

# THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

May 2013

## Upcoming Events

### 78<sup>th</sup> Highlanders Curling

Ile Ste Helene  
Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013



### Summer BBQ

Terrace St Ambroise  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013



### Championship Series

### Highland Dancing – ScotDance

Wednesday – Sunday, July 3-7, 2013

### Council and Committee of Management

Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013



### End of Summer BBQ

Terrace St Ambroise  
August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013



### Council and Committee of Management

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013



### St. Andrew's Ball 2013

Marriot Chateau Champlain  
Hotel

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013



Could that be the TARDIS in disguise in the heart of Glasgow?

## President's Letter ~ It has been an honour.

As my term as President of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal is quickly approaching its end, I take this opportunity to look back on the last two rather exciting years. The Society has been extremely active with so many events and programs, as well as behind the scenes changes in administration.

Amid all the changes and excitement, I can say with confidence that one achievement stands out among the group. The establishment of the Chair in Canadian-Scottish studies at McGill University, largely born of a herculean effort on the part of past-President Peter McAuslan, resounds as an important achievement for our society and for the Scottish community in Canada as a whole. The Society and McGill University have developed and maintained a symbiotic relationship for close to 200 years, helping to develop and contribute to Montreal, Quebec, and Canada alike. This chair represents the addition of a long-overdue chapter to that partnership. The holders of this new Chair will study our history, and in so doing offer new perspectives on how our ancestors used Montreal as a stepping stone to the exploration, development and settlement of a continent. Moreover, this Chair will doubtless offer much needed perspective on how these same ancestors helped to build Montreal – *our city* – into the epicenter of Canada, and the envy of so many.

Some of the proceeds from this year's St. Andrew's Ball have gone towards the endowment of this Chair. We have also used our resources to help launch a spectacular "Whisky Fête" evening this past February. It has already been described as an absolutely "unique" experience for whisky lovers – of which I'm told there are a few in our Society. What better way to do something valuable than by having fun in the process!

The Society was very active in the many events marking the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. To this end, we were proud to have had MGen Michael Riddell-Webster and his wife Sarah as the Guests of Honour at this year's St. Andrew's Ball. Michael is the senior serving Black Watch Officer in the British Army.

The list of Society activities has continued to be impressive. I sense that the composition of our committees is in the throes of a renewal: as the fabulous stalwarts of many years experience move on we are empowering a new generation of committee leaders. These individuals are bringing fresh ideas and renewed energy to our Society, building on the hard work of the past to ensure that our priorities are well represented in the future.

In this vein, the Governance Committee has been operating behind the scenes actively examining our legal structures and modernizing our accounting procedures. I would be remiss if, at this juncture, I did not extend a warm thanks to Robert Humphrys, who for 20 years so diligently kept our books.

Of course, I could not forget Norma King. Norma is the one who "runs" the society from its basement office at Forget House. When I arrive at 7am, Norma has already been at her desk and computer, working tirelessly to ensure that the Society's cogs turn smoothly and are well greased. Norma, I thank you most sincerely for your impressive and inspiring dedication.

Our forefathers established a remarkable system of governance for the St. Andrew's Society. One starts as a member of Council and then is chosen to be the Second Vice President with specific duties for a term of two years. Next comes First Vice President, a position coupled with the duty of being Ball Chairman – again for two years. One is then likely elected President serving for two more years. After that, one becomes a Past President with continuing specific duties. Endowed now with the well deserved air of "Immediate Past President", one joins a select group of Past Presidents among whom wisdom is legion and corporate memory abounds.

It is, without a doubt, eight years of dedicated service.

I have completed six of these years and have two to go. I feel fortunate that I will be spending those years under the leadership of Scot Diamond and Brian MacKenzie. I can say with confidence that I leave the Presidency in good hands.

In parting, I would like to thank those individuals – too numerous to list here – who offered me the dual gift of support and advice over these past years. To them I am eternally grateful. I believe that the Society has charted a course that will keep us focused, and working hard for the Montreal Scottish community for many years to come.

It has truly been an honour.

Your President,  
Bruce Bolton



## WhiskyFête 2013

Helen Meredith

On February 22, 2013, 150 distinguished Montrealers and members of the St. Andrew's Society gathered at the University Club for WHISKYFETE 2013. This inaugural (first annual) event showcased fine and rare Scottish whiskies, traditional Scottish foods and outstanding highland dancing and piping.

The event raised **\$38,500** towards the Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies currently being created at McGill University.

The Guest of Honour was none other than the Honorable Ken Dryden and we were delighted that McGill principal Dr. Heather Munro-Blum was able to join us.

A picture tells 1,000 words and you'll find plenty of photos of the event at the website of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal here: <http://photos.standrews.qc.ca/5964908>.

As well as the dazzling collection of whiskies being poured by distillery representatives who guided guests through the tasting experience,

there was also caviar, foie gras and snuff to sample. Guests left with gift bags generously filled by McAuslan, Gryphon Shortbread, the McEuen Scholarship Foundation and the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

The WHISKYFETE 2013 organizing committee was comprised of Peter McAuslan, Bruce Bolton, Brian MacKenzie, Gillian Leitch, Chareen Dias, Peggy Regan, Kirk Johnstone, Dave MacLeod, Nicholas Synnott, Brian McQueenie, Theresa McGoldrick and Margo Pollock. We are particularly grateful to Brian and Theresa who are the two halves of OUIDRAM and who selected and acquired the whiskies and provided wisdom and sage counsel all along the way. McGill student-volunteers Rebbeca Dowd, Sarah Dowd, Shannon Conway and David McLeod welcomed guests and sold raffle tickets.

Planning is underway to hold the second WhiskyFête in February 2014. We have taken note of the suggestion to holding it on a Thursday evening. Stay tuned!

## Birth Notices

Andrew James Stevens born on 17th February 2013. Proud parents Pipe Major Cameron Stevens and Joanie Gutterman.



The gentleman on the left is Pascal Desjardins and the gentleman on the right is Roger Valiquette.



Max Langevin performing the sword dance.

## New Members

The Society is very pleased to welcome new annual members: Stephen William Atkinson, Graham Cairns, Moira Anne Elias, Jennifer Mowat, Maura McKeon, Tommy McKinnon, Lawrence Onions, Douglas C. Robertson, Robert C. Wilkins. Also, we would like to acknowledge a new Life Member: Victoria E. Robertson. A new Annual Associate: Caroline Lessard and a new Life Associate: Judith Andersson Aitken are also welcomed to the society.



## Flowers of the Forest

We would like to extend condolences to the families of the following former members: Ralph G. Keefer, Life member 1979, John M.S. Lecky, Life member 1974 and Laura F. MacLellan, life member 1978.

## Trend: whisky tasting as a corporate event and it is not just for men

Chareen Dias; Originally published in The Planner, Volume 11, No.02

There appears to be a growing, worldwide interest in whisky tasting and this has come at a time when I am eager to learn something new. This summer, after years of diluting blended whisky with ginger ale or turning it into a Whisky Mac cocktail, giving it an added punch with ginger wine, I signed up for a tutored tasting and lunch at The Scotch Malt Whisky Society, a private club in Edinburgh. This was a special offer made available during the Fringe Festival. If you are looking for a more structured way to fully appreciate whisky, a tutored tasting is definitely the way to go. The tasting was followed by an excellent lunch. The Society's Bar Food Menu pairs a contemporary interpretation of fine Scottish produce with the appropriate cask whiskies, reflecting the current trend of pairing whisky and food.

