

THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

September 2008

Upcoming Events

Taste of Scotland's Fine Foods & Malts

Black Watch Officers' Mess
Friday, October 17th, 2008

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St. Andrew's Ball - Reel Practices

Black Watch Armoury
8:00pm Wednesday, 5th, 12th, 19th &
26th November, 2008

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Old Brewery Mission Dinner

Wednesday, 19th November, 2008

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St. Andrew's Ball - Debutantes' Reception

Black Watch Officers' Mess
Wednesday, 26th November, 2008

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St. Andrew's Ball-Friends of the Society Luncheon

The University Club of Montreal
Thursday, 27th November, 2008

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St. Andrew's Ball Fairmont

Queen Elizabeth Hotel
Friday, 28th November, 2008

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Royal Montreal Curling Club Luncheon

Saturday, 29th November, 2008

*

Morning Service Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul

Sunday, 30th November, 2008

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Children's Christmas Party

Black Watch Officers' Mess
Sunday, 14th December, 2008



The massed bands march in at the Montreal Highland Games, August 3rd, 2008. A dampened opening ceremony, but no dampened spirits!

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

Have you ever wondered how our charitable donations are being used? In recent months I have had an opportunity to witness just that.

At the beginning of June, as your President, I was invited to be the Guest of Honour and to take the salute at the Graduation Ceremonies of the Black Watch (RHR of Canada) Cadet Corps at the Black Watch Armoury. I was most moved by what I saw. Young men and women, ages 12 to 17, are being taught discipline and soldiering, and some music as well. I was impressed by the crisp execution of their marching manoeuvres, accompanied by that ancient Scottish art of the Pipes and Drums. It is worthy to note that, over the years since this program has been in existence, graduates have gone on into the Armed Forces, including the Black Watch, while others have become captains of industry. It is a program well worth maintaining.

In similar fashion, I was invited to present the awards to the Highland Dancers at the Montreal Highland Games held at the beginning of August. Again, I was impressed by the calibre of dancing and glad to know that our funds are being used to promote such a worthwhile activity. I was also fortunate to meet a young lady, age 11, who had been the recipient of a scholarship, provided by our Society that enabled her to attend the College of Piping in Prince Edward Island this summer. She had been selected for this award because she shows all the signs of becoming a special dancer in the long term. Her recounting of the week's activities while there, and her appreciation for being sponsored were very gratifying.

And, of course, there were the Highland Games themselves, another organization that receives our support. Although the inclement weather, with a torrential downpour during the Opening Ceremonies, could have put a damper on the festivities, it did nothing to curb the enthusiasm of the participants of this great event.

These are but a few of the activities and organizations that we support. I am pleased to report that our grants are being put to good use.

Kenneth C. Bentley - President

Dinner Under the Stars

Captain Denis N. Moore

The outset of the Fraser Highlanders' season was celebrated on the evening of June 21st in the huge marquee on the parade square at Fort St. Helen. Dinner Under the Stars had rolled around once more.

The weather was kind as guests gathered for cocktails and pre-dinner visits to the Stewart Museum's current exhibit, "26 Objects in Search of Authors". While attendees mingled, the pipes, drums and dancers of the Black Watch gave their traditionally splendid performance and events then moved on to the induction of new officers and Miladies into the Fraser community. Welcomed as Ensigns, were Alex Belisle and Peter McAuslan while Richard Repper was inducted as Lieutenant. Warmly received, as Miladies were Ellen Bounsall McAuslan, Sharon Repper and Roberta Starke. Promoted to the commissioned ranks as Ensigns, were Neil Foster, Alec McGuckin and Francois Pelletier. Denis Moore was promoted to Captain (Oh, frabjous day! Calloo! Callay! He chortled in his joy.)



Black Watch piping in at the Dinner Under the Stars.

Once the guests had moved into the tent, Major Okill Stuart made all welcome with his words as Officer Commanding. Then came the prandial extravaganza - the focus of the evening. Are you peckish right now? Fancy some munchies? Do Farfalles au Basilic et Parmesan sound enticing? Epinards et Noix d'Acajou peut-être? No? My, you are hungry! Then surely Homards, Boeuf au Jus, Saumon de l'Atlantique or Saumon Fume Garni de Capres must stir your juices! Well, I won't list the desserts, fruits and cheeses calling your name although the Rassembleu ... MMMMMM!

Since France was the presenter of the International Fireworks display that evening, dinner and dance music was presented by Johnny Maloney's group with Johnny himself resplendent in Apache Dancer striped shirt, red bandana and rakish beret.

Once all had gone outside to view the spectacular fireworks, a few dances and a round of yawning farewells saw yet another grand evening draw to a close.

Thanks have to be offered to all the members of the organizing committee, to the volunteers, to the bar staff, to the President of the Mess Committee and especially to the Co-Chairmen, Miladies Janet Rankin-Hambleton and Susan Stevenson.



A collage of some of the nights highlights of both men and beast alike!

Introduction to Your Executive Members:

Bruce D. Bolton

Bruce Bolton, 2nd Vice-President, has been a well-known member of Montreal's Scottish community for many years. Having been born into a Black Watch family (his father was a Sergeant-Major during the war with the Black Watch as were some of his uncles) on his 10th birthday he was ordered by his mother to learn bagpipes! He was taught through the Boys' Pipes & Drums program sponsored by the St.

Andrew's Society, joined the Cadet Pipe Band, played at his first St. Andrew's Ball in 1963, and became Cadet Pipe Major. In 1970 he joined the militia pipe band and became a teacher of bagpipes himself for the Learner program.

