

## President's Letter

COMMENTS ON  
THE SUMMER TO  
COME... AND OF  
COURSE A BIG  
THANK YOU !



BURNS, THE POET,  
THE LOVER, THE  
ACTIVIST  
JANUARY 2016



ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY PARADE  
MARCH 2016



CURLING FOR  
DUMMIES  
APRIL 2016

# THE JOURNAL

OF THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL



## President's Letter - May 2016

Dear Friends,

The first half of my term as president has slipped by and I look back on the year knowing that our membership has continued to deliver quality events, cultural,

**Who doesn't  
love a 'Heilan  
coo'?**

(Scottish Gaelic:  
Bò Ghàidhealach)

heritage and educational support along with reaching out to the needy.

The Canadian-Scottish Studies Chair's recent fundraising campaign will see this very special project go the next phase with the target of establishing the Chair in 2017. This is the result of the hard work put forth by our Chair committee and the many that have come forward to help get us to this phase.

This summer will see us gather for many events including the introduction of Lawn Bowling May 27; this new event will introduce some to a great summer activity. The BBQ plan is in full force once again and it is planned for June 20<sup>th</sup> at McAuslan's Terrace. Also please update your agenda for the Tee Off in Tartan golfing event August 27.

The Montreal Highland Games is slated for July 31<sup>st</sup> at Verdun's Arthur Therrien Park and we are adding more to the day with the introduction of the Caledonian Run, this will be both a 5K and 1K run and we are working with the Running Room organization to ensure many people are aware of this event. Our team has also been working on the caber parade, this will be a small parade which will be starting at 19:00 hrs at Verdun's City Hall on Thursday evening, July 28<sup>th</sup>, more information will be provided.

Although an active summer is in store there are many initiatives ongoing in the background that include preparation for the Taste of Scotland and The St Andrew's Ball however to many May 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 will realize a milestone within our society calendar -- that is Norma King's official retirement date as Executive Secretary. Norma has diligently worked and represented our society for the last 22 years, she has truly been a professional Executive member, being front and center in dealing with issues, working with committees and helped work with many Presidents throughout their terms. Norma has been the voice of the St Andrew's Society for these many years and has been a comfort to many that needed help with society information, events and membership requirements.

My sincere best wishes to Norma, we will see her soon enough as she is now a Life Member of the St Andrew's Society of Montreal.

Yours aye,

Brian MacKenzie

President, St. Andrews Society of Montreal

## *Keeping in Touch with Members*

*The Society is trying to keep all of our membership up to date on all our events and happenings. We ask that if any of your information has changed that you contact the society with your new address, new email address and new phone number!*

*[info@standrews.qc.ca](mailto:info@standrews.qc.ca)*

## Burn's Speech - 2016

Sterling Downey - Montreal City Councillor for the Borough of Verdun

Good Evening Honorable guests, Friends, Lads and Lassies

Tonight I have the great honor of presenting the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns.

I would like to start by thanking some of the people and organizations who have been instrumental in helping me learn about Scottish Culture, it's History and most importantly, who have opened their doors and made me feel welcome throughout the last couple of years.

First off, I would like to thank The Sons of Scotland Benevolent

Association in Verdun, May Cook, Lorna Joannette and their members, without whom the process of bringing the Montreal Highland Games back to Verdun would not have happened. They also played an important role in the declaration I passed at City Hall to have Montreal officially recognize April 6<sup>th</sup> as Tartan Day for our Scottish ancestors.

To the members of The St-Andrew's Society - Scott Diamond (who introduced me to our Province's official Tartan), Brian MacKenzie (who approached me with the honor of



being an Ambassador for the Highland Games).

I would also like to thank The Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, their Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Phare, all the Pipers and Drummers whom I have gotten to know and who have brought me into their family and helped me understand the true meaning of the word comrade.

When I was first asked to do this I didn't really understand the importance of this speech, how to approach it, what kind of content I would need to include and what tone I should use. I was worried about being Politically correct and wanted to ensure that I remained respectful especially since I knew very little about Robert Burns and his works other than his ADDRESS TO A HAGGIS, but the more I read the more I came to appreciate this amazing man, his poetry and songs, his love for the social life, for drinking, for the ladies, and for his wife Jean Armour.

I quickly realized that Robert Burns was not one to worry about being politically correct, possibly offending someone or raising an eyebrow or two in the process, if it meant him speaking his mind and expressing himself. I think I would have gotten along very well with him had we known each other.

