

THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

WINTER/SPRING 2018





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2017 ended on a high note with the St. Andrew's Ball once again selling out—three weeks in advance no less—and with our Children's Christmas Party at the Black Watch Officers' Mess, organized by our Youth Committee, also proving to be popular with kids and adults alike. We are especially thankful for an appearance by Santa Claus who delighted each of the children with a present.

In January, while most people are still recovering from the holiday period and hun-

kering down indoors wishing they were somewhere else, the SAS hosted two tremendously successful events. Our Kilt

Skate, postponed by a week due to a snowstorm, took place on January 20 at the Old Port, and saw a wide variety of participants skating in tartan accompanied by piping and a dance display. This year we received a financial contribution from the Government of Scotland which is gratefully acknowledged as being of material support for this event. Secondly, our Robbie Burns Supper occurred on the Bard of Ayrshire's actual birthday, January 25: it also was a sell-out, and was held for the first time at the Mount Royal Club in superb surroundings. Our main sponsor for the supper was Pembroke Management, celebrating their 50th year. Thank you, Ian Aitken!

We have had a great deal of positive feedback on our events, our websites, and in general the energy with which we are ensuring there is always something Scottish on the calendar here in Montreal. The transformation forward of the SAS should not be considered as happenstance—many, and indeed most, cultural societies are being challenged by demographics, financials, membership and, sadly, just a plain lack of interest in doing things reflecting the heritage of one's culture.

Not us, we are moving forward in three visible areas:

Branding: We are consistent in our graphic imaging throughout all of our communication platforms: our websites, emails and printed materials. We use social media as well as traditional media to get the word out on what we do.

Breadth: As referenced above, our calendar is full. We have all of our "traditional" events as well as ones where the SAS plays an adjunct/supportive role (the Montreal Highland Games for example). Our appeal is also broadened to ALL communities in Montreal by employing medical endeavours as the beneficiaries for funds raised. All Montrealers and Quebecers are able to enjoy Scottish-themed events while supporting something that is relevant to them. Currently we are supporting the Douglas Mental Health University and the Montreal Neurological Institute.

Cover: Peter Limeburner delivering the *Address to the Haggis* at the 2018 Burns Supper. Photograph by Peter Matulina.

ST. ANDREW'S Society of Montreal

PresidentJason W. R. MacCallum

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Membership and Youth: I am happy to report that with all of these successful events, we have had a flurry of new membership applications—and of course this is what-it-is-all-about. As a volunteer-centered organization we require new members. Additionally, I am particularly pleased to see younger people involved at various levels. Improving demographic breadth is a key measure of the health of your Society.

In closing, we are well positioned for 2018 as we embrace the larger mandate that is now the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal—the best cultural organization in town.

Yours aye,

Jason MacCallum

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting of the St. Andrew's Society is scheduled to take place on **Monday, May 14, 2018, at 7:00** PM. Notice is hereby given that nominations to Council may now be submitted in accordance with the Society's by-laws. Section 2 of Article V of the by-laws, as amended, reads as follows:

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

Please send your documents to: Honorary Secretary, St. Andrew's Society, 1195 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal QC H3A 1H9. They must be received before March 30, 2018.

If you have not yet renewed your annual membership for 2018, you may do so on our website at www.standrews.qc.ca/membership-renewal, or send your annual dues (\$40 suggested contribution) to our office.

WELCOME

to our newest members!

Allan Angus Ogilvy Aitken
James Taylor Christie
Janice White Christie
William David Friend
Greg Hamilton
Tanya MacDonald
Barbara MacLeod
John Martin Montgomery
Benoit Reid
Angus Scott
James Shepherd
Lynn Shepherd
Graham Singh
Stephen Smith

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

William Ewart Stavert 1934–2017



"Scottish Band with the Bagpipes"—a mural in the Mysuru Palace, Mysore, India

A SASSENACH ABROAD: SCOTLAND IN INDIA

By Sean Smith

This past summer, I had the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to India for three weeks. I was excited at the prospect to experience a culture and environment very different to what I have been exposed to before. I visited ancient Hindu temples built on top of hills that seemed to touch the sky, giving an unobstructed view for miles from the summit, and to my amazement inside the temple was a 10-meter-tall solid granite statue of a god. I drove through small towns where their only source of water is from cisterns on top of their homes, and where they need to let the water cool down when it comes from the tap to drink it. All this is to say, I was equally amazed to find out during my travels that bits of Scotland are in India, and no, I'm not talking about Scottish whisky. You see, in the past Scotland exported more than just whisky and soldiers to India: they also sent sculptures, churches and art.

