

# THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

September 2011

## Upcoming Events

### Meeting of Council & Committee of Management

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2011



### Taste of Scotland's Fine Foods & Malt Whiskies

Officers' Mess

The Black Watch Armoury

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2011

### Debutantes' Reception

Officers' Mess, Black Watch Armoury

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2011



### St. Andrew's Luncheon

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

### St. Andrew's Ball

Chateau Champlain Hotel

Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2011



### Children's Christmas Party

Officers' Mess

Black Watch Armoury

Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2011



One of our pipers is a little tipsy at the 2011 Montreal's Highland Games! I wonder if there was a stash of something peaty under that table!

## VOLUNTEERISM – OUR KEY TO SUCCESS

### President's Report September 2011

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, throughout its long history, is one of those organizations that relies, almost entirely, on volunteers to accomplish its stated aims. Volunteerism for Scots is one of those traits that comes along with modesty, frugality, compassion, education and community. Having grown up just after World War II, I witnessed how our returning veterans thrived on community organizations - helping each other out at every turn. I see this evolving though in the midst of a fast changing world – “the all for me world”, around us. Most volunteer organizations now are kept going by grey haired workers who have accomplished amazing achievements for many years but are now getting tired and concerned about the future.

I recently read about some changes that are being observed with committee workers. We have been so used to “marathoners” who attend monthly meetings, sometimes for years, repeat their participation in good deeds, year after year, and are the pillars of the organization. Now, many successful organizations are finding “sprinters” who are caught up in extremely hectic daily lives and cannot commit to being “marathoners” but who are quite willing to help out on a specific event or project – with no other longer term commitment. I find this an interesting way for an organization to benefit from volunteers!

This said, the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal has been blessed well beyond the norm with “marathoners”, although we can always use more. I thank every one of them for their commitment and amazing deeds. It is time, however, for us to also find “sprinters” - volunteers willing to take on specific, one time, “tasks”. As an example, Jennifer Cassar, the wonderful editor of our JOURNAL can always use one time articles, reports or insertions on some aspect of Scottish Montreal whether it be historical or trend setting.

In the coming months please consult the Society's web page for the “volunteer's needed section” and consider being a “marathoner” or “sprinter” for the St. Andrew's Society. Our future success depends on it. We promise to make volunteer work for the Society not only satisfying, but fun!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming events, especially the St. Andrew's Ball where we welcome our guests to enjoy a Scottish evening in the most festive of atmospheres.

Bruce D. Bolton

## Family Ties

Valerie Large

I grew up in Scotland in the town of Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, not far from the birthplace of Robert Burns. The modest thatched two-roomed farm cottage where Burns was born in 1759 can still be seen today in Alloway near the town of Ayr: living was crowded in Burns' time because one room was for the family, the other for the livestock. It was in 1786 in Kilmarnock that an edition of Burns' poems was published that was so successful that Burns reconsidered his plans to flee from the hardships of his life in Scotland to Jamaica. Every day on the way to my high school I would walk past Tam O'Shanter's birthplace: yes, the famous Burns' poem “Tam O'Shanter” describing his chase by witches was based on a real person. Don't look for the house now though because it was demolished a long time ago.

Kilmarnock's other famous asset was a man called Johnnie Walker who started selling whisky from his grocery store. My great-great grandfather, Hugh Wilson, was friends with Johnnie Walker: Johnnie wanted him to join him in the whisky business but unfortunately for me, grandfather was teetotal and looked down on the demon drink so he declined the offer. Instead he went into carpet

manufacture and the business remained in our family until my own father retired. Owing to the canniness of Walker's son Alexander the whisky was in later years packaged in the iconic square bottles. It was exported using the spare capacity of trading vessels and the sea captains as sales agents, launching the whisky as a world renowned brand. Now the brand Johnnie Walker is owned by a company which plans to close the Kilmarnock bottling plant in 2011 sadly ending the era of whisky production in the town.

My mother was English but I was aware through my brother's middle name, Struan, that there was also a Scottish connection on her side. Struan means “the land of streams” and was the name of the Robertson family lands in the highland part of Perthshire near Loch Rannoch. When we had special visitors, some silverware with the Robertson crest would be laid on the dining table. Recently amongst some family papers I found the following hand written account of the history of the Robertson clan and how it got its name. It makes a good story for anyone with the name of Robertson or related families.