In 1966, he started to play with the 78th Fraser Highlanders as a summer student at the Stewart Museum, and on graduation from McGill University in 1972 started working full time for the Museum, becoming general manager, then Director in 1984.

Back on the military scene, Bruce became Pipe-Major of the Black Watch Pipes & Drums in 1974, and then in an unprecedented move was made Regimental Sergeant Major from 1978-80, after which he returned as Pipe-Major until 1983. In that year he was made a Member of the Order of Military Merit, Canada's highest military recognition, and then he was "Commissioned from the Ranks" to Captain. Seventeen years later he had taken all the military courses required for him to qualify as Lieutenant Colonel, and he took Command of the Regiment in May 2000. Setting a Regimental record, he commanded for almost five years before he retired in May 2005. He is now involved with many regimental activities such as the museum and archives.

In addition to these duties, Lieutenant Colonel Bolton, was a founder of the Montreal Highland Games Society, is an elder of the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, a Life Governor of the Chateau Ramezay Museum, a member of the Advisory Board of Fort Ticonderoga, and "Commodore" of the Canadian Forces Sailing Association club in Dorval.

In 2004, he was appointed Executive Director of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, and Lieutenant Colonel, Chief of Staff, of the 78th Fraser Highlanders in North America. He is married to Roberta Cascadden, and has two daughters Sarah and Laura.

New Members

The Society is very pleased to welcome new annual members: Mrs. Valerie Mary Nasset, Mr. Jan Edward Nasset and Mr. Mark William Gallop.

We encourage all current members and associate members to let their friends know about the St. Andrew's Society and to come and participate in our functions. The Society

plays an important role in the preservation of Scottish culture and traditions in addition to providing assistance with education and welfare.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the Society or becoming more involved, please contact the Society's Offices.

Flowers of the Forest

~ BETTY SPEIRS ~

The Montreal Community has lost an icon of Scottish culture. After struggling with Alzheimer's over the past few years, Betty Speirs was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour in July and succumbed to its effects on August 14, 2008.

Born and educated in Scotland, Betty began Scottish Country Dancing at the age of seventeen. Shortly after their marriage she and Tom immigrated to Montreal in April 1954. She became a founding member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Montreal Branch in 1958 and qualified as a teacher in 1960. From that point on she became a most gifted instructor of the art, imparting her knowledge and skill to hundreds of students. She had a knack of making the task of learning new dances and footwork a most enjoyable experience.

For her great ability as a teacher she was awarded the coveted Scroll of Honour from the R.S.C.D.S. Edinburgh, for her contribution to Scottish culture in Montreal and Quebec she was made a Fellow of the Quebec Thistle Council, and for her dedication and commitment to the art of Country Dancing she received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Members of the St. Andrew's Society and attendees at the Balls will remember her practices in preparation for the reels and the instruction of the debutantes and their escorts for the Debutantes' Waltz. This she began in 1964 and continued until 2007, a total of 44 Balls. She will be long remembered.

To her husband, Tom, her children, Iain (Louise) and Carol (Dennis), and her eight grandchildren, we offer our sincere condolences.

~ **John Ibbotson Buchanan MacFarlane** ~

It was with deep regret that the Society learned of the death of Past-President John Macfarlane of complications due to cancer of the oesophagus. He was president of the Society from 1977-79 and has served faithfully on Council ever since.

Coming from a long family tradition of Montreal Scots, John went to Roslyn School, Westmount High School, and graduated from Bishop's University, Lennoxville in 1951. He spent his entire career in the Pulp and Paper industry while enjoying football, basketball, track & field, skiing, golf, shooting and fishing. His love for curling extended to many bonspiels far and wide while his home was The Royal Montreal Curling Club.

He continued his family's military history by being the 37th member of his family to serve in the Black Watch and the third generation to have served as a Commanding Officer. John rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and served as CO from 1967-70.

In 1987, Colonel J.R. Harper (also a Past-President of the Society) appointed John his successor as Colonel Commandant of the 78th Fraser Highlanders in North America, a post which he held until September last year. This continued his father's and his interest in young people wearing the kilt, playing bagpipes and drums. Both were at the heart of the St. Andrew's Society's learner program and the Black Watch Cadet Corps from the 1950s and encouraged young men and women to join the ranks.

Despite his towering size and incisive thinking, John was a most gentle and caring person, often going out of his way to comfort friends and give encouragement, especially to young people. Our sympathies are extended to Joan, his wife, and children, Lin, Mary and James.

A Taste of Scotland

W. Campbell Oliver

This event will take place October 17th, 2008 at 6pm in the Officers Mess of the Black Watch Armoury. This year tickets will cost \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members.

Preparations are already underway and as usual there will be a good selection of Malt Whiskies and Scottish Food. Anyone who would

like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact W. Campbell Oliver at (514) 483-1803. The more the merrier and we are sure to have a great time and reap the rewards of our effort in this case.

As the number of tickets are limited they will be available on a first come first serve basis by calling Norma King at the Society's office (514) 842-2030.

And one more related note, the Activities Committee who plays a major role in orchestrating this event is canvassing for new members to help with this event and possibly more like it. If you can spare a few hours a month we would be pleased to hear from you. Again, contact the Society's office or W. Campbell Oliver for details.



Be Prepared to Party!

Peter McAuslan - Ball Chairman

This year's St. Andrew's ball will be held on the 28th of November at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel returning again to a Friday evening event.

Excitement is building for this year's edition, as 12 debutantes will participate, near double the number of the last several years. We are looking forward to greeting these fine young women, their escorts, as well as family and friends who will attend the ball in their honour.

