



THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

WINTER/SPRING 2020

RELIVE THE ST. ANDREW'S BALL!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hope springs exulting on triumphant wing.

—Robert Burns

Winter can be long and cold in Montreal and, when mixed with the darkness that settles in, it seems that the sun may never return. But, we hold out hope. The winter solstice arrives in December and, incrementally, the days get longer. We notice that as we leave the office from a long day's work, or as children are picked up from daycare, there is a glimpse of the sun peering at us as we arrive home. *Hope that brighter days are ahead.*

We are a Society and a community filled with hope. Our membership base is growing, our events are thriving, and we continue to do good work for charities in Montreal. How can I prove this? Here are

some qualitative and quantitative examples that you can read about within this issue:

The Annual Ball's Silent Auction raised \$18,000 for the Douglas Hospital Foundation in support of mental health research and care. Thanks to members and friends of the Society who understand the value of work done at this institution, founded by Scots, *hope will be felt by all who are cared for at the Douglas.*

Read "News from the Chair" and you will understand the vision that committee members had when they began fundraising for the Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University. They didn't know when they began if they would reach their goal, but *they hoped they would. They did.* Thanks to you. Current McGill students Gracie Forgie and Margaret Rochefort spoke at the annual St. Andrew's Luncheon and thanked the Society for donations that have allowed them to study in the department and learn more about Scottish history.

Read a thank you letter from Persephone Seale, a Scottish studies student at Guelph. Persephone is a recipient of a bursary from the Society's educational fund. Maintaining a strong endowment provides hope for students of Scottish heritage as they continue their post-secondary education. In 2019, over fifty bursaries were distributed. *Education is hope for the future.*

A book review is a new addition to the Journal. You can find *Tam: The Three Changelings* and others in the generous collection of Scottish works available at the Atwater Library thanks to the support of the St. Andrew's Society. *The Library, founded by Scots, celebrates its centenary this year and remains hopeful for its future.*

The Society is pleased to have established a partnership with Scottish Affairs Canada. We are looking forward to joining with them for *Printemps écossais* at Place des Arts in April

Cover photo by Peter Matulina

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

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and introducing Montrealers and all Quebecers to a celebration of Scottish cultural arts. Attendees will learn that there is more to our culture than tossing the caber! *Scotland is a rich and vibrant culture filled with vitality and hope.*

Yes, there are still several weeks left of winter. Yes, there will be some challenges ahead. But, I am hopeful that we, as a Society and a community, will see the Bard was right when he said...

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

Yours aye,

Marilyn Meikle
president@standrews.qc.ca

WELCOME

to our newest St. Andrew's Society members!

Sherilyn Bell
Albert Ho
Cynthia Leslie
Thomas Leslie
Donald Andrew Craig Martin
Ryan McLaughlin
André Morin
Peter Oland
Geoffrey Phillips
Isabelle Provencher
Victoria Salmon
Helgi Soutar

CONGRATULATIONS!

Warm wishes to longtime member **Ethel Enkel** who turned 100 years old on December 16. Ethel served for many years on our Activities Committee, working tirelessly to make our calendar of social events a great success. She continues to inspire our younger committee members with the example of her hard work and dedication. We wish her continued health and happiness!

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting of the St. Andrew's Society is scheduled to take place on **Monday, May 11, 2020, at 7:00 PM**. Notice is hereby given that nominations to Council may now be submitted in accordance with the Society's by-laws. Section 2 of Article V of the by-laws, as amended, reads as follows:

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

Please send your documents to: St. Andrew's Society, 1195 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal QC H3A 1H9. They must be received before March 27, 2020.

If you have not yet renewed your annual membership for 2020, you may do so on our website at www.standrews.qc.ca/membership-renewal, or send your annual dues (\$46 suggested contribution) to our office.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

The annual **Children's Christmas Party** took place on December 15 at the Black Watch Armoury. The festivities included piping, dancing, and—of course!—Santa Claus. Many thanks to our Youth Committee, including the 2019 Ball debutantes and escorts, for arranging this fun family event. We look forward to next year's event!

After two years in a row of postponements due to bad weather, this year's 6th annual **Great Canadian Kilt Skate** was prudently held at an indoor arena: the Patinoire Atrium 1000 in downtown Montreal. An enthusiastic cohort showed up on January 25 to sport their tartans and wave the Scottish Saltire on the ice. Many thanks to the Activities Committee for organizing this popular event.



Lots of tartan at the Kilt Skate!

This year's **Burns Supper** took place on January 23 in a new-to-us venue, the luxurious Forest and Stream Club in Dorval. Situated on a wooded shoreline overlooking Lake St. Louis, this historic club provided a warm and elegant setting for our traditional festivities and also gave our West Island members and friends an opportunity to take part in a Society event closer to home. The "Address to a Haggis" was performed with great flair by Jeff McCarthy, and Gillian Leitch gave a tender recitation of "My Heart's in the Highlands." Society 2nd Vice President Scott MacKenzie delivered a stirring and well-received Toast to the Immortal Memory. A humorous Toast to the Lassies was offered by our guest of honour Deputy Mayor Sterling Downey, which was wittily answered by his spouse Melissa Proietti. Many thanks to everyone who helped plan this delightful event and to all who attended!



Guest of honour Sterling Downey (left) and Melissa Proietti enjoying the Burns Supper

Visit the St. Andrew's Society photo page at standrewsmontreal.smugmug.com for more pictures from these and other events!

