

THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

January 2012

Upcoming Events

Curling Party

Stewart Museum & St Lambert
Curling Museum
Saturday, 11th February, 2012



Meeting of Council & Committee of Management

Monday, 13th February, 2012



Curling for Dummies

Montreal West Curling Club
Saturday, 3rd March, 2012

Pot Luck Supper

The Church of
St. Andrew and St. Paul
Saturday, 21st April, 2012



Pub Night

McAuslan's Brewery
Saturday, 12th May, 2012



Meeting of Council & Committee of Management & Annual General Meeting of Members

Monday, 14th May, 2012

Society BBQ

McAuslan's Brewery
Tuesday, 19th June, 2012



Meeting of Council & Committee of Management

Monday, 13th August, 2012



Taste of Scotland's Malt Whiskies and Fine Foods

October 2012



One of the fantastic moments at the Montreal's St. Andrew's Ball 2011.

2012 – A Year of Anniversaries

President's Report January 2012

This year marks milestone anniversaries for two of Montreal's Scottish institutions - The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and the Trafalgar School for Girls. What I find most noteworthy here, however, is the age of both institutions and the role they have played in defining Montreal's Scottish heritage.

While the St. Andrew's Society was founded in 1835, Montreal's Scottish military heritage dates back to the Seven Years' War when all three of the Highland Regiments in North America marched through the gates of the City in September 1760, including the 42nd Regiment, commonly known as the Black Watch. When Scots started to populate Montreal, they hosted the Garrison troops, many from Scotland and by the mid-19th century sought their own regiment – decked out in the finery of highland dress, with bagpipes playing the music of Auld Scotland. January 31st 1862 saw the official establishment of what would become Canada's Black Watch. The interweave between the St. Andrew's Society was evident by the many President's of the Society who were either the Commanding Officers of the Regiment or prominent Officers – including the Hutchisons, Caverhills, Ogilvies, Macfarlanes, Cantlies, Angus' through to LCol Dan O'Connor, now the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and myself, your current President. The Regiment, especially its Pipes & Drums, have been part of Society's activities for all of this time, notably at the St. Andrew's Ball. Its Bleury Street Amoury has been the Society's second home for The Children's Christmas Party, pre-ball dance practices and the whisky tasting party. In the 1950's the Society founded a school to teach the bagpipe and drums for youngsters, which led to the creation of the Black Watch Cadet corps. We are still teaching many young people these Scottish instruments with the financial assistance of the Society. Close to 30,000 men and women from Montreal and beyond have worn the Black Watch kilt, served in all of Canada's major conflicts, and are still there in case of national disasters. This year marks the Regiment's 150th anniversary.

While the men of Montreal's Scottish community were serving in the Black Watch, the young ladies were likely being schooled at the Trafalgar School for Girls (then called the Trafalgar Institute). Established by Donald Ross, one of the stalwarts of Montreal's Scottish community, Trafalgar opened its doors 125 years ago this year, with substantial assistance from Lord Strathcona, another community-minded Scot. Right from the start the school, modeled on the Scottish system and closely associated with the Scots community, was the first Montreal school to graduate young women bound for university studies, typically at McGill. To this day the Principal of McGill and the Minister and four representatives of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul are required, by the school's constitutive law, to sit on the school's Board. Young women wearing the tartan kilt (Hunting MacRae) can be seen daily in the Simpson and Dr. Penfield street area going in and out of the school, whose Latin motto (*Spem successus alit*) and school crest were adopted from the Ross family and still feature prominently on the school uniform. Situated since its founding at the corner of Simpson and Macgregor (now Docteur Penfield) Trafalgar School was originally located in a house on the property, Chalderton Lodge, with several extensions added during the school's 125 years. Major improvements include the Caverhill wing and gymnasium (1973) named for benefactor Majorie Caverhill. Traf graduates have gone on to become leaders in business, education, medicine, sciences, arts and culture. Donald Ross would be amazed.

What I find remarkable about these two institutions is that after 150 and 125 years respectively they still exist and have evolved to serve our modern society. Both now welcome Montrealers with ancestors from all parts of the world and all religious affiliations, yet all proudly wear a piece of a foreign national identity - the kilt - brought to Montreal from Scotland. One wonders what the founders of the St Andrew's Society, the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul, McGill University, the Black Watch and Trafalgar School would think now. I hope that they would still be very proud of their founding contributions to this city, province and country and wish these institutions every success for many years to come.

Bruce D. Bolton

Guest of Honor: Steven MacLean St Andrew's Ball 2011

The St Andrew's Society of Montreal was pleased to welcome Dr. Steven MacLean, President of the Canadian Space Agency, and his wife, Nadine Wielgopolski as the Guests of Honour at the St Andrew's ball on 25th November.