This year the Ball will feature a new orchestra, the dynamic '1945' that is guaranteed to get the guests up and dancing, creating a party atmosphere that will make the evening a memorable one. To add to the party spirit the Ball Committee has decided that Scottish Country Dancing is to be shared by all guests, experienced Scottish dancers or not. A selection of 'accessible' line dances have been chosen by the Committee and Dance instructor Mary Dreghorn to allow the experienced dancers to share their enthusiasm with the uninitiated. This may lead to some confusion out on the floor, but much amusement is expected to be had by all. For those who wish to get a taste for Scottish Country Dancing prior to the ball, check the 'list of events' for time and location for the free, hilarious, and calorie burning lessons. Participants are also invited to a free-of-charge Debutantes' Cocktail to be held on Wednesday, November 26th at the Black Watch Armoury.

This year our Ball Patrons are Mrs. David M. Stewart, President of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation, our constant and loyal supporter, and Mr. Tim Price, CEO of MacDougall, MacDougall and MacTier. This year's St. Andrew's celebration coincides with the 150th anniversary of the establishment of this firm fondly known as '3 Macs'. With its roots in mid 19th century Montreal, Canada's oldest investment management firm predates the founding of the Montreal Stock Exchange and today flourishes as a strong and independent member of Canada's financial community.

We are pleased to welcome Lord and Lady Dalmeny as our guests this year. Lord Dalmeny, our Guest of Honor, is the Deputy Chairman of Sotheby's United Kingdom. Lord Dalmeny is the eldest son of Neil Archibald Primrose, the 7th Earl of Rosebery. The Rosebery family is well known in Scotland and especially in Midlothian, the family seat, Dalmeny House, being located in Dalmeny on the Firth of Forth near Edinburgh. They will spend Ball Week in Montreal visiting our fair city and participating in a number of activities undertaken by the St. Andrew's Society.

The evening will again feature the pipes and drums and highland dancers of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada and the dancers from the Montreal Highland Dancing Association. The evening will be filled with Scottish pageantry, and traditions with a party atmosphere to be remembered long after Auld Lang Syne is sung to close the ball.

Please contact Mrs. Norma King at the St. Andrew's Society office at (514) 842-2030 for information on purchasing tickets for the Ball.

Uisge Beatha

J. Cassar

Uisge Beatha (oo sa ka – be le) is the Gaelic for "water of life". And what might Scots say this would be... Scotch of course. So, in preparation for the Whisky Tasting, a small article on the finer art of the act of tasting would be in order.

Having now participated in one tasting, many questions arose from the whole experience. What should I be looking for in a Scotch? What should I actually be doing – sipping, smelling, and looking at the colour? Many questions that I am sure many of you reading this might be aware of the answer. But, I hope those novices

~Whisky Trivia ~

1. What are the differences between a Butt, Gorda, Puncheon & Hogshead?
2. What is the term for the first dram of the morning?
3. When was Fettercairn founded? Who currently owns it?
4. Scotch whisky can only be called Scotch whisky after what?
5. What is the "Anqel's share"?

out there will take some of this to heart and try it out.

There are several quite informative websites out there on how to actually go about this:

- www.wikihow.com/Taste-Single-Malt-Scotch
- www.scotchhunter.com
- www.maltmadness.com

The first of these websites provides links to the others. But if you type in the phrase "how to taste whisky" into your favourite search engine you will note there is an endless supply of links and enthusiasts.

The information presented through these sites all seem to indicate that I should have a good glass: sherry glass, a nice tumbler or snifter perhaps. Then I need to follow the following steps¹:

1. Pour a dram.
2. Tilt and turn the glass coating the edges. This will allow for greater evaporation and hence aroma.
3. Nose: Basically, I need to get my nose right in there without feeling the burning affects of the alcohol.
4. Ask myself what do I smell?
5. Add water if I like depending on my taste and the strength of the brand.
6. Agitate or swirl the whisky a little. This will release more of the aroma.
7. Take a sip, large enough to coat and be able to swirl it around a little over my tongue, holding long enough to figure out all those flavours.

¹ Steps summarized from www.wikihow.com/Taste-Single-Malt-Scotch.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society – Montreal Branch

Operating a small stall at the Highland Games, the Dance Society was promoting membership to its organization with a special voucher allowing the recipient to take up to 3 dance classes for free. A very enticing prospect for those who aren't sure what it is about or to find out if they would enjoy doing it on a regular basis.

The society is also turning 50 years young and to mark this special occasion they are having a 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration – Oct 24-26th, 2008 at the Centennial Centre, Macdonald Campus, McGill University.

If you are perhaps interested in taking classes and meeting a great bunch of people or want to know more on the Gala Celebration, contact the society directly through the following email address: secretary@scdmontreal.org or anniversary_gala@scdmontreal.org. Also, by visiting their website you will be able to find information on the Gala, dance class locations and much more. See: www.scdmontreal.org.

8. Swallow!

9. Then repeat as many times as I please.

Now, while I am performing all of this I need to have my trusty score card and be looking to grade my selection on the colour (darkness, clarity), aroma (flavourful, smoky, musty, light and pungent), feel or texture (does it warm the tongue or is it spiryty), and finish (does the taste linger). I should also be evaluating one characteristic at a time based on my own scale. (If you taste with a bunch of people, you might want to establish your scoring system quickly before you get started!)²

It is with hope these few instructions will inspire some of you to attend this years "Taste of Scotland" (details in the preceeding article) and those who are old hats to challenge themselves on their technique and knowledge. And on that note, I have some whisky related trivia ^{3,4,5} to try your hands at (preceding page).