*“Robertson – Clan Donnachaidh*

*Clan Pipe Music: Salute – Failte Thighearne Struthain (The Laird of Struan's Salute)*

Badge: *Duith Fraoch (fine leaved heather) or An Raineach mahor (bracken)*

The first chief of this race who gave the clan its name of Clan Donnachaidh, or children of Duncan, was Donnachaidh Reambar (Duncan the Stout), otherwise known as Duncan de Atholia, or Duncan of Athole. Duncan was the male descendant and representative of the Ancient Celtic Earls of Athole. The clan as such, however, count their chiefs from Duncan of Athole only, as they only appear as a clan then, and that in support of Duncan's friend and kinsman, King Robert the Bruce. It was on the way to the field of Bannockburn that Duncan found the famous *Clas-na-brataich*, or stone of the banner, adhering to the standard-pole on its being lifted from the ground after a night's halt - the crystal ball, which carries with it the luck of Clan Donnachaidh.

The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland, being the sole remaining branch of that Royal house which occupied the throne in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

In later centuries, Clan Donnachaidh and its chiefs were noted for their intense loyalty to the Stuarts, from the earliest reigns of these monarchs to the appearance of their last Prince in 1745. On the murder of James I in the Blackfriars monastery at Perth, it was the chief of Clan Donnachaidh who captured his murderers (in a lonely glen in Athole) and in commemoration of this, had, in 1471, his lands created into a barony and his arms augmented by the well-known crest, a hand and arm upholding a royal crown, with the motto "*Veruitis Gloria Merces*" (Glory is the Reward of Valour) and slung to the ancient shield - *gules, with the three wolves heads argent - a savage in chains.*

Other lands were then offered to the chief, but he chose to have those he already possessed, which were very extensive, erected to the Barony of Struan. This chief's name was Robert (a name first adopted by the family at the wish of Robert the Bruce) and in commemoration of the honours showered upon him by the successor of the murdered king, his son took the name of Robertson (son of Robert) which became thereafter that of the family and clan."

The lands were later forfeited as punishment for the clan's support of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite cause but the clan chiefs retained the right still to be buried at Struan.

There is now established a Clan Donnachaidh

Museum at Bruar Falls, Pitlochry, in Perthshire, Scotland.

## Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Home Under Threat

Gillian I Leitch

Built in 1897, *Undershaw*, the home of Scottish author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is now under threat of being destroyed. It was designed especially for Conan Doyle by Joseph Henry Ball, and is situated in Hindhead, Surrey. It was here that Doyle wrote *Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.

The location was chosen to cater to the medical needs of Doyle's wife Louise, nicknamed 'Touie', who suffered from tuberculosis; doctors of the era recommended healthy air, for which Surrey was known. Writing to his mother Mary in



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's home. Photo Credit: [www.saveundershaw.com](http://www.saveundershaw.com)

May 1895, Doyle lauded the building site because "... its height, its dryness, its sandy soil, its fir trees and its shelter from all bitter winds present the conditions which all agree to be best in the treatment of phthisis. If we could have ordered Nature to construct a spot for us we could not have hit upon anything more perfect. ... I have bought 4 acres under £1000 and I don't think it will prove to be a bad investment." [wikipedia]

Having built the home for his wife and children, it was sold after the death of his wife and son, in 1921. The house became a hotel in 1924, but closed down in 2004 when the property was purchased by Des Moore and Neil Caffrey of Fossway Ltd for development.

The building has stood empty since its purchase, as the developers have tried to get planning permission to carve up the property and build new homes. Waverly Borough Council approved this plan. The approval is currently going under judicial review in the Royal Courts of Justice.

The Undershaw Preservation Trust has stepped in to fight the plans for development, offering a different vision for the property. They wish to see the property restored in period style, and the property

opened up as a Sherlock Homes- Conan Doyle museum.