He spoke out when necessary and inspired and empowered many through his writings. I think it's safe to say, "Robert Burns' Pen was mightier than his sword".

I didn't want to simply recite a history of his life because I realize most of you already know everything about him or have heard so many of these speeches that the content would be redundant. However, I do believe that some of this history remains extremely important remember and celebrate regardless of how many times we hear and repeat it.

His works have had a monumental impact and a resounding influence on us culturally during his life and still to this day more than 2 centuries after his death. His fame has spread over countries and continents, remaining timeless whether it be in the literary arts or the songs we sing.

In 2010 an astronaut carried a miniature book of Robert Burns' poetry into orbit, completing a 5.7 million mile trip. I think it's safe to say Burn's has clearly gone where very few men have gone before.

Robert Burns' life was so incredibly full of accomplishments that it would be impossible to cover everything he did in such a short speech therefore I chose to focus on some of the things that have inspired me personally.

I've titled this speech: Burns, The Poet, The Lover, The Activist, although, in all due respect I probably could have easily named it The Rock Star, The Swinger, The Trouble Maker.

So let's start with the obvious straight from Wikipedia.....

Robert Burns (The National Poet of Scotland also known as the People's Poet, the Writer's Writer, the Friend's Friend) born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1759 in Alloway Scotland, son of William and Agnes Brown Burns, and who left this world in 1796 at the young age of 37. His short life was filled with hard work as a tenant farmer, plenty of women and heartbreak, hardship, drink, social engagements and of course writing.

As hard as it was, working the land clearly paid off for Burns in a way he may have never expected, because this is where he found the inspiration to write for the very first time.



3RD ANNUAL

## TUG OF WAR

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**JULY 31, 2016**

ARTHUR THERRIEN PARK IN VERDUN

- \* TEAM NEEDS TO BE COMPRISED OF 8 PEOPLE
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CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

*Dawson*  
COMMUNITY CENTRE



His first composition was at the age of 15 entitled "O Once I Lov'd a Bonnie Lass", inspired by a young girl with whom he worked alongside at harvest time named Nelly Kilpatrick.

After reading it a number of times and trying to get the pronunciation right in the hopes of reciting it for you tonight and failing miserably, I decided to abandon this idea. However it seems evident to me that even at a young age he was well on his way to becoming a true ladies man and had begun exploring his skill of wooing the lassies through the art poetry. This clearly served him well throughout his life considering the amount of women he had relations with.

Burns had a genius for using the smallest details he observed in his daily life to explore universal themes. This can be observed in "To A Mouse" considered one of his more political poems

On turning her up in her Nest with the Plough,  
November 1785.

*I'm truly sorry Man's dominion  
Has broken Nature's social union,  
An' justifies that ill opinion,  
Which makes thee startle,  
At me, thy poor, earth-born companion,  
An' fellow-mortal!*

The empathy he felt after realizing the impacts of his actions and his ability to see the parallels between the power struggle in nature as well as in our society between the state and the people is in my opinion, what made his writing so powerful.

Burns was the quintessential political poet par excellence.

He detested corruption in politics, local and national.

Many of his poems reduce the work of senior politicians to the farmyard. He defined politics as a process of despicable cunning and hypocritical pretense to govern society for the profit of one's self and one's supporters. Whoever sold out the interests of Scotland were to be driven down and destroyed.

He was a shrewd moral idealist who judged the honesty and motives of politicians whatever their apparent party. Scottish politicians who did not serve the people of Scotland first and foremost were traitors to their nation.

He became a champion for the rights of man and democracy, he believed all men were equal, he was a proud Nationalist, a revolutionary republican, he was anti-war, anti-imperialist, he wished to see the overthrow of the Feudal system and believed in the rights and political suffrage of the common people.

Some say he secretly supported the French Revolution. Even American president Abraham Lincoln had a lifelong admiration for the work of Robert Burns, with some claiming that the poet's verse played a key role in helping Lincoln win the American civil war and abolish slavery.

One of Burns' famous works, A Man's A Man For A' That, shows us how outspoken and vocal he was regarding his opposition of slavery. It was also chosen as the anthem to open the new Scottish Parliament in 1999.

Another thing about Burns was that he was an enthusiastic socialite and loved a good debate once in awhile.

This leads me to the: *The Tarbolton Bachelors Club*.