Montreal Highland Games & Scottish Festival

J. Cassar

Sunday, August 3rd was the day marked for Montrealers to gather in Pierrefonds for the annual festivities. The day began grey and it looked promising that the rain would hold off until the activities were done. However, Mother Nature had another agenda. Just as the bands were assembling for their entrance to the

opening ceremonies the heavens opened up: none of the bands relented though playing proud and strong.

The highland dancers had to retreat indoors for their competitions. Again none of competitors, dampened by the rain, showed dampened spirits: all were in fine form.

When the sun finally appeared to dry out some of the fairgrounds, the heavyweight competitors continued hurling, throwing, tossing and heaving. It was truly amazing to see what the human body is able to achieve watching all of the men compete.

Wandering around the grounds one could see the beer tent was full of happy patrons all enjoying the band playing well known celtic and non-celtic tunes alike. Merchant stalls were scattered all over the grounds. Selling various goodies, jewellery, genealogical history and nick-knacks. Several tents also provided information on several of the societies and groups operating in and around Montreal. There was also a superb display of medieval fighting.

Later that afternoon, as many of the bands were competing, and just as most everyone had finally become dry – another heavy shower moved in. Most of the Games' patrons ran for cover in several of the merchant tents, but unluckily it was for the band that began their routine (without their rain gear) as the rain started to fall. They however, to the crowds' ears, played flawlessly considering their fingers must have been slipping with the wet. Once they were done, everyone in the area gave them an extra special cheer.

² www.scotchhunter.com

³ www.scotchwhisky.net/profile/whyteandmackay.htm

⁴ www.visitscotland.org/top_five_facts_about_scotch_whisky.pdf

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel%27s_share#Angel.27s_share



Some of the sights at this year's Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Included in the imagery (clockwise direction) from top left: putting a stone for distance, a highland clan chief, putting the stone for height, Festival Guest of Honour - Hon. W. David Angus, QC, some highland dancers out on a break from dancing & one of the many pipe bands competing.

In all, the games were very much a success. Everyone had smiles on their faces and laughed at each other's state from the rain. Mark August 2nd, 2009 on your calendar for next year's edition of the games.

Scholarships & Bursaries

Alexander Highet

This is a brief article to remind our membership of the existence of the bursaries offered by the Society and administered by the Education Committee. Bursaries of \$1,000 per year in two payments of \$500 each are offered to students who:

- Are in full-time attendance at CEGEP or university.
- Are normally resident in Quebec.
- Are Scottish born or can identify at least one Scottish born ancestor.

At present we have about thirty students, attending twelve different institutions in Quebec and elsewhere in the world, receiving bursaries. Application forms are obtainable from the Society's Office by calling (514) 842-2030 or from the Society's website (www.standrews.qc.ca). These forms should be completed and returned to the office by June 30th for the Fall Term and by October 30th for the Winter Term.

In addition to the direct bursaries the Society also makes available grants of \$1,000 each to Bishop's University, Concordia University, McGill University and Presbyterian College for them to pass on to suitable students, and also provides a \$2,000 Travel Research Grant each year to Guelph University's School of Scottish Studies to facilitate research in Scotland by Guelph students.

Members are asked to pass on this information to any students they know who might fill our criteria.

Two bursary recipients have provided letters for this journal issue to thank the membership and allow us all to see the benefits these funds provide – see the letters on the experiences at the Piping College from Alexandre Léger and Victoria Tawa.

The College of Piping & Celtic Performing Arts, Prince Edward Island

Alexandre Léger's Experience

Let me introduce myself. My name is Alexandre Léger, the recent recipient of a St. Andrew's Society scholarship whereby I attended the College of Piping and Celtic Performing Arts of Canada for one week this summer.

I arrived in sunny (and very hot) Summerside, PEI on Sunday, July 20th, after a 17-hour bus ride, on which I met many people who wondered what I was carrying in my pipe case. I made my way to a lovely farmhouse, Bed and Breakfast that was a hop, skip and jump away from the College of Piping.

The next morning, I met my diverse group of classmates from across North America: including a librarian from Alaska and a bodyguard (an ex US Special Ops. Major) from Atlanta. My instructor was the very musical, Matthew McLaine, who could find an onomatopoeias⁶ for every embellishment possible! His assistant was a past Fraser Highlander, from Calgary, that I had already met while playing in the Quebec City

⁶ Just in case you didn't know - onomatopoeias is a word or a grouping of words that imitates the sound it is describing, suggesting its source object, such as "click," "bunk", "clang," "buzz," "bang," or animal noises.



Alexandre Léger and Victoria Tawa at the Friday performance at the College of Piping.

International Festival of Military Bands.

The emphasis in the classroom was on technique and theory; I thoroughly enjoyed exploring a more analytical approach to my piping. I was also thrilled to discover the basics of *Piobaireachd*⁷ music. In the evenings, I signed up for Gaelic singing lessons at the College and also attended their show, Highland Storm that featured great music and dancing.

The summer school students offered a presentation on the last day, after which we received diplomas. I had the honour to perform the solo for Amazing Grace. After the recital, I scurried away to get myself to Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, to meet up with the rest of my regiment, the 78th Fraser Highlanders from the Stewart Museum, for the 250th anniversary re-enactment of the Siege of Louisbourg.

⁷ A pibroch is a classical music form native to the Scottish Highlands and performed on the Great Highland Bagpipe.

All in all, I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity, through the Society's scholarship, to improve my piping skills in such a renowned piping college and in such a beautiful setting! The experience exceeded my expectations, was enriching and personally satisfying. I come away from it with enhanced musical skills and very fond memories.

