

The Journal

WINTER - SPRING 2017

President's Message for 2017



2016 St. Andrew's Ball!



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UPCOMING
Events



Our elves are hard at work for the 2016 Children's Christmas Party!

President's Message - Winter 2017

Dear Friends,

Well, this is it: the big year has arrived and we are already at full throttle to help celebrate and recognize our Society, Montreal's heritage and Canada's rich multicultural makeup. We have kicked off events with the MacDonald Kilt Skate at the Old Port skating rink on January 14th which was funded by our Society and the Scottish Government. We will be organizing and involving ourselves with many events throughout the year, from the Burns Dinner to Tartan Day celebrations, from the Highland Games to the St. Andrew's Ball, and many other events. Our Activities Committee has been working hard in the background and will be organizing random piping events at locations throughout the city highlighting the Scottish influence in Montreal. We will be working toward gathering a large contingent for the St. Patrick's Day Parade as our Irish cousins will also be focusing on the 375th Anniversary of Montreal. There is so much coming up that I encourage everyone to keep a close eye on our website, Facebook page and mailings to keep abreast of the wealth of activities.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jennifer Cassar. Jennifer's dedicated work as our Journal editor over the last 8 years has helped our Society stay connected and well informed. I wish Jennifer all the best for the future as she hands the reins off to Margo Pollock and our Communications Committee.

Lastly, my sincere thanks to all the committees, volunteers, members and friends who step up in all areas to support our community. Every effort is truly appreciated, whether it is by providing your time, financial assistance, help in building up our networks, by attending events or simply by calling us and saying hello!

Yours aye,

Brian MacKenzie
President, St. Andrew's Society of Montreal



The Montreal Highland Games Society presents a cheque for \$3,000 to the
Dawson Community Boys and Girls Club in Verdun.

On hand for the presentation are: Natalie Miron, Dawson Community Center; Sterling Downey, City Councillor; Brian MacKenzie, Highland Games President; Sean Smith, Committee member and Caledonian Run coordinator and Darley Poloney, Dawson Community Center.



Jason MacCallum, Dr. Richard MacKenzie, Brian MacKenzie



John Nathaniel Gertler, Jaylin Troi-Mackenzie Rice Douglass

The 2016 St. Andrew's Ball was held on Friday, December 2nd at the Marriott Chateau Champlain, and our Guest of Honour was Mr. Ian Skone-Rees, President of the Los Angeles St. Andrew's Society and his wife Mrs. Eileen Skone-Rees. With the date of the Ball being a week later than American Thanksgiving, we were in a good position to appeal to our neighbours to the south. As many of you know, our Society's President, Brian Mackenzie, has family in Los Angeles and they had such a good time last year that this led to our invitation to this year's Guest of Honour, and a large group of "Los Angelenos" who graced us with their presence.

For the first time since 2010 the Ball was sold-out, with a capacity crowd of 400 people enjoying the splendour of a full evening of music, dancing and fine dining until the wee hours. Table decorations were elegant and tall flower arrangements coordinated by the ever able, Francoise Lambert.

With the McGill Canadian-Scottish Studies Chair being the primary recipient of the funds raised, there was excellent representation from McGill at the Ball, as we presented them with a cheque for \$150,000, fulfilling the Society's commitment to directly assist in funding the endowment for the Chair and its full time professor. A key part of our fundraising comes from the silent auction held during the Ball, which allows our guests to avail themselves of some outstanding gifts only a few weeks before Christmas. We raised almost \$14,000, and realized about 75% of the face value of the items. A special thank you to Sean Smith and Margo Pollock for seeing this through until the wee'ist of wee hours.

We were also fortunate to be able to display over 20 panels from the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry, which is on a world-wide tour. These panels, including the one from Montreal, evoke a sense of the diffusion of Scots around the world.

We had a lovely group of 9 Debutantes that were presented to our Guest of Honour. The young women are all accomplished, pursuing their studies and interesting careers. They were accompanied by an equally astute group of young gentlemen. This year the Debutantes and Escorts volunteered at Chez Doris, a women's shelter. Coordinating all of the foregoing was Claire Kelly who did an outstanding job. Another positive attribute of this year's Ball was the large number of 'junior' tickets sold – boosting the attendance of younger ball-goers is an investment in our future and one that our Society remains very committed to.