They are behind the Judicial Reviews of the planning decisions. They maintain a website [www.saveundershaw.com](http://www.saveundershaw.com) which you can too, to help save this important site. They also have a facebook page and you can follow them on Twitter @spiritangel04.

You can also write to the Planning council: Mary Orton, Chief Executive of Waverly Borough Council or Matthew Evans, Chief Planning Officer, Waverly Borough Council, Council Offices, The Bury, Goldaming, Surrey, GU7 1HR.

Mark Gatiss, patron of the Trust said this about the home:

"I would like to express my whole-hearted enthusiasm for the campaign to save Undershaw. It seems to me a very sad reflection on our times that the home of one of our greatest and most popular writers should be so neglected and in danger of unsympathetic redevelopment.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle occupied several residences in his prolific and thrilling career, only Undershaw bears the stamp of his massive personality. Here the Hound of the Baskervilles first breathed spectral life and Sherlock Holmes himself was resurrected from the Reichenback Falls. Here Stoker, Barrie and Hornung and many others were entertained. It's no exaggeration to say that Undershaw was the centre of Doyle's life during perhaps the most fruitful and fascinating phase of his career. It must be saved and take its place

among the sensitively preserved residences of this country's other literary giants. This is certainly a three-pipe problem but not, I am convinced, an insoluble one." [www.saveundershaw.com]

## New Members

The Society is very pleased to welcome new annual members: Kirsten Branigan, Nicholas Dominic Buonvino, John Mackay Dennison, Joyce Dennison, Ainsley Desmond, Lawrence Paul Dobby, Rebecca Elizabeth Dowd, Sarah Kathryn Dowd, Nancy Robinson, Kathleen Meikle Rochford.

## Flowers of the Forest

Mrs. Sarah (Sally) Jean Aitken, life member 1993, wife of life member, Allan Aitken, mother of life members, Ian, Jamie and Jennifer Aitken; Ms. Rosanna Seaborn Todd, life member 1954.

## All Things Scottish at the Atwater Library

Agnes McFarlane

The Scottish Collection, established in 2004, continues to grow. It now numbers 1,500 items.

To survey the whole collection enter Scottish Collection as subject in the catalogue search screen.

Any book or DVD can be found by author or title. Each item is identified by the letters SC preceding the Classification number or the letters FIC if fiction.

For example:	SC	or	SC
	941.101		Fic
	M149m		Tem

Here is a selection of recent additions:


For anyone thinking of taking a trip to Scotland or feeling like going on a virtual journey:

*Exploring Scotland's Freshwater Lochs* by Julian Holland: a beautifully illustrated book of colour photographs of the lochs in different lights, some wild and haunting, some peaceful and inviting. Not only has it great pictures but stories of happenings and myths and legends like that of the monster Morag in Loch Morar



- is she a rival to Nessie? There is also information on fishing and camping and how to cope with the midges.





**October 1 - 9, 2011**  
**in the Eastern Townships of Quebec**  
 (Knowlton, Cowansville, Waterloo, Eastman, North-Hatley)  
**just an hour from Montréal!**

10 days of Celtic music and dance

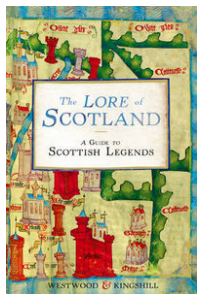
16 concerts by world-class musicians from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, Canada's East Coast and Québec, including The Tannahill Weavers, CRAN, Fernhill, Jean-Michel Veillon, Richard Wood, Dwayne Coté, Crowfoot, and many more.

15 workshops & master classes

Plus activities to help you to reconnect with nature in this spectacularly beautiful region with the autumn colours at their peak.

**Let Nature Soothe Your Soul,  
 Let the Music Feed Your Imagination!**  
[www.celticharmonies.ca](http://www.celticharmonies.ca)  
 or call: (450) 292-3456 ext. 227

*Highland Clans* by Alistair Moffat: This goes beyond the usual fare on clan histories and tartans, getting in to histories of the lineage of the names, inter-clan marriages, disputes and great battles; magnificently illustrated.