Born and raised in Ottawa, he attended Merivale High School. He received his Bachelor's (1977) and Doctorate in Physics (1983) from York University. 1976-77 he also competed with Canada's national gymnastics team. Upon graduation, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University, specialising as a laser physicist. In 1983 he was chosen to be one of Canada's first six astronauts.

He flew into space twice. The first time was Mission STS-52 in 1992, as a payload specialist on Space Shuttle Columbia. While in space he performed a set of experiments known as CANEX-2, including an evaluation of the Space Vision System. His second flight was Mission STS-115, as a mission specialist on Space Shuttle Atlantis in 2006. During this mission, he became the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm2, using it to install trusses and solar array panels on the International Space Station.

In between these amazing trips into the Earth's orbit, Dr. MacLean has served in various capacities within the Space Program at NASA, including Program Manager for the Advanced Space Vision System (1987-93); Astronaut Advisor to the STEAR program (1988-91); Chief Science Advisor to the International Space Station (1993-4); Director General of the Canadian Astronaut Program (1994-1996); Capsule Communicator for the ISS and the Shuttle Program; and Casualty Assistance and Calls Officer. He has published over 25 scientific papers.

In September 2008 Dr. MacLean was appointed the President of the Canadian Space Agency.

There have been a number of honours which have been given to Dr. MacLean, including honorary doctorates from the Collège militaire royal de Saint-Jean, York University and Acadia University. In 2006 the Ottawa Carleton District School Board named a school after him- the Steve MacLean Public School. No doubt the being Guest of Honour of the St Andrew's Ball will feature prominently among his honours in future biographies.

Dr MacLean can trace his Scottish heritage on both sides of his family. On his maternal

Grandmother's MacDonald side, he can trace his family to John MacDonald, who was pressed into the British Army (84th Highland Emigrant Regiment) as he was sailing on the Glasgow to the United States. John MacDonald served eight years in the army, during the American Revolution. When the unit was disbanded in 1783, he and his fellow passengers were granted land in Kennetcook, but it was deemed unsuitable. He then obtained land in the East River, Pictou, Nova Scotia. According to one website, John MacDonald had been a veteran of Culloden.

His maternal Grandfather was a Cameron, and the family traces its start in Nova Scotia when one brother immigrated to Canada instead of Wisconsin, where his two brothers had settled. He had been urged to change his destination because of reports of Cholera. He settled in Upper Caledonia, in the

Cameron Settlement in Nova Scotia. This settlement gained its notoriety because it was here that the Highland settlers off the HMS Hector first came in 1775.

The Canadian MacLeans can trace their Canadian roots to John MacLean, who arrived in Nova Scotia from Scotland in 1833. He was the son of a loom weaver. In Nova Scotia he purchased land from Haliburton and ran a grist mill in Margaretsville, near the Bay of Fundy.



Honourable Guest Mr. Steven MacLean with current and past St. Andrew's Society Presidents along with Scot Diamond, 1st VP and Ball Committee Chairman.

Dr MacLean is not the first MacLean to be Guest of Honour of the St Andrew's Ball. The first was Sir Fitzroy Hew Royle MacLean of Dunconnel in 1957. Named by Ian Fleming as one of his inspirations for the character of James Bond, Sir Fitzroy was one of the few people to enter the military during the Second World War as a private and to finish his war service with the rank of Brigadier (in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders). He rose to the rank of Major-General in 1947. Prior to the War he was part of the British Diplomatic Corps, serving in Paris and Moscow. He began his political career in 1941, becoming Conservative member for Lancaster. He later became MP for Bute and North Ayrshire (1959) which he represented until 1974. He died in 1996.

In 1980 Sir Lachlan Hector Charles MacLean was Guest of Honour at the St Andrew's Ball. He was the son of Sir Charles Hector Fitzroy MacLean, Clan Chief of the MacLeans. He served with the Scots Guards for a time, and then entered the business world, serving as an executive of the United Biscuit Company. He succeeded his father to the Chiefdom in 1990, on the death of his father.

Dr Steven MacLean had invited his Chief to his last Shuttle launch in 2006, but sadly he was too ill to attend.

Notes:

www.macleancan.com (19 Oct 2011); www.wikipedia.com (19 Oct 2011); www.clanmacleanatatlantic.org (19 Oct 2011); www.asc-csa.gc.ca (19 Oct 2011); www.chebucto.ns.ca (28 Oct 2011); www.electricscotland.com (28 Oct 2011)

The Reford Family of Montreal

Gillian I Leitch

The St Andrew's Society has been presented with two children's sporrans by Moira Barclay-Fernie, which belonged to the Reford family. These sporrans are a welcome part of our collection of Montreal-Scottish historical objects. They can be loaned to our young pages for the St Andrew's Ball.

The Refords have played an important role in Montreal's history. It all began with Robert Wilson Reford, who was born in County Antrim, Ireland in 1831 to Joseph and Grizel Wilson Reford. His father's family were involved in the linen industry. After his father's early death in 1834, his mother moved with her five children to Belfast, and then in 1845 to Toronto.