A special ceremony was held during the evening where an emotionally stirring rendition of Highland Cathedral was played by close to 70 pipers and drummers, which culminated with the recognition of, and a presentation to, outgoing Pipe Major, Cameron Stevens, MMM CD, who was applauded by all for his many years of service to the Black Watch (RHR).

Thereafter the reels and dancing with RHR Black Watch Pipes & Drums went on until almost 3am and in a testament to the success of the event, the final Eightsome Reel had ten sets – no peace for the wicked! The sense of confidence demonstrated by our guests in their dancing can be directly related to our new dancing instructor, Jennifer Stephenson, who inspired everyone and made all of our preceding dance practices a joy to attend.

Your Ball Committee works hard for most of the year in advance to ensure the success of this event. We are happy to report that by all accounts this was indeed a roaring success for our Society.

Jason MacCallum
Ball Chair (2016)



On December 11, 2016 the Youth Committee with the incredible guidance and help from the Activities Committee, organized the Annual **Children's Christmas Party**. This year, the party took place at Trafalgar School for Girls. Parents and their children enjoyed stations such as face-painting, balloon art, ornament making, colouring, cookie decorating and a photo station! Families also enjoyed story time, an incredible performance on pipes and drums by the Cadets and some Highland dancers. Later during the party, Santa Claus made a special appearance to hand out presents and wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

The Youth Committee is very excited to announce that after the 2016 Ball, every Debutante and Escort was welcomed as a Society member. The committee is always welcoming members from ages 15-25. The first meeting of 2017 will be held later in February where there will be discussion of future events including the **Tartan Day Quiz scheduled for April 2nd**. If you have any questions about the committee please feel free to contact the Chair, Julia Rochford at: julesroch@hotmail.com. You can now follow the committee on Facebook: St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Youth Committee.

Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition

Submitted by Moira Barclay-Fernie, Lynn Verge and Bruce Bolton

FANTASTIC SUPERB MAGNIFICENT STUNNING INCREDIBLE AND MORE OF THE SAME!

Where might you have heard these expressions lately? Without a doubt you would have heard them and many other complimentary expressions as people signed the visitors' book on leaving the exhibition of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry which had been on display at the Atwater Library from November 22 to December 10, 2016, through the sponsorship of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

Although information had been given about the tapestry and how it came into existence, very few, if any, of those who attended the exhibition had any idea of what a great display they were going to experience as they admired over 300 panels embroidered by people throughout the world who wanted to show off what Scots in their own corners of the world had taken to their new homelands over several centuries. Montreal submitted one of the panels which was sewn by Moira Barclay-Fernie and Suni Hope-Johnston, members of the Society. It included themes of the Auld Alliance, the fur trade, McGill University, banking, the railways and the first Presbyterian Church, which was underlined at the opening reception. On November 21, 1828 Reverend

Henry Esson of the Scottish Presbyterian Church conducted the founding meeting of the organization, then known as the Montreal Mechanics' Institution. The reception also included the presentation of a birthday cake to celebrate the 188th anniversary of the founding of the Atwater Library. Mr. Ian Aitken, a Past President of the Society, spoke of the history of the two organizations and how they have worked together to promote many things Scottish, particularly the Scottish Collection of over 1600 volumes covering many subjects and people with Scottish connections.



The exhibition involved more than a year of planning and preparation that included installation of versatile hanging tracks for art display which will be a valuable legacy of the Society's generous sponsorship of the Tapestry exhibition. Jenny Bruce, International Tour Director, and Diane Bernier a local designer met the challenge of displaying the 300 panels in the historic building. Jenny has been accompanying the tapestry worldwide, including Australia and New Zealand and was moving on to Ottawa, then Iceland before returning to Scotland. During the exhibition, the Library's popular Lunchtime Series featured an illustrated presentation on the Tapestry by Jenny Bruce and a talk about the 19th century history of the Scots in Montreal by Heather McNabb. Both of these events were very well attended. Piper Jeff McCarthy made a surprise appearance at the end of one of the talks, much to the delight of the audience. Close to 25 panels were displayed at the St. Andrew's Ball – magnificent and meaningful decorations!

Bruce Bolton and close to 30 other volunteers from the Society, the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, embroiderers and others, along with tour director Jenny Bruce, greeted hundreds of delighted visitors and Library patrons.