Victoria Tawa's Experience

Victoria provided details and some photographs of her experience in diary form. Below are excerpts of the original submission presented for your enjoyment.

Sunday, July 20th

We have arrived in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, from Massachusetts, where I danced at the Glasgowlands Scottish Festival. I met girls in my category from 6 different states. That day I was awarded 5 gold medals and the overall trophy in my category. Now we are at the Willowgreen Bed and Breakfast, which is very pretty and quiet, and really close to the College of Piping. I'm really excited for tomorrow to start dancing.

Monday, July 21st

At breakfast today I met Alexandre Léger, the Montreal piper who also has a scholarship. There are also other pipers staying here, and we will all be taking classes this week. I walked to the College, where I met 3 other dancers: one from New Brunswick and two from Ontario. I also met Lacy Fisher, who has been dancing at the college for many years. She did our warm-ups today. We worked on some technique from our fling and sword dances and when my teacher Lindsay Munro arrived, we started a new choreography; a broadsword that we will be performing on Friday for the public. In the afternoon we did an activity where we wrote down some goals for our dancing in the week ahead as well for the future, and why they are important to us.

In the evening, we were able to go to a Ceilidh, it was a lot of fun and I saw some highland dancers, Scottish stepdancers, pipers

and drummers as well as Tim Chaisson. He is from PEI, and sings, plays the fiddle, drums and lots of other instruments. It was a great evening.

Thursday, July 24th

In class today, I got to learn another new dance, the Blue Bonnets o'er the Border. It's a really pretty dance, but very complicated. ... In the afternoon we played a theory game, which was hard, but I learned a lot. After that we learned a dance that was new to us all, the Tribute to J. L. Mackenzie.

After class it was nice to do some more touring and go shell collecting on one of the beaches. My little sister told me about Green Gables, where she visited today.

Friday, July 25th

Today is show day! I can't believe this is the last day of classes already. We tried on some costumes to wear and practiced over and over. I was a little nervous, but when show time came, it went great. We danced, got to see the pipers who took classes this week and received certificates in a presentation at the end of the show.

It's already time to leave PEI. We are driving through New Brunswick and stopping in Fredricton so I can dance at the New Brunswick Highland Games on Saturday and Sunday. I had a fantastic time at the College and hope I can come back another time to do this again, it was a great experience and I learned so much more than just dance technique in my week here.

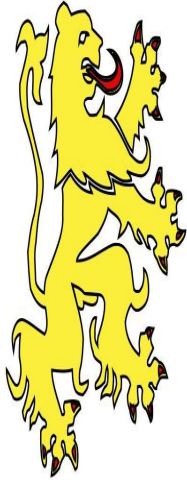
Saturday and Sunday, July 26th and 27th

... I guess all the work this week has paid off. I did nine different dances in two days and won 9 gold medals, as well as the overall trophies for my category both days. Time to head for home; it's been an amazing trip. A great big thank you to the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal for this wonderful learning experience; I won't ever forget.

-Whisky Trivia Answers-

1. Butt: 500L sherry cask, Gorda: Massive sherry cask, Hogshead: 225-275L cask, Puncheon: 450L sherry cask., 2. Skalk, 3. 1824, WHYTE AND MACKAY LTD., 4. Scotch whisky can only be called Scotch whisky after it has matured for a minimum of three years in oak casks in Scotland. Many whiskies are matured for much longer. An age statement on a label denotes the age of the youngest whisky in the bottle., 5. Angel's share is a term for the portion (share) of a wine or distilled spirit's volume that is lost to evaporation during aging in oak barrels. The barrels are typically French or American oak. In low humidity conditions the loss to evaporation may be primarily water. However, in higher humidities, more alcohol than water will evaporate, therefore reducing the alcoholic strength of the product.

Amateur Pipers at the Olympics



Many people were surprised to see a pipe band ushering in the athletes at the Beijing Olympic Games; no more so than the pipe band, The Mains of Fintry, themselves. The band, who range in age from 13 to 63, were sent an email from the ceremony organizer, Kevin Zhang, last year. However, after receiving the invitation they sat on it for a little while assuming it was an extreme long shot. Of the 26 band members, 16 were chosen to make the trip over to China. Much of the towns people got involved in making sure the band had all the appropriate kit for their performance, as well as the means to get there.

All the interviewed band members indicated that they were working extremely hard walking all the athletes in. But the organizers made sure they had plenty of water and with the cheers, smiles and the elation of all the athletes running up to them, it made it much easier to keep going. They hope with the exposure at the Olympics that they have secured a stronger future as a band, as it is difficult for most pipe bands financially.

For more information on the pipe band themselves, visit their website: www.mofpb.co.uk.^{8,9,10,11}

Bagpipe and Drum Lessons

The teaching of bagpipes and drums to young children at The Black Watch has been ongoing officially for over 50 years. The Black Watch learner program, sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal and the Black Watch Cadets has produced many pipers and drummers over the years. Some of the original students are still playing!

We are looking for new students to teach. If you know of a young child (age 11-17) who would like to learn bagpipes or drums, we would like to speak to you. All materials (practice instrument and music) and the tutoring is supplied free of charge. Lessons take place each Saturday morning from 9am to 1pm at the Black Watch Armoury on Bleury Street in Montreal. Teachers are comprised of past and current members of The Black Watch (RHR) of Canada Pipes & Drums.

For more information, please contact P/M (retd) Brian MacKenzie at (450) 748-0876 or by viewing the Pipes and Drums Web site located at www.blackwatchpd.com.

