyond the mere Scottish diaspora?

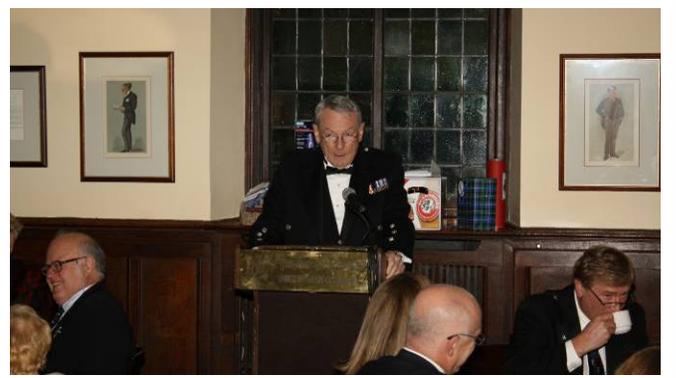
His beginnings and social status were largely unpromising. His education was minimal. For much of his life he struggled as a farmer, experiencing firsthand the vicissitudes of good and bad years and the flagrant injustices inflicted by the landed gentry on tenant farmers.

He was born near Ayr on January 25, 1759 and died at Dumfries on July 21, 1796 at the age of 37. He was born only fourteen years after the battle at Culloden, in which the English crushed the Highland-led support of the Stuart pretenders to the throne of Britain. Although Burns was not a Highlander, and might well never have worn a kilt, he was nevertheless a Scot and his writing reflects that heritage. It is perhaps that deep feeling for the Scottish traditions so evident in the subject matter of his poetry and the manner in which he expresses those feelings which resonate with communities – not just Scottish – all over the world.

I have picked out a couple of minor works regarding the Scottish nationalism. The first is entitled *On Stirling*:

*Here Stuarts once in glory reign'd,
And laws for Scotland's weal ordain'd;
But now unroof'd their palace stands,
Their sceptre's sway'd by other hands;
The injured Stuart line is gone,
A race outlandish fills their throne.
An idiot race to honour lost,
Who know them best, despise them most.*

This was pretty strong and bitter stuff. Burns was warned that the lines would affect his prospects (and this was someone who had little, if any,



Richard Pound, recipient of the 2010 Quebec Thistle Council Scotsman of the Year Award, delivering the Toast to the Immortal. Memory Photo courtesy of Marc Primeau.

financial safety net). His response was equally combative, entitled merely Lines:

*Rash mortal, and slanderous poet, thy name
Shall no longer appear in the records of fame;
Dost not know that old Mansfield, who writes
like the Bible,
Says the more 'tis a truth, sir, the more 'tis a
libel?*

Scottish nationalism has endured and, in recent times, has reached the point (all-too-familiar to those of us in Quebec) that a referendum on Scottish independence is now under active consideration. The principal issue now seems to be one of timing, with the Scottish leadership aiming for 2014 and the British wanting it to be held a year sooner. There will, of course, be the matter of choosing the "right" question...

Burns the Poet

Even though most modern readers would have the same difficulty as many did (and do) with earlier writers and dialects, such as Beowulf, Chaucer and Shakespeare, what comes through, regardless of the difficulties which may be inherent in the language, is his sincerity. His opinions were not particularly original, nor even compelling, but he was that rare combination of wit, sharp perception and imaginative sense, who "spoke" candidly and could magnetize an audience.

In his time, it was not possible to earn a living as a poet (a condition which persists to this day) and Burns, while serious enough about his poetry, and clearly pleased with its success, recognized that neither the publication of his works nor the acclaim which followed made any effective difference to his economic situation, even after both of his major publications. Fame paid no bills. The height of his working career was as a relatively minor official in the assessment and collection of Excise taxes.

The short length of his life gave no indication of the strength of his libido. While he dipped his quill in

the inkpot for purposes of his poetry, he was equally prolific for more visceral dipping of a more personal quill. Clearly a handsome fellow, he had a gift of the gab and seems to have been irresistible to a plethora of young women, many of whom were fully aware of his reputation, and were often left with growing reminders of their relationships, to the point that Burns gave serious thought to leaving Scotland for Jamaica, although to be fair, the offspring were never unacknowledged.

Scholars have remarked on many aspects of his work, such as the following:

The spirit, the tone, the tune, the feel, the rhythm, the subjects, the verse forms, the conventions, and the diction of Burns' vernacular Scots poems all derived from a long tradition in Scotland, unfamiliar then and now to most readers of English literature.

The style of his poetry is certainly unique.