Viewers were amazed by the scale and artistry of the tapestry. Guest book comments included:

- "A 'tour de force.' Wonderful stories and stitchery." -- Valerie Aitken
- "A great event for Scottish Montreal and the Atwater Library." -- Susan McGuire
- "ACH NA MARA" -- Tim Belford
- "A remarkable exhibition! Delighted to learn that the linen for the panels was woven in my hometown -- Kirkcaldy, Scotland. I grew up listening to the crashing of looms in the factory behind our house!!" -- Elizabeth Cuthill
- "Mind boggling. Thank you." -- Robert C. Wilkins

Library Executive Director Lynn Verge expressed deep gratitude to the Society for choosing the Atwater Library as the venue for the tapestry exhibition in Montreal. "We experienced the joy of having an amazing work of art and history in our midst, and our organizational capacity was boosted. We developed new and closer relationships with Montreal's Scottish community, and we gained the means to display visual art."

For more information about the Tapestry and the world tour, visit www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org or borrow the official guide book from the Atwater Library's Scottish Collection. A few copies of the book and CD are still available in Montreal. Please call the Society at 514-842-2030.

Our 2016 Debutantes and Escorts at the St. Andrew's Ball!

Brooke Beloff

Secondary V, Trafalgar School for Girls

At Trafalgar, Brooke is actively involved in Model United Nations, Art club, volleyball, and school plays. Her interests include, painting, writing, politics and astronomy. She is thrilled to be a Debutante this year at the St. Andrew's Ball.

Escorted by Gregory Alek Abedi

Secondary V, LaSalle Community Comprehensive High School

Gregory has been a cadet in The Black Watch (RHR) since 2012 and during his time with the organization has earned badges for Standard First Aid, Excellent Marksmanship, Gold Fitness Level, National Star of Excellence and Level 1 Music for the bagpipes. He also actively participates in the cadet summer camps and hopes to participate in the Basic Parachuting Course for cadets in 2017. Gregory would like to be a Search and Rescue Technician.

Sophia Eleri Buckett

Summit School, Montreal

Sophia was born in the UK and made the move to Canada with her family at the age of four. An active volunteer with her school, she cooked at a homeless shelter last year. Sophia is an all-round athlete who enjoys down hill skiing, snowshoeing and skating and plays on a girl's hockey team. She also plays tennis, cycles and rollerblades. In the future, she would like to enter a career field where she can work with children and animals.

Escorted by Gabriel O'Neill Harris

Secondary III, Westmount High School

Gabriel is a cadet in The Black Watch (RHR) and received the Recruit of the Year for the cadets. He plays the piano and bagpipes and loves listening to music of all kinds. Gabriel plans to pursue a career as a professional musician.

Maya Lach-Aidelbaum

Environmental Science, Dawson College

Maya was one of the top students to graduate from College Durocher Saint-Lambert in 2015. She speaks English, French, German and some Spanish. In 2014, she won a competition for her production of a short German video; her prize was a one-month trip travelling around Germany with other prizewinners from all corners of the planet. Maya enjoys swing-dancing, rock climbing and learning the ukulele, as well as going to plays and modern art exhibits. Her plans include visiting many faraway places to experience foreign cultures firsthand. Maya is contemplating a possible career in journalism.

Escorted by Allan Angus Ogilvy Aitken

Secondary V, Selwyn House School

Angus was once the page at the St. Andrews Ball. During the summer, he sails lasers competitively and has competed in Kingston at CORK. In the winter, Angus is part of the Orford cross-country ski team and has participated in the Canadian Nationals in Whitehorse. In his spare time, he enjoys launching model rockets, and designing and building things. Angus hopes to pursue science and engineering when he graduates.

Cecelia June Lopez

Secondary V, Trafalgar School for Girls

Cecelia was born in Puerto Rico, raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and in 2013, her family moved to Montreal. In her free time, she enjoys singing, reading, skiing, and baking. She makes it a priority to volunteer at various charities in her community throughout the year. At school, Cecelia belongs to the basketball, soccer and badminton teams, and also competes with the Glee Team and Debate club.

Escorted by **Matthew Ryan Astudillo**

Secondary V, Polyvalente Sainte-Thérèse

Matthew has been a cadet for four years in The Black Watch (RHR) and currently holds the rank of Warrant Officer. He also holds the Excellence for Fitness, First Aid and Level 5 Music (Bagpipes) badges. In 2016, Matthew travelled to Scotland as part of the Black Watch Association Pipes & Drums. Playing the bagpipes is one of his passions. His goal is to become a doctor and provide humanitarian aid to those in need.