*The Lore of Scotland. A Guide to Scottish Legends* by Jennifer Westwood and Sophia Kingshill: Gives brief information on all kinds of folk tales, names of heroes and others characters, place names and events that we may have vague recollections of, here arranged alphabetically and easy to pin down.

In history and biography:

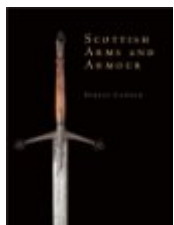
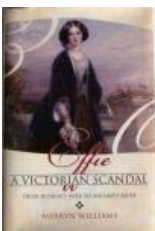
*Scotland. The History of a Nation* by Magnus Magnusson: An engrossing, easy to read, complete history of the country by the renowned Orkney historian.



*The Top 50 Greatest Scots of all Time - Ever* by Vladimir McTavish is self explanatory!



*Effie: A Victorian Scandal* by Merryn Williams. This is about John Ruskin, his wife Effie and the literary set in London, scandal, divorce, and a fascinating look at the mores of another age. There are great illustrations.



*Scottish Arms and Armour* by Fergus Cannan. A look at weapons through the ages from the heavy two-handed sword to the sgian-dhu tucked into the stocking in today's formal dress

For light reading the library has a wide range of the popular Scottish authors such as

Ian Rankin, Ali Smith, Val McDermid, Louise Welsh,

Kate Atkinson, Quintin Jardine, John Burnside, Aline Templeton, Andrew O'Hagan and many others.

And, not forgetting the classics, Walter Scott, Robert Burns, Robert Louis Stevenson, J M Barrie ...

The DVD collection offers:

The Stone of Destiny, Highlander, The Illusionist, The Last King of Scotland, Ring of Bright Water, Braveheart, the BBC History of Scotland, Ten-Part Series.

## Montreal's New Irish Wave

Un reportage de Stephanie O Hanley le mardi, juillet 12, 2011 [<http://montreal.openfile.ca/montreal/file/2011/07/montreal-new-irish-wave>]

She only arrived in January but already Jessica McGovern has a job with McGill University's communications department, a Plateau apartment and French-speaking roommates.

McGovern, 26, does martial arts, writes for AskMen.com and has visited New York, Toronto and Ottawa.

She speaks English, French, Irish and Spanish and left Galway nearly a decade ago to earn university degrees in Belfast and Edinburgh.

"My allegiance is always going to be to Ireland even if I don't want to live there," says McGovern, who has worked in Africa, China, France and South America.

"I've lived all over the world and Canada was the only place I could come back to and settle down in," says McGovern, who has lived in Edmonton and Vancouver.

"I always thought I was being different and going somewhere new," she says. "But this year I'm part of this huge wave of [Irish] emigration."

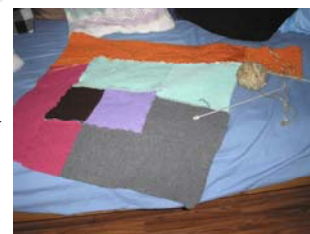
After years of incredible growth, in 2008 the Celtic Tiger all but died. Real estate and construction bubbles burst, banks collapsed and a government debt crisis followed. With unemployment at 14% and no jobs, thousands of Irish graduates and young

## Ugly Blanket for Famine Relief

Gillian Leitch

I have a great hobby; it is the knitting of blankets which I affectionately call ugly. The blankets are made of random balls of wool knit together to create a colophony of colour and texture. It began in 1999 when my Mom was sick in the hospital and I needed something to do when I was visiting her, so I began knitting a blanket using her scraps of wool. Seriously ugly, but my goodness what a warm blanket! I have since knit many such blankets for family and friends.

But now I have decided to knit an ugly blanket to raise money for famine relief in the Horn of Africa. It seems like a great way to use my talents. All money raised will go to UNICEF. I haven't begun to sell tickets yet, but will in October when the blanket has progressed far enough that people will know what they could win..... I will periodically update the progress of the blanket on my blog [www.gilliandr.wordpress.com](http://www.gilliandr.wordpress.com). If anyone is interested in buying tickets please contact me at [ailliandocor@gmail.com](mailto:ailliandocor@gmail.com).



professionals are emigrating to the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Canada changed the working-holiday program for Irish aged 18-35 this year, upping Ireland's visa quota from 4,000 in 2010 to 5,000 for 2011 and allowing people to apply for a second year.