Moving on to more recent experiences here in Montreal, I was fortunate to meet and work with Brian McQueenie and Theresa McGoldrick of Ouidram. Their services were

contracted by the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, to help organize the recent WHISKYFETE, a whisky tasting to raise funds for a Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University. The event was planned for 200 people. Ouidram took care of bringing in the distributors and ensuring an exceptional selection of 50 single malts, 18 years and older, along with some rare ones from silent stills. An event of this magnitude, in attendance and selection of whiskies, has never before been held in Montreal. The whisky selection was an excellent drawing card and the tasting was a great fundraising success.

The other trend is the growing interest in whisky amongst women. While whisky production and consumption have been male dominated, an increasing number of women are drinking whisky and working in the industry. So, if the idea that whisky is just for men puts you off suggesting a whisky tasting as a corporate event, think again. I recently had the chance to talk to Theresa McGoldrick about corporate whisky tastings and associated trends.

### CD: Why are corporate whisky tastings becoming so popular?

**TM:** The cycle for single malt whiskies is high and continues to grow in popularity every year. With so many different expressions available on the market, there can be a variety of themes and whiskies done each time. Nowadays, both men and women are interested in participating and enjoying these events. We have noticed that close to 30% of attendees are women. Whisky tastings make the perfect corporate vehicle, as they are trendy and engaging, fun and educational.

### CD: What makes whisky tastings such a great corporate event?

**TM:** Whisky tastings are an easy turn-key solution for busy event planners because they are so versatile and can layer onto any function or existing event. Tastings can be done "neat" as in a simple "meet and greet", or complemented with cheese or appetizers. Whiskies can be paired with formal dinners or on their own informally. Also, the timelines

Like many people and probably women in particular, my experience with whisky is somewhat limited. My first introduction to this fine spirit was as a child, given a cotton ball soaked in whisky to sooth an aching tooth. This must have been a Scottish folk remedy! I still recall sucking the liquid from it and thinking that I would like more! Fortunately, I have moved beyond appreciating it solely for its medicinal properties.

are extremely flexible.

**CD: Is it true that whisky and food pairings are the hot new trend?**

**TM:** Yes, we have attended fabulous tastings and whisky dinners in Scotland and Canada and they were very successful. With each course, a whisky was paired to either complement or contrast... It was delicious and interesting to taste all of the different flavours of the foods with the whiskies. Some of the foods brought out certain flavours of the whiskies and vice versa... just a wonderful experiment of the palate and people adored it. The world's foremost whisky and food pairing expert, Martine Nouet, led us through a whisky tasting, accompanied by a chocolatier and a fiddler. It was simultaneously heavenly and haunting, listening to the music while the whiskies swirled in your mouth and the chocolate melted on your palate. It was a full sensory connection for the entire group.

**CD: How does the experience of a whisky tasting lend itself to a corporate event?**

**TM:** In today's electronic world, we have become indoor spectators in our everyday lives. Whisky tastings, however, compel guests to be present in the moment and use all of their senses to discover the whiskies. It's a visceral experience for participants that fosters camaraderie and by extension, becomes an incredible bonding experience for the group. People think that they don't like whisky because they don't really understand it. Once the context is provided, the guests develop a healthy appreciation.

**CD: Why are more and more women discovering whisky?**

**TM:** At every whisky tasting we tend to see more women attending — close to 30%. Women are discovering that they genuinely enjoy the taste of whisky. We attribute that to the wonderful variety of single malt expressions available now and to the fact that whiskies are so versatile when paired with different foods. Women's palates can be quite discerning with their culinary experience. Many women are being encouraged by their husbands to try it because it can be a passion which is easily shared.

It is obvious that whisky is best enjoyed when it is shared. WHISKYFETE was the first tasting that I have attended. Probably the majority of guests did not know each other but there is nothing like appreciating a wee dram to generate conversation amongst strangers. To enjoy the selection, one has to move from station to station and this makes it a very social and ultimately, a most satisfying event. The fact that there are so many "expressions" ensures that the evening is one of discovery for connoisseurs and novices alike. Whisky has an aura of mystery and privilege about it, making it a high end product as a corporate or fundraising event.

Such an event cannot be accomplished without an excellent knowledge of whisky. Ouidram has this. Their combined energy, attention to detail, understanding and anticipation of our needs and identification with the event, resulted in a seamless evening. Although based in Montreal, Ouidram can provide their services across the country. Visit their website: [www.ouidram.com](http://www.ouidram.com).

**Are you thinking about a final resting place?**

Helen Meredith, Bruce Bolton, Ian Aitken

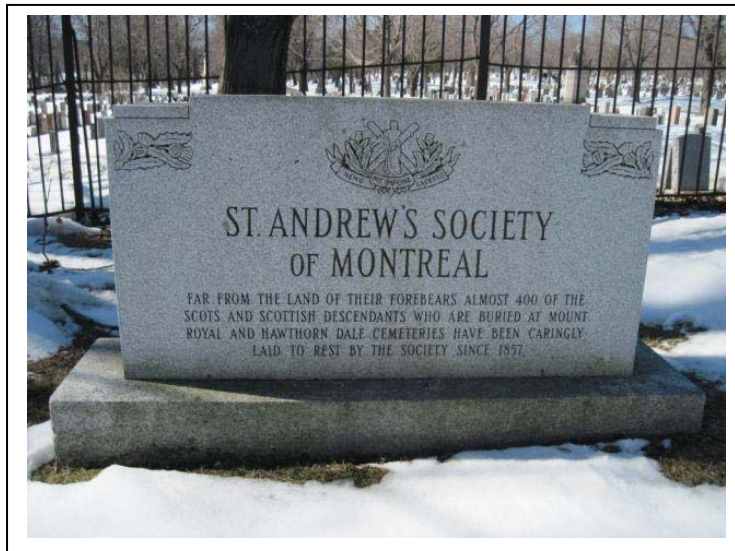
There comes a time when a decision must be made about where one's final resting place will be. Some people make this decision for themselves and some people leave it for others to decide. Some choose a cemetery while others might choose the garden, the cottage, or the lake.

If you are considering the options we'd like to give you one more to consider.

In 1940, the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal acquired a well situated lot at the Mount Royal Cemetery for the burial of deceased indigent Scots and over the years the Society has buried more

than 300 people. However, in recent years the need for the Society to provide this service has diminished as the government has assumed increasing responsibility for burying the poor. As a result, the Society's lot is currently underutilized.

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal is interested in selling rights for the burial of cremated remains



(the ashes of a deceased person) in its lot to 26 life members. For the moment we would like to determine how many people may be interested in this option before we begin to sell burial rights.