He developed a highly individualized style and idiom. He devised a mixture of general English and of Scots spoken in no particular area and by no particular group, to create the informal and conversational manner he wanted. He shifts back and forth from English to Scots as it suits his purpose, his rhythm, his rhyming need, his poetic mood. He tries to be simple, clear and exciting. He speaks naturally, and to the heart.

There may be a tendency for some critics to try to write off Burns as a mere rhymer (as he often described himself) and his verse as little more than doggerel, but this falls far short of appreciating his place in literature.

Burns belongs with noted predecessors: Chaucer (of the *Canterbury Tales*), Henryson (of the fables and *Robene and Makyne*), and Dunbar (in his less courtly moments). His parallels with Shakespeare are often noted: modest origins and scanty formal training, "native genius"; individuality in the use of established forms and subjects; a concrete style, a lyric gift, and metrical felicity; and zest for the human comedy. In Burns' own century, he shares top honours with Pope, his fellow wit and satirist. And of his successors, he has the strongest kinship with his neighbour and contemporary, Wordsworth, and with his fellow-Scot, Byron, in the deceptively casual *Beppo* and *Don Juan*.

Many of Burn's observations (made more trenchant by his particular form of expression) border on proverbs or universal statements:

*O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!
Ne'er mind how Fortune waft an' warp;*

She's but a bitch.

Nursing her wrath to keep it warm.

*The best-laid schemes o' mice and men/Gang
aft agley.*

Feel not a want but what yourselves create.

Nae man can tether time or tide.

*The heart ay's the part ay/That makes us right
or wrang.*

*Man's inhumanity to man/Makes countless
thousands mourn.*

Now, by way of wrapping-up these brief snatches of a short, but active, life, someone willing to publish odes to mice and lice, to fan the fires of Scottish nationalism, to make all-too-clear the Scottish disdain for the English and to pursue the pleasures of female company so assiduously, may be expected to have had few self-limitations on what he wrote. This can be illustrated by the bawdy song, "Nine Inch Will Please a Lady," the opening words of which are:

*"Come rede [advise] me, dame, come tell me,
dame,
My dame come tell me truly,
What length o' graith [gear], when well ca'd
[driven] hame,
Will sair [serve] a woman duly?
The carlin clew [scratched] her wanton tail,
Her wanton tail sae ready –
"I learned a song in Annadale,
Nine inch will please a lady. –*

*"But for a koontrie [country] cunt like mine,
In sooth we're nae sae gentle;
We'll tak tway [two] thumb-bred [thumb-
breadths] to the nine,
And that's a sonsy pintle [comely penis]:*

To finish on such a tumescent note, there is far more to Robert Burns than can be covered at a single sitting such as this, which is as it should be,



Chef Alain Monod along with Jeffrey McCarthy addressing the haggis. Photo courtesy of Marc Primeau.

leaving his admirers wanting still more (perhaps from a better speaker) and anticipating the succeeding instalment, to be delivered on the occasion of the next celebration of his birth.

In the meantime, in accordance with tradition, I invite all present to rise and drink a toast to the immortal memory of Robbie Burns...

New Members

The Society is very pleased to welcome new annual members: Marc Duval, Carol Fauteux, Nathalie Fauteux, Elizabeth J. Leslie, David MacLeod, John Kirwan Martin.

Also, we would like to acknowledge the transfer from annual to Life Member – Cary Leclaire, annual member since 1999.



Flowers of the Forest

We would like to extend condolences to the families of the following former member, Malcolm MacQuaig Campbell. He served proudly in the RCAF during World War II. He was a career employee of Canadian National Railways and subsequently its consulting arm, Canac International. Following retirement, he volunteered at New Hope centre in NDG, the Salvation Army and with the Canadian Continnence Society. Malcolm MacQuaig Campbell was an annual member from 1986.

Chateau Laurier Hotel Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Gillian Leitch

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the Chateau Laurier Hotel. In honour of this momentous occasion the hotel is being marked in various ways. One of the more interesting projects is the creation of a historical exhibit, with memorabilia and objects from its hundred years of operation. The Chateau Laurier was constructed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in 1912, across from the Union Train Station. It cost \$2 million dollars to build, which in today's dollars is probably astronomical. According to the hotel's website rooms cost \$2 a night.¹

To mount this exhibit the hotel held an amnesty day. On February 26th they opened their doors and held a four hour tea party. Participants were invited to bring in relics and stories of the hotel. No questions were asked about how the objects were obtained.