Reford was at first apprenticed as a grocer, but soon established his own wholesale business. He then went on to establish Robert Reford & Co in 1866² with his brother William Martin Reford.

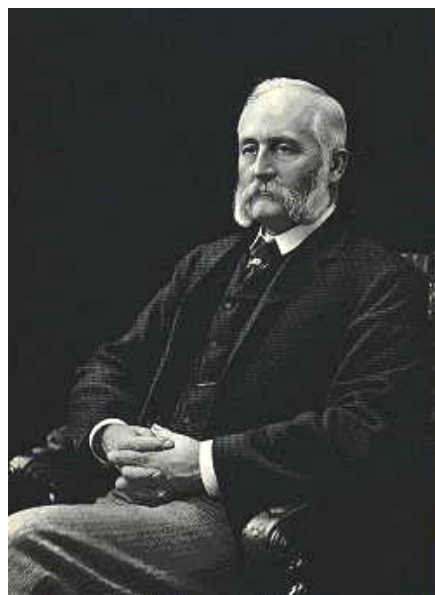


Figure 1: Robert Reford, from Company Website¹

Robert moved to Montreal to manage the wholesale and shipping trade there. Reford was to establish a number of different businesses such as a flour mill in 1882, timber at l'Assomption, steel and coal, and he was a director of the Bank of Toronto.³

Reford was married twice. His first marriage was to Margaret McCord in 1862. After her death, in 1866 he married Katherine Sherriff Drummond of Stirling. They had six children, three of each. And here is where the Scottish connection with the Reford family begins.

As you can see from this photograph (Figure 2), from the collection of the McCord Museum of Canadian History, the Refords connected strongly to their Highland roots. Sadly, the sporrans in this image were not those that were donated to the Society.

Reford played an active role in Montreal's civic and social life. He was a supporter of St George's Anglican Church, funded the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, he was a governor of Montreal General Hospital, a supporter of the YMCA, and was a governor and benefactor of McGill University.⁵



Figure 2: Reford Boys in Highland Dress, c. McCord Museum of Canadian History.⁴

³ Alexander Reford, "Reford, Robert Wilson" *Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online*, www.biographi.ca.

⁴ "Reford Boys in Highland Dress", MP-1975.67.25, Taken by Thomas Coffin Doane, McCord Museum of Canadian History.

⁵ William Henry Atherton, *Montreal, Pictorial and Biographical*, Montreal, SJ Clarke Publishing Co, 1914.

¹ Photo of Robert Reford; from www.robertreford.com.

² Note: It is still in business today; www.robertreford.com.

Reford's sons Robert Wilson and Andrew joined their father in his shipping business. A number of Robert Wilson Reford (Jr)'s photographs are in the vaults of Library and Archives Canada. He was a keen photographer, and took some fascinating photographs of his visits to Western Canada.

Of course the name Reford is most known these days for the lovely gardens at Metis, QC. They were designed by Elsie Stephen Meighen, who was married to Robert Wilson Reford (jr) in 1894. She was the daughter of Robert Meighen, the president of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company.

She, with her family would often summer at Grand-Metis, at the home of her uncle George Stephen, who gave her this land in 1918. From 1926 to 1959, (from the age of 54) Elsie Reford undertook the planning and planting of her garden. This was her passion.⁷

The connection to Montreal and to the St Andrew's Society continues with Elsie's great granddaughter Nikola, who is a regular at the St Andrew's Ball. She is the chairman of MRRM Inc in Montreal, which is the parent company of Robert Reford Co and of the Mount Royal Rice Mills (Dainty Rice),⁹ continuing the family's involvement in these companies through to the fifth generation.

The donation of these lovely sporrans to the Society's collection highlights the important role



Figure 3: Reford Gardens at Metis by Marc Andre Ruel.⁶



Figure 4: Elsie Reford in her gardens.⁸

that the Refords have played in Montreal's history.

New Members

The Society is very pleased to welcome new annual members: Iain Batchen and David J.P. Paterson.

Flowers of the Forest



We would like to extend condolences to the families of the following former members: Julian C.C. Chipman, QC, life member 1990; Neil McKenzie, life member 1986; and Ian E. Hutchison, life member 1947.

ROBERT BURNS: A journey through the lesser known Burns Country.

Agnes McFarlane

In my teenage years our family lived in Dumfries close to the house where Robert Burns spent his later years and to St. Michael's Churchyard where he lies in the rather grand mausoleum. The howffs, inns and alehouses he frequented - the Hole in the Wa', the Globe Inn, the Coach and Horses are all familiar places, landlords still welcoming the thirsty and dispensing Burns lore and myth to locals and visitors alike.

In the past, I have visited the cottage at Alloway, the Auld Kirk where Tam O'Shanter spied on the witches and picnicked on the banks of Bonnie Doon. But of the years and places of Robert Burns' life in between, I knew only from biographies. So on my recent trip back home, rather than heading straight for Dumfries on the A74, I decided to take a detour to trace his footprints in the Ayrshire countryside before heading over the hills of Galloway to Dumfries.