When I visited the Mysuru Palace, the current residence of the Mysuru Maharaja, they were preparing for Mysuru Dasara, a great festival for the Maharaja to give thanks to the people and to the gods. As I walked towards the palace, I was welcomed by a familiar sound of bagpipes filling the air, at which I thought that the heat was finally getting to me. I was pleas-

antly surprised and equally relieved to find a pipe and drum band practicing for the festival. As I continued towards the palace, I met a very enthusiastic English-speaking tour guide who was excited to see a bearded Canadian. During our tour, he was showed me the art work, explaining to me the cultural significance of the architecture and symbols. We came to a grand hall that was lined with a mural depicting a Mysuru Dasara, and the first section of the mural was a pipe and drum band.



Stone lion outside the Kalyana Mantapa, Mysore, India



Interior of the Kalyana Mantapa, Mysore, India

I asked my guide why the pipe band was shown in the grand hall. He explained that the pipe band in Mysuru plays an important role. They lead the men into battle and announce that the Maharaja is coming. They come before any other section of the parade and are revered due to the complexity of playing the instrument. But the Scottish influences didn't end with its musical gift to the world.

Inside the Kalyana Mantapa (which in English means "Marriage Hall"), there were more treasures from Scotland. Up high, the stained glass windows were crafted in Edinburgh. The floor and pillars, which span two floors, were brought from Glasgow. Even in front of the palace sat cast-iron lion statues that were produced in Scotland.

Following my trip to the Mysuru Palace, I started to notice more influences from Scotland. When I returned to Bangalore I came across St. Andrew's Church, a Presbyterian congregation mainly comprised of Indian nationals. As I entered

the church, I was once again greeted with a familiar sound, a brogue that is more commonly associated with a glen or a whisky. It belonged to one of the ministers, a distinguished-looking red-headed man who was as surprised to find me as I was to encounter him.

The minister told me that construction of the church was started in 1864 by Lady Grant, wife of Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant who was the then-Quartermaster-General of her Majesty's Forces. The church opened two years later in 1866 and stands relatively unchanged in both appearance and in purpose since that day. As we carried on our conversation, in this surreal setting, he ended our conversation by telling me that Bangalore has a St. Andrew's Society. He had attended their Burn's Night Suppers and their St. Andrew's Ball, although this year would be his last as he was going back home then to Scotland. It was unfortunate that he was not able to introduce me to the Society before I had to return to Canada.

This was a humbling experience and one which I was fortunate to have. I was taken away by the spirit of the people, their sense of community and their ingenuity in the face of poverty. India is a place that is looking forward towards the future while preserving the past, and amongst it all are little pieces from Scotland hidden in plain sight.



St. Andrew's Church, Bangalore, India

RECENT HAPPENINGS

More than 120 participants and volunteers met in the Officer's Mess of the Black Watch Armoury to celebrate **A Taste** of Scotland on October 13. Some thirty distinct and distinguished scotches were up for tasting. Jean-François Pilon, a well-known scotch-tasting expert, was on hand to describe the malts and blends in all their subtleties. Long-time members of the Activities Committee could be seen serving haggis, neeps and chappit tatties after the *Address to the Haggis*, given spiritedly by Jeff McCarthy. The now annual auction of the bottle leftovers, and a raffle generously furnished with many Scottish goods, provided funds for the Children's Christmas party, a much-appreciated tradition.



Hard at work at the Taste of Scotland

The Youth Committee organized the **Annual Children's Christmas Party** at the Black Watch Armoury. Debutantes and escorts from the 2017 Ball led the Christmas-themed activities. The Black Watch Association Pipes and Drums and the Jennifer Stephenson School of Highland Dancing provided spectacular entertainment. Santa Claus made a special appearance and brought presents for all the children. Please join us next year at this event—a wonderful way to maintain or *start* a family tradition.