Deneen Perrin with the hotel told "CFRA News there were many interesting items they recovered today. "A... almost like a Swiss Army Knife if you

will... still functions... looks like something from approximately 1930, has the logo on the hotel on it... a... Ottawa... postcard set and it had various photos of the hotel in that... as well as an old bellman uniform and it was from [one of the guest's] grandfather who had worked in the hotel for 51 years. Along with that he returned a cigar box that kept all of his items that he used before his shift." They also recovered a set of 8 chairs from the 1930s which used to be in the Quebec suite (where today's event was held). "They're in impeccable condition and they're really solid, really sturdy... for a moment when they got brought up, I thought perhaps somebody had called for extra chairs from here in the hotel!"²

What a marvellous way to find out more of the hotel's history, and to reunite items from its past to its proper home. The display of these items will be from the 1st of June to the end of the centennial year.

MONTREAL'S SCOTTISH KINSMEN:

The St Andrew's Society and Canada's Black Watch

Earl John Chapman

The earliest extant written account "connecting" the St Andrew's Society of Montreal with the Black Watch of Canada, the country's senior Highland regiment, is dated November 1880. That year the Society's annual ball, held at the Windsor Hotel, was covered by a local newspaper which reported that "some three hundred guests" were "received by Mr. James Stewart, President of St Andrew's Society, and his amiable wife." It also reported that while British regular army officers were absent (the British garrison had left Montreal in 1870), their place was taken up by officers from Montreal's volunteer force "sporting the national colour and the garb of auld Gaul," the article continues with "the military costumes...added much to the bright and picturesque appearance of the ball-room, where the soldiers of Her Majesty whirled round in the many dances the fair daughters of Montreal." These resplendent officers included those from the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, today's Black Watch of Canada. The music was furnished by "Mr. Gruenwald's string band and the pipers of the Royal Scots Fusiliers." While not recorded in this article, the pipers would have been led by Donald Weir, the first pipe major of Canada's Black Watch who had been appointed to that prestigious position in 1876. About this same time, Weir was the piper for the Caledonian Society, originally formed as an adjunct to the St Andrew's Society, its principal purpose

¹ Phil Gaudreau, "Chateau Laurier 'Amnesty Day' Turns Up Many Relics from Hotel's History" 26 February 2012, <http://www.cfra.com/?cat=1&nid=84591>.

¹ www.fairmont.com/laurier (27 Feb 2012).

being the encouragement of Scottish athletic games and sports and other social activities.

Pipe Major Donald Weir had also performed at the opening of the 1876 annual ball, a contemporary newspaper account reporting "about nine o'clock the ball was opened, piper Weir playing "The Campbells are Coming" as the President and guests marched in...he afterwards played a Scotch reel." Again, a strong military presence was evident as the anonymous reporter added, "...Colonel Fletcher, Colonel Bacon [the Montreal District's senior staff officers] and many of the volunteer officers in garrison were present in uniform."

Canada's Black Watch traces its origins to 31 January 1862 when six volunteer rifle companies were formed into a battalion under the command of Haviland L. Routh, a wealthy timber and grain merchant with strong connections to Montreal's Scottish community. Initially formed as the 5th Battalion, Volunteer Militia Rifles of Canada, Routh's new unit would be quickly renamed to the 5th Battalion, Royal Light Infantry of Montreal. Regardless of its official title, the new Battalion was Scottish – most of its newly-minted officers were prominent Montreal Scotsmen, including five of the six company commanders – it would be the first Scottish battalion-sized unit to be formed in Canada.

In 1875 the Regiment was reorganized and renamed as the 5th Royal Fusiliers, its two elite flank companies adopting a mixture of "Highland" and "Fusilier" uniform elements, the first tentative step in the Regiment's eventual evolution to full Highland status. The high cost of equipping a Highland regiment would ensure that this transition would be gradual, on a company-by-company basis, as funds became available. At the reorganization, two pipers were assigned to each flank company, explaining why Duncan Weir had

been appointed the Regiment's first pipe major in 1876.



Donald Weir, 1876, Notman II

In 1880 the Regiment was finally given a genuinely Scottish name when it became the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, popularly known as the "Montreal Kilties." In 1884 the Regiment was renamed to the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots of Canada, and in 1904 its gradual approach to full Highland status was reflected by a further change in title to the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots of Canada, Highlanders. In 1905 the Regiment became formally associated with Scotland's Black Watch, one of Great Britain's most popular regiments. The Canadian regiment would evolve through several more changes in title (and uniform), including the Royal Highlanders of Canada, before finally becoming the Black Watch (Royal Highland

Regiment) of Canada in 1935.