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Florence Ahmed
1930–2019

Gregor Hutchison
1958–2020

Paul Hutchison
1964–2020



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

The St. Andrew's Society/McEuen Scholarship Foundation Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University

It is my pleasure to announce that two incoming graduate students in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill University received awards this September from the Ian and Helgi Soutar Support Fund in Canadian-Scottish Studies. This fund, recently established with the generous support of the Soutar family, offers support to outstanding students pursuing research on Canadian-Scottish topics in the Department of History and Classical Studies at McGill. The recipients are Florence Regimbald-Roy and Philip Santos. Ms. Regimbald-Roy is a first year MA student in History. She received a bachelor's degree in History from the Université de Montréal, where she first became interested in Scottish studies. Her current research focuses on the development and expression of Scottish identities in Montreal during the last third of the nineteenth century. Mr. Santos completed his master's degree at Queen's University, Kingston, and is now a PhD student in History at McGill. His research focuses on the intellectual history of the Scottish Enlightenment and the reception of Adam Smith's thought in transnational context. The Ian and Helgi Soutar Support Fund in Canadian-Scottish Studies is playing an important role in facilitating the research of these young scholars. It will be fascinating to see how their research projects develop.



Dr. Donald Nerbas

Donald Nerbas

St. Andrew's Society/McEuen Scholarship Foundation Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies
Department of History and Classical Studies, McGill University



Margaret Rochefort (left) and Gracie Forgie

On Thursday, November 21, two students from the Department of History at McGill University spoke at the St. Andrew's Luncheon to thank the Society for its support of the Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies. This occasion was especially meaningful since our Guest of Honour, Peter McAuslan, had been instrumental in spearheading the fundraising effort that established the Chair. **Margaret Rochefort**, born and raised in Montreal, was drawn to the study of history after completing a Liberal Arts degree at Marianopolis College. She was thrilled to intern with the 78th Fraser Highlanders last summer, and to have the opportunity to conduct historical research with such an esteemed organization. **Gracie Forgie** interned last summer with the Black Watch Museum and Archives, Canada's oldest Highland Regiment, which over the years has accumulated what is considered the best Regimental archives in Canada. Thanks to this opportunity, Gracie developed her research skills, worked with fascinating archival information and artifacts, and learned all that she could about the history of the Scots in Canada.

SCOTS CARE!

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



(left to right) Brian MacKenzie, Laura Fish and Marilyn Meikle

On January 10, Montreal Highland Games President Brian MacKenzie and St. Andrew's Society President Marilyn Meikle presented a cheque for \$18,000 to Laura Fish, Executive Director of the Douglas Foundation. These funds represent the proceeds of the silent auction at the 2019 St. Andrew's Ball.

The St. Andrew's Society is proud to support the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, a world-class organization devoted to patient care, research in neuroscience and mental health, and education and training. The Douglas Institute offers our community the best care possible and is a jewel in Montreal's crown of brain science, making breakthroughs in depression, Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, and eating disorders.

Here is how we helped the community in 2019:

- ⇒ **\$40,000** donated to the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, a world-class institution devoted to cutting-edge neurological research, clinical care and education
- ⇒ **\$20,000** donated to the Douglas Hospital Foundation, supporting patient care, research in neuroscience and mental health, and education and training
- ⇒ **\$60,000** awarded in bursaries to over 50 post-secondary students and educational institutions including Bishop's University, the University of Guelph, McGill University, l'Université de Montréal, and the Presbyterian College
- ⇒ **over \$35,000** granted to cultural organizations in Montreal and Quebec including Atwater Library, the Black Watch Association Pipes and Drums, the Black Watch Cadets, Kinnear's Mills Celtic Festival, the McCord Museum, and the Montreal Highland Games
- ⇒ **over \$10,000** given for emergency assistance to families and individuals in need, and further outreach to the wider community including the Red Cross Hurricane Dorian Appeal and the Heart and Stroke Foundation

Dear St. Andrew's Society members,

I am writing to extend my sincere thanks for your generosity in awarding me the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Research Travel Grant in Scottish Studies. This grant was tremendously helpful, and the money provided helped me not only complete the bulk of the primary source research required for my master's thesis, but also allowed me the opportunity to visit Scotland for the first time—something which I had wanted to do for many years, but had never been able to finance.

My master's research focuses on the crime of infanticide in early modern Scotland, and during my two week stay in Edinburgh I had the incredible opportunity to spend a great deal of time in the National Archives going through many (primarily eighteenth-century) infanticide cases. It was an absolutely wonderful experience getting to do proper archival research, and it was especially thrilling to finally be in the same place that I was researching. Being in Scotland made my research feel much more immediate as I was able to visit some of the locations named in the cases I was viewing, and was able to really feel connected to the geography and the history which, up until that point, had all been quite distant and theoretical in my mind. In addition to my work in the National Archives, I was also able to spend a fair bit of time in the National Library viewing (primarily seventeenth-century) printed sources. In particular, I spent a good portion of my time in the library collecting cases from the Register of the Privy Council, which have proven to be fascinating and will contribute greatly to my thesis.

The cases that I was able to collect both in the National Archives and at the National Library will form the basis of my thesis—a project which I feel will be much stronger because I was given this opportunity to visit Scotland and to search for primary materials there. Going through the sources that I gathered is incredibly fascinating and rewarding, and though I am not one hundred percent sure what precisely my focus will be at this point, there are several recurring themes which have cropped up in the cases and which would serve as fascinating jumping-off points for the larger project. For example, though infanticide is often portrayed as a crime that women commit alone out of necessity, I have come across a fair amount of collaboration in my research—particularly between mothers and daughters. The collaboration aspect can also be seen with the involvement of men, which, again, is not something that one generally sees in the secondary literature on the subject. The status of the women who commit the crime is also of interest to me—many are domestic servants, and their pregnancies would have put them in quite a precarious position socially and financially.