Rebecca Elliot Maccaul

Early Childhood & Elementary Education, Concordia University

Rebecca is on the Dean's list and is a member of the Golden Key Society at Concordia and will graduate in 2018. Rebecca has volunteered for the SPCA Montérégie, Montreal Highland Dancing Association, and The Montreal Highland Games. She currently volunteers at St. Lawrence Elementary School teaching tap dancing to Kindergarten students. In her free time, Rebecca enjoys reading, competitive dancing, gardening, skiing and hiking.

Escorted by **Brett Owen Gilmore**

Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, Concordia University

Brett is a Dawson College alumnus. In high school, he was involved in student life, social justice and was in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Brett has been awarded the Royal Canadian Legion Cadet Medal of Excellence, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Lord Strathcona Medal, Commanding Officer of The Royal Canadian Air Force Coin from Lieutenant General Yvan Blondin, and The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his outstanding community service in Montréal and abroad. Brett hopes to obtain a PhD in Film and become a professor of Film. He would also like to implicate himself within Canadian politics and the conservation of Scottish and Irish heritage in Montreal. He is currently enrolling as an officer with the Canadian Forces.

Cecilia Maria Mueller-Judson

Honours Liberal Arts, Dawson College

Cecilia is a full-time CEGEP student and is now fluent in a third language as she attends German school every week. A graduate of Collège Villa Maria, she sang in the choir throughout her years there. In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing, reading and spending time with her friends. Holding a leadership award, Cecilia enjoys working with people and hopes to work in education.

Escorted by **Second Lieutenant Karl-Antoine Usakowski**

Political Science, Concordia University

Karl is the training officer at the 686 Dorval-Lachine Squadron and a former cadet Sergeant Major of the Black Watch Cadet Corps and Sergeant Major of the Olde 78th Fraser Highlanders. He was a defensive midfielder for the Concordia's lacrosse team until their last season with CUFLA. Karl divides his time between his activism with the Polish Committee for the Defence of Democracy (KOD) and his involvement in the Polish Nobility Association Foundation and the Polish Mutual-Aid Society. He is the director and founder of the Musée de l'Histoire Polonaise au Québec, a traveling museum that showcases the contribution of Poles to the development and history of the province.

Julia Meikle Rochford

Secondary V, Trafalgar School for Girls

Julia is currently the Chair of the Youth Committee for St. Andrew's Society. A prefect at Trafalgar, Julia represented Canada in 2016 at the World School International Forum in Tokyo, Japan. Julia has been a volunteer for both sleep-away and day camp Massawippi, Chez Doris, Logifem and The Montreal Highland Games. She received the YMCA Teen Volunteer Award and the Lieutenant Governor's Youth Award for her volunteerism and community engagement. Julia plans on studying Special Care Counseling.

Escorted by **David Stephan Givulescu**

Secondary IV, École Pierre Laporte

David's heritage is Romanian and he is a first-generation Canadian. He has used his communication skills to help raise funds for the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. David plans to study science in CEGEP and university with the ultimate goal of becoming a research scientist.

Erin Elizabeth Eyton-Jones Whitmore

Secondary V, Trafalgar School for Girls

Erin enjoys playing sports such as soccer and football, and some of her hobbies include singing, acting and reading. She is a member of the school's award-winning Glee team. Erin loves to travel. She represented Canada in 2016 at the World School International Forum in Tokyo, Japan and participated in Trafalgar's Italian Exchange 2015. Erin would love to be an author when she's older and hopefully travel the world.

Escorted by **Luca Cristofaro**

Secondary V, Westmount High School

Luca particularly enjoys his wood shop and psychology classes at school. In his spare time, he enjoys playing the bagpipes and playing or watching rugby. Luca has played the game for three years, and started coaching last year. Luca hopes to pursue a career in professional cooking and hopefully open up his own restaurant one day.





Jaylin Troi-Mackenzie Rice Douglass

Secondary V, Trafalgar School for Girls

Jaylin was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina and currently lives in Kahnawake. She is the Games Captain Prefect at Trafalgar School for Girls and an active member of the basketball team. In 2016, Jaylin was awarded Senior Athlete of the Year for her participation on the juvenile football, soccer and basketball teams, while maintaining first-class academic standing. She has volunteered at Logifem and Chez Doris. Her dedication to her school and her teammates makes her a valued member of the Traf community.