Of the many regular British army regiments which garrisoned at Montreal from 1760 to 1870, a favourite of the Montreal's St Andrew's Society was the 78th Highland Regiment (Ross-shire Buffs), later known as the Seaforth Highlanders, which served in Montreal from 1867-1869 (the 78th Highland Regiment mentioned here was raised in 1793 and bears no relationship to the earlier 78th Highland Regiment which fought at Louisbourg and Quebec during the Seven Years' War). Pipers of this famous regiment, along with many of its officers and NCOs, attended the Society's annual balls during their short stay in the city. When the 78th left Montreal in May 1869, the Society presented its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Mackenzie of Avoch, a 48-year old veteran of the Indian Mutiny, with a letter of appreciation expressing its "deep feeling of regret which their approaching departure had awakened in the minds of their fellow countrymen in the City of Montreal."



George S Cantlie, 5th RHC, c1910

While the use of pipers from Canada's Black Watch at Society annual balls can be dated from 1880, a strong connection with the St Andrew's Society of Montreal must have been present since the formation of the 5th Battalion, Royal Light Infantry in 1862. A sign of this early association can be seen from the fact that the Battalion's No. 2 Company was commanded by Andrew Allan, a prime "catch" for Colonel Routh's emerging battalion. Andrew had joined the Society in 1841 and would become a Life Member. His older brother, Hugh, then at the beginning of a long and successful career which would make him one of the wealthiest men in Lower Canada, was one of the Society's original members, serving as secretary in 1839 and president in 1848. When Sir Hugh passed away in 1883, the Society made the following resolution:

Resolved - "That it is with sincere regret that this Society has to chronicle the removal by death of three of its member, viz: David J. Greenshields, Edward MacKay and Sir Hugh Allan, members, whose names are eminently worthy of honorable record in the annals of the Society: they were men, who in divers ways, by active service, or by gifts of benevolence and charity, sought to advance the best interests of the Society, increase its usefulness, and promote its prosperity."

Another early officer of the "5th Royals" with a strong connection to the Society is the Hon. John Rose, appointed the Battalion's second-in-command in 1862. Rose, a well-known and respected lawyer in Montreal, and Member of Parliament, was president of the Society from 1852 to 1855.

As would be expected, this early but tenuous association between Montreal's "sons of Auld Scotia" grew stronger, year by year. Some examples are listed below:

(1) At the Society's annual ball in 1890, the Montreal Herald reported on the duty pipers, all from the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots of Canada: "Pipe Major Matthewson [sic], Pipe Sergeant Clark, Pipe

Sergeant McLennan, Pipe Sergeant McCowan, Pipe Sergeant Brockill...they are all too well known to need any special mention beyond the fact that their music was never better enjoyed than last evening." John Matheson had been appointed pipe major in 1881, becoming the Regiment's third pipe major, holding that appointment until he was replaced by David Manson in 1897.

(2) As recorded by the Hon. Mr. Justice K.C. Mackay in his St Andrew's Society of Montreal Handbook, the Grand March at the Society's annual ball in 1893 "was led by the Pipe Major of the Royal Scots, followed by nine pipers, each of the ten carrying a different coat of arms on the pipes."

(3) In 1895, the Society decided not to give the usual St Andrew's Day ball and "in order that society people might not be disappointed," the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots of Canada, then commanded by Lieutenant Colonel J.A.L. Strathy, "took the matter up and gave a dance at the Windsor Hotel on the evening of November 29th, which was a brilliant success."

(4) In 1900, the guests at the first St Andrew's Ball of the 20th century, honouring the Earl and Countess of Minto, were entertained by "the full pipe band" of the 5th Battalion, Royal Scots of Canada, the pipers also "officiating at the solemn function of the marching-in of the Haggis into the Banquet Hall, the savoury dish being borne in state upon the shoulders of four sturdy men of the Royal Scots in full uniform."

(5) In September 1901, a ceremonial arch built by the Society in honour of the visit to Montreal of the future king of England, George V, "was manned by the 5th Royal Scots."

(6) Colonel Paul P. Hutchison, a former regimental commandant of Canada's Black Watch, and author of the Regiment's history over the period 1862-1962, wrote that the Society's annual ball in 1906 was held in the Highlanders' new Bleury Street Armoury "with some 400 attending." The use of the Black Watch Armoury for Society events continues



Pipe Major J.M. Matheson 1891 - II-94571

Answers to "Know your Scots Quiz"

1. David Hume; 2. John Napier the Laird of Merchiston; 3. Adam Smith; 4. Mungo Park; 5. David Livingstone; 6. Greenock; 7. John Loudon McAdam; 8. Thomas Telford; 9. Mary Slessor; 10. John Logie Baird; 11. Robert Watson Watt; 12. Charles Rennie Mackintosh; 13. Allan Pinkerton; 14. Sir John A MacDonal; 15. Alexander Graham Bell

to this day and includes the annual whiskey tasting party, ball rehearsals, the debutantes' reception and the annual Christmas tree party for children.