These are just a couple of the avenues that I could potentially explore in my thesis, which I am very much looking forward to writing and which has already been improved in no small way through the generous donation of this travel grant. I am very thankful.

All the best,

Persephone Seale



Persephone Seale with copies of documents from Scotland

INTRODUCING SCOTTISH AFFAIRS CANADA

By Kerry Marriott

In February 2019, Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, opened the new Scottish Affairs Office in Canada. Situated in the British High Commission in Ottawa, the Canada team represents and promotes the best of modern Scotland under the banner of the #ScotlandIsNow campaign.

Canada is a like-minded partner for Scotland, sharing and collaborating on a range of specific policy areas such as climate and renewable energy, equality and diversity, the arctic and social enterprise.

At the same time, we also work with Canadians to show them what contemporary Scotland has to offer and provide people with the opportunity to discover Scotland as a destination to study, live and work.

A key part of our work is building deeper relationships with organisations and communities across Canada from government and academic, business and industry to cultural and diaspora societies.

The depth of attachment between our two countries brought 131,000 Canadian visitors to Scotland in 2018, with 70 percent of those claiming a Scottish connection. And the appreciation is mutual, as Scottish visitor numbers to Canadian shores were up 45 percent in the same year.

For Scottish Affairs Canada, these meaningful connections translate into a widespread and engaged network of heritage Scots in Canada. In the St Andrew's Society of Montreal, we found a true friend of Scotland that holds in common many of the values of modern Scotland. Our partnership with your charitable society on events such as the Highland Games and the St. Andrews Burns Night supports the preservation of Scottish culture, whilst your commitment to education and health charitable aid resonates with Scotland's principles of pioneering wellbeing society through innovation, excellence and opportunity sharing.

2020—A year of Scotland in Canada

New Year kicks off with the traditional celebration of our national bard Robert Burns in January, but for Montrealers there's more to look forward to as April sees the launch of an exciting celebration of Scottish cultural arts.

Place des Arts will be hosting a *Printemps écossais*, introducing Quebecers to the creative vitality of Scottish theatre, art and literature. As well as featuring Scottish bands like Rura, Talisk and Breabach, author Irvine Welsh will visit the festival which is due to open on April 16.

Further plans for 2020 will bring our social enterprise goals for sustainable development into focus as Halifax, Nova Scotia welcomes delegates from around the world for the 2020 Social Enterprise World Forum in September.

Scotland also looks forward to welcoming COP 26 UN Climate Summit to Glasgow this year. Scotland positions itself as a global leader with ambitious net zero emissions targets by 2045; our aim is for Scotland's contribution to climate change to end within one generation. Our commitment to a low-carbon economy saw our Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work attend the Movin'On World Summit on Sustainable Mobility last year in Montreal. The Scottish Affairs Office will continue to promote such themes in 2020 and looks forward to more Ministerial visits throughout the year.

For more information about Scottish Affairs Canada, and to learn more about some of the connections that bind our two countries together, please visit their website: www.scotland.org/about-scotland/scotland-around-the-world/scotland-and-canada.

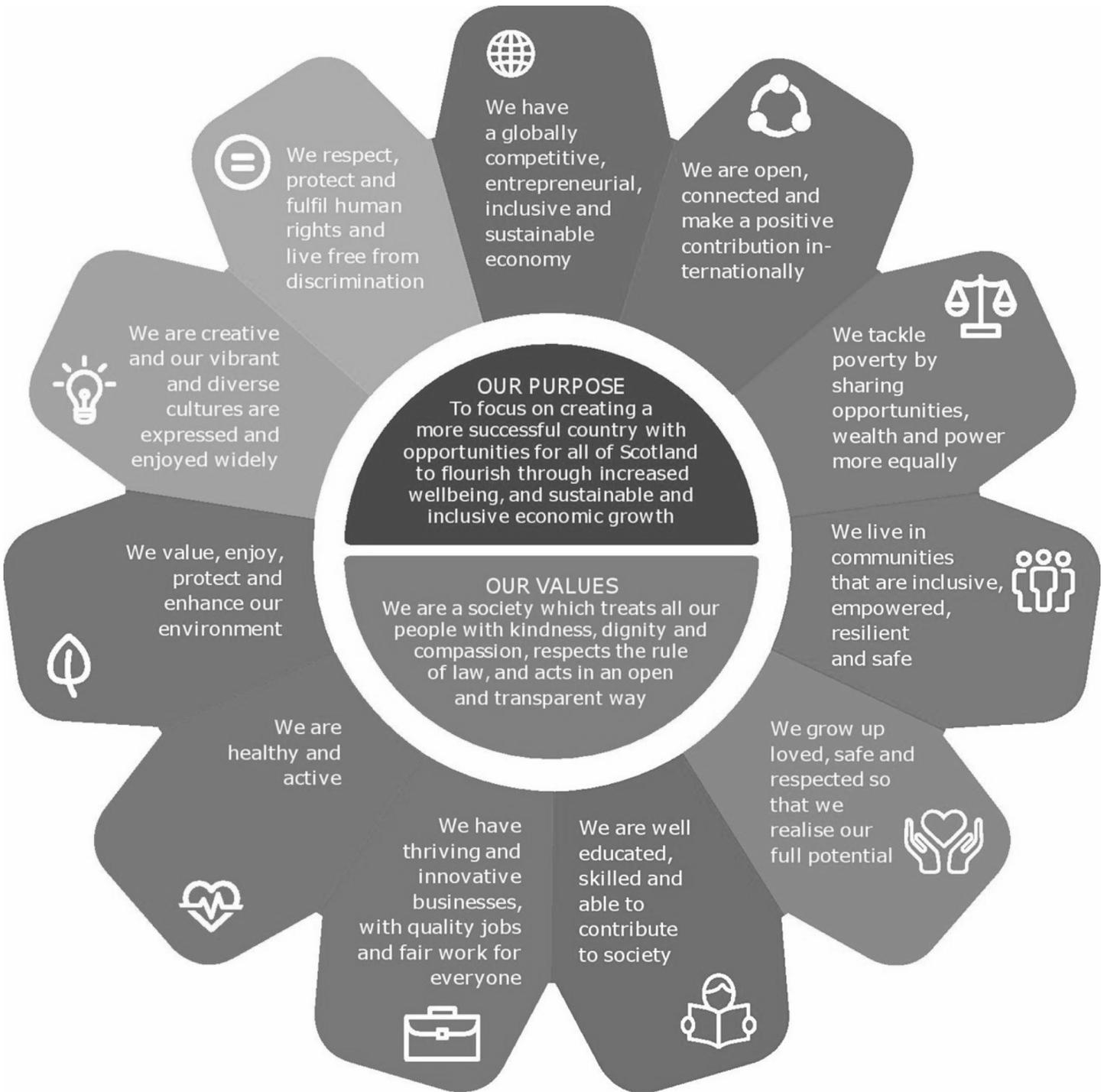
Did you know....