He and a few friends all members of Tarbolton Parish formed a club called "The Tarbolton Bachelors Club" on November 11<sup>th</sup> in 1780 which was said to have been made up of a group of spirited young men who would meet together to share stories, talk and debate, to put aside and forget about the toils of the day.

At this first meeting, in the house of John Richard, Burns was unanimously elected president for the night. Rules were drawn up, the tenth and most significant of which read:

'Every man proper for a member of this Society, must have a frank, honest and open heart; above anything dirty or mean; and must be a professed lover of one or more of the female sex. No haughty, self-conceited person, who looks upon himself as superior to the rest of the Club, and especially no mean spirited, worldly mortal, whose only will is to heap up money shall upon any pretense whatever be admitted.

Also during his time in Tarbolton he became involved with the Freemasons. Never entitled to vote, and from a relatively humble background, Burns found a form of social equality among them; they adopted the young poet as 'Caledonia's Bard'. Within the Masonic Lodges, Burns found an audience for his poetry, opportunities for social advancement and themes of universal brotherhood that appealed strongly to his democratic instincts.

Burns has been an inspiration to many and during my research I came across a few interesting examples that show us the diversity of his popularity.

- The world famous novels 'Catcher in the Rye' and 'Of Mice and Men' both take their titles from poems by Robert Burns 'Comin' Thro' the Rye' and 'To A Mouse'.
- Bob Dylan selected Burns' 1794 song 'A Red, Red Rose' when asked for the source of his greatest creative inspiration.

- 'Auld Lang Syne' is recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as being one of the top three most popular songs in the English language. The other two are 'Happy Birthday' and 'For he's a jolly good fellow'.

- Robert Burns was the first ever person to appear on a commemorative bottle of Coca-Cola, in 2009.

- Michael Jackson is said to have been a fan of Robert Burns and to have worked on an unreleased album setting the Bard's poems to music.

- After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues erected and dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure.

In conclusion, what can anyone say to truly honor such an incredible Scotsman, our beloved bard, Robbie

burns? Even after over 200 years of Burns suppers around the world and countless numbers of speeches in his name, many of which are happening at this very moment, the question I ask myself is...

"Are any of us capable of doing his life and works justice"? One thing is certain...

He never placed himself as the Poet above the people, but rather he chose to keep his writing accessible to all who were interested. He wrote for anyone and everyone, Doctors, Lawyers, Politicians, Scholars and farmers alike. He wasn't pretentious, he placed himself at the same level as the commoner and this is probably why his work became so popular and transcended all social classes. How impressive is it that a man can inspire and connect with so many simply by putting his thoughts and everyday observations to paper.

What I've discovered through this journey of mine, while studying this man and writing this speech, is, we all have a little bit of Robert Burns inside of us, that I myself would like to believe that I have a lot in common with him, that the more I read the more I see Robert Burns as an incredible role model for me, someone whose example I can use in my approach and work as a Politician,

### ***For those who aren't on the internet!***

*Are you a member who is not on the internet? We realize that with the move to making Society announcements and notices for events available on our social networks and website means that some of our members are not getting information on our activities in a timely manner. If you would like to receive notices of events in the mail, we ask that you contact the society (514) 842-2030.*

someone who I would have been proud to call a friend.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand up and join me by raising your glasses in a toast to the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns!

Sterling Downey,

Montreal City Councillor for the Borough of Verdun

## Scotsman of the Year - Address by Ian Aitken

Auld Alliance Awards Ceremony, The Quebec Thistle Committee, Saturday, April 16, 2016

Ian Aitken

Thank you Peter McAuslan for that very kind introduction. And many thanks to the Quebec Thistle Committee of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal for this award.

I would also like to thank all of you for being a part of this Auld Alliance Award Ceremony and celebration and I would like to congratulate all of the other award recipients, not so much for the awards that they have received today, but for all that they do throughout the year to be such a vibrant part of the Scottish community of Montreal. Every day, they are passionately promoting Scottish culture and making us the great community that we are.

It is truly a great honour for me to be surrounded by so many friends and family in the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch Highland Regiment and to be named Scotsman of the Year.

When I first heard that I was being named Scotsman of the Year, I thought that only old people won that recognition, and then I had this horrible realization - that I am old!

One of the great aspects of being Scottish is that we have a storied past, a rich culture and a vibrant community. It is that combination of past, present and future that keeps so many of us engaged and that gives us frequent reasons to celebrate.