Escorted by John Nathaniel Gertler

Secondary V, St Georges School of Montreal

John Nathaniel enjoys eating (!), playing basketball and being outside. His activities include canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing and gardening. He plays the drums and saxophone for fun but also for the school band and jazz band. In 2016, John received the YMCA community service award, and was awarded the MVP on his intercity Midget AAA basketball team. John is passionate about the environment and wants to work towards saving it.



City of Varennes, Quebec (Dec. 2016)

“Cercle d’Fermières de Varennes” celebrated their 75th Anniversary by creating and registering a tartan to mark this special occasion. The event was held in the presence of many friends and officials, including the Mayor of Varennes. The St. Andrew’s Society of Montreal supported this very special event by arranging for two pipers to play at their dinner presentation.

Photo: Pipers Nolan Cunningham and Cory Gauthier play pipes at the tartan presentation.



Our Taste of Scotland – Whisky Tasting was held on the 14th of October, and it was a sell-out. Thanks to the great curating of Scotch by JF Pilon, the fine food by *By George*, and the fabulous work by the Activities Committee, everyone had a great time.



A fine selection of Scotch whiskies, great company and Haggis were a winning combination. We were also able to raise a princely sum for the Children's Christmas party with our raffle and donations from McKibbons, The Irish Embassy, Kennedy's Celtic Boutique, Bramble House, BDO and Hurley's Irish Pub. We were the last event to be held at the Black Watch Officer's Mess before they closed for renovations. I think we closed it down in style!

Thanks so much to our great volunteers JF Pilon, Cameron Stevens, George Tait, Fiona Nanson, Sheila Ramsey, Kathy Hardiman, Campbell Oliver, Ann Navin, Matthew Harrison, Sean Smith, our great donors for the raffle and The Black Watch (RHR).



Atwater Library Scottish Collection

The Atwater Library Scottish Collection now numbers over 1,725 titles – books, eBooks and DVDs. Each physical item contains a book plate acknowledging the contribution of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

The catalogue is online at www.atwaterlibrary.ca. To see the titles within the Scottish Collection, enter SC in the search box and choose "Anywhere."

The Library is located at 1200 Atwater Avenue, just south of Ste-Catherine Street by the Atwater métro, and is open to everyone. For more information, contact Library Manager, Marie-Andrée Sylvestre-Roux at 514-935-7344 or ma.sylvestre@atwaterlibrary.ca.

More News...

Archives

The Society's archives have grown with an additional 11 boxes of history this year. We have also begun the time consuming job of scanning some of our visual heritage. More to come!

If you have any material on the St. Andrew's Society, the Caledonian Society, the Highland Games or the Thistle Council, we are actively seeking this material. Please contact the office.



Flowers of the Forest

Grace (Phillips) Hancock

May 21, 1925 - September 13, 2016

Irene (Jones) Meikle

March 25, 1932 - December 17, 2016

Welcome

New Members voted in at the Council Meeting
in November 2016:

Lifetime members:

Bruce Alexander Blue

Linda Gauthier

Annual Members:

Ann Marie Cote

Matthew P. Harrington

Ann Kearns

Erin Matheson

Thomas McKenzie Watt



A long time and very active member of the Activities Committee, **Ethel Enkel**, celebrated her 97th birthday on December 16th.

A few friends took her to lunch at Portofino at the Old Blue Bonnets site where she made a short speech and thanked us all for helping her to celebrate.

WHISKYFÊTE

A fundraising event for the Chair of Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill

The fifth edition of **WhiskyFete** will take place **February 17, 2017** at the Mount Royal Club of Montreal. This year our whisky brand ambassador is Rauraidh MacIntrye of Ardbeg and Glenmorangie. Rauraidh is the fourth generation of his family to work at Ardbeg, the home of highly peated Isla whisky.

Rauraidh will be leading the masterclass where 5 fine Glenmorangie whiskies will be tasted.

Our visiting Scottish distiller this year is Richard Urquhart of the famous Elgin whisky bottlers, Gordon & MacPhail. Richard will be presenting whiskies from this house and products of the family owned Benromach Distillery. With luck, Richard, 35, will present the Benromach 35 year old this year.