At the Children's Christmas Party

Due to an amazing snowstorm the week before, the **4th Annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate** was postponed to January 20. Despite the postponement, the turnout was impressive, with 34 people dressed in a kilt or tartan or plaid arriving to skate at the Natrel Skating Rink in the Old Port. Thanks to the generous support of the Scottish government, they were able to skate for free and enjoy delicious cake and hot chocolate. They joined about another 80 skaters who chose to go without tartan on the ice, on a beautiful, sunny minus-2°C day. Thanks to all who attended the event, our piper Sacha Matthew, our Highland dancers, the Activities Committee, Marilyn Meikle, and the Old Port Skating rink who made it all so special. See you next year with the 5th annual event!



Campbell Oliver at the Great Canadian Kilt Skate

This year we held our annual **Burns Supper** at the Mount Royal Club, our first time at this venue. It was a lovely setting for this traditional celebration. Over a hundred people sat down to dine on haggis, roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and trifle. We were entertained by Pete Limeburner's stirring *Address to the Haggis*, Cameron Stevens' wonderful piping, the Toast to the Immortal Memory by Marilyn Meikle, the Toast to the Lassies by Jason MacCallum, the Reply to the Toast by his wife Antoinette von Hahn, and a recitation of Burns poetry by Gillian Leitch. Special thanks go to Ian Aitken, Pembroke Private Wealth Management and MJ Squared for sponsoring the event. It was a congenial evening with great food, and a memorable way to celebrate the genius of Scotland's National Poet.

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



Our President and Past President at the Burns Supper

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BRUCE BOLTON HONORED BY FRANCE

Recently, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Bolton of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada was named a "Chevalier" in France's Legion d'Honneur. This high distinction is a recognition of the more than 40 years that the Macdonald Stewart Foundation has been involved in various projects in France where Bruce was a key player. These projects include Jacques Cartier's Manor in Saint-Malo; Samuel de Champlain's town church in Brouage; many exhibitions; and the Prix Samuel de Champlain which celebrates a Canadian with a public presence in France and a Frenchman with a public presence in Canada. Bruce also accepted, on behalf of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, the "Medaille Grand Mécène de France" in 2009, presented in gratitude for the Foundation's philanthropic endeavours with France. It is still the only Canadian institution to be thus recognized.

We at the St Andrew's Society of Montreal extend our congratulations and wish both Roberta and Bruce the very best for the future.



LCol Bruce Bolton at the Legion d'Honneur ceremony of investiture

REPORT FROM THE

2017 ST. ANDREW'S BALL

Ball week began with the Atwater Library lecture by Don Nerbas, McGill University's first Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies. "The Scots in Canadian History: A Reconnaissance" was well attended and thought provoking.

Held on the Patron Saint's holiday, the Cantlie Hotel was the site of the sold-out St. Andrew's Luncheon. Guest of Humour Lorne Elliot regaled attendees with stories woven one into another like a giant *icovellavna*. A toast was raised to Scots celebrating across the pond who, unlike us, did have the day off!

It was an honour to chair the Charity Ball Committee and work with such a committed group of volunteers. Guests of Honour Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, 24th chief of Clan Gregor, and Lady MacGregor of MacGregor thoroughly enjoyed their stay in Montreal and expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome they received from all they met.

Guests dined on a delicious meal that was blessed by the Reverend Graham Andrew Singh and Chief Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer, and danced until the wee hours of the morning in the ballroom and the Scottish Arms Pub. The dance presentation, "A Tribute to Montreal's Founding Cultures,' was spectacular. The debutantes and their escorts danced with confidence. Thanks to all who bid generously on the items in the Silent Auction to raise over \$17,000. These funds, combined with over \$5,000 raised at the 2017 Montreal Highland Games via the Caledonian Run and the Tug-of-War, allowed the Society to present a cheque for \$22,305 to the Douglas Hospital Foundation this past December.

The Ball's theme, the "Montreal 1642 Tartan" celebrating our diversity and unity, summed up Ball week. Scots, Montrealers and so many others came together to celebrate our cultures, share a meal, enjoy each other's company and recognize that we have so much more in common than we might have realized. And, of course, we all have more fun when we celebrate together!

How can one sum up "Ball Week" in approximately 300 words? Easy! Let the pictures do the talking.

Marilyn Meikle 1st Vice-President, St. Andrew's Society Ball Chair, St. Andrew's Ball































MEET OUR

DEBUTANTES AND ESCORTS

FROM THE 2017 BALL



Demi Chamourikos is a Grade 11 student at Trafalgar School for Girls. Upon graduation she will complete Grade 12 out of province. A strong advocate for human rights, Demi will travel to California where she will volunteer her time at the San Francisco Marin food bank during her March break. Demi enjoys year-round track and field athletics and in winter is an avid skier. She enjoys travelling and learning about different cultures. Demi would like to work in international affairs.