5 million Canadians claim Scottish heritage

10,000 Canadians live in Scotland

14 Canadian prime ministers claim Scottish ancestry, including Justin Trudeau

Source: Scottish Affairs Canada



Scotland's National Performance Framework. Working within Scotland's values, this framework sets out the "National Outcomes" which Scotland aims to achieve. For more information, visit nationalperformance.gov.scot.

REPORT FROM THE 2019 ST. ANDREW'S BALL

Members and guests enjoyed a very successful Ball week by all measures.

Our Guests of Honour, Peter McAuslan, C.M. and Ellen Bounsell, close friends of the Society and accomplished entrepreneurs and philanthropists, were delightful and enthusiastic participants.

Peter kicked off events on Wednesday at the Atwater Library with a lecture entitled “Will ye no come back again—An immigrant story,” recounting his Scottish heritage and recreating for the audience the family experience of venturing to a new land and settling in Montreal.

The same evening we enjoyed a strong turnout, including special guests from the Royal Montreal Curling Club, for our reception in honour of the debutantes; the young ladies certainly impressed us all with their numerous interests and academic or community engagements.

Thursday, we hosted our traditional Ball week luncheon, with Joey Elias—a veteran of the Just for Laughs Festival—as Guest of Humour. We also recognized the McGill Chair of Scottish Studies, Don Nerbas, and the work of two of his students—an effort strongly supported by the Society and certain members, including our Guests of Honour.

The Ball itself was a fully sold-out and festive success on November 22, with the skirl of the pipes reigning supreme at the Marriott Chateau Champlain. Our elegant flower girl and page, Zoë Batchen and John MacKenzie, performed their duties perfectly. And with guidance from our wonderful Jennifer Stephenson, the special dance presentation was magnificent, and the reel participants were flawlessly prepared to energetically take to the floor. And, of course, the party continued on to the “wee hours.”

We should all be proud and recognize what a unique and spectacular evening our Ball continues to be in an era of events often populated by corporate invitees. And to top it all off, we again raised funds for a charitable donation to the Douglas Hospital through our silent auction. Two additional special notes: our sold-out attendees included more than 100 attendees under the age of 35, attesting to a strong surge of youthful interest; and, we welcomed a new sponsor—Scottish Affairs Canada (#ScotlandIsNow) represented by their new arrival in Canada Kerry Dickson.

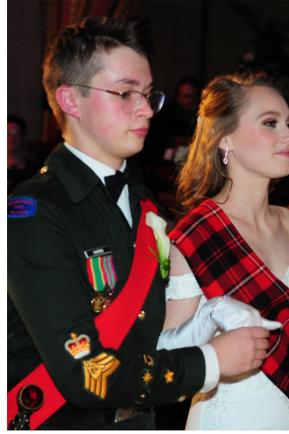
I must heartily thank all members of your Ball Committee for their hard work preparing Ball week activities: President Marilyn Meikle, Cameron Stevens (Black Watch), Jennifer Stephenson (reels and presentation), Christina Wagner, Elizabeth Giagnacovo and Greg Abedi (debutantes and escorts), Chantale Ménard (decorations), Martha Hancock (auction), Helen Meredith (photography), Erin Matheson (protocol) and our precious staff Margo Pollock and Sara Lackie (who make it all happen).

An easy job as Chair to work with such a terrific and dedicated group! Looking forward to next year!