Speaking of the past, today is the anniversary of the Battle of Culloden. On this day in 1746, the Jacobite forces led by Bonnie Prince Charlie (also known as the Young Pretender) were defeated by the

Duke of Cumberland (also known as "the Butcher") in the Highlands near Inverness. I have vivid memories of visiting the site of the battle as a child with my Scottish grandparents, but my romantic view of history was shattered a number of years later when I watched Peter Watkins 1964 BBC docudrama called

Culloden. If you have not watched that black and white film, I would highly recommend it. It is Monty Python-esque in nature and it would be funny if it were not so depressing.

I have always felt super fortunate to live in Montreal. Walking to the armoury today, through the McGill campus, wearing my kilt, on a beautiful sunny day, reminded me of just why this city is so gorgeous and why we are so lucky to live here. We live in a city that has the Scottish thistle in its coat of arms in recognition of the role that the Scottish community played in making this city great.

The McCord Museum exhibition on the Scots of Montreal in 2003 was a great success, and the pictorial album that was published is a testament to our rich heritage.

But being Scottish is not just about celebrating the past, it is about the present. One of the reasons that it is great to live in Montreal is that we are surrounded by wonderful examples of Scottish culture such as:

- The Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment and their Pipes and Drums
- The Sons of Scotland
- The Royal Montreal Curling Club
- The Montreal Highland Dancing Association



*A. Ian Aitken, CFA*



- The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
- The Montreal Highland Games Society
- The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul
- The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders
- The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal
- McGill University with the soon to be launched Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies

When I think of what the Scottish Community means to me, I think of the organizations I just listed, but I also think of people far and wide who have helped to define the community and who helped me find a place in it.

I will start with someone in Scotland, who lived in a small crofters cottage next to Loch Lyon way up the road past Aberfeldy. At first glance, Bob Bisset was a hard working peat farmer and a shepherd who wore a kilt every day (which he never washed) and lived a simple life with his wife way off the beaten path in a beautiful part of the Highlands that I used to visit every second year as a child. He was great friends with my grandmother and I soon discovered that there was much more to this man than I first thought. He was also a cobbler, a violin maker and a Burns expert who was often called on to propose the Toast to the Immortal Memory. I once gave Bob Bisset a bottle of scotch, and when he threw the cork in the fire, I understood that the bottle was to be consumed in its entirety before I left.

That was an interesting afternoon, and no doubt qualified me for one of my favourite roles, and that is the "Keeper of the Quaichs".

Bob Bisset in one person in Scotland who helped me understand the depth of Scottish culture, but there are many examples here in Montreal. People such as:

- Kirk Johnstone, one of the founders of the Montreal Highland Games and later in life a model for the Ogilvy's department store;
- Mary Johnstone Cox, who was the Historian for the St. Andrew's Society, who had a very firm grasp of the facts;
- TRAM Malcolm, who co-founded the Quebec Thistle Council;
- Eileen Clark, who was the first female President of the St. Andrew's Society in 1983;

- I think of the Hutchison Family including Alex Hutchison a president of the St. Andrew's Society, and his son Keith Hutchison who celebrated Scottish culture on an almost daily basis and founded the Un-Ball before passing away at far too early an age;
- Bette and Tom Speirs who for more than 40 years taught countless Montrealers, including me, how to dance the Eightsome Reel and other dances so that we could all enjoy the St. Andrew's Ball to the fullest extent possible;
- Bishop Andrew Hutchison who married me and in whose house I now live;
- Ian Millington who taught my brother, and many others, how to play the bagpipes;
- Neil Ivory and Ian Soutar who co-founded Pembroke Management, the firm I have worked at since 1982;
- I think of all of all the past presidents of the St. Andrew's Society, stretching back to 1835, who have worn the chains of office around their necks and have felt the weight of responsibility on their shoulders to keep this vibrant society moving forward. And I think in particular of Moira Barclay Fernie who preceded me, and of Bruce McNiven who followed me. And I think of Brian Mackenzie who is currently serving as President of the Society. The Society is in great hands

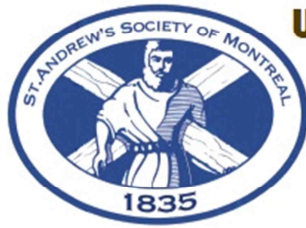
### **\$15,000 TO GOAL: Request for Donations**

Fund raising for the endowment of a Chair in Canadian Scottish Studies at McGill stands at \$2,985,000 only \$15,000 short of the three million dollar objective. In October 2015 Society Council committed an maximum additional \$50,000 to the Chair based on matching one to one donations from society members. This initiative has been successful, and has brought in significant additional donations. The fund raising committee expects that the last \$15,000 of the objective will be fulfilled by numerous donations of any amount, large or small and reminds members that it is aggregate total of these individual pledges that will take us over the top.