Escorted by:

Gregory Abedi is dedicated to the Black Watch Cadet Corps, and was named one of the top 60 cadets in Quebec and one of the top 18 in Canada. Gregory travelled to the Yukon for the Army Cadet National Expedition in September 2017. During his stay, he canoed 400 kilometers of the Yukon River, hiked 60 kilometers in Tombstone Territorial Park, camped, and learned about the geography and wildlife of the area. A participant in cadet summer camps, he now teaches survival training, sports and fitness to younger cadets.

ELIZABETH GIAGNACOVO is a graduate of The Sacred Heart School of Montreal and Marianopolis College, and now attends the John Molson School of Business where she is a co-op student in International Business. Born in Montreal, she has grown up around the world: Manatali, Mali in Western Africa; Ruwais and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates; St. Catharines, Ontario; Port Harcourt, Nigeria; and back home to Montreal. Elizabeth loves sailing, skiing, reading, writing, theatre and travelling. She hopes to minor in creative writing.

Escorted by:

PATRICK TRUDEAU is a 22-year-old Water Filtration Technician with a speciality in reverse osmosis systems. A bike mechanic for the past six years, he still travels to work on his bike every morning. He enjoys hiking, camping, canoeing and long road trips. Patrick also participates in multiple IPSC pistol shooting competitions as well as in colloquial long-range shooting matches. This is Patrick's third time attending the Ball, and his second year as the debutantes' dance teacher along with Claire Kelly and Emilie Macfee.

SKYE SCRUTON is a first-year student at John Abbott College in the Honours Social Science with Math program. An avid participant in Model United Nations conferences since she was a student at Trafalgar School for Girls, Skye would like to work in international law and relations. In 2016, she was a delegate at World School and travelled to Japan for two weeks to represent Canada along with students from 21 countries. Skye is also passionate about art and sports and loves experiencing life.

Escorted by:

Spencer Leahey is a student at Marianopolis College and plans to study finance in university. Spencer loves hockey, skiing and most importantly maple syrup! From hiking in the Rockies to canoeing on cold Canadian rivers, he has travelled to every province with the exception of Manitoba. Spencer was active in Scouting for many years and continued to participate in Scout camps and activities up to Venturers. Spencer enjoyed helping the younger Scouts at camp so that they might love the outdoors and camping as much as he does.

CHRISTINA WAGNER is an honours student in her second year of Nursing at McGill University. Christina works part-time teaching swimming lessons, lifeguarding and teaching aqua fitness. She also sits on the Executive Committee of Sierra Youth. A graduate of Trafalgar School for Girls, with a DEC in Health Science from Marianopolis College, it was at CEGEP as an member of the Swing Dance Club where Christina discovered her love of dancing. In her spare time, Christina enjoys reading fantasy novels and historical non-fiction.

Escorted by:

ANGUS OGILVY AITKEN graduated from Selwyn House School with the Veritas Diploma and is a student at Marianopolis College in the Honours Pure and Applied Science program. Angus sails Lasers competitively and has competed at CORK (the Canadian Olympic-training Regatta, Kingston) in Kingston, Ontario. He is part of the Orford cross-country ski team and last year participated in the Canadian Nationals in Canmore and competed in the Canadian Ski Marathon as a Coureur des Bois Gold. Angus enjoys launching model rockets, designing and making things, and spending time outdoors.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WhiskyFête, Montreal's premier whisky-tasting event, takes place on **Thursday**, **February 22** 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 Preston Robb Day Centre at the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital. For more information, visit our website at www.whiskyfete.org. As of press time, tickets at the VIP level are sold out, and regular tickets are going fast!



Dr. Preston Robb had Scottish ancestry on his mother's side. He was a Professor of Neurology at McGill University and the Neurologist-in-Chief at The Neuro from 1968 to 1976. He was also one of the founders of the American Academy of Neurology and the founder of Pediatric Neurology in Quebec. He developed a cerebral palsy conference staffed by occupational therapists, speech therapists, orthopedic surgeons, social workers, psychiatrists, special education teachers, and psychologists. This conference has since served as a model for centres across Canada. The Preston Robb Day Centre, which will benefit from funds raised at WhiskyFête, was named in his honour.