(7) In 1912, the ladies of the St Andrew's Society of Montreal donated a new stand of Colours to the Regiment, then known as the 5th Regiment, Royal Highlanders of Canada, to replace those which had been in use since 1862. The new Colours were made in England at a cost of \$1,200, a considerable sum in 1912. The new Colours coupled with the pomp and ceremony which would accompany their presentation, was intended by the Regiment's new commander, Lieutenant Colonel George S. Cantlie, to strengthen the unit then coming out of a difficult reorganization. Cantlie, appointed to the command on 11 May 1909, was also a prominent member of the Society who would become its president in 1917.

(8) In 1946, 80 "radiant debutantes" were led into the Ballroom of the Windsor Hotel amidst 2000 guests "to the sound of the regimental pipes of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada."

Another strong indicator is the large number of regimental commandants and honorary colonels who served as president of the Society, a list which reads like a "Who's Who" of the Black Watch command over the years: Senator the Hon. Robert Mackay was president of the Society between 1892-1894, and honorary colonel of the Regiment between 1900-1918; Sir Hugh Montagu Allan, the second son of Hugh Allan, was president between 1911-1913, and honorary colonel between 1920-1951; Lieutenant Colonel George S. Cantlie was president between 1917-1920, and commandant, overseas battalion commander, and honorary colonel over the period 1909-1956, the first of a long line of regimental commandants to become president of the St Andrew's Society of Montreal. Other regimental commandants to serve in this capacity include: Gavin L. Ogilvie, Andrew Fleming, Hugh M. Wallis, John W. Knox, John I.B. Macfarlane, and Daniel F. O'Connor, not to forget the Society's serving president, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Bruce Bolton; other regimental officers to serve as president include: W.H. Clark-Kennedy, VC; Keith Hutchison; W.O.H. Dodds; and W.W. Ogilvie.

The St Andrew's Society of Montreal has for many years been a strong supporter of the development of young pipers and drummers in Montreal – it is said that it can take up to seven years to fully develop a piper and three years to develop a drummer to the level of the Black Watch requirements. In 1951 this support was extended to the organization of a program, in conjunction with Canada's Black Watch, to encourage many of these young men and women to continue on in their piping and

drumming studies and perhaps to join one of the local bands. In 1953, a grant from the Society facilitated Lieutenant Colonel John G. Bourne, then regimental commandant, to form Cadet Corps 2497, most of the organizational work falling to Major Walter Macfarlane. With the continued support of the Society, the Regiment's junior pipe band, officially known as the Black Watch Cadet Corps Pipes and Drums, continues to support local parades and events in Montreal including: Armistice ceremonies, branch legion events, the St Andrew's Society annual Christmas party, the regimental church parade and many other activities.

This year, Canada's Black Watch celebrates 150 years of proud service to Canada, a significant achievement as the birth of the Regiment predates Confederation itself. But on the Regiment's "formation day" in 1862, its Scottish kinsmen at the St Andrew's Society of Montreal were already celebrating twenty seven years of proud service to Montreal. Let's hope that the long and cherished association between the Society and the Regiment continues for many more years.

References:

Minute Book, St Andrew's Society of Montreal: 1835-1885; Ernest Chambers, The 5th Regiment, Royal Scots of Canada, Highlanders: a regimental history (Montreal, 1904); Paul P. Hutchison, Canada's Black Watch: the first hundred years (Bloomfield, Ontario, 1987); Earl John Chapman, The Black Watch of Canada: the early years, 1862-1878 (Montreal, 2006); K.C. Mackay, St Andrew's Society of Montreal Handbook (Montreal, 1973); Brian Mackenzie, "The Black Watch School of Pipes and Drums," Journal of the St Andrew's Society of Montreal, May 2010.

To the Lassies

Burns Nicht Supper 2012

Geoffrey Dowd

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It's my honour to propose a toast to the lassies on this most Scottish of evenings. Dr. Fownes' invitation to make this toast, however, puts me in the delicate position of first having to tell some truths about women and their many fine qualities. But as the poet Burns exhorts us to "dare to be honest and fear no labour," I will proceed bravely on the sure expectation that my dear wife will respond generously and no doubt endorse my sentiments. Happily, I'm well-used to this tradition in most marriages—and certainly mine—of the lady having the last word.

As some of you know, I've served for the past 18 years as the principal of Trafalgar School for Girls, an institution about to celebrate 125 years of existence, throughout which its central role has been the

advancement of young women. As I'm also the proud father of daughters, my combined professional and personal perspective should allow me a more informed perspective than the average fellow on the world and nature of women. Sadly, this is not the case: women are delightful ciphers, their moods a high sea for which no compass has been invented. I can with some authority offer this advice to the men in the room: gentlemen, against women you have no chance, and never did. Capitulate! It's a truism that girls mature more quickly than boys: the corollary expressed less often is that we men never catch up. If it's any consolation, men have a much better time of it than women. For one thing, we marry later; for another thing, we die earlier.