Thomas Monaher created the Irish living in Montreal Facebook group in 2008 "to build a little community of Irish ex-pats". Monaher, who left Cork for Montreal in 1998 "when the Celtic Tiger took off", says lately he's been getting queries from Irish people asking about immigration issues or about Montreal.

Ruth Hanna, a board member with the Montreal chapter of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce\*, estimates "100 or 150" new Irish immigrated here during the past 18 months.

"Vancouver and Toronto have two to three times the number," Hanna says. "Obviously this is mainly because of the language issue."

"The numbers going to Montreal aren't great but there's certainly an increase," says Ray Bassett, Ireland's ambassador to Canada. Many Irish learn French in high school, Bassett notes. What's needed, he says, is Irish people writing home to their friends saying "actually Montreal is a very good place to come to."

"It's a fantastic city," Bassett says. "It's a real international city with a lot of vibrancy about it. I think when people get to know it we'll hopefully see a bigger proportion going to Montreal and to Quebec."

Last year Hanna and three other Irish-born volunteers formed the Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative to help new Irish immigrants settle and integrate into Quebec society. With funding from the Irish government and the St. Patrick's Society, they held a networking event for Irish newcomers in February and are planning another event for this fall, she says.

"So many jobs are obtained by networking or by recommendation," says Paul Loftus, president of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce's Montreal chapter. The chapter puts Irish immigrant jobseekers in touch with its business

contacts and holds an informal networking event at the Irish Embassy Pub & Grill on the last Thursday of every month, Loftus says.

"Quite a few" new Irish are joining the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club and the Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Club, Loftus says.

Of 35 players, 25 are Irish born and at least 10 of these are new arrivals, says Montreal Shamrocks GAC president Ronan Corbett. Some arrived with jobs at Ericsson or Bombardier, says Corbett. Others mistakenly thought they could get by with basic French, Corbett says. "Five or six guys here ... are very qualified but ended up working at call centres because they can't get work."

The club is a social outlet both for novices to Gaelic football and hurling and for people who played the sports back in Ireland, says Corbett, who hails from Galway. "You feel less far away from home when you know you have that support network."

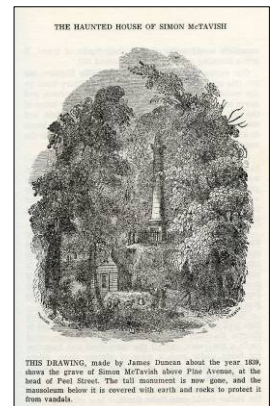
## McTavish Tour

Bruce D. Bolton

On a beautiful Monday morning in August, 3 stalwart members of the Society huffed their way up to the top of Peel street to learn more about the final resting place of one of Montreal's great early Scots – Simon McTavish.

The City of Montreal has undertaken an archaeological survey of the site, which was considered one of the most important monuments in Montreal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but which

was constantly vandalized and fell into neglect. The archaeologist took the group to the exact location, where a refurbished monument stands, and explained that they found the underground vault (which contains 5 remains) as well as the foundations of the Mausoleum and the surrounding walls. He pointed out that some of the stones were incorporated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century structures of the area and that there were what appeared to be Masonic elements – sculpted columns and symbols, and the alignment of the view directly East and in line with the old Protestant cemetery. A few steps higher, he pointed out the location of a rather large column dedicated to Simon McTavish, which would have been visible on the mountain side. Again, stones from



The Column and Mausoleum of Simon McTavish from *Montreal Yesterdays* by E.A. Collard.



The monument in place; originally presented by McTavish's nephews and refurbished by the City of Montreal in 1942. A close examination of the rock at the back on both sides show where the mortared walls of the Mausoleum started from.

the column had been incorporated into more modern structures in the area.

Now, the City is now studying what will be done to more appropriately recognize what exists at the site, and try to inform visitors of the importance of the Simon McTavish and his burial location. Be assured that the St Andrew's Society is following this dossier closely to make sure that this great Montreal Scot is recognized for the role he played here almost 200 years ago.