An example of the fine whiskies that will be served:

SPRINGBANK 25 YEAR OLD

A 25-year-old single malt Scotch whisky from the Springbank distillery, located in Scotland's Campbeltown region. Everything from the malting of the barley to the bottling has

been carried out on-site.

A few casks from the first batch of the new Springbank 21 Years have been kept back (four casks to be correct, a mix of bourbon and sherry casks) and finished in Port casks for a couple of months to form this 25 year old. The 2017 edition was a release of only 900 bottles.



CURLING FOR DUMMIES

Join us on the ice on **Saturday, March 10** at 6:30 PM for our annual Curling for Dummies event. This fun and friendly game takes place at the Montreal West Curling Club. Information is available on our website at www.standrews.qc.ca/curling-for-dummies.

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 18** (parade route to be determined) at noon. 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!

"GREAT SCOTS: CANADA'S FINEST STORYTELLERS WITH SCOTTISH LINKS"

On **Thursday, April 5** at 12:30 PM, celebrated editor and publisher Douglas Gibson is entertaining Montrealers at the Atwater Library with his one-hour show *Great Scots: Canada's Finest Storytellers with Scottish Links*. The event is co-sponsored by the Library and McGill University's Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

The Atwater Library is a thriving hub of English-language community life for the entire region of Greater Montreal. The offerings include a specialty Scottish Collection of books and DVDs by and about Scots, Scotland and Canadians of Scottish descent. The St. Andrew's Society has funded the development of this collection and each item has a book plate acknowledging the Society's support.

THE QUEBEC THISTLE COUNCIL AULD ALLIANCE AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday, April 28

at the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada

4:00 pm-6:30 pm
Presentation of Thistle Council Auld Alliance Awards.
Performances by award winners.
Wine, beer, light refreshments.

The Auld Alliance Awards are presented annually by the Quebec Thistle Committee to winners in several categories, including Scottish music, cuisine, culture, country and Highland dancing, piping, and awards for Athlete of the Year and Scotsman/Scotswoman of the Year.



MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES 2018

Mark your calendars for this year's Montreal Highland Games as we will be returning to the stately grounds of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute in Verdun on **Sunday**, **August 5**. Along with the many events scheduled, we will be continuing the very popular parade held on the Thursday prior to the games. Go to our Highland Games website at www.montrealhighlandgames.com to get the most recent information and watch for a few new surprises for this year's events!



REGIONAL CELTIC FESTIVALS

Celtic Music Festival Kinnear's Mills, Quebec July 19–22, 2018 www.kinnearsmills.com

Montreal Tartan Parade Verdun, Quebec August 2, 2018 www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Glengarry Highland Games Maxville, Ontario August 3–4, 2018 www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

Montreal Highland Games Verdun, Quebec August 5, 2018 www.montrealhighlandgames.com

Festival Celtique de Québec Quebec City, Quebec Late summer, 2018 www.festivalceltique.com

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal is grateful for the generous support of



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presents:

HEATHERGEMS

handcrafted from natural heather

Heathergems is a unique and imaginative range of Scottish jewellery and giftware, made in Pitlochry, Scotland from natural heather stems. They are the only manufacturers of this unique Scottish product anywhere in the world.



For all your jewellery, Scottish attire and bagpiping requirements, please visit our new website at:

www.scottishcentral.ca

Julie Perron
C: 514-717-4851
julieperron@scottishcentral.ca

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



\$ASH \$90.00



ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 22, 6:30 рм

WHISKYFÊTE

Mount Royal Club, Montreal

Saturday, March 10, 6:30 PM

CURLING FOR DUMMIES

Montreal West Curling Club, Montreal-West

Sunday, March 18, 12 PM

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Downtown Montreal

Thursday, April 5, 12:30 PM

"GREAT SCOTS: CANADA'S FINEST STORYTELLERS"

Atwater Library, Westmount

Saturday, April 28, 4 PM

QUEBEC THISTLE COUNCIL AWARDS CEREMONY

Officers' Mess, Black Watch Armoury, Montreal

Monday, May 14, 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 5

41st ANNUAL MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES

Douglas Hospital Grounds, Verdun

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY ON THE WEB

Website: www.standrews.qc.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewsmontreal

Twitter: @StAndrewSociety