But how are we to really know women and serve their needs? One person observed that men who don't understand women fall into two groups: Bachelors and Husbands. Sigmund Freud, the well-known Scottish psychologist, observed that "The great question that has never been answered is, "What does a woman want?" I myself am just starting to scratch the surface of this question, and believe the answer lies somewhere between conversation and chocolate.

Surely the poet Robert Burns—a legendary admirer, occasional husband and wholesale enchanter of women—can shed some light on the question of what makes women so delightful, so



Geoffrey Dowd delivering the Toast to the Lassies. Photo courtesy of Marc Primeau.

various, but so mystifying to most men? But the Scottish bard appears to have had a focus on charming, rather than comprehending, the fairer sex. He published in 1774 at age 15 his first poem: "My Handsome Nell," one dedicated to his first love, whom he predictably praises for her beauty—"O, once I loved a bonnie lass" begins the poem—but above all he commends her "innocence and modesty": noble sentiments, to be sure, but at odds with his transparently

adolescent, more passionate intent. Only a year after discarding the bonnie Nelly, the 16-year-old poet wrote to his newest true love, Peggy Thomson, a poem titled "I dreamed I Lay." Indeed.

Can this young, open-hearted romantic poet be the same Robert Burns who wrote the poem "Tam O'Shanter" 15 years later? In this famous poem, Tam describes his very own wife (serving as a model for all long-suffering wives, and perhaps the poet's) as:

"our sulky, sullen dame,
Gathering her brows like gathering storm,
Nursing her wrath to keep it warm."

And this shrewish mood just because poor Tam was arriving home late again after a marathon session of drinking at a tavern with friends?

Scotland's favourite son started writing poetry to impress women, at which he was clearly adept, even if he did not entirely understand them or marriage. He may have recognized the antique truth that while all marriages are happy, it's the living together afterward that causes all the trouble.

In these modern, more enlightened times, of course, a woman's lot is different. Today's men are much more considerate, more open, more communicative. Women now have choices. They can be married, not married, have a job, not have a job, be married with children, unmarried with children. Men have the same choice we've always had: work or prison.

Good men, however emotionally clueless and hormonally driven we are, are made better by women, and are fortunate to keep their fine company. Women are, of course superior communicators to men, but men in choosing their words carefully, can still be effective. It's all about the message. For example, a foolish man tells a woman to stop talking; but a wise man tells her that her mouth is extremely beautiful when her lips are closed.

Society's Archives under Renewal

Gillian Leitch

The St Andrew's Society has a rich heritage, and part of this heritage is preserved in its archives. The Archives are currently being inventoried in order to facilitate their preservation. In addition, the Archives Committee is preparing a policy which will allow members and interested parties to consult archives' material, while maintaining its condition.

While inventorying the Archives' documents it is clear that some materials once in the possession of the Society have gone missing. If you have any committee minutes books, or other material which you believe belongs in the Society's collection, we urge you to donate them back to the Society.

Despite his marital meanderings and lapses, of wedding rings Burns wrote:

*"She asked why wedding rings are made of gold;
I ventured this to instruct her;
Why, madam, love and lightning are the same,
On earth they glance, from Heaven they came.
Love is the soul's electric flame,
And gold its best conductor."*

What woman could have resisted such gilded words from the great man? Less poetically, I can offer the sidebar speculation that men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They've both experienced pain and bought jewellery.

To be happy with a man, as the saying goes, ladies must understand him a lot and love him a little. Gentlemen, to be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all. What would men be without women? Scarce, sirs; mighty scarce. But also joyless.

Gentlemen, in honour of these bewitching, charming creatures, please be upstanding. Let's raise our glasses: TO THE LASSIES!

St. Andrews Ball: The 2011 Debutantes & Escorts

Julie Perron

At the ball this year, we were pleased to welcome 4 young ladies as debutantes. Accompanied throughout the process by their escorts they enjoyed volunteering their time at the old brewery mission. While the escorts were invited to a luncheon by the St-Andrews Society president, Mr. Bruce Bolton, the debutantes were invited for the traditional "Debutantes' tea" by Mrs Roberta Bolton, wife of the President. They were all introduced to the Guest of Honour at the "Debutantes' Reception". On the night of the ball our 4 debutantes in their ball gowns were shining like stars as were their escorts either wearing their Scottish highland outfit or a tuxedo. With only a few practices, they performed the Scottish country waltz like pros. For my first year as the Chairlady of the Debutantes' Committee, I had the pleasure to meet some very nice young people. It is my pleasure now to share with you the biographies prepared for the Debutantes' Reception. See you next year with more new very nice young debutantes and escorts.