This initiative can only accommodate the burial of urns (not caskets). The cost to bury one urn of cremated remains would be \$1,000. The cost would not include that of cremation, registration or the inscription of the deceased's name (predetermined number of characters) and dates of birth and death on the shared headstone.

Mount Royal Cemetery is a popular and attractive cemetery that has traditionally served English-speaking Protestants in Montreal. It should be noted that the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul has also made the decision to sell rights for the interment of ashes in its lots (they were purchased and remain underutilized for the same reasons).

If you are interested in having your ashes buried in the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal lot:

- Visit the Cemetery to see the lot (Section G, Lot 762). We can supply a map, or you can ask for directions at the Cemetery office (1297 Chemin de la Forêt, Outremont). Look for the monument (see photo). Please note that it is our intention to enlarge the monument to accommodate the names and dates of those whose remains will be buried in the lot;
- Contact Helen Meredith (514-369-2778; helen.meredith@sympatico.ca) to express your interest (and/or ask questions) by November 1, 2013.

Whether or not the Society decides to make space available will depend on the level of interest shown by our members, so if this is of potential interest, please let us know.

## In Lasting Memory of Scotland's Beloved and Compassionate National Poet – Robert Burns: 1759 – 1796

Mary Johnston Cox

A fine example of Robert Burns' tender heartedness and gentle nature is revealed in the poem "To A Mouse" (1785) in the sympathetic words he spoke to the little creature whose home he had inadvertently destroyed while he was ploughing a section of land –

*Thy wee bit housie, too, in ruin!  
It's silly wa's the win's are strewin!  
'An' naething, now, to big a new ane,  
O' foggage green!  
An' bleak December's winds ensuin,  
Baith snell an' keen!*

*But Mousie, thou are no thy lane,  
In proving foresight may be vain;  
The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men,  
Gang aft agley,  
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
For promis'd joy!*

If ever a man had more than his share of grief and pain, it was certainly Robert Burns. This is especially true in the tragic ending of his romance with his lovely, winsome Highland Mary. This was the same Mary Campbell with whom he exchanged Bibles and plighted their troth over the small tributary stream flowing from the river Afton. Their dream to emigrate to the West Indies and begin a new life together as husband and wife was shattered by her unexpected and untimely death in October 1786.

Although Burns had dreams of emigrating to the West Indies, especially to Jamaica, he never emigrated from Scotland's shores. However, his Bible crossed the Atlantic four times both by sea and air. The first instance is when Mary Campbell's nephew, William Anderson, set sail from Greenock to New York in 1834, with Burns' Bible in his possession. He was bound for Upper Canada and settled in the township of Caledon. Six years later, living in Toronto and in poor circumstances, he offered the Bible for sale in Montreal in the hope that, apart from monetary aid, it would be secured in a place of safekeeping. Robert Weir, Jr., Chairman of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, purchased the Bible from funds raised by a Subscription Committee. At a meeting of the seventy subscribers, it was resolved that the Bible should be sent to Scotland and deposited in the Burns Monument Museum in Alloway. This was the Bible's second trip across the Atlantic. It was returned to Glasgow, Scotland, in the personal care of Captain Millar aboard the sailing ship, the SS Mohawk. Mr. Weir arranged for it to be carried with the accompanying documents and list of subscribers, to his father, Robert Weir Sr., who handed the total consignment to the Provost of Ayr. The Bible was deposited in the Monument. Altogether fifty of the seventy subscribers were identified as members of the Society.

"This was apparently another instance in which the Society could not take an official part in, or contribute from its funds, but one which the members carried through as private individuals. It was a very commendable and praiseworthy action and has been greatly appreciated by the Scottish people and Burns' Societies all over the world."

To commemorate the Society's Sesquicentennial Year in 1985, Burns' Bible crossed the Atlantic for the third time to be displayed for

one year at the McCord Museum exhibition entitled "A Celebration: St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, 1835-1985." It had been graciously loaned by the Burns Monument Trustees. The Bible's fourth crossing of the Atlantic took place when it was personally returned by the author of this article, Mary Johnston Cox, to the Curator at the Museum in Alloway on October 20th, 1986, the 200th anniversary of Highland Mary's death.

Despite his periods of grief and times of depression, the dynamism of Burns' gifted talents seemed to be powerful enough to overcome his distress and encourage him to continue producing poem after poem and song after song. In one of his sad moments of reminiscing about the wonderful hours he had spent with his Highland Mary on the banks of the Afton River, he was inspired to write the words of the song "Sweet Afton" in 1791.

Considering the large number of wonderful poems and beautiful songs that Burns left as a legacy to Scotland and the world at large, it seems appropriate to quote some of the poet's philosophical advice on happiness. The importance of happiness is expressed by Burns in the following manner:

*Wha kens, before his life may end,  
What his share may be o' care, man?*

*Then catch the moments as they fly,  
And use them as ye ought, man:  
Believe me, happiness is shy,  
And comes not aye when sought, man.  
(From: A Bottle and Friend, 1787)*

*But pleasures are like poppies spread,  
You seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed;  
Or like the snow falls in the river,  
A moment white - then melts for ever.  
(From: Tam O'Shanter: A Tale, 1790)*

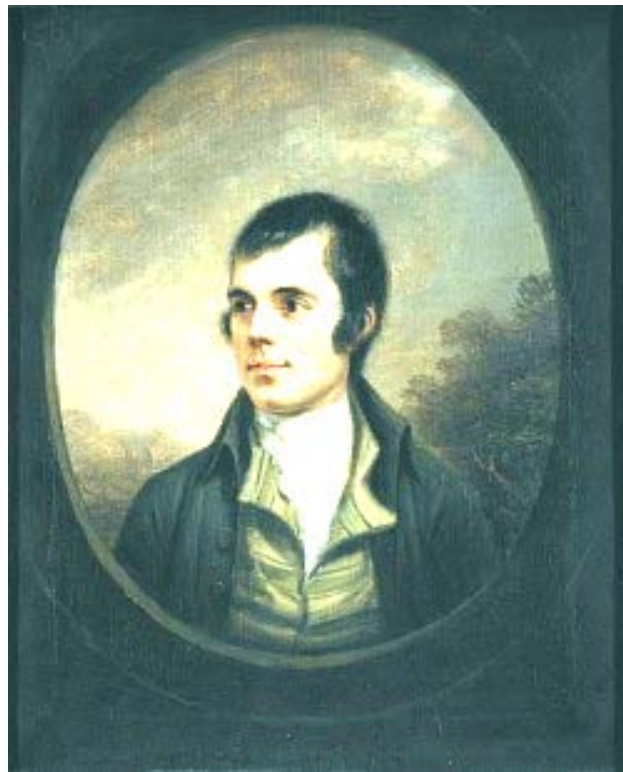
Throughout the years many remarks have been made about Burns' love for the lasses, but one

should not forget that these same lasses dearly loved Robert Burns, and none more faithfully and lovingly than Jean Armour, whom he named "jewel" of the Mauchline Belles. After Mary Campbell's death in October 1786, Burns renewed his relationship with Jean Armour, at which time he had proposed marriage to her but her father refused to give his permission. In 1788, Burns married his "darling Jean", as her father's permission was no longer required under Scottish Law. They commenced their married life in Mauchline, but later Robert took a lease on a farm at Ellisland near Dumfries. In 1789, he accepted a position as Excise Officer for Dumfries and also became a member of the Dumfries Volunteer Fencibles. In 1791, he moved the family to Dumfries where they lived in a small stone house with their children and a few of Robert's illegitimate children. The house is now a museum located on Burns Street. Mrs. Burns mothered all of the children as one family. Jean was a devoted wife and