## 2011 Edition of the St. Andrew's Ball Plans are well underway!

Mark your calendar - November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Chairman of the Ball is working with a dedicated committee to ensure a memorable ball with all the traditions of the past, combined with the modern music of the band "1945". Last year's success at the Chateau Champlain Hotel will be repeated - even with a limited number of guests, so early ticket purchases is a must. In the meantime, we will always welcome more debutantes and escorts. (See the small add next page.)

We are delighted to confirm that President of the Canadian Space Agency and Astronaut, Dr. Steve MacLean will be our Guest of Honour at this year's St. Andrew's Ball. Steve is very proud of his Scottish heritage and we very much look forward to having him as our Guest of Honour.

The silent auction can only be enhanced by further donations of suitable items: please email or call Ellen Bounsall at [ebounsall@mcauslan.com](mailto:ebounsall@mcauslan.com) or (450) 538-3456. The St. Andrew's luncheon will be held on the Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

And prepare your dancing shoes for the Scottish Country Dance practices, under the watchful eyes of Mary Dreghorn and Tom Speirs, every Wednesday night at the Black Watch Armoury, starting October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 - 10 p.m.

More information will be mailed to you in the coming weeks.

## Scottish Banknotes

Scottie Rampant Scotland (September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

The United Kingdom is one of the few countries in the world where the issue of bank notes is not restricted to the Government and/or its Central Bank. In Scotland, there is a continuous tradition of producing bank notes since 1695. In recent years, some of the Scottish banks have produced some colourful banknotes to commemorate special occasions, including the Queen Mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 4 August 2000 (which included references to her Scottish roots in the design) and the 50th anniversary of the accession of Queen

Elizabeth II in 2002. The days of bank managers playing golf with important customers may be in the past, but the connection between banks and golf have been perpetuated with commemorative banknotes for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and another paying homage to that golfing great Jack Nicklaus. On a more serious historic note there has also been a banknote marking the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crowning of King Robert the Bruce, issued on 25 March 2006, followed up in 2006 by a banknote linked to the Commonwealth Games held that year in Melbourne, Australia. For illustrations of these and many others, see the recently updated: <http://www.rampantScotland.com/SCM/banknotes.htm>

## Scottish Inventions and Discoveries: Speedo Swimwear - Alexander MacRae (circa 1890-1935)

[http://www.rampantScotland.com/inventors/inventions\\_speedo.htm](http://www.rampantScotland.com/inventors/inventions_speedo.htm) accessed September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from the Rampant Scotland Directory

Alexander MacRae was born around 1890 (1888 and 1892 are both quoted) in Kyle of Lochalsh in north-west Scotland. In 1910 he emigrated from his home near Loch Kishorn to Australia. He was already married to a local girl and they later had five sons and a daughter. His wife died in 1925, giving birth to their only daughter. MacRae himself died on November 30 1938 - St. Andrews Day.

MacRae established a company, MacRae Hosiery, in 1914 on Bondi Beach, Sydney, but changed the name later to MacRae Knitting Mills as he began to expand into swimwear. The brand name initially was "Fortitude" - taken from the motto of the clan MacRae. Its Racerback brand was one of the first figure hugging designs specifically created for athletes rather than just fashion. The name "Speedo" was adopted in 1928 after an employee, Captain Jim Parsonson, won a company competition with the slogan "Speed on in your Speedos". Legendary Swedish swimmer Arne Borg wore a Speedo and set a new world record shortly after and Australian Clare Dennis won gold in the 200-metre breaststroke in the 1932 Olympics, setting a new Olympic record. She narrowly escaped disqualification when a protest was lodged against her "inappropriate" costume on the grounds that it exposed too much of her shoulder blade! In the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936 an Australian men's swim team all wore Speedo, including a new, "daring", bare-chested swimming shorts design.

After World War II (during which production switched to materials such as mosquito nets), Speedo swimsuits began to be sold again. Their "two-piece" bikini was initially banned by Australian

## The Stuart Agenda by Alan Calder

The Hanoverian spin doctors of the eighteenth century airbrushed out of history, the legitimate descendants of Royal Stuart scion, Bonnie Prince Charlie. This kept a tight lid on any prospect of a further Jacobite challenge to their established dynasty in the United Kingdom.