Emily Elspeth Dias-Geoffroy is in Secondary V and sub-head girl at Trafalgar School for Girls. She is an editor of the

school's on-line newspaper, a member of the Outer's Club, Ski Club and Badminton team. This November, Emily turns 16 and will be using this occasion to raise funds for The Leprosy Mission Canada.

Emily has kept a close connection with the St. Andrew's Society since attending her first Christmas party when she was 13 months old. In 2003, she was the Flower girl and now looks forward to the debutante experience and future participation in the Society. For the last two years she has been the Protocol Assistant at the St. Andrew's Ball.

Emily has spent all but her first summer in Scotland, solidifying family ties and building friendships. It is her hope to attend Dawson College, St. Andrew's University and the London Film Academy. She is an avid photographer and videographer and hopes to become a film director.

Last year she was named Junior Coach of the year for the TMR Figure Skating Club. After 13 years, she has given up figure skating in favour of highland dancing. She has also discovered the joys of country dancing. Emily enjoys winter camping, skiing, horseback riding, genealogical research and is currently working on her pilot's licence.

Philippe Brock is part of the graduating class of 2012 at Selwyn House School. He enjoys playing tennis, and rock climbing. In his spare time he tutors children with learning disabilities and volunteers as an organizer for the CAIS 2012 conference. Philippe is taking the Honours Science and the AP Physics programs at Selwyn House. He plans to enter Pure and Applied Sciences at Marianopolis CEGEP next year. Philippe aspires to go into engineering at McGill following CEGEP. Eventually he would like to travel the world, experiencing new cultures and



Shown left to right - Hannah Kirby Woods and Pierre Barthelemy, Emily Elspeth Dias-Geoffroy and Philippe Brock, Melissa Julia Santos McGregor and Nicholas Green, Amelia Catherine Mannarino and Brenden Carriere.

HOLEY HOSE SAVED

The 78th Fraser Highlanders, the student pipers and drummers who parade at the Stewart Museum on St Helen's Island, during the summer have benefitted from the support of the St. Andrew's Society since the program's inception in 1966. It is a wonderful job for the students and a very visible expression of Montreal's Scottish and military heritage. It is tough though, and one can only imagine how the soldiers wear down their red & white long hose with parades and duties 7 hours a day, five days a week for an entire summer. Holes are bound to develop at the heel and sometimes at the toe. At \$80 a pair, every effort must be made to extend their lifespan. The dilemma - hundreds of pairs of holey hose needing darning! The solution - Moira Barclay Fernie - well known for her shortbread and scone lessons and product, Moira developed a reputation for leading the knitting group at the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul. Holey hose and holy knitter - a match made in Heaven. Moira undertook the task and darned and darned. In recognition of the hundreds of hours she worked on the hose, Moira was appointed a "Regimental Lady", and thereafter referred to as "Milady". The poem on the following page, Ode to the 78th Fraser Highlanders' Socks, expresses Moira's love of darning Fraser Hose!

customs to broaden his horizons.

Amelia Mannarino is a second year Mechanical Engineering student at McGill University. Originally from Ancaster, Ontario, Amelia enjoys spending time in the outdoors, leading canoe trips and planting trees in northern Canada during her summers. Amelia loves getting involved in local volunteer organizations, recently appearing as a "Difference Maker" and medal bearer in the Canada-wide 25th Anniversary Rick Hansen Relay.

Brenden Carriere is a second year Education student at McGill University. Brenden grew up in Richmond, British Columbia, where he established his love for football. Now a linebacker for the McGill Football team, Brenden is enjoying his studies in child development and educational psychology.

Melissa McGregor is a MCpl in the Black Watch Cadet Corps, which she has been attending for four years, and also a Swing Tenor in Pipes and Drums. She is interested in music, is learning to play guitar, loves to sing and aspires to be an author or a musician. Melissa loves animals and for a part time job would like to work with animals that are abandoned. She has volunteered in many activities through the cadets such as The St. Patrick's Parade and Remembrance Parade in Hudson. Melissa has also volunteered at the St. Ann's Veteran's Hospital and considers it an honour and a pleasure to be part of the St. Andrews Ball.