Peter McAuslan  
Committee Chair

under his leadership as he has been committed to the Scottish community for longer than I have been alive!

Before closing, I would like to acknowledge the love and support that I have received from all members of my family and especially from my wife



**Keep me on the fridge!**



## Upcoming 2016 St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Events

- \* **Lawn Bowling for Dummies: May 27**
- \* **SAS BBQ at McAuslan Brewing: June 20**
- \* **Impact Soccer Game supporting the Montreal Highland Games: July 23**
- \* **Montreal Highland Games: July 31**
- \* **SAS Tee-off in Tartan 9-Hole Tournament: August 27**
- \* **Taste of Scotland, Whisky Tasting Night: October 14**
- \* **St. Andrew's Ball: December 2**
- \* **Children's Christmas Party: December 11**

**For more information - [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)**



- And I also think of members of my family, including my mother Sally Aitken who served as a City Councillor in Westmount for two terms and my great grandfather, William Miller Ramsay, who served as President of the St. Andrew's Society more than 110 years ago.

Each of these people contributed in their own way and our community would not be what it is today, if these people had not given so freely of their time and their talents and it has been an honour and a privilege for me to know these people and in most cases to work with them. These people inspired me, to contribute my time and efforts to promoting Scottish Culture, not because it was a duty, but because it was a passion.

Mary Leslie. In what can only be viewed as an act of charity, she agreed to marry me and we are now blessed with a wonderful family who share my passion for Scotland and zest for life.

Now I wish I could recite Burns poetry from memory, speak Gaelic, toss a caber or to play the bag pipes, but it is not to be. What I can do is to thank each of you for being here this afternoon as we celebrate our Scottish community. Please remember that each of you has the potential to make a difference and that you should think not what the Scottish community can do for you, but rather what you can do for our Scottish community.

Thank you very much for this award. It means a great deal to me and I know that being involved in the Scottish community means a great deal too many of you as well.

## Today's members of The National Trust for Scotland: "For the Benefit of the Nation"

Gillian Ogilvy-Wedderburn, Patron's Club, The National Trust for Scotland

The National Trust for Scotland was born in a smoke-filled room in Glasgow, Scotland 85 years ago. It wasn't just any room however: it happened to be owned by Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Bart., K.T. and was located within his sumptuous ancestral home, Pollok House. Sir John had invited a number of like-minded guests to join him in the Cedar Room to put forth his view that Scotland needed its own National Trust. His guests agreed and the National Trust for Scotland came into being on 1 May 1931.

Sir John Stirling Maxwell set out the charity's purpose: "The National Trust for Scotland serves the nation as a cabinet into which it can put some of its valuable things, where they will be perfectly safe for all time and where they are open to be seen and enjoyed by everyone."



Eighty-five years on, the Trust is Scotland's largest membership organisation with over 350,000 members, and one of its leading conservation charities.

The portfolio of properties now numbers 129, which together provide a compelling insight into the story of Scotland.

From the earliest geological sites to the 20th century; from architectural wonders to humble homesteads; 200,000 acres of countryside; mountains and coastlines; wild islands; manicured lawns; 13,500 plant varieties; seven national nature reserves; St Kilda, the UK's only dual World Heritage Site; works of fine art and more than 100,000 precious artefacts representing both the highest levels of craftsmanship and the prosaic needs of lives once lived, the Trust is honoured to play its part in promoting and conserving Scotland's heritage.

For the Trust's long story to continue, we rely on the continued generosity of donors and supporters who believe that Scotland's heritage should be safe-guarded for centuries to come, just like Sir John.

Patron's Club - The National Trust for Scotland  
Hermiston Quay  
5 Cultins Road  
Edinburgh  
EH11 4DF

## New Membership

The Society is very pleased to welcome newly annual member Mr. James Paul MacPherson; new Life Members: Mrs. Grace Hancock, Mrs. Joan Ivory, C.M., Mr. David Scott McArthur, Mr. Lindsay W. McGibbon, Mrs. Irene D. Meikle, Ms. Roberta Starke

and new Annual Associate Members: Mr. Paul Desbaillets, LCOL Bruno Plourde.