⁸

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7549580.stm

⁹<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/08/09/olympic-games-pipers-wow-billions-after-being-found-on-google-86908-20689808/>

¹⁰ <http://www.mofpb.co.uk/index1.htm>

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal's Membership and "The Rights of Woman"

Mary Johnston Cox - Historian St. Andrew's Society of Montreal

In 1792, during a tumultuous time in Europe, Robert Burns sent a prologue - "The Rights of Woman" to Miss Fontenelle, a petite and vivacious young member of a theatrical company, which often visited Dumfries. The poet was hopeful that the address could be used by her at a forthcoming benefit-night and was delighted when she graciously accepted and recited all thirty eight lines to an admiring audience on November 26th of that year. Here are the first six lines now and I will end the article with the last four:

*While Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty things,
The fate of Empires and the fall of Kings;
While quacks of State must each produce his plan,
And even children lisp the Rights of Man;
Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention,
The Rights of Woman merit some attention.*

A few months ago, I was interviewed by Louise Stewart, a BBC journalist who had been awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study the historic links between Scotland and North America. She remarked that on her travels she

¹¹ http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Lion_rampant.svg

had spoken to representatives of several other St. Andrew's Societies in both Canada and the U.S.A., but had not found any who allowed women to join their membership. With the remembrance of Burns' words in my mind, I was more than happy to inform her that from its inception the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal had never excluded women from being members, provided they were Scottish-born or of Scottish descent. I also mentioned that around the mid 19th century the Society's records show that some women had been accepted as Ordinary members but it would appear that this was only because they were widows whose late husbands had been members. However, in 1902, Mrs. Colin McArthur, another widow who was listed as an Ordinary Member, became an historical figure in the Society's records when she applied for Life Membership after reading an appeal in St. Paul's Church, written by the Rev. Dr. Barclay seeking new members for the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. On presenting Mrs. McArthur's request at a Society meeting, President A. F. Riddell advised those present that although lady Life Members had not previously been elected, it was considered that the Constitution and By-laws did not exclude ladies from membership. Thereupon, Mrs. McArthur was duly elected and the hope was expressed by the President that, "her example would be followed by many more Scottish ladies" and it was but very slowly.

From the Society's inception, many female relatives of the members volunteered to assist in the Society's charitable endeavours. On November 30th, 1835 they were thanked and complimented by President Peter McGill who said: "It is well known to all the world that the ladies of Scotland have ever been "ready, aye ready" to further the cause of charity and to contribute to everything having a tendency to increase the honour and respectability of their country and countrymen". Later, in 1857, a Committee of Ladies had finally been formed under the direction of the Charitable Committee. Their first task was formidable – the relief of the survivors from the S.S. "Montreal". Details of how, with the help of others in the Society, the community at large and elsewhere, they successfully coped with the tragic situation can be found in the Society's Handbook. Later renamed the Ladies' Committee, its members continued with their charitable work receiving

many accolades along the way – but not many women were listed as being members of the Society in their own right. For example, in the 1950 annual report the Ladies' Committee members are listed as being 26 in number but the combined number of female Life and Annual Society members was only 3. It would not be until the late Sixties and onwards that the numbers increased significantly – for the year 2007 the number is 123. The door had been left open for the ladies in 1835 and the welcome mat was laid out for them in 1902 but obviously many were not prepared in those earlier years to follow in Mrs. Colin McArthur's footsteps.

I would now like to mention two other 'firsts' in the Society's history. In 1970, Mrs. R. S. Aiken who had been Chairman of the Ladies' Committee for many years before taking over the Chairmanship of the Welfare Committee was elected to Council – becoming "the first lady to be so elected in all our long history". Soon after, however, she submitted her resignation, as her future residence would be too far out of town for her active involvement,

For the next few years, the Welfare Committee responsibilities were assigned to the General Secretary and it would not be until 1973 that a completely reconstituted Welfare Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Eileen Clark. Within 10 years, this petite, highly respected and remarkably talented Scottish-born lady – Eileen Crawford Clark would step firmly and steadfastly over the threshold of another opened door to become the first lady President of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. Her tenure was from 1983 to 1985 – the Society's Sesquicentennial Year over which she happily and skilfully presided.

*But truce with kings, and truce with constitutions,
With bloody armaments and revolutions;
Let Majesty your first attention summon,
Ah! ça ira! THE MAJESTY OF WOMAN!*

La Nouvelle Vague des Ecossais à Montréal

George Banks Reid

Montreal first tweaked my consciousness at the age of six. My aunt and uncle, from my hometown of Edinburgh, emigrated to the city in the sixties. In 1976 they sent my parents a souvenir of their travels, and my mother pinned it above their bed. It was a wall-hanging of the

Olympic Stadium, made of black velvet and studded with iridescent stones. I used to gawp at it. It made me think that Montreal must be a very important place.

My first visit to the city was in 1993. I lived in Paris the year before, and there I met a young Canadian who invited me to visit her in Montreal. She was completing her PhD at McGill, and she spoke affectionately of her university city. I arrived that summer intending to stay for one week, and I remained for three.

The mélange of North American culture with European, and the fact that people switched from English to French in the same sentence made my head spin. This is Paris and New York in one place, I thought. At the age of 23, I vowed to return to live in Montreal some day.

I returned to Scotland to complete my legal training and before I knew it, I was saddled with a career and a massive mortgage in Glasgow. I was beginning to take root. My fantasy of returning to Canada was being asphyxiated under a stack of law books.