Starting out from Glasgow Airport, in a rented car with a map and very helpful directions from the young woman at the rental counter, I somehow survived the terrors of the Motorway and after a while took a quieter road into the lovely rolling green hillsides of Ayrshire.

Here is the route of my "pilgrimage".

⁶ www.marcandreruel.com

⁷ www.histoiresoublees.ca/article/les-jardins-de-metis/elsie-reford

⁸ www.quebecmaritime.ca

⁹ <http://biz.yahoo.com/ic/115/115628.html>

KILMARNOCK - 1786

Kilmarnock is a large busy town as it was in Burns' time. The 612 copies of the first edition of his poems were printed here in July 1786 while he was living in Mauchline. They are among the most valuable books in the world. Several editions are on display in the museum. I admired the massive, elaborate, Victorian era monument erected in his memory.

IRVINE - 1782

Irvine is a short distance towards the sea coast where he spent six miserable months, in 1782, in a heckling shop learning to process the flax he and his brother Gilbert had grown at the farm of Lochlea. At this time flax growing and producing linen was seen as a lucrative business. He fell in with a bunch of dubious characters, had his eyes opened to the wider world, heard stories of smugglers - fodder for his poetry. But the work was ruinous for his health, bringing on the heart disease which plagued him all his life. He expressed his misery in verse:

*Sure Thou, Almighty, canst not act
From cruelty or wrath!
O free my weary eyes from tears
Or close them fast in death!*

The enterprise ended when the shop burned down after a candle tipped over in a brawl. (A replica has been constructed in the Glasgow Vennel). He then returned to Lochlea, the farm the family had moved to after leaving Mount Oliphant.

MAUCHLINE - 1784-1788

Mauchline, is a very handsome small town sitting at the crossroads of two ancient turnpikes. This is the

town of the Mauchline Belles - who succumbed to the charms of Rob Mossgiel, Jean Armour among them. Mossgiel, the farm Robert and Gilbert leased after the death of their father, is only about a mile away.

After much strife and struggle Robert and Jean set up house here in 1788. It is now the museum and is filled with personal items and samples of the early editions of the poetry. A large map of the town pinpoints locations of happenings so that visitors can follow a route taking them from the drying green, where Jean Armour called out to Robert and on to other hot spots.

Across the road from the house is Poosie Nancie's alehouse, the scene of much ribaldry among Burns' friends. It now serves teas as well as the hard stuff.

There are many other Burns connections - Gavin Hamilton's house, for instance. It is in Mauchline that Burns produced many of his greatest works - Holy Willie's Prayer and The Cottar's Saturday Night among them. From here he arranged for the publication of his poetry with a printer in Kilmarnock.

The Museum proudly states:

*Robert Burns was born in Alloway,
Died in Dumfries but
LIVED IN MAUCHLINE.*

TARBOLTON - 1780

Tarbolton lies about five miles east of Mauchline and five, in the other direction, from the farm of Lochlea. The Bachelors' Club was formed in November 1780, by Robert, aged 21. The meetings were held in the home of John Richard, a small

Whisky Tasting - Annual Taste of Scotland

The Annual Taste of Scotland whisky tasting event was held on the 21st of October at the Officer's Mess at the Black Watch Armoury. As always, the event was well attended and everyone had a chance to try a larger series of whiskies: Aberlour 16yrs, Aberlour A' Bunadh, anCnoc 12 yrs, Arbeg 12 yrs, Auchentoshan 12 yrs, Balblair 22 yrs, Benormach 10 yrs, BenRiach Tawny Port 15 yrs, Black Watch, Bruichkaddick Rocks, Dalwhinnie 15 yrs, Glen Grant 10 yrs, Glen Parker, Glen Turner 18 yrs, Glen Dronnach 12 yrs, Glenfiddich 18 yrs, Glenfiddich Snow Phoenix, Glenlivet Nadurra, Highland Park 15 yrs, Johnny Walker Gold Label, Laphroig, MacAllan, Cask Strength, Old Malt Cask 14 yrs, Peat Monster, Smokehead, Speyside 12 yrs, Yamazaki 12 yrs.



The event was catered "By George" and the food was absolutely scrumptious; of course proven by the little that remained on the tables. The raffle tickets generated funds for the Children's Christmas Party and as you can see from the photo, if you managed to win one prize you weren't disappointed.

Don't forget to buy your tickets early for next year's event; they appeared to disappear in record time!

white-washed two-storey building. John Richard occupied the lower floor. The upper was a large room used for meetings and was where Robert took the dancing lessons which led to the rift with his father. The house is carefully preserved, displaying memorabilia of the times. Debating societies were popular, meeting to discuss and argue on a broad range of topics. One debate was on the question, "Whether is the savage man or the peasant of a civilized country in the most happy condition". Another, "Whether do we derive more happiness from love or friendship". The club forbade religion as a topic - and also heavy drinking. There were six or seven members including fellow poet, David Sillar, Gilbert Burns and John Richard.