Nicholas Donald Green is currently a high school student at Centennial Regional High School. He is currently a Cadet with The Black Watch RHR Cadet Corps in Montreal, Quebec with the rank of Cadet Master Corporal, a member of The Cadet Pipes and Drums at the Regiment and holds the LCol Ian MacDougall Award for Dress and Deportment. He is active with the Biathlon Team and the Shooting Team. One of his passions is training in the Martial Arts and he holds a Purple Belt in the International Shorin-Ryu Karate Federation and is also recognized as an assistant instructor for the Ryu Jin-

Dar Shorin Ryu Kobudo Jutsu School in Greenfield Park, Quebec. His ambitions are to attend Royal Military College and have a career in the military.

Hannah Wood is a second year student at McGill University in the Honours History Program, specializing in Church history in the British Isles up to the Reformation. Born in Brantford, Ontario, Hannah spends her free time horseback riding for the McGill Equestrian team, playing piano, and working on the executive committee of the McGill Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society. Hannah aspires to be an historian and to lecture at a university level.

Pierre Barthelemy is in his second year at McGill University, studying Political Science and Russian. Originally from Rouen, France, Pierre attended school in London for ten years and is enjoying his time in Canada. Pierre is a rugby fan, having played for a club team in England, and enjoys drawing and travelling in his spare time, recently returning from an internship in Turkmenistan.

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 in purchasing one, please contact the Society's office.

Private Rental Spaces: Households and Business Storage

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

Ode to the 78th Fraser Highlanders' Socks

Millady Moira Barclay-Fernie, originally published in the Despatches Nov 2011 edition.

One day my friend Bruce sent me a box -
A very large box filled up with socks,
Not one, or two, or three, or four,
But I counted and saw a hundred or more.

The socks of all sizes made quite a rare sight,
Except that each suffered a terrible blight.
For, used through each summer, day after day,
The socks were now in a terrible way.

That terrible blight was not seen on parade,
Though the holes, which were huge, had each one
been made
By wickedly difficult sheer wear and tear.
Now each of those socks needed special repair.

Today darners of socks are thin on the ground.
So how would Bruce Bolton tackle this mound?
Socks - lots of socks - with great gaping holes
Not only on heels but also on soles.

Bruce puzzled and puzzled and asked all around,
"Who can darn and repair these socks by the pound?
Ah, Moira," he thought. "She will say yes."
And how right he was, no need to guess.

The next step was Moira getting the box,
Then checking and darning and pairing the socks.
Not all socks could be darned and made ready for use
'Cos some of the holes were as big as a moose.

So when you see hose of red and white checks,
Please remember the time I spent wearing my specs,
Night after night, tackling this blight
And working away until failing daylight.

But now we have socks for the incoming season
And, for the future, have found a good reason,
To change our wearing of socks made of cotton.
The use of synthetics should not be forgotten.

Then back went the socks, some darned and all clean
To your dear Chief of Staff whose face it did beam,
And now that's the end of a tale of some hose
Of the 78th Frasers whom everyone knows.

So here I am now, Regimental lady no less
All because I could darn and work under stress.
I am happy I helped and I gave it my best,
But Bruce, keep those socks at their Old Fort address.



Quiz: Know your Scots

Chareen Dias

1. Which Edinburgh born Scottish philosopher was the author of Treatise on Human Nature and The Natural History of Religion. He is buried in Old Calton Cemetery in Edinburgh?
2. Name the 16th century mathematical genius who created logarithms. There is a university in Edinburgh named after him.
3. Who invented the science of economics?
4. Name the young Scottish surgeon who, in 1795, was involved in the opening up of Africa.
5. Half a century later he was followed by_____
6. James Watt, the inventor of the Watt Steam engine, was from what town?
7. This civil engineer from Ayr is associated with a type of road, who is he?
8. This civil engineer, known for designing bridges, also built the Caledonian Canal. Who is he?
9. Name the Dundee girl who devoted her life to teaching and caring for Africans in what is now known as Nigeria? Her face appears on the Clydesdale bank ten pound note?
10. Before he died in 1946, this Scot had produced colour and 3 dimensional TV. What is his name?
11. In 1935, this Scot developed a system known as radiolocation. He acknowledged his debt to Marconi. Who was he?
12. This Glaswegian architect of the Art Nouveau period applied his ideas to the design of every household item, decoration, furniture and architecture. Who is he?
13. This Glaswegian moved to the US and joined the secret service. At one time he guarded President Lincoln. He rose to the head of the secret service, before he founded the first private eye organization, centred in Chicago. What is his name?
14. The son of an unemployed engineer, from Glasgow, this man created the Dominion of Canada. What is his name?
15. This inventor was determined to help the deaf communicate. Who is he?

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Phone: (514) 842-2030

Website: www.standrews.qc.ca

Email: journal@standrews.qc.ca

Editor: J. Cassar