Robert's one true love. Fourteen of his songs were inspired by her. Jean was for Robert an important source of energy. He said: "O, how, that name inspires my style," and, "It warms me, it charms me, / To mention but her name:/ It heats me, it beats me/ An' sets me a' on flame!" (Epistle to Davie, a Brother Poet, 1785). Six years into their marriage and two years before his death, Jean's love inspired Robert to write the lovely song "A Red, Red Rose". The words of two of the four stanzas are as follows:

*O my Luv'e's like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June:  
O my Luv'e's like the melodie,  
That's sweetly play'd in tune.*

*As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luv'e am I;  
And I will luv'e thee still, my dear,  
Till a' the seas gang dry.*



Nasmith portrait of 1787

Burns became seriously ill in July 1796. During this time he was living in straitened circumstances. He had a great deal of debt and was constantly hounded by debtors. The terror of dying in a debtors' prison gripped him. Robert was haunted by what happened to the poet, Robert Fergusson, who had been buried in an unmarked grave. Burns had a deep admiration for Fergusson whose work inspired his poetry. Burns described Fergusson as "my elder brother in misfortune, by far my elder brother in the muse". Fergusson had a great ability to write in the Scottish language, Lallans.

Robert Fergusson, one of Scotland's great Poets, was born to an Aberdeenshire family in a house on the High Street section of the City's Royal Mile in 1750 and died in 1774. His collected works were first published in 1773. Despite a short life, his career was highly influential, especially through its impact on Robert Burns. In 1786, while visiting Edinburgh, Burns took a trip to the Canongate churchyard to pay his respects to Fergusson's grave. Fergusson is referred to as Burns' forerunner. On his arrival at the churchyard, Burns was astonished that he could not find Fergusson's grave. With the help of the Church's registrar, he found the grave and was shocked that it was unmarked. "He prostrated himself on the grave of Fergusson and kissed the sod." After obtaining permission to erect a headstone on the unmarked grave, he commissioned a local architect to design it. The headstone, paid for by Burns, was erected in 1787 and was appropriately inscribed with Burns' heartfelt words: "Here Lies ROBERT FERGUSSON POET/Born September 5th, 1750,/ Died October 16th, 1774/No sculptur'd Marble here nor pompous lay,/No storied Urn nor animated Bust;/This simple Stone directs Pale Scotia's way/To pour her Sorrows o'er her poet's Dust."

During the time that Burns grew weaker, his friends came to visit him including the Fencible Volunteers. While visiting Burns, the Volunteers discussed plans for a military funeral. Even on his death-bed he did not lose his quick sense of wit, saying to one of his fellow Fencible Volunteers, "John, don't let the aukward squad fire over me." Shortly before he died, he encouraged his wife not to be afraid and predicted: "I'll be more respected 100 years from after I am dead than I am at present." At 5 a.m. on July 21, 1796, at the age of thirty-seven, Robert Burns died with his family and

friends at his bedside.

Jean Armour must have been a courageous and resolute woman to have had the strength to deal with the challenges she had to face; namely, being pregnant, due to go into labour at any time, suffering grief at the thought of losing her beloved husband, and yet she was determined to find a way to have a gravesite for the man she venerated. No average woman, either then or now, could have coped. She could not expect to receive any help from Robert's brother, Gilbert, who was already supporting his mother, his own children and Burns' oldest child, Bess. When the funeral cortege entered St. Michael's churchyard, there was a gravesite located at the far corner, prepared and ready for the funeral service to begin. How Jean managed to acquire the gravesite is unknown, but considering the many good deeds that Robert Burns had done for others in his lifetime, it is not inconceivable to believe that an anonymous benefactor came forward and donated the gravesite.

Two of Burns' friends, John Syme and Dr. Maxwell, organized the funeral. The death of Robert Burns caused a general feeling of regret throughout Dumfries and its neighbourhood. Despite his "aukward squad" request to his brother volunteer, Burns' funeral was on a grand scale, and he was buried with full military honours and thousands lined the streets of Dumfries on Monday, July 25. The following description of the funeral is considered the most authentic record because the writer, William Grierson, was personally present at the funeral:

*"This day at twelve o'clock went to the burial of Robert Burns. In respect to the memory of such a genius as Mr. Burns his funeral was uncommonly splendid. The Military here consisting of the Cinque Ports Calvary and Angusshire Fencibles, who having handsomely tendered their services, lined the streets on both sides from the Court House to the burial ground. The Corpse was carried from the place where Mr. Burns lived to the Court House last night. The firing party which consisted of twenty of the Royal Dumfries Volunteers (for which Mr. Burns was a member) in full uniform with crepes on the left arm, marched in front with their Arms reversed moving in a slow and solemn time to the Dead March in Saul which was played by the military band belonging to the Cinque Ports Calvary. Next to the firing party was the band then the bier and corpse supported by six of the Volunteers who changed at intervals. (On the coffin was placed the hat and sword of their friend and fellow - soldier). The relations of the deceased and a number of respectable inhabitants of both town and country followed next, then the remainder of*

### Join the Mailing List!!

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*the volunteers followed in rank and the procession closed with a guard of the Angusshire Fencibles. The great bells of the churches tolled at intervals during the time of the procession. When it arrived at the churchyard gate the funeral party formed two lines and leaned their heads on their firelocks pointed to the ground - through this space the corpse was carried and borne forward to the grave. The party then drew up alongside of it and fired three volleys over the coffin when deposited in the earth. Thus closed a ceremony which on the whole presented a solemn grand and affecting spectacle and accorded with the general sorrow and regret for the loss of a man whose like we can scarce see again."*

Gilbert, who lived in Mauchline, was the sole member of the poet's family who managed to arrive on time to attend the funeral. Jean herself went into labour that morning, and as the cortege was making its way along the crowded streets to St. Michael's churchyard, she gave birth to their ninth child. He was named Maxwell in honour of the doctor who delivered him and who attended Burns in his final illness. The celebration of Burns' life, combined with the triumphal music honouring his departure from this world, was also heralding the birth of his son, supporting the Scottish belief that "when one member of a family departs from this world, another one comes in." Sadly, in April 1799, this little boy died at the age of two. Special praise must be given to Jean Armour, his closest friends, his lifelong admirers, and his Fencible comrades. Each and every one of them played a special part in the achievement of this remarkable tribute to Scotland's Beloved Bard.