AYR and ALLOWAY

I by-passed Ayr - a large ancient burgh with many historical sites and memories in addition of those of Robert Burns, and Alloway, the village and cottage where Burns was born and lived the first seven years of his life. These are well publicized and are not in my category of lesser known places.

ALLOWAY AULD KIRK

I could not resist a visit to Alloway Auld Kirk. It is still the dark, eerie ruin where Tam O'Shanter, on his way home after a night in the alehouse, chanced on the witches dance. In his excitement he called out causing the witches to take after him. He managed to escape them - just - by making it to the bridge over the stream but they grabbed and pulled off the tail of his faithful mare, Meg.

*Now do thy speedy utmost Meg
And win the keystone if the brig
There at them thou thy tail may toss
A running stream they dare na cross.*

MOUNT OLIPHANT 1766-78

At this time, 1766, William decided to become an independent farmer rather than a gardener and took a lease on a farm at Mount Oliphant, high on the hillside about two miles from Alloway. Robert and Gilbert, aged seven and six, continued for another two years to attend the school run by John Murdoch, walking the two miles. The soil was extremely poor, and the living very hard. By the time Robert was 13, he was doing the work of a grown man. The diet was inadequate for anyone doing hard physical labour. This was a cause of Robert's heart disease - diagnosed only in the 20th century.

I looked for the farm, but did not recognize it among the woods and fields.

KIRKOSWALD 1775

At age 16 he was sent down the coast to Kirkoswald, just south of Turnberry and Culzean Castle, in order to go to school to learn "surveying, dialling & etc." He reports, "In which I made good progress", but he, "Made better progress in his knowledge of mankind". He lived with his Uncle Sam Broun who may have been engaged in the smuggling trade. Robert "observed swaggering riot and roaring dissipation". But, he also fell in love with the girl next door, Peggy Thomson, who, "Overset my trigonometry and set me off in a tangent from the sphere of my studies". They kept in touch for a while after his return to Mount Oliphant; but, she married someone else. He paid tribute to her in the first Kilmarnock edition of his poems.

In Kirkoswald, are the cottage of Soutar Johnnie and a reconstruction of an alehouse of the kind Burns would have spent time in.

DUMFRIES AND AREA

I left Ayrshire and headed over the wild Galloway

Annual Children's Christmas Party

December 4th, 2011



The Children's Christmas Party went off without a hitch for another year running. Santa was pleased with the turnout and gladly handed out small gifts to all those on his "Nice" list. He even managed to find time to divulge some of his secrets to Chareen Dias!

To all those involved in putting the event together, a gracious thanks. Thanks as well to our musician Mick Farkas. We hope that you will have time to participate next year. And of course, those members at large are also welcome to get involved in bringing some of that Scottish spirit to Santa before his big day!



hills to Dumfries. This town is another ancient burgh and has well organized Burns' sites. But Robert Burns first tried to settle on a farm called Ellisland on the River Nith a few miles above Dumfries.

After the Mauchline days and the publication of the poetry, with the income this brought, he went on to Edinburgh, where met up with the literati and the elite, made journeys around the country and began the gathering of songs and music which became the Scots Musical Museum. He sought paid employment. Through contacts he applied for, and was accepted, as an Excise Officer in Dumfriesshire. His friend, Patrick Miller, had arranged for a lease on the farm at Ellisland. He moved

there in 1788 and made friends with the neighbouring gentry at Friars Carse - the Riddells. He later lost the friendship over a drunken incident. The farming effort was not successful, but the farm has been preserved and is open to visitors. It has an interesting collection of old farm machinery. He moved to Dumfries, to a house in Bank Street (a small restaurant now occupies the ground floor) where Jean and family finally joined him. In 1793, the family moved to a bigger house in Mill Street - the house where he died. It is now a museum filled with his furniture and belongings.

His work as Exciseman entailed much travel and some danger. He was involved in an armed attack on a smuggling ship and had to wade chest-deep into the Solway. This brought on a bout of his illness. The cure was to immerse himself in the chilly waters



Montreal Daily Star, St Andrew's Day 1900

of the Brow Well, a mineral spring near Ruthwell. (It still exists, but not as it was in Burns' time). The cure did not work. He became more and more ill. He died in the house on Mill Street July 21, 1796.

A formal funeral was held after his lying in state in the Council Chambers at the Midsteeple. The funeral was attended by the Royal Dumfries Volunteers and other military units. He was laid to rest in a corner plot in St Michael's Churchyard. Some years later he was moved into a rather grand Mausoleum just a few yards away.

The most poignant note among all of the farewell ceremonies is that Jean gave birth to her ninth child while the burial was taking place.