Eleven years and countless clients later, I was offered the opportunity of returning to the city, to live this time. Memories of café culture in the sunshine, smoked meat sandwiches, the Juste Pour Rire festival, Chinatown and the eclectic fusion of nationalities bounded back. Could it really be possible to resurrect the dream and return to Montreal? Could I give up all that I had achieved in Scotland? Could I leave my family? I gazed out at the grim Glasgow clouds and

horizontal rain, and the climate made the decision for me. I had to take the risk. During Christmas 2005 my passport was stamped "Canadian Permanent Resident" by customs officials. It was the best gift I could have received.

It became apparent, however, in the first few months of life in my adopted city that I was missing "my ain folk". The dry Scots humour; people who operated on the same wavelength. Not having to explain my origins, and the fact that Scotland is not a suburb of London. I wanted to meet people who could pronounce "Auchtermuchty" and "loch" without spitting on my collar. I tracked down other Scots in order to make friends. I was curious to discover why they, or their ancestors, had chosen to leave Scotland. Could it be for the same reasons as me?

The newcomers fell into two camps: those who'd come for work opportunities and those who'd come for love. They'd met a Quebecer/Québécois(e) in the course of their travels, visited the city, and decided they couldn't leave. Baking hot summers and fabulous skiing on your doorstep in the winter – who wouldn't fall for that? Not insignificant is the relatively cheap cost of housing here. Prices of property in Scotland have risen by up to 300% in the past 10 years. It is almost impossible for first-time buyers to step onto the property ladder. For the price of a two-bedroom flat in an ordinary part of Edinburgh or Glasgow, you can purchase a detached house in a Montreal

THE MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY COMPANY

Since June, 1857, at the time of the S.S. 'Montreal' disaster, the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal has had a friendly and continuing relationship with the Mount Royal Cemetery Company. The Society's first grave lot to be located there was generously donated by the Company as the last resting place for some of the disaster victims who were mostly children. Throughout the following years and again thanks to the Company's generosity, the site was further enlarged. In November 2005, Lord Bruce unveiled a new gravestone there. The inscription reads:

FAR FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND MOORS OF THEIR NATIVE LAND, THE MANY
SCOTS WHO LIE HERE WERE LAID TO REST AMONGST THEIR OWN DURING THE
YEARS 1857 to 1911.

"Mountains divide us and a waste of seas;

Yet, still, the blood is strong"

Perhaps you would like to visit the gravesite, especially in the Fall when the trees are in glorious autumn colours. The location number is Section F 28. The main gates are located at 1297 de la Foret and the MRC Office phone number is (514) 279-7358. For more detailed information please see: <http://www.standrews.qc.ca/sas/docs/ListofBurials.pdf>.

Montreal Scottish and Celtic Culture Meetup Group

Three new members of the Society have set up a regular and informal gathering to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, to eat and drink while 'having a blether'. This get together is facilitated through a social networking site called Meetup.com. Meetup.com allows people to find and meet others face-to-face in their geographical area with similar interests.

The Montreal Scottish and Celtic Culture Meetup Group can be found at: <http://celticculture.meetup.com/16/> or by visiting <http://www.meetup.com/> and searching for Scottish or Celtic interests in Montreal. The group is open to anyone with an interest in Celtic culture, so feel free to join up and come along. Our location will change each month but details are always available on the site.

Remember to mark Tuesdays October 14th, November 11th and December 9th in your diary.

The group's organiser is Dr. Derek Robertson and Ms Kat Urbaniak and Mr Angus Bell assist him. If you have any questions about the meetup, please feel free to contact Derek at d.n.robertson@gmail.com.

suburb with land and a pool. Why more Scots aren't flocking here I have no idea.

This summer we've been inundated with friends and family from Scotland. Montreal is an excellent holiday destination. We have almost guaranteed superb weather (although this summer has been a disappointment. My poor family were rained on for a week at the beginning of August. The look of jaw-dropping terror as they stared at the storm while leaving Ottawa Airport was a sight).

Here we have countless open-air swimming pools, water parks, beaches, and sports such as kayaking and windsurfing. An hour's drive away we have the Laurentians and the Canton de L'Est. We are extremely lucky. The quality of life is hard to match. I have travelled extensively in my life – Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australasia – and I have not encountered a lifestyle that exceeds that of this wonderful city.

I've now swapped law books for psychology books, eighteen years after entering Law School. Coming to Montreal has offered me the opportunity of re-evaluating my life, by re-training in a different profession. Psychology had always been a passion, and I had regretted not pursuing this goal. That's what emigrating to a new country is all about. It affords the possibility of becoming whoever you want to be. As old bonds break, new bonds form, and the individual can reincarnate into whichever form they choose.

I commence my Master's in Counselling Psychology at McGill at the beginning of September. My studies at McGill may have been hinted at years before coming to Canada: the last law firm I worked at stands at the birthplace of James McGill, in Stockwell Street in Glasgow.

A brass plaque on the sandstone walls of the building announces this historic occasion. I used to read the inscription as I dashed back and forward to the Sheriff Court. Many Glaswegians are aware of its significance. It is clear that the Scottish connection to Montreal is still very much alive, and will be celebrated by Scots on both sides of the Atlantic for many years to come.

Travel Grant Riches

Erin C M Grant - University of Guelph – Scottish Studies

In September 2007, I was presented with the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Research Grant, for which I am honoured and greatly thankful for. I have also been given the opportunity to write this article to demonstrate to the members of the Society what I was able to accomplish with the grant money. Before I explain some of the research I was able to accomplish, I would like to introduce myself. I am a Masters student at the University of Guelph and I am currently going into my 2nd year of the Scottish Studies History program there. I am also a Grade 1 piper and am a member of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band. On August 16, 2008 my band competed in Grade 1 at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. I have been a member of the pipe band community for the past ten or so years, and for most of those years my involvement has been in the music and competitive scene. However, when I began my Masters, I was given the opportunity to look at the piping community from an academic perspective. My research will essentially be a social history of piping and pipe bands from an 'insider' perspective. There are very few historical studies on piping and pipe bands, and there are no known studies on the dynamics and social aspects of competition

bands in either Ontario, Canada, or in Scotland.