Jean made sure that what had befallen Robert Fergusson, who was buried in an unmarked grave, would not be the case with her Robert. She had a modest gravestone erected at her own expense, inscribed simply with Robert's name, age and date of death. How Jean managed to do this is left to speculation. She may have had assistance from her father, William Armour, who was a Master Stonemason. Many of Burns' admirers felt that the original grave was an insufficient tribute to Burns' genius. Consequently, in September 1815, a costly mausoleum, now called the Burns Mausoleum, was built by public subscription from all ranks, including His Majesty King George IV and Sir Walter Scott. On the 12th of September, the remains of the poet, his youngest son Maxwell and his second oldest son, Francis Wallace, who died in July 1803 at the age of fourteen, were exhumed from the original grave and transferred to the vault underneath the mausoleum. Jean died in March 1834 and was buried beside her husband.

Within a short time after Burns' death, as a result of the efforts of John Syme with Alexander Cunningham, a monetary fund was established to help provide for Mrs. Burns and the children. To provide additional financial assistance, a memorial edition of Burns' poems was published.

That Burns is growing in the respect of the world is certainly a visible fact. His prediction has come true. It was seen in Dumfries with the impressive funeral he was given - he was honoured and admired by all ranks. Sadly, before he died he did not realize that he was so well admired and honoured. On January 25, 1859, which was the 100th anniversary of his birth, Scots all around the world attended centenary events to honour the memory of this gifted man whose sympathy and understanding of the passions and frailties of humanity were so profound. In Montreal, in the City Concert Hall at Bonsecours Market, an assemblage "as brilliant, perhaps, as any that ever met within its walls" gathered at a commemorative banquet. The chairman of the event, the Hon. John Rose, a past president of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, expressed the view that because Burns' poetry "appeals so strongly to the sympathies and feelings of our hearts", his memory, embedded in our hearts, would still be embedded in those of our descendants in another 100 years. Burns, who combined brilliance and down-to-earthness, is universally recognized as one of the greatest poets of all times. As long as the Scots and those of Scottish decent are living, he will always be remembered using his own words - "*Till a' the seas gang dry*" (*A Red, Red Rose*, 1794).

## Toast to the Lassies

Robert C. Wilkins

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Distinguished Members of St. Andrew's Society, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Toasting the lassies would definitely be a practice of which the Great Bard of Ayr whose 254th birthday we celebrate tonight would approve were he seated among us this evening. In his all-too-short life, Rabbie Burns knew, in every sense of that word, a wide variety of members of the fair sex. I suspect he could lecture us with considerable authority on any number of female character traits and personality types, from his extensive, hands-on experience. There was, for example, the lovely Mary Campbell, that fresh and unspoiled Highland beauty who captured Burns' heart during his travels northwards, and who lives still in the touching lines of his great ode to "Mary Campbell".

*The golden hours on angels' wings  
Flew o'er me and my dearie  
For dear to me as light and life*

*Was my sweet Highland Mary*

Then there was the urbane and sophisticated socialite of Edinburgh, Mr. MacLehose – celebrated in his poetry as “Clarinda” -- who introduced Rabbie to polite society and the literary elite of the capital in her salons.

*Ae fond kiss, and then we sever!  
Ae farewell, and then forever!  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.*

And we must not forget the simple “girl next door” who really loved him and cared for him in his last illness, Jean Armour.

*There wild woods grow and rivers row  
And monie a hill between  
But day and night my fancy's flight  
Is ever wi' my Jean.*

Not to mention a host of other ladies of good (or not-always-good) repute whose company he kept at different times and whose names are now sadly, or perhaps fortunately, lost to posterity.

Of course, I suspect that Burns would agree that men and women often misunderstand one another and act and react in ways that cause some mutual irritation.

That sometimes happens when the wife, speaking with absolute honesty, unwittingly embarrasses her husband in a public setting. In that regard, I cannot help but recall the story of Angus and Maggie, a dear old retired couple from Aberdeen who were visiting friends in Montreal some years ago, in the days when the ninth floor dining



room at Eaton's was still operating. How many of us remember the ninth floor dining room at Eaton's? Well, the story goes that Angus and Maggie invited their Montreal hosts there for dinner one day during their stay. The two couples were duly greeted at the entrance to the restaurant and were shown to a table. They all sat down and looked at the menu. When the waitress arrived to take their orders, Angus and Maggie both ordered chicken à la king. When their plates were brought

to them, the waitress noticed, after a few minutes, that only Angus was eating his dinner. She came over to the table and asked Maggie if her food was to her taste. Maggie immediately replied: “Oh, aye, miss. It's a bane fine dinner. But ye see, right nooow, Angus is using the teeth!” Now I don't doubt for a moment that their Montreal hosts probably regarded Maggie's explanation as indicative of the legendary frugality of the Scottish people. But I must confess, as a man, feeling a wee touch of sympathy for poor old Angus, whose most personal secrets were thus laid bare by his spouse in the company of their local hosts and in a public place. In such contexts, discretion is the soul, if not of valour, then at least of matrimonial harmony.

Of course, it is in that very context of matrimony that so many of the differences between men and women are most obvious. Some examples:

A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

A man has six items in his bathroom: a toothbrush, shaving cream, a razor, a bar of soap and a towel from the Holiday Inn. A woman's bathroom includes approximately 337 items, most of which a man could not identify.

And then, of course, there are the children. The wife generally knows their best friends, their

favourite foods, their secret fears, their hopes and dreams for tomorrow. She dries their tears and drives them to soccer and makes sure they keep their dental appointments. The husband (or more accurately, the “traditional husband”), for his part, is vaguely aware of the presence of some short people living in the house, who figure, at least in some years, as useful deductions on his

income tax returns.

And yet, for a' that and a' that, as Burns might say, I cannot help but agree with my good friend Kill Stuart, who is wont to declare about the fair sex: “If God had made anything better, He would have kept it for Himself”. Burns would agree, for it was he who two centuries ago wrote these lines:

*The wisest man the war' e'er saw,  
He dearly lov'd the lasses, O!*

*Auld Nature swears, the lovely dears  
Her noblest work she classes, O:  
Her prentice han' she try'd on man,  
An' then she made the lasses, O.*

In that spirit, and since we are met on this birthday of Scotland's Bard of immortal memory -- himself a renowned admirer of the feminine gender -- I would like to close with the following bit of verse found on the website of the Caledonian Society of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, with slight alterations to the words by yours truly, for the sake of poetic meter:

Together we stand here tonight in praise  
Of the women who brighten our nights and our days,  
Good lassies we love ye, as Burns did too,  
Though, as we all know, he had more than a few.

When in our arms, they bring untold pleasures  
These are our lassies, our dear, priceless treasures,  
We seek to marry them, it is said  
For nothing more than to get them to ... wed

They know how to feed both spirit and soul

When needed they also can fill up our bowl.  
They care for us ever and help keep us well  
Though sometimes their words make us feel like...  
heaven.