Robert Burns may have died in Dumfries but he also lived there, and many traces of him survive - the Globe Inn,

the Hole in the Wa', the Coach and Horses - all still going strong, welcoming the thirsty tourist as well as the locals, with lore and myth - and even some history.

A Little Bit of History: Brother Scots Greet Each Other on St Andrew's

Montreal Daily Star, 30th November 1911, Page 2.

This is St Andrew's Day and in honor of the occasion Scotsmen all over the world are proudly wearing a wee sprig of heather fresh from the misty hills of their native land. Montreal Scots and their descendants never fail to observe the day and the heather is today everywhere in evidence on the streets, many people of other nationalities joining with the Scots to do honor to "the land of mountains, glens and heroes."

Just how St Andrew came to be chosen as the Patron Saint of Scotland is lost to the mists of antiquity, but from time immemorial her royal banner was the silver X shaped cross of St Andrew upon a blue ground. Today it is the Union Jack, the white cross on blue ground, the broad white lines drawn from corner to corner.

St Andrew of the twelve disciples is reputed to have been crucified on an X shaped cross, at Petras on November 30 AD 70 after a life spent in preaching the gospel and in relieving the distressed.



Curling and Ceilidh

Curling begins at 2pm, 11th of February, at the Stewart Museum, where participants get to curl on natural ice, the way our ancestors did. (Kilts are optional!) Then the event moves to the St Lambert Curling Museum (10 Minutes away) for more curling on regular ice. All levels of curlers are encouraged to attend.

After curling there will be simple dinner, awards and Ceilidh entertainment.

To the true Scotsman, therefore, the St Andrew's Cross is at once emblematic of love for their native land and of fidelity to the strong religious faith which has ever characterized their race. On this day all social and political distinctions are put aside, and Scottish men and women everywhere join hands in patriotic love for Auld Scotland and in the relief of those of their race who may be in need.

The day was quietly observed. Besides the wearing of the heather and the unusual warmth of greetings, there was little to distinguish the day from other days.

A "Haggis" luncheon was given by the supper committee of St Andrew's Society to the office bearers and chairmen of the committees at the Windsor Hotel today, and the "Haggis" was well sampled. About forty sat down.

Fraser Viger and Co sent up a box of heather direct from the moors of Scotland, to the St Andrew's Home this morning.

A special meeting and informal tea of the Ladies Committee of the St Andrew's Society was held in St Andrew's Home this afternoon to view the new colors which they are presenting to the 5th Royal Highlanders, the presentation of which it is hoped will be made in the spring by HRH the Governor General.

The Scottish Collection at the Atwater Library

Agnes McFarlane

The Atwater Library has several biographies of Robert Burns including Robert Crawford's *The Bard*, added recently. It is a substantial, authoritative work. Robert Crawford is a published poet himself and is Professor of Modern English Literature at the University of St Andrews. There are also historical novels about Burns in our collection such as the series by James Barke.

The Scottish Collection continues to grow with purchases of new titles with funding from the St Andrew's Society of Montreal and with donations from friends of the library. All books touching on matters Scottish are welcome.

The library website has information on our activities, history, the collection and how to find items in our holdings: www.atwaterlibrary.ca.

The 2011 St Andrew's Ball

Scot Diamond - 2011 Ball Chairman

After rekindling the relationship last year, the flames burned bright on November 27, 2011 as the Society held its St-Andrew's Ball at the Chateau Champlain for the second consecutive year. With a slightly reduced attendance (350) for this 176th

edition and a different table and dance floor configuration, the venue and the event proved to be a match made in heaven. Guests could circulate more easily and access was better to the dance floor. Consequently, the best party in town was still going strong into the wee hours when the last reels were danced. Bravo and many thanks to Brian MacKenzie for his herculean efforts in ensuring that all was coordinated and ready at the Hotel.

The room was dressed up for the occasion with elegant table flower arrangements featuring small thistle-like flowers topped by magnificent paper thistles created by Françoise Lambert and tied with a plaid ribbon. The programmes prepared by Margo Pollock added a splash of colour with the MacLean of Duart tartan on the cover.

The guests' attention was riveted during the speech by Guest of Honour Steve MacLean, Astronaut and President of the Canadian Space Agency. It was remarked that one could hear a pin drop as he recounted stories ranging from when he was growing up in rural Nova Scotia to the feelings he had and the sensations he felt when he was walking in space. Guests marvelled to hear that in the time it took him as a boy to lead a horse from one side of his family's farm to the other, 90 minutes, he circled the entire planet in the Space Shuttle and that in the time it took for him to look up into the deep black of space above him, past the eerie glow of the rarefied upper atmosphere and back down between his feet at the earth, he covered the distance between Montreal and Ottawa. Steve and his wife Nadine Wielgopolski live on the South Shore of Montreal and we hope to see them again at Society events.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Andrew Carter, CJAD radio announcer, was new to the Ball. However, not only did he add a touch of professionalism to the event but he gave us excellent publicity as he told his listeners the following Monday just how great a party it was. We are grateful for his participation and hope to see him too at future events.