With the travel grant I was able to spend three weeks in Scotland to pursue much of the research that I will need to complete my study. Glasgow, Scotland is currently one of, if not the largest centres for piping and pipe band people in the world. During the week of August 11th to the 16th, Glasgow holds an international piping festival, ending with the World Pipe Band Championships. The festival, called Piping Live, has venues all over the city throughout that week and pipers and bands from all over the world are invited to perform at various venues. The largest is held in St. George's Square, located in the heart of Glasgow's shopping and entertainment districts, where a large stage is set up at one end of the square, a large tent with tables and a bar, and another large tent set up at the other end of the Square with vendors by major bagpipe makers where CDs and t-shirts of many of the performers can be purchased. The stage is almost continuously filled with performers throughout every day and night of that week. It is an absolutely breathtaking sight and one cannot help but become caught up in the music and the energy of the festival.

The World Pipe Band Championship itself is what many pipe bands live for. Not all of the bands have the opportunity to compete, which is mostly due to a lack of funding, but hundreds of bands flood Glasgow Green for this competition in the hopes of capturing the world title. Bands fly in from all around the world, from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, even Oman and Mexico. It is interesting to see all the different types of uniforms, many of which differ from the traditional pipe band uniform.

By looking at this community the world can seem much smaller as so many people are brought together because of the international language of music.

Not all of my research was observation and listening however. I was able to spend quite a bit of time in Glasgow's two piping centres. The National Piping Centre, and the College of

Piping were able to provide the majority of the information that I was able to gather while I was in Scotland. The National Piping Centre, located in Glasgow's East End, although it does not have a library, has a museum where one can observe the many different types of pipes and how they have changed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The museum is filled with sets of historical pipes and pictures of the first known types of pipes, which you can peer at through the glass as you listen to the sounds of some of the greatest pipers play piobaireachd, the classical music of the pipes.

The College of Piping, located in the West End of Glasgow, also has a museum which displays many different sets of pipes from the 19th and 20th century, but the College also contains an extensive archive and library where its curator and librarian, Jeannie Campbell has meticulously organized the collection of thousands of articles and magazines pertaining to piping and it's history throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. It is here where I found most of my information and I spent hours searching through articles. The majority of the magazines and newspaper articles that I found reported on the winners of various events and the times and dates of the next competitions. However, I was also able to find many of the conflicts and discussions of various issues debated among members of the piping communities. One such dispute occurred in 1930, when the location of the World Pipe Band Championships was under debate. The Edinburgh City Council believed that the "World's" should be held in Edinburgh, and should coincide

with the Edinburgh Music Festival, which is world-renowned today. However, Cowal had traditionally claimed the title of the World Championships and argued that tradition should triumph. This debate continued for a year until August 1931, which led to the disqualification of bands that attended the Cowal Championships, banning them from Edinburgh competitions. The matter was finally settled when Glasgow Green was decided upon as a neutral place to hold the World, and it has been



Pakistani Pipe Band

held there since under the stipulation that the World's not be held on the same date as the historical Cowal Championships, which are held every year on the last weekend in August.

This is just one of the many interesting topics that I found at the College of Piping. I also found a large number of articles on women in piping, which illustrate the attitudes toward women who play and how this has changed throughout the 20th century. Many Scots were shocked to see women playing and many of the articles reported by local newspapers tended to focus on what the girls were wearing rather than their playing and the prizes they had won. While much of this has changed, there are still many in Scotland who remain shocked to see women in piping.

I had the opportunity to travel to Oban, on the West Coast, for the Argyshire Gathering. It is here where I spoke to one of the competitors, Andrea Boyd, who had recently been interviewed by the BBC following her performance at the Piping Live festival entitled "The Girls of Piping". She said that she was entertained that the *Scotsman* newspaper printed a large picture of herself the next day. She said that it was surprising how little the Scottish media is tuned into the fact that there are girls, and many of them that play and are good pipers too! Andrea Boyd, originally from Nova Scotia, won the Silver Medal Piobaireachd contest on Wednesday at the Argyshire Gathering. There are many more articles on women and piping which I am excited to analyze from a historical and sociological perspective.

There are many other topics that I have found throughout my research at the Piping College. Issues such as whether there are too many competitions, events that were classified as "scandals" involving the illegal taping of a major competition. The piping community worries about whether the tunes for the major competitions should be set before the contest or not, and what the consequences might be for having set tunes. The library at the College of



MacCrimmon piper playing a Salute to his chieftain MacLeod of Dunvegan c.17th/18th century.

Piping was able to provide a clear and very detailed dialog for the piping community throughout the 20th century. The topics are many and as I reflect back on the amount that I have

been able to accomplish in a few short weeks, I am satisfied with how my research went. I am indebted to the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal for the generous opportunity it has given me to explore the a world that I have been a part of for so long. I was able to look at the piping community with new eyes and begin to see the historical significances of this small, yet vibrant community.

Thank you very much again for the opportunity and I will be sure to send the Society a copy of my research project upon its completion.

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.

Society Ties

The 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 that the logo is larger and they are made of silk. The price of these ties, including taxes and delivery, is only \$20. If you are interested in purchasing one of these ties, please contact the Society's office.

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