Guthrie Stewart
Ball Chair, 2019 St. Andrew's Ball



View the complete collection at
[standrewsmontreal.smugmug.com!](http://standrewsmontreal.smugmug.com)



MEET OUR

DEBUTANTES AND ESCORTS

FROM THE 2019 BALL

Gregory Abedi, Elizabeth Giagnacovo and Christina Wagner, who co-chair the Debutante/Escort committee, served as mentors for our debutantes and escorts and stepped into their roles with dedication. Each year, the Youth Committee of the St. Andrew's Society welcomes all debutantes and escorts into its ranks as both full and associate members. Debs and escorts are fabulous volunteers at the Children's Christmas party in December. I couldn't think of a better group to represent the future of our Society. This year we had sixteen exceptional debutantes and escorts:

Sebastien Blanc is a cadet in the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada cadet corps, where he has achieved the rank of Warrant Officer. He is a first-class marksman and is a member of the cadet marksmanship team. Sebastien is passionate about history and regularly teaches younger cadets about the history of the Black Watch and its contributions to Canada. He is in the process of applying for the Canadian Armed Forces in the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada infantry regiment as a reservist, and also aspires to become an electrician. Sebastien has spent several years studying the piano.

Nicolas Cossette currently attends McGill University, majoring in biology and mathematics, and is set to graduate this coming spring. He is also involved in McGill's MEDLIFE chapter, a non-profit student organization whose proceeds are used for the creation of medical clinics around the world through various fundraising efforts and local initiatives. Having grown up in Montreal, Nicolas previously attended Selwyn House School and Marianopolis College, with a concentration in health sciences. Some of his hobbies include alpine skiing, tennis and chess. Before attending university, he skied competitively for the Mont-Tremblant alpine ski racing club at the FIS circuit level.

Makayla Cunningham is a student at Heritage Regional High School where she is registered in the Fine Arts dance program. She has been passionate about dance since the age of 7 when she was first introduced to Highland dancing through the Black Watch Pipes and Drums Association. She now studies Highland dance at the Cameron School of Dance. She is

also a Black Watch cadet, where she has learned tenor, snare and base drum and holds a 4-year service medal. Her skills in drumming gave her the opportunity to compete with The Black Watch Association band in Scotland in August 2016. This summer she is employed with Les Anciennes troupes militaire de Montreal as a 78th Fraser Highlander and soldat Franche de la marine. There too, she dances and plays drums. After high school she wishes to study psychology with the hope of someday working with young children.

Nicholas Hale de Courcy-Ireland is a Montrealer with a family background more diverse than his last name. He is an open-minded and creative person who has too many ideas in his head. Probably this is why he takes hiking and skiing so much to heart. He views the world as an open book with places that must be discovered and explored, especially on skis. As the bass guitarist in his rock band the 8 Second Rule, he hopes to continue to develop his passion for music and become as cool as his uncle Jake. Studying commerce at Champlain College, he hopes to pursue a career somewhere in the entrepreneurial field of marketing or the financial field of accounting.

Alexis Michael Reford Delplace is an honours student in the science and math orientation, graduating this year from Selwyn House School. He is an outdoor sports and nature enthusiast, equally at ease on horseback, canoe trekking, cycling, rowing, running, sailing or skiing. Alexis devotes over 500 hours annually training for cross-country skiing, competing this year for the second time at the Canadian Nationals. Participating since the age of 5 in the Canadian Ski Marathon, he

If you know of a young lady or gentleman who would like to be a debutante or escort at the 2020 Ball, please contact our office at 514-842-2030.



2019 St. Andrew's Ball debutantes, escorts and committee

is now entered in the Coureur des Bois Gold: a 160-kilometre trek over two days, self provisioned and sleeping outdoors. Active in the hunt field since the age of 10, Alexis received his colours from the Montreal Hunt Club in 2018. Alexis aspires to spend the next academic year with Class Afloat on board a tall ship, sailing and visiting ports throughout the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas. He then plans to enter university for a bachelor degree in science or engineering.

Ryan Dowdall is in his first year at St. Lawrence College, studying behavioural psychology. Ryan works part time, but in his free time he enjoys spending time with his family, reading and running. Ryan wants to finish his degree and go into corrections like both of his parents, or work with children in a psychology field.

Olivia Favretto is currently in her graduating year at Miss Edgars and Miss Cramps school. She is an avid athlete and competitive equestrian, competing all around the province. Olivia is also very interested in music, playing both the guitar and piano in her free time.

Tudor Gurau is a student at McGill University where he is currently in his third year of software engineering. Hailing from a small town in Transylvania, Romania, he now resides in Montreal. He spends most of his free time hanging out with friends or playing video games. It was at Marianopolis College's Swing Dance Club that Tudor's passion for dancing was born. He continues this passion at McGill as an executive at the McGill Swing Kids club. Tudor aspires to work in software development in the hopes of creating a more technologically proficient future.

Gabriel Harris graduated from Westmount High School and is now attending Vanier College, where he is currently in the

environmental and wildlife management program. Gabriel is the Pipe Major of the Black Watch of Canada (RHR) cadet corps pipe band, as well as being the corps' Regimental Sergeant Major—a rare combination of responsibilities. During his time in the cadets, Gabriel has been awarded the Lord Strathcona medal “in recognition of exemplary performance in physical and military training.” He has received the army cadet service medal, and achieved the rank of Warrant Officer. He has completed the cadet “open-water-diver” SCUBA diving course. During the summer, Gabriel attended cadet summer camp in Gagetown NB where he completed a six-week course in teaching marksmanship. During this time, Gabriel was given the Lieutenant-General Vance award for leadership. He is a member of the Black Watch Association Pipes and Drums; the band competed in several competitions during the summer and won the Montreal Highland Games grade 5 pipe band competition. As well as being a bagpiper and historical interpreter with the 78th Fraser Highlanders, Gabriel also works with the Compagnie Franche de la Marine.