Many excellent performances were given during the evening. Heather McNabb brought eleven dancers of the Montreal Highland Dancing Association to lead off the festivities; Sarah Kathryn Dowd sang O Canada; the Black Watch Cadet Pipes and Drums played like champs; the Black Watch Pipes and Drums raised the roof with 8 drummers and 11 pipers; Paul Chacra and his band 1945 kept the dance floor hopping late into the night; and The Dave Gossage Trio, sponsored by Hurley's Pub, kept playing in the Scottish Arms Pub even after the music stopped in the main ballroom.

Guests were also treated to a boffo performance by Jeff McCarthy. His recitation of Robert Burns' Address to a Haggis was masterful, theatrical and

flawlessly delivered. Certainly one of the best recitations in a long time.

The Guests of Honour were presented with flowers by Fiona Sarah Elizabeth Aitken, daughter of Ball Sponsor and Society Past President, Ian Aitken and Mary Leslie Aitken, and by Isabella Ava Henderson, daughter of David Henderson, CEO of XPV Capital and Heidi Sutej Henderson, who brought 20 people to the Ball from Toronto.

Emily Elspeth Dias-Geoffroy escorted by Philippe Brock, Amelia Catherine Mannarino escorted by Brenden Carriere, Melissa Julia Santos McGregor escorted by Nicholas Green and Hannah Kirby Woods escorted by Pierre Barthelemy carried out their roles as this year's debutantes with poise and grace under the guidance of Julie Perron in her first year as debutantes coordinator.

Tom Speirs and Mary Dreghorn held Scottish

Country dancing classes in the weeks leading up to the Ball. On the night, the Black Watch Pipes and Drums provided the music for eight four-couple sets to dance the Eightsome Reel, the White Cockade, the Gay Gordons, the Reel of the 51st Division, the Dashing White Sargeant, the Bonnie Glen exchange, the Eightsome Reel and finally Auld Lang Syne. Notable is that our Guests of Honour managed to get through the reels with the benefit of only two lessons. Perhaps Steve's experience as a member of the Canadian Gymnastics team helped in assimilating all the moves in such a short period. It is also notable that Nadine did it too, not backwards but in heels.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Liliane M. Stewart, Senator W. David Angus, A. Ian Aitken, Bruce D. Bolton, Jason MacCallum, Peter McAuslan, M. Bruce McNiven and Guthrie Stewart and to the patrons, sponsors and donors they solicited and the



As you can see, the venue for the event was quite elaborate and beautiful. It only complemented the stylish men and women who graced this year's event. We also see the escorts and debutantes (shown centre from: left to right – Hannah Kirby Woods and Pierre Barthelemy, Emily Elspeth Dias-Geoffroy and Philippe Brock, Melissa Julia Santos McGregor and Nicholas Green, Amelia Catherine Mannarino and Brenden Carriere) and the Highland Dancers from the Montreal Highland Dancing Association. Photographs taken at the 2011 Ball are now available for viewing and purchase here: <http://photos.standrews.qc.ca/5373588>.

purchasers of the premium tables they sold. The donations amounted to over \$13,000.

Ellen Bounsall did a spectacular job this year with the silent auction. The Society owes a big thank you to her and to the numerous benefactors who donated fifty lots worth of items and raised over \$13,000. We also thank Geneviève Lalonde of the McAuslan Brewery for helping on the night.

The Black Watch came out in force this year, lead by Pipe-Major Cameron Stevens who acted on the Ball Committee as Black Watch Liason. Jeff McCarthy, as mentioned previously, splendidly addressed the haggis but the Black Watch participation was not limited to the night of the Ball. They made available to the Society the Bleury Street Armoury for the country dance practices and hosted the traditional Debutantes' Reception. David Serapins was *aide de camp* for our Guests of Honour and Ryan Veitch spent numerous hours helping with administrative matters.

Much thanks goes to Helen Meredith for coordinating with the photography during a year with many changes in that department. For the first time in recent memory, there were no photographs printed at the Ball. Instead, the images were made available on the internet the following week. Not only did this free the photographers and enable them to concentrate on documenting the event but it allowed those in attendance (as well as those not) to see and download in full resolution and free of charge any of the Ball pictures taken by our professional photographers, IPI. Over 300 viewers have visited the 2011 Ball photo album on the site photos.standrews.qc.ca. We welcome your feedback on this change in approach.

The annual Society Luncheon was held again at the Cantlie Hotel on the day before the Ball. Eighty-eight guests were entertained by Joey Elias, one of Canada's leading comedians. Joey's relationship with the Society is through Pipe-Major Cameron Stevens and stems from the time when Joey entertained the Canadian troops in Afganistan. Thanks to Joey for helping make the second edition of this event a success and solidifying it for the future.