There will be over 50 bottles of very rare whisky offered along side excellent food and Scottish entertainment. This is an evening not to be missed. Visit www.whiskyfete.org for more information or to purchase tickets.





The first Quebec Pipe Band to Compete at the Worlds' Piping Championship

A new claim to fame for the Montreal Black Watch Association Pipe Band!

On August 7th an intrepid group of 55 pipers, drummers, highland dancers, parents and friends embarked on a journey of a life time to Scotland, from babies to seniors. The group included cadet pipers and drummers and young dancers. The first objective was to compete and the second to learn more about the Scottish traditions and history we are perpetuating in Montreal. Mission accomplished!

For more than two years the band had been preparing by practicing our instruments and a lot of fundraising, everything from Spaghetti dinners to Hogmanay parties, a bazaar, Scottish turkey raffles and performances all over Quebec, including Kinnear Mills, Sherbrooke, Hatley and many closer to Montreal. Funding was sought from organizations, foundations and friends and we even received a donation from a religious order!

Of course, practice was the key and when we arrived in Edinburgh numerous practices were held between performances and touring. The band had partnered with the Jennifer Stephenson School of Highland Dancing so we were able to field 12 wonderful and expert Highland dancers wherever a "show" was needed. The Highland dancers participated in a number of competitions while there.

For the actual competition on the Saturday morning we convinced ourselves that the experience was all important, not where we placed. Leaving at 5:30 am from Edinburgh, finding the site on Glasgow Green, tuning up after playing in a downpour in Glasgow on the Friday, and being first up at 9 am, certainly did not help the required concentration! We did not place well in Grade 4B with the other 74 pipe bands! BUT, we did it! The rest of the day was dedicated to listening to other pipe bands and seeing how the Grade 1 bands set themselves up. Many new techniques were gleaned and it was felt that we should do it again, but in a few years. However, we can all brag that we have competed at the World's Pipe Band Championships!

While a few of our numbers returned to Montreal the day after the competition, a bus full of explorers began a tour of the Highlands. The group visited the Falkirk Wheel and Kelpies, Stirling Castle, Bannockburn, Holyrood Castle (before a parade through downtown Glasgow in pouring rain), Edinburgh Castle (to perform and see the famous Tattoo), Culross, Balhousie Castle (home of the Black Watch in Perth), the Aberfeldy cairn, Blair Castle, the Highland Folk Museum, Culloden, Cawdor Castle, Fort George (home of Scotland's Black Watch), Fortrose, Tain, the Glenmorangie Distillery, Dunrobin Castle and Novar House. Near Beaulieu we visited the Kirkhill Cemetery where we touched Lord Lovat's (the Fox) lead casket in its crypt presumably without his head.

Next to him is the casket of his son who went on to lead the 78th Fraser Highlanders, of Canadian history fame. We continued to Castle Urquhart on Loch Ness, the Locharron Weavers Shop, Eilean Donan Castle, The Commando Monument near Spean Bridge, old Inverlochy Castle, the Glenfinnan Monument, Fort William and Glencoe before arriving in Glasgow for a day of touring! If you have been exhausted by reading this list of sites, please imagine the exhaustion, the good kind, felt by all the travelers and this directly commensurate with age. Oh to be young again.

Friendships made with guests of Honour at St. Andrew's Ball over the years resulted in open doors in Scotland. We are indebted to General Alistair Irwin for all the arrangements he made on our behalf to visit Edinburgh Castle and Fort George. General and Lady Irwin were Guests of Honour at the St. Andrew's Ball in 2010.

We were generously welcomed at Edinburgh Castle one rainy afternoon by General Michael Riddell-Webster, the Governor of the Castle. The General, born in Montreal, had commanded the Black Watch in Iraq and became a good friend when he attended the St. Andrew's Ball as Guest of Honour in 2012 with his wife Sarah. LCol Bolton and Pipe-Major MacKenzie had the honour of having tea with the General in the Governor's private quarters in the Castle before he watched our rain drenched performance.

A distinct privilege had been arranged for us to visit Novar House, the ancestral home of the Munro-Ferguson family, so famous in Scottish and Black Watch history. This very private visit was arranged by way of a fishing expedition in Canada with Bruce McNiven, and allowed us the opportunity to see the 20,000 acre estate and the 1802 colours of the Black Watch in Egypt, proudly displayed in the living room.