Charlie Liu immigrated to Canada at the age of 4. He currently lives in Montreal and is studying economics and political science at McGill University. He is serving as an infantryman in the Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment of Canada. In his spare time, he enjoys playing the piano, hiking, and photography.

Madison Page is a dedicated member of the Girl Guides of Canada. Madison has earned several awards in Guiding including the Lady Baden Powell award and the Canada Cord. In July 2016 she joined a patrol from Quebec in attending Guiding Mosaic, a national camp in Sylvan Lake, Alberta. In 2014 she was fortunate to participate in a unit trip to England and Scotland where she attended a session at Pax Lodge, one



Dancing the Scottish waltz

of the Guiding World Centers. In 2017 Madison attended a community service trip to Cerro Santiago, Mexico where she helped build a library and a community garden. Madison currently works full time and attends Dawson College in the evenings. Madison is very passionate about the environment and is always looking for ways to help.

Christina-Rose Papagiannis was born in Montreal and grew up in the West Island. Christina is currently in the final year of her undergraduate degree at McGill University in the Honours Program in History with a minor in Anthropology. Her love for human history and culture has led her to join some amazing organizations such as the Redpath Museum, where she participates in educational outreach programs for children and their families. Her work at the museum includes the preparation and presentation of workshops on a variety of historical and scientific subjects. Christina has also gained some first-hand experience as a field archaeologist at an excavation site in Greece organized by the University of Montreal. Following her BA, Christina plans to pursue a Master's degree in Information Studies at McGill, which will allow her to hone her research skills, and hopefully open doors for exciting work around the globe.

In 2014 **Sheridan Pedicelli** moved to Montreal to pursue her education at Concordia University; she is currently enrolled in the Human Environment Geography program and will be graduating in December. She also holds a DEC in Social Sciences from John Abbott College. During her time as a tutor at the English Learning Center at John Abbott College, Sher-

idan discovered her love of teaching which sparked her desire to pursue a career in education. In 2019, Sheridan's artistic painting talents landed her the opportunity to partake in a month-long internship in Las Vegas, where she participated in a specialized project. In her spare time, Sheridan enjoys painting, watching films and traveling.

Audrey Constance Schafer is a student at Marianopolis College in the Liberal Arts program. Her favorite subjects are history and literature with a particular appreciation of the Romantic and Victorian periods. After CEGEP, she hopes to study at the University of Montreal to become an archivist or scholarly librarian. Audrey enjoys taking part in community activities, and was on several soccer, hockey and ringuette teams when she was younger. These days, she takes part in *ImaginAtlas*, a literary magazine associated with Marianopolis College, and also holds a part-time retail job. Like many young people, Audrey has always been enchanted with the idea of a ball, although she really developed an appreciation for such events when she was introduced to Jane Austen's works (her favorites being *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mansfield Park*). Audrey has enjoyed both the process of getting ready for the St. Andrew's Society Ball immensely as well as the community activities organized for the debutantes and escorts.

Caroline Stewart is currently studying at McGill University in mathematics and computer science. In addition to her studies, Caroline is completing a research project on privacy in deep reinforcement learning with an advisor at MILA, Quebec's leading artificial intelligence institute. Outside of school, Caroline enjoys cross-country running and painting. Prior to attending McGill, Caroline completed her secondary studies at The Taft School, a preparatory school in Connecticut. While at Taft, Caroline was on the admissions committee and ran varsity cross-country, as well as managing the Boys Varsity Hockey team. Caroline still helps Taft raise money for their annual fund as a class agent for her graduating class of 2017. Three of Caroline's grandparents were born in Scotland, arriving in Canada in the 1950s. Her fourth grandparent is descended from Scots who arrived in Pictou, Nova Scotia on the famous ship *Hector* in the eighteenth century—one of the earliest arrivals of Scottish settlers in Canada.

Rosie West is in her fourth year at Queens University in an honours program in gender studies. In her free time, she enjoys working out, reading, and travelling with her family. Rosie has been to over ten countries, most of which were developing countries where she volunteered with the Me To We organization. She continues to travel whenever she can, and plans to pursue a masters degree in Health Studies.

JOSEPH ROBERTSON (1817–1899): SHERBROOKE MAYOR, BUSINESSMAN AND POLITICIAN

By Jean-Marie Dubois (Université de Sherbrooke) and Gérard Côté (Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society)

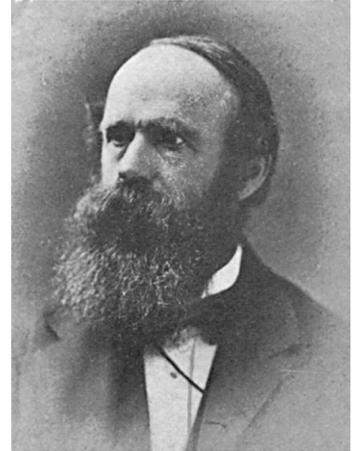
A street in the south of Sherbrooke's regional industrial park was named in 1991 for a Scottish immigrant who rapidly became an influential Townshipshipper.

Joseph Gibb Robertson was born in Stuartfield, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on December 31, 1817. He was the fourth of the ten children of Elizabeth Murray (1787–1832), from Stuartfield, and of James Robertson (1776–1861), from Baledgarro. They had been married in New Deer, Scotland on June 2, 1807. James was the first minister of the Sherbrooke Congregational Church (now Plymouth-Trinity Church), established in Sherbrooke in 1835. In 1832, in the midst of an economic crisis, the family had fled Scotland to settle in Derby, Vermont and in 1836 they moved to Sherbrooke.