## Bibliothèque et centre d'informatique Atwater / Atwater Library and Computer Centre

Lynn Verge - Directrice générale / Executive Director

### Atwater Library Talk on Canadian Heritage of Quebec Properties

On Thursday, June 9 at 12:30 pm, Jacques Archambault, Executive Director of The Canadian Heritage of Quebec, is giving a talk on the organization's buildings and sites, which include Sir John A. Macdonald's summer home in Rivière-du-Loup and the Simon Fraser House in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. Many of the properties are available for public visits or are for rent.

The presentation is part of the Atwater Library's popular Lunchtime Series that features once-a-week events for most of the year, usually on Thursdays. Free admission but donations are requested.

### Atwater Library Scottish Collection Recent Additions

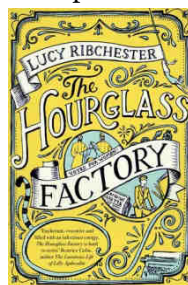
***Driv'n by Fortune: The Scots' March to Modernity in America, 1745-1812*** by Sam Allison – Highly readable and full of important new information about the 78th Fraser's Highlanders and Scottish contributions to the development of Canada. With a foreword by Richard Pound.

***The Book of Strange New Things*** by Michel Faber – Winner of the Saltire Society Literary Award

for Scottish Book of the Year 2015, this novel tells the story of a Christian pastor sent to a colonised planet to carry out missionary work among the native aliens.

***Adventures in Human Being*** by Gavin Francis – Winner of the Inaugural Saltire Non-Fiction Book of the 2015 and a Sunday Times bestseller. The Guardian's review said "Doctor and writer Gavin Francis's essays on the human body, illness and injury are informative, eloquent and often very moving."

***Opium and Empire*** by Richard J. Grace, published by McGill-Queen's University Press – A fascinating account of two controversial 19th century Scottish capitalists engaged in East Asian trade.



<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/22912907-the-hourglass-factory>

***Scottish Artists 1750-1900: From Caledonia to the Continent*** by Deborah Clarke – Illustrated with examples from among all the arts – paintings, drawings, miniatures, and decorative arts.

***The Hourglass Factory*** by Lucy Ribchester – Praised by The Herald's reviewer as "a sexy fast-paced historical murder mystery...a thrilling



## St. Patrick's Day Parade



The Society didn't have a very big turnout: Sean and Lou Lou, Glen Nobes, Ian and Trevor Aitken and Campbell. But, the little guy who stole the show was a wonderful 19 month old who marched quite a bit of the way. He waved to everyone and when they cheered; he lay flat on his back. His name is Victor and he is the son of one of the pipers in the band. It was a lovely day cold but huge crowds.

Campbell



combination of corsets, Emmeline Pankhurst and female journalists..."

**Great Estates of Scotland** – DVD set of episodes of the TV program by Jim Brown showing the inner workings of Inveraray Castle, Dumfries House, Kincardine Castle and Rosslyn Chapel.

The Atwater Library Scottish Collection now numbers over 1,700 titles – books, eBooks and DVDs. Each physical item contains a book plate

acknowledging the contribution of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

The catalogue is online at [www.atwaterlibrary.ca](http://www.atwaterlibrary.ca). To see titles in the Scottish Collection, enter SC in the search box and choose "Anywhere".

The Library is located at 1200 Atwater Avenue, just south of Ste-Catherine Street by the Atwater métro, and is open to everyone. For more information, contact Interim Library Manager Zile Ozols at 514-935-7344 or [zile@atwaterlibrary.ca](mailto:zile@atwaterlibrary.ca).

## Caledonian Games, Montreal, 1880 Montreal Gazette, 23 September 1880, page 2

Gillian Leitch, <https://gilliandr.wordpress.com/2016/04/17/caledonian-games-montreal-1880/>

The Caledonian Society to the [illegible] Annual gathering and athletic sports- His Excellency on the ground.