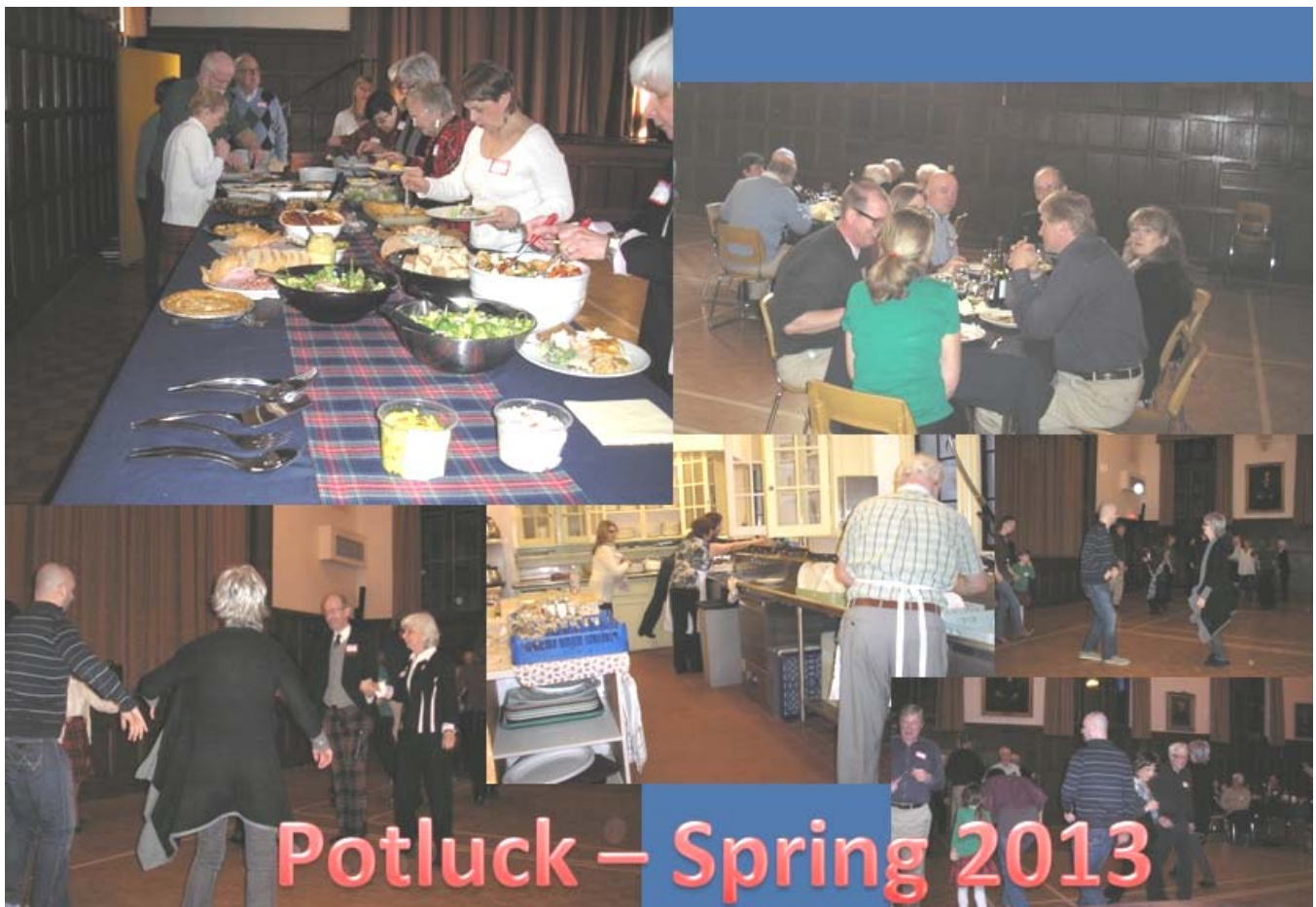
They teach us good manners, they teach us chicstyle,  
For many of us, that takes quite a while.  
They grow better with age, while we males do not  
That much is clear, from the look of you lot.

From the parcel of rogues I see here tonight,  
It is truly amazing our girls don't take flight,  
They put up with our habits, and we have all sorts,  
Like controlling remotes and watching our sports.

For them we would gladly walk five hundred miles,  
It must be because of their feminine wiles.  
Over heathery mountain and steep, scraggy glen  
We seek them out often, or at least now and then.

But tonight we stand here in warm, fulsome praise,  
So join with me lads, let your voices upraise.  
Prepare for our toast, come fill up your glasses,  
To drink to the health of our own bonnie lasses.

To the lassies!



## Toast to the Laddies

Maura McKeon Wilkins

Thank you, Robert, Mr. Chairman. Lads and Lassies,

It is a great opportunity for me to be able to respond to my husband's witty and yet kind remarks in tribute to us ladies. I agree with him that men and women frequently disagree and react differently in certain situations. Yet I think it important to clarify some of the basic reasons for this divergence in outlook.

In my opinion, perhaps the greatest source of this divergence is very simply that men do not understand what women are really looking for. At the risk of revealing what some might consider female secrets, let me explain what women want in men as they both grow older.

Initially, a woman is attracted to a man who is handsome, charming, financially successful, and a caring listener. She wants someone who is witty, appreciates the finer things in life, is full of thoughtful surprises and is an imaginative, romantic lover.

As the years pass, her expectations of him inevitably change. She hopes that he has at least enough money for nice holidays, that he is still in good enough shape to carry bags of groceries with ease; that he remembers her birthdays and their anniversaries; that he appreciates her good home-cooked meals; and that he will agree without complaint, when watching football on the TV, to take out the garbage during the commercials.

As he reaches mid-life, she begins to harbour some anxieties about him. She trusts that he will not drive off until she is securely seated in the car. She hopes he is still strong enough to rearrange the furniture at her command and is smart enough not to buy champagne with screw-top lids. She worries if he nods off to sleep while she is reciting to him the list of social events they are due to attend in the next few weeks. As for the romantic, imaginative lover – forget it!

When both spouses attain the status of senior citizens, her main concerns are that he not spend their pension money on lotto tickets; that his snoring will be tolerable; that he will remember where he left his teeth; and that he will turn up on time when they arrange to meet for lunch or attend a concert.

Fortunately for us lassies, there are the annual Burns Suppers, all around the world, at which men are reminded of how lucky they are to have us share their lives and foibles as time goes by. To the extent to which they pay heed to the wisdom of Scotland's great poet, who was so generous in his praise of all that is feminine, men take a big step towards fulfilling at least some of the hopes and

dreams that we lassies cling to as we grow, not older, but only more mellow, over time. Here in our St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, there are many fine examples of men who have taken to heart Burns' sentiments of admiration for their life-partners and soul-mates. Some of you men even manage a bit of romantic imagination -- from time to time. For that, we lassies thank and congratulate you. Long may you persevere in such noble endeavours!

So, on that note, I would now call on all the lassies present to join me in raising their glasses to the laddies we love!

## 2012 St. Andrew's Ball Sum Up

Scot Diamond, 2012 Ball Chairman

Well, the 2012 Ball is now almost a distant memory but teething problems with the Society's new accounting system have finally been resolved and the financial results are in so we are now able to give a full run down on the event.

The 177<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's Ball was held on November 23, 2012 at the Chateau Champlain. Neither the venue nor the band were available on November 30, the ideal date for the Ball since that is St. Andrew's Day, and it was decided that having the best band in town was so important to the event that we shifted the event a week forward. The early timing seems, however, to have caught the community a bit flat footed as the number of guests was down from 344 in 2011 to 312. Those in attendance, however, were in for a treat as many considered this year's to be the best Ball on record.