The Royal Montreal Curling Club once again hosted a luncheon just a few short hours after the Ball ended. Steve MacLean attended the event after going to the Space Centre to watch the launch of a Titan V rocket carrying the Curiosity Mars rover whose main purpose is to carry out experiments with instrumentation developed in Canada. Steve once again transfixed his audience telling stories revolving around his fascinating career. In answer to a question at the end of Steve's talk, Nadine, provided insight into what it is like being the

wife of an astronaut and how the family deals with the stress of the risks that go with that vocation.

We had good publicity from the Montreal Gazette. We thank Jennifer Campbell for running four colour photos from the Ball in her recap of the year's social events. The Ball was presented more prominently than any other event.

Yet another two contributions to the Society and the event by Ian Aitken must be acknowledged. First is the luncheon he held at his elegant home on the Sunday after the Ball to thank the members of the Ball Committee. A lot of people worked very hard to put on the Ball and make it such a success. Ian and Mary's kindness and generosity in hosting this luncheon to thank them is well appreciated. Second is the Council Luncheon Ian hosted at the Mount Royal Club. Due to the busy schedule of our Guests of Honour, the traditional Council Luncheon could not be held during Ball Week. Rather than allowing the event to be skipped this year, Ian took the initiative and entirely sponsored a luncheon shortly after the Ball. Ian's kindness and generosity are exemplary and, on behalf of the Society, I extend him our sincerest thanks.

We must not forget the important contributions of Ball Committee members not already mentioned. Anne Navin passed on the torch as Debutantes' Committee chair and was responsible this year for public relations and Ball week coordination; Chareen Dias brought boundless enthusiasm to her responsibilities for the President's Reception and protocol; Karl Usakowski and Kathleen Rochford helped, especially with debutante and escort recruitment; Gillian Leitch helped with historical research; and Andrew Cook-Jolicoeur took care of English-French-Gaelic translation. Thanks also to the students from the Trafalgar School for Girls who put up decorations and met and greeted the guests at the reception desk. Of course, key to the whole event was Norma King who worked tirelessly in all aspects of the preparations. Society President, Bruce Bolton, not only had the undersigned rookie to bring up to speed but organized the Society Luncheon, gave the Atwater Library lecture and was also involved in all aspects of the event.

Finally and certainly not least, we thank the members of the Society who care about the Society and come to the events. Thanks for coming and we hope to see you again next year!

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.

Update from the Welfare Committee

Chareen Dias - Chair, Welfare Committee

It is my pleasure to serve as the new Chair of the Welfare Committee, a position I assumed in May, 2011. The committee includes Nicole Hughes (Treasurer), Peter Hogan (Secretary) and Campbell Oliver. Unfortunately, Verna Peris has recently resigned. We thank her for her years of service. She will be missed. The Council member attached to our committee is Bruce Bolton. We are also fortunate to have Norma King as part of our "team", forwarding incoming requests and helping us get assistance to those in need, in a timely fashion. Our mandate is to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals of Scottish descent. We do not provide continuous support.

In attempting to distribute the Society's funds in a fair and responsible manner, we require applicants to complete an application form, intended to elicit information including Scottish ancestry, family composition, income and expenses, employment, medical needs and the situation that has led to this particular request. The applicant is then visited by two members of the committee, who prepare a report, which along with the application, provides input into the decision-making process. All this information is kept in the strictest confidence; the names of the applicants are known only to the committee.

We make every effort to handle each request within the briefest possible delay. The most common requests are for food vouchers, which have now been replaced by supermarket gift cards. Our "Christmas Baskets" also take this form. Requests are as varied the individuals who apply. Some people's needs are very small, while others may be more substantial. Not all applicants qualify for our assistance. However, we do try to re-direct them to other organizations, such as Centraide and Sun Youth. These organizations have resources that we do not and can direct the applicant to the appropriate organizations and programs.

We receive occasional referrals through hospital social workers and from within the Society. During the next few months, we will be exploring ways to reach out into the community, in order to identify and assist those eligible individuals who can benefit most from our assistance. In the time span between the nineteenth and the twenty-first centuries, individuals of Scottish ancestry have become less identifiable, in terms of the communities in which they live. Also, many have married into other nationalities and no longer bear Scottish surnames.

Our geographical boundaries are loosely defined and now extend off-island. It is hoped that our new partnerships will help overcome such challenges.

You can help us fulfill our mandate. Should you know of anyone who may benefit from short term emergency financial assistance, please suggest that they contact our executive secretary, Norma King at 514-842-2030 and we will forward an application form.

As we move forward, I anticipate needing a few more volunteers to assist with visits. This is an ideal opportunity for women and men who have social work or pastoral care experience. However, this background is not necessary. If you would like to know more about joining us, please call the above-mentioned number and I will get in touch with you. Training will be provided.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all those individuals who organize, attend and support the fundraising events that allow us to help those in need.

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.

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