Joseph Gibb would have been a farmer when he settled here. But, in 1843, he opened a general store, the J. G. Robertson and Company, in partnership during five years with Joseph Longee, a Compton farmer and innkeeper. He rented a store from Albert Gallatin Woodward (1813–1901), from whom he acquired his business assets. He ran the business until 1861 while at the same time doing land speculation with Woodward in Sherbrooke and the surrounding region. Joseph fell in love with Woodward's daughter, Mary Jane (1842–1927), some 25 years his younger. Nevertheless, they were married on July 19, 1870, in the Congregational Church. They had six children: James Joseph (1872–1909), William Gordon Murray (1873–after 1906), Norah Mary Josephine (1875–1876), Kenneth George (1877–after 1906), Kathleen (1879–?) and Andrew Douglas (1881–1883).

Joseph Gibb was involved in a great many regional businesses. In 1846, he was one of the shareholders of the Sherbrooke Cotton Mill and, in 1850, of the Sherbrooke County Building Society. By then, he was also one of the directors of the Sherbrooke & Magog Turnpike Road Co., which would become Bourque Boulevard in 1957. From 1857 to 1865 and from 1877 to 1880, Joseph Gibb was president of The Stanstead & Sherbrooke Fire Insurance Company. He ran the Sherbrooke Grist Mill near the mouth of the Magog River from at least

1858 to 1867. In 1859, he was one of the promoters of the Eastern Townships Bank. And in 1869, he took part in establishing the Sherbrooke, Eastern Townships & Kennebec Railway (which became the Quebec Central Railway in 1875) of which he was the president for several years.



Joseph Robertson

From 1892 to his death, Robertson was justice of the peace and postmaster in the old post office on Dufferin Street, now the home of the Musée d'histoire de Sherbrooke and of the Société de généalogie des Cantons-de-l'Est. As a politician, Joseph Gibb was secretary-treasurer from 1847 to 1855 of the County of Sherbrooke. From the outset of the municipalisation of Sherbrooke in 1852, he was an alderman until 1854 and again in 1868–1869 after having lost the vote become mayor to Richard William Heneker (1823–1912). In 1854–1855, he became Sherbrooke's second mayor, a mandate that he held six other times, between 1857 and 1867 and also between 1869 and 1872. In 1867, in the first elections after Confederation, he was elected as Conservative member for Sherbrooke at the Legislative Assembly, defeating Richard William Heneker. He was re-elected eight more times until 1892. This remains a record for the Sherbrooke riding. He was Provincial Treasurer from 1869 to 1876, 1879 to 1882 and from 1884 to 1887. During his first mandate, he laid the foundations for a policy of assistance to the railroads and implemented strict rules to insure a tight control of spending. In the community, he was a member of the Quebec Temperance League from about 1847 and was president in 1870 and 1871. He was also one of the founding members of the Eastern Townships Agricultural Association in 1855. He died in Sherbrooke on March 13, 1899 and was buried with his wife in Elmwood Cemetery.

UPCOMING EVENTS



WHISKYFÊTE



WhiskyFête, Montreal's premier whisky-tasting event, takes place on **Thursday, February 27** at the exclusive Mount Royal Club. This is an exceptional opportunity to sample rare and unique whiskies, accompanied by a wide variety of specially-chosen gourmet food delicacies. Monies raised at this event will benefit the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, supporting world-class research into neurological diseases and disorders such as ALS, MS, and autism. For more information, visit our website at www.whiskyfete.org.



Examples of the fine whiskies that will be served:

GLENMORANGIE GRAND VINTAGE MALT 1989

The second release in the Vintage Collection, the Glenmorangie Grand Vintage Malt 1989 is a complex and many-faceted dram crafted by the warehouse team, as they nurtured it along through almost three decades of maturation. Just like the first release in the series, this one has been marvellously well-aged, and spent time in some particularly interesting casks. For the 1989 vintage, Glenmorangie finished the whisky in ex-Côte-Rôtie wine casks, which have helped develop the rich dark fruit notes at its core. The result brings together the distillery's classic orangey citrus character with toffee, honey and spice, as well as a whiff of barrel-char wood smoke.



LAPHROAIG 30 YEAR OLD

The new limited-edition Laphroaig 30-year hit shelves in October 2016. Bottled at a cask-strength of 53.5%, the whisky was aged for 15 years in first-fill ex-bourbon casks, before being moved to older refill casks for the duration of its maturation. Classic Laphroaig with notes of orange peel, vanilla, coriander and cigar box.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The St. Andrew's Society will again be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, to be held this year on **Sunday, March 22** at noon. Join the Society's walking contingent: get your kilt on, find your tartan and join our Celtic brothers and sisters in this annual rite of spring in Montreal. Let's show up in great number to support our sister society and to share our pride in our Scottish heritage with the community at large!



CURLING FOR DUMMIES

Join us on the ice on **Saturday, April 4** at 6:00 PM for our annual Curling for Dummies event. This fun and friendly game takes place at the Montreal West Curling Club, and is open to players of all ages and with any level of experience—including complete novices! Professional instruction will be provided to help out beginners so that everyone will have a good time on the ice. Pizza and soft drinks will be served to all players and spectators. Tickets are available on our website at www.standrews.qc.ca/curling-for-dummies.



QUEBEC THISTLE AWARDS CEREMONY

The ceremony will take place on **Saturday, April 18** at 10:30 AM at the Officer's Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada. The Quebec Thistle Awards are presented annually to winners in several categories, including Scottish music, cuisine, culture, country and Highland dancing, piping, and awards for Athlete of the Year and Scot of the Year. New this year: a traditional Scottish fry-up brunch will be served during the ceremonies! For tickets and more information, visit the Quebec Thistle Awards website at www.quebecthistle.org.