This year was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Black Watch in Canada so we invited Maj. Gen. Michael Riddell-Webster DSO and his wife Mrs. Sarah Riddell-Webster to be our guests of honour. Maj. Gen. Riddell-Webster is the most senior Black Watch officer in Britain. He and Sarah were an absolute delight with their down to earth manner, great sense of humour and spectacular Scottish country dancing skills punctuated with dervish-like spins and other embellishments.

Brian MacKenzie expertly handled the monumental task of chairing the floor committee. This entailed negotiating with various potential venues, coordinating with the hotel and the band, preparing the marching orders and a myriad of other details in preparation for and during the event.

The decorations, done by Françoise Lambert, featuring elegant table flower arrangements with small thistle-like flowers in a box with tied with a plaid ribbon and glittery bands. The programmes prepared by Margo Pollock sported the Black Watch tartan on the cover.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Andrew Carter, CJAD radio announcer, was accompanied by his

comedian and actress girlfriend Caroline Rhea. Caroline attracted a lot of attention, especially among the debutantes who knew her from her role on the television show Sabrina the Teenage Witch. Maybe she had a good enough time at the Ball that we can talk her into being our guest speaker at a future St-Andrew's Luncheon.

Many excellent performances were given during the evening. Heather McNabb brought 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 pipers and drummers; Paul Chacra and his band 1945 kept the dance floor busy 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. 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. Corporal Alexandre Léger recited Robert Burns' Address to a Haggis.

The Guests of Honour were presented with flowers by Ella Jane Aitken and Noah James Varvarikos. Thanks to past President Ian Aitken for continuing to provide us with such fine youngsters and also for sponsoring again this year an elegant Council Luncheon at the Mount Royal Club.

Julie Perron brought us 14 debutantes this year, more than in any other year in recent memory. Marion Lesley Daigle was escorted by Nicholas Donald Green; Greer Simone Diamond (the undersigned's daughter) was escorted by Scott James Reid Crawford, the same boy who escorted

Mamourova was escorted by Ross Julien Green; Josephine Bessie Pullan was escorted by Brennan Rudolf Pinkerton-Kock; Annabelle Chloé Sarzana was escorted by Peter Anthony Schwartz; Kathleen Mary Tooker was escorted by Karl Antoni Ussakowski; Morgan Christina Wallace was escorted by Joshua Mailman; and Kate Marion Eyton Whitmore was escorted by Jesse-Dominico Roma.

Tom Speirs and Mary Dreghorn held Scottish Country dancing classes in the weeks leading up to the Ball. The Black Watch Pipes and Drums provided the music at the Ball for the Eightsome Reel, St. Andrew's Fair, the Gay Gordons, the Reel of the 51st Division, the Dashing White Sargeant, the Bonnie Glen exchange, the Eightsome Reel again and finally Auld Lang Syne. We are saddened that Tom has announced that he is leaving Montreal and retiring. We thank him for exemplary service, always with a smile, for so many years.

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 purchasers of the premium tables they sold. The MacDonald Stewart Foundation must be noted for the extent of their generosity. This year, the bulk of the funds raised is earmarked to be donated to the endowment of a Chair for Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University. Sparked with this attractive incentive, the donations rose to over \$17,000.

Chareen Dias did a spectacular job this year with the silent auction. The Society owes a big

they presented the flowers to the guests of honour; Marianne Claire Escande was escorted by Julian-Antony Roma; Michelle Elizabeth Legrand was escorted by Danny Theodore Kotisiris; Lee Katherine MacLeod Davies was escorted by Ismatul Rahman; Lauren Anne MacLeod Davies was escorted by Omar Jibara; Victoria Juliette McCann was escorted by Anthony Alfonso Parlapiano; Isabelle Jean McLean-Smith was escorted by Shayne Michael Griffin; Alice



thank you to her and to the numerous benefactors who donated fifty lots worth of items and raised \$12,155 almost equalling the record tally of \$12,675 from last year.

Much thanks goes to Helen Meredith for coordinating with the photography. No photographs were printed at the Ball but the images are available online at [www.standrews.qc.ca/photos](http://www.standrews.qc.ca/photos). Our photographers, IPI, were also commissioned to film the event and prepare a video with the intention of using it to promote the event. We consider that the declining attendance numbers indicate that people do not fully realize all the colourful and spectacular elements to our Ball. We hope that the video will serve to spark interest and bring more guests.

The annual Society Luncheon was held again at the Cantlie Hotel on the day before the Ball. Guests were entertained by George Bowser, of Bowser and Blue fame. George kept the crowd laughing and made the event a big success.

The Royal Montreal Curling Club once again hosted a luncheon just a few short hours after the Ball ended. The Macdonald Stewart Foundation graciously offered their premises for a luncheon on the Sunday after the Ball to thank the members of the Ball Committee.

Important contributions were made by Ball Committee members not already mentioned. Anne Drost was responsible this year for public relations and provided several important gifts to the silent auction. She also managed to get a CTV film crew to show up at the event and a report ran on the news. Chareen Dias brought boundless enthusiasm to her responsibilities for the President's Reception and protocol in addition to working tirelessly on the silent auction; Bruce Bloton and Karl Usakowski coordinated with the Ball Week schedule and Karl solicited **Elizabeth Arden Canada** for excellent gifts for the debutantes; Gillian Leitch helped with historical research and updating the web site; and Andrew Cook-Jolicoeur took care of English-French-Gaelic translation. 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, organized the Society Luncheon and

was also involved in all aspects of the event.

As for the funds raised, we are pleased to report that with the generosity of donors of money and gifts to the silent auction and of silent auction buyers, the 2012 Ball did raise approximately \$22,650, the bulk of which will be donated to the endowment of a Chair for Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University. Thanks to all who worked so hard to be able to generate this wonderful result!

All that being said, once again we appeal to the members to pitch in and help make the 2013 Ball even better. Here are some things you can do:

- **Scottish Country Dancing.** It has been noted that the level of mastery of the dances has declined in recent years. We believe this aspect of the Ball is important and urge you to come to the practices. Even if you have been doing the dancing for years and expect to be able to perform without much instruction, we would like you to be present to help the newcomers along. Experienced dancers can make all the difference in the learning curve of those trying it out for the first time. We plan to set up a Scottish Country Dancing page on the Society web site this year. We will post the practice schedule, the list of dances and try to provide links to pages with instruction and demonstration of the dances.

- **Please think of potential candidates for page and flower girl.** Being a page or flower girl provides lasting memories for those who do it and their parents. Please inform Norma King if you know of any suitable candidates, around 5 to 7 years old.

- **Please think of potential debutantes and escorts.** This tradition greatly enriches the Ball experience for everybody and is a fun way for younger people to become involved in the Society. Some see it as being as much fun as a high school prom. Information and photos about being a debutante can be found on the Society web site. Please direct candidates to the site and let Julie Perron know of your suggestions.