At Fort George we were greeted by the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Canada, Lt. Col. Alasdair Steele. Some members of the British pipe band were on duty and joined us for some final tunes. These included Pipe-Major Alastair Tripney and Drum-Major Allan Campbell. For our players to play beside regular force Black Watch pipers and drummers, that was a unique experience.

Upon our arrival back in Montreal the trip to Scotland seemed like a dream. Even seasoned travellers to Scotland commented on it being a "once in a lifetime" experience. The challenge had been the brain child of Pipe-Major Brian Mackenzie, who also took the lead in seeing it come true. All praise to Brian and his team for putting this all together. The extra funds necessary to take on the expedition (aside from the individuals and the band's own fundraising activities) were received from a number of organizations, foundations and private individuals. For example, the transportation charge for the drums alone was close to \$2,000 and of course there were a few surprises. It was a huge financial undertaking for this small and young pipe band. To all our supporters, especially the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, we extend a most sincere thank you. We were able to establish connections and friendships that will last for years, both Scottish and Canadian. This is exactly the kind of adventure that helps the young pipers and drummers understand their musical and military heritage in Montreal.



Montreal 1642 Tartan

The Montreal 1642 Tartan is a gift to the City and citizens of Montreal on the 375th anniversary of the founding of our great metropolis.

The Scots were here in the days of New France, played an important role on both sides of the Seven Year's War, thrived during the tumultuous years of the fur trade and exploration, and the development of responsible government. Our community actively led the industrial revolution of the 19th Century. Waves of Scottish immigrants arrived in the 20th century escaping depression and yearning for a new future came in great numbers and significantly shaped our city.

The 1642 Tartan represents Scots and our civic and military organizations. White and blue for the St. Andrew's Society and the Scottish Saltire, green and black for the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, The Black Watch, red for McGill University, saffron and scarlet for the 78th Fraser Highlanders, and others: The Highland Games Society, The Caledonia Society, The Sons of Scotland, The Scottish Benevolent Society.

The blue and white, red and green represent the founding peoples of Montreal, The Scots by white and blue of St. Andrew, our Irish brethren by the green of St. Patrick, the English by the red of St. George and the French by the blue of St. Jean, and the white of the Fleur de Lys. Blue is shared between Scots and French, and recalls the long held Auld Alliance between Scotland and France.

The interlocking shades of the tartan express the peaceful integration of these original founding peoples with those of many other nations and cultures that have arrived here from around the globe. The green is of the forests of Mount Royal and underscore our reawakened respect for the environment and for the First Nations peoples who have loved this land since time immemorial and whose values have helped to shape us.

The Scottish community of 2017 is small but strong, and is a vibrant and proud part of the multicultural metropolis that is Montreal.

We of Scottish origin are proud to share our heritage with this gift of the 1642 Tartan to Montreal. We will be presenting the tartan to the City of Montreal on April 8th 2017.

If you are interested in purchasing scarves, trews, sports jackets, vests, etc., made with the Montreal 1642 Tartan, please contact Glen Nobes at glennobes2@gmail.com. For kilts, please contact Debbie Johnston at deb_johnstone@yahoo.com



UPCOMING Events

WhiskyFête 2017

Friday, February 17
Mont Royal Club

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 19

Curling for Dummies

Saturday, March 25
Montreal West Curling Club

Tartan Day Trivia Night

Sunday, April 2nd
Burgundy Lion Tavern

Black Watch Military Tattoo

Saturday, April 8
Bell Centre

Montreal Highland Games

Sunday, August 6

St. Andrew's Ball

Friday, December 1
Marriott Chateau Champlain

2017 Piping Moments sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society will be listed on the Society's website.



St. Patrick's Day Parade

Be a part of the celebrations of Montreal's 375th and Canada 150th Anniversaries and join the St. Andrew's Society as we march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Our Society will be joining our Celtic cousins and friends as a special contingent in the 194th consecutive St. Patrick's Day Parade, which will celebrate Montreal's community life.

Come see the parade from the best place – in it. All members are welcome to join us!

Please respect the dress code.

The Society on the Web: www.standrews.qc.ca
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/standrewsmontreal>
Twitter: @standrewsociety
Pinterest: St Andrew's Society of Montreal
Youtube: St Andrew's Society of Montreal

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