If you would like to nominate a candidate for an award, the deadline for nominations is March 29.

MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES

Save the date! The 43rd annual Montreal Highland Games will take place on **Sunday, August 2** on the beautiful grounds of the Douglas Institute in Verdun. Details will be announced on our website as soon as they are available: keep your eye on www.montrealhighlandgames.com.



BOOK REVIEW

Tam: The Three Changelings

By Guy Winter

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 302 pages, 2018

No gods, no masters!

Guy Winter's *Tam: The Three Changelings* takes Scottish rebel poet Robbie Burns' long narrative poem *Tam O'Shanter* and stretches it into a rollicking romp, adding political and supernatural elements to conjure up a vision of alternative history and the evergreen longing of Scottish freedom.

Winter's tale opens with something resembling the blasted heath of Macbeth, complete with a trio of witches. An unexpected visitor alights on a rocky shore, and events are set in motion for a frenzy of political rabble-rousing and unearthly disorder in Ayrshire in the 1790s. The characters and locations of Burns' poem are present and correct, including Tam O'Shanter, his wife Kate, his faithful horse Meg, Kirkton Jean's alehouse and Alloways 'auld, haunted kirk.' The cast is expanded to encompass—often confusingly—many 'honest men and bonnie lasses' or, more often than not, hapless well-intentioned eejits and sharp-tongued, sharper-witted Scotswomen. The novel was originally conceived as a screenplay, and may indeed be better suited to a theatre or even—oh, such a pantomime it would make!

It's no spoiler to say that Bonnie Prince Charlie makes an early—and, for those who know their Scottish history, quite unexpected—appearance. That he chooses to wash up on Ayr shores rather than the Outer Hebrides is neatly explained, and serves as a backdrop for much exposition of Scotland's conquest and rule by England. The tone is mostly farce: this Charles is an irresponsible, shallow, pleasure-seeking fool, barely getting by on wit and Scottish hospitality, given to sentimental speeches and revelry, and usually in search of the next pub. It's not too far from his complicated presence in Scottish history: romantic figure he may be, but the failure of the Jacobite campaign cost the Scots too dearly. This strand does, however, manage to introduce King Billy (William of Orange) in the unforgettable avatar of an alcoholic Highland Cow.

The storyline of the witches cuts deeper, and has something wild, sinister and noble at the heart of it. Given that Charlie's grandfather, James Stuart VI, was responsible for one of the most paranoid and vicious crusades on so-called witches in history, the anger of these women rings true. Full of rage, personified in the beguiling figure of Nannie, the Cutty Sark, one could argue that theirs is the search for true freedom:

There's a king, and a law, and a church, and they tell you exactly who you are, what you want—what you can have, and what you can dream about. But they're just part of the deception, can't you see? They're just an illusion, a child's play-thing, ready to be washed away like sand-castles on the beach when the tide comes in. Man-made institutions can never hold out against the real world forever. Against our world.



This old call to a wild freedom is never clearly articulated, but it lies somewhere beyond the control of clergy and gentry. This storyline is the most evocative in the book—there's something desperate at the heart of it.

Ultimately, however, it all gets bound up in the yarn of the good but misguided Tam, and his eventual redemption. The hero must win in heroic fashion, and the forces of chaos evaded (for now). The book is uneven but huge fun, punctuated through with Burns' original poetry, and written in varying degrees of Scots, Gaelic, English, and everything inbetween. A great romp—and oh, to see it on a stage.

Rachel McCrum
poet—performer—workshop facilitator

We are pleased to present this book review by first-time contributor Rachel McCrum. If you would like to offer a review of a Scottish-themed book (any genre), recording, film, event or other creative work, please contact the office.

Editor's note: *Tam: The Three Changelings* is available from the Atwater Library. We encourage you to explore the library's Scottish collection, which comprises over 1,600 books and DVDs and includes materials by Scots and people of Scottish descent as well as works about the history and culture of Scotland and the Scottish diaspora. This eclectic collection has been developed with the generous support of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

The Atwater Library is a descendant of the Montreal Mechanics' Institution, an educational initiative founded in 1838 by a group of prominent Montreal citizens including Scotsmen Sir James Kempt and the Reverend Henry Esson. The current library building, a designated National Historic Site, opened in 1920 and recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

MONTREAL 1642 TARTAN ACCESSORIES FOR SALE

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

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



TIE
\$30.00



BOW TIE
\$35.00



BOW TIE
(PRE-TIED)
\$35.00



SCARF
\$70.00



SASH
\$90.00



ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 27, 6:30 PM

WHISKYFÊTE

Mount Royal Club, Montreal

Sunday, March 22, 12 PM

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Downtown Montreal

Saturday, April 4, 6 PM

CURLING FOR DUMMIES

Montreal West Curling Club

Saturday, April 18, 10:30 AM

QUEBEC THISTLE AWARDS CEREMONY

Officers' Mess, Black Watch Armoury, Montreal

Monday, May 11, 7 PM

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St. Andrew's Society Offices, Montreal

June (date and location to be confirmed)

ANNUAL SAS SUMMER BARBECUE

Sunday, August 2

43RD ANNUAL MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES

Douglas Institute Grounds, Verdun

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY ON THE WEB

Website: www.standrews.qc.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewsmontreal

Twitter: twitter.com/StAndrewSociety