- **Please solicit donations for the silent auction.** This aspect of the event has become a major contributor to the bottom line. Its success depends on people making good donations and people buying on the night. You are urged to think of services and things you can donate and people or companies you know that might be interested in helping a good cause. There is a solicitation package you can download from the Society web site to make solicitation process easier.

- **Donate.** The bulk if not all of the funds of the 2013 Ball will go towards the endowment of a Chair for Scottish-Canadian Studies at McGill University. This is a really good cause and it will help the Society too if you contribute.

## Whisky Glasses Still Available!

We now have number of Whisky Glasses available for sale. Norma King at the Society's Offices can help: [nking@standrews.qc.ca](mailto:nking@standrews.qc.ca); (514) 842-2030.

- **Drum up business!** We need to get our numbers back up closer to the target of 380 so we can defray the fixed costs over a greater number of guests and make the event financially self-sufficient. We ask you to talk to your friends and acquaintances to let them know just how colourful, musical, rich in pageantry and tradition and fun the Ball is and try to convince them to attend. To make this easier, we have photos from recent Balls and now a professionally filmed video on the Society web site so people can get a better idea of the excitement that the Ball offers. We urge you to go and to encourage others to go view the photos and the video at [www.standrews.qc.ca/photos](http://www.standrews.qc.ca/photos).

- **Attend the Ball.** The date is Friday, November 29, 2013. At midnight it becomes St-Andrew's Day. We have Paul Chacra and the 1945 Band again and the evening promises to once again be the most colourful and exciting event in the social calendar. We would love to see you there in 2013!



Over the course of July 3-7, 2013, hundreds of highland dancers will travel to Montreal with their families and supporters for the ScotDance Canada Championship Series - an annual competitive event held in Canada which will be taking place this year in the heart of scenic Old Montreal at the *Palais des Congrès de Montréal*. The dancers, ranging from

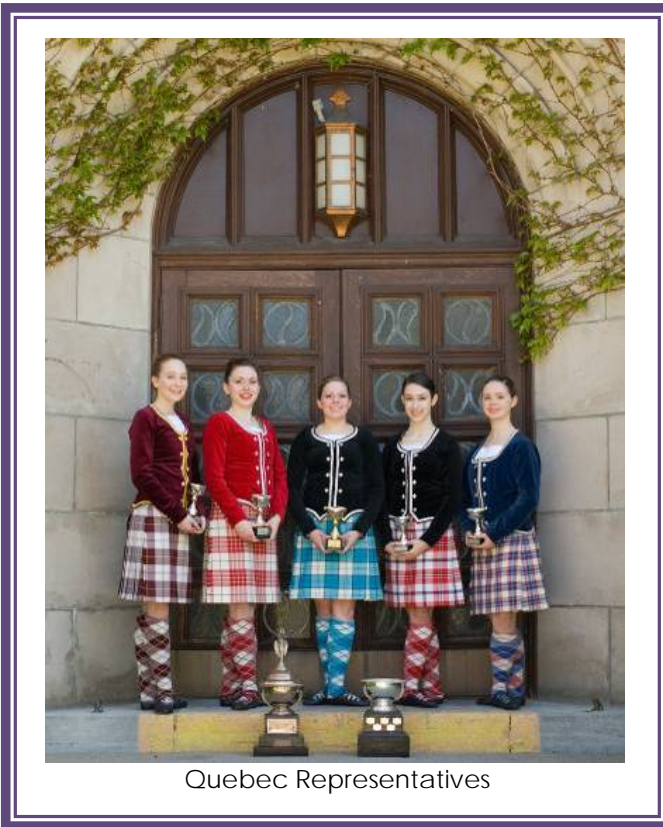


ages 4-30, will travel from across North America and the world in order to demonstrate their commitment to the discipline of competitive highland dancing, which is considered both an art form and a recognized sport by the Sport Council of Scotland, combining technique, swift execution of movement, agility, and strength, as well as musical aptitude, decorum and grace.

Highland dancing is based upon the Scottish traditional dance form that was developed in the Gaelic Highlands of Scotland and has been passed down for generations. It has played and continues to play a large role in maintaining a solid connection with our Scottish roots. The evolution of highland dancing into the form practiced today has occurred with a mindfulness to respecting the original traditions while continuing to grow and move forward, allowing dancers to be part of a group with a strong history of community involvement, as can be seen from demonstrations held year-round, as well as encouraging a competitive spirit, permitting dancers to develop a sense of self and accomplishment.

The goals of this event are to promote Highland dancing across North America and to build friendships among Highland dancers from coast to coast. In order to continue towards these goals, the Montreal Highland Dancing Association (MHDA) has hosted a variety of fundraisers, the proceeds of which will be used to hold the championship.

ScotDance Canada Championship Series is a growing annual event which will reach an audience of dancers and their families and many others from the Scottish community, and is open to the public. Volunteers and contributions are always welcome, as well as sponsors for the many events and awards to be presented over the course of this event. Volunteer forms, sponsorship forms,



social event registration as well as day-passes to the competitions can all be found on the Competition's website: [www.scotdance.ca](http://www.scotdance.ca).

Additionally, the Championship has a Facebook Group page, "ScotDance Canada"; we would be very pleased to count you among our supporters!

## The Montreal Highland Games

### PRESS RELEASE

[www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca](http://www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca)

The Montreal Highland Games are 'on the move'. After holding this annual event in suburban Pierrefonds/Roxboro for eleven years, the organization has

secured a new home at **Angrignon Park** the South-West Borough of Montreal (Arrondissement Sud-Ouest). This location is by far the best venue we have ever had for the Highland Games & Celtic Festival. It is the biggest site we have ever occupied and is blessed with hundreds of shade trees, picnic tables and benches and even a scenic lake (see the Google aerial view of the section of the park we will be using). The park is also a stop on

the Montreal Metro (subway) line. A short walk of about two hundred meters will take you from the Metro Station to the Games. There is also parking for over 1400 cars in the nearby parking lots (\$8.00 per day) or one can cruise for a free parking spot on adjacent streets.

As **Angrignon Park** is a Montreal public area, there will NO ADMISSION charge to the Games. We have secured sponsors to help cover the costs of the day. We are still looking for additional participation from interested companies and individuals who may be interested in being a sponsor, or sponsoring a specific event. People attending may also be asked for a suggested donation at the entrance of the site to contribute to the complete success of the Games.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen logistical problems, we will only be able to present the next edition of the Montreal Highland Games & Festival on **August 2nd & 3rd, 2014**. We will be working diligently over the next 15 months to present the best Scottish Festival this city has ever seen in one

of the most idyllic venues one could possibly imagine.

So, please take note that there **will be no Highland Games** for the summer of 2013 and mark your calendar now for **August 2nd & 3rd, 2014**.

## 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.

## Humours of Dram

### Drinking in Scotland

Thistledown: A Book of Scotch Humour Character Folklore Story & Anecdote

"Leeze me on drink, it gie's us mair  
Than either school or college:  
It kindles wit, it waukens lear,  
It pangs us fu' o' knowledge.  
Be't whisky gill or penny wheep,  
Or stronger potion,  
It never fails, in drinking deep,  
To kittle up oor notion  
By night or day."

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