It should not surprise us that the descendants of Bonnie Prince Charlie still covet the throne of Scotland, the land that the Stuart monarchs ruled for hundreds of years.

In 2035, young Robert Stuart sets out on a journey to recapture the Scottish throne in an independent Scotland. A cast of conspirators led by his great uncle Leo prepare the political and constitutional ground for him. Robert meets and falls in love with the beautiful Hanoverian Princess Victoria, providing a basis for a dynastic compromise. Robert has to overcome strong resistance from the Hanoverian establishment and from within his own family if he is to succeed in his ambition. (Outline taken from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

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Dear members of the Montreal St Andrews Society,

I hope that you will not mind a Caithness author contacting members of the Scottish Diaspora in Canada to make them aware of my new novel, The Stuart Agenda. It's an intriguing take on history when a young scion of the long defunct royal Stuart dynasty returns to claim the throne of Scotland when it finally goes independent in the 2030's. It's a political thriller with adventure and romance thrown in. A great holiday read. See it on [www.willowmoonpublishing.com](http://www.willowmoonpublishing.com) and also on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). I would appreciate if you could pass this on to likely interested readers in your community.

Alan Calder

## St. Andrew's Ball 2011 Debutantes

Would you like to be part of the St. Andrew's historical Scottish tradition? Join us as a debutante at the St. Andrew's Ball which is held annually in November.

Dressed in a formal full length white gown, you and your escort will be presented to the St. Andrew's Ball guests of honour in the presence of all the attending guests.

It will be a unique opportunity for you to learn to curtsy and bow gracefully, meet interesting people, dance a Scottish waltz, and to listen to the live performances of the bagpipe band and lots more. If you would like more information about the ball and the other activities related to being a debutante, please contact Julie Perron @ [lc@scottishcentral.com](mailto:lc@scottishcentral.com).

## Whisky Tasting- Annual Taste of Scotland

*Scottish proverb - "Never drink whisky with water and never drink water without whisky".*

The Annual Taste of Scotland whisky tasting event will be held on the 21st of October at the Officer's Mess in the Black Watch Armoury on Bleury. This year the event will be catered by "By George!" Inc. Don't forget to buy your tickets early. They cost \$50 for members and \$75 for non-members before Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. The numbers of tickets available are limited.

Every year at the Whisky tasting we hold a raffle to raise funds for the Children's Christmas Party. We need donations of prizes for this raffle. Please contact the Society Office for more details.

beach inspectors! MacRae Knitting Mills became a public company on the Sydney stock exchange in 1951 and four years later Speedo introduced nylon into the fabric for its competitive swimwear. It was widely used in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne and

of the 54 countries competing in swimming events at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, 52 of them used Speedos. By that time the company had expanded rapidly, frequently in the forefront of development of the use of new fabrics such as lycra and the latest Speedo Fastskin LZR Racer. Since the top swimmers tend to use Speedo swimwear, it is hardly surprising that it has become "the world's fastest swimsuit". In the 2008 Olympics, Speedo was reported to have offered Michael Phelps a \$1-million bonus for matching Mark Spitz's 1972 record of seven Olympic gold medals in the 1972 Olympics (Spitz wore Speedo swimming trunks then too).

In 1991 the Pentland Group, an English company based in London, took over the Speedo Group. Speedo International Ltd is now based in Nottingham, England.

## Society Ties

Society ties are still available. The embroidered logo on the tie is a golden rampant lion on a cross. These navy blue ties are similar to the Society's previous ties, except the logo is larger and they are made of silk. The price, including taxes and delivery, is only \$20. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact the Society's office.

## Private Rental Spaces: Households and Business Storage

Lock-It Storage Inc. has been providing a storage locker to the Society for many years. Their clean and secure facility is located five minutes from downtown just below Westmount, off the Glen at 4840 Acorn Street. Telephone is: 514 934-0386.

Mini storage is an inexpensive way to safely store personal and business items. They offer sizes as small as a closet or as large as a garage.

Published by:

**The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal**

1195 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3A 1H9

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