When the Citizens' Committee decided to aid the Caledonian Society, it took a wise step, for no greater attraction could have been offered to our visitors than the programme of sports arranged by the Caledonian Society. In the early portion of the day the

attendance was small, and when the games were begun the prospects were rather depressing. Shortly after 2 o'clock, however, the grounds began to fill up, and the ticket-takers were kept busy until about 4 o'clock, when there must have been about four thousand people on the field. About a quarter past twelve, His Excellency the Governor-General, accompanied by Capt Chater, ADU, arrived on the grounds, where he was received by the President, Mr

Robin, and conducted to a pavilion erected for his reception Mr Robin, on behalf of the Society, presented to him a beautifully bound volume of the constitution and by-laws, the title page of which was handsomely illuminated, and on the second page was a certificate of membership, which was read by Mr John Hood, the Secretary.

His Excellency was pleased to accept the volume, and briefly replied to the remarks of President Robin. He always had taken an interest in athletic sports, and commended the desire of the Society to encourage the development of physical strength. He regretted the absence from the programme of broadsword and single stick exercises which were highly popular in Scotland, and hoped they might shortly be introduced.

Miss Mary Fulton, a little daughter of Mr P Fulton, then presented a beautiful bouquet, for which his Excellency thanked the fair donor.

The following gentlemen acted as judges in the various competitions:- Lt Col John Fletcher, CMG; Dr McEachran, FRCVS; Angus Grant, Wm Angus, Alex McGibbon, Ewan McLennan, David Mair, Hugh McKinnon, Wm Wilson & Duncan E Bowie, Esquires.

On the ground appeared some of the most noted athletes on the continent, included DC Ross, of Philadelphia, EW Johnston, of Hamilton, William Robertson of New York, John Raine and George Irvine of Ottawa, and others.

The competitions were entered into with zest, and as a result the interest excited among the spectators was great. The dancing was especially good. Mr Henderson, of Toronto, in the Highland Fling, rousing the enthusiasm of his Scottish audience to such a pitch that rounds of cheers and excited cries greeted the conclusion of his performance. In the Ghillie Callum (sword dance) Montreal stood to the front, but altogether so excellent was the display that the task of discriminating must have been one of no small difficulty. The committee of arrangements are to be congratulated on the manner in which the programme was carried out, event following event without unnecessary delay and the whole being completed at a quarter before six.

The scene from the pavilion was a very pretty one, the picturesque costumes of the competitors, guests in Highland dress mingling with the more sombre tints of our modern habiliments, which were in turn relieved by the fluttering ribbons and many-colored shades of ladies dresses, forming a tout ensemble witnessed only at a Scottish gathering. Want of space prevents a detailed account of the games we publish the following:

### List of Prizes

- Quoits- 1st R Waugh, Point St Charles; 2nd A Tattersall, Point St Charles; 3rd W Todd.
- Dambrod Match – 1st Alex Brodie; 2nd Thomas Finn.
- Bowling Green Match – 1st J Shartris; 2nd Peter Fulton. Prizes for this match were presented by the President.
- Throwing Heavy Hammer – DC Ross, Philadelphia, 1st 97 ft 10 in; D Smith Lucknow Ont 2nd, 92 ft 6 in; M MacDonald 3rd 87 ft 8 in.
- Throwing Light Hammer – DC Ross, 1st 116 ft 9 in; D Smith 2nd, 111 ft 5 in; M MacDonald 106 ft 11 in.
- Putting Heavy Stone- AA Macdonald Lochgarrry, 1st 35 ft 3 in; DC Ross, 2nd 34 ft 1 1/2 in; W Robertson New York, 32 ft 11 in.
- Putting Light Stone – AA Macdonald, 1st 45ft 8 in; DC Ross 2nd 42 ft 7 in; W Robertson, 3rd 40ft
- Tossing the Caber – D Smith 1st, 38 ft 10 1/2 in; DC Ross 2nd 37 ft 10 in.
- Running hop, step, and jump – Thomas Aitkin, New York, 1st 44 ft; M Macdonald 2nd, 43 ft 2 1/2 in; Alex Miller, Montreal 3rd, 43 ft 10 1/2 in.
- Running high leap – EW Johnson 1st, 5 ft 4 in; Wm Robertson 2nd 5 ft 4 in; AC Reid, 3rd 5 ft 2 in.
- Running long jump – Thos Aitkin, 1st 21 ft 1 1/2 in; AC Reid 2nd 19 ft 6 in; EW Johnson 3rd 18 ft 6 in.
- Standing long jump- EW Johnson 1st 10 ft 9 1/2 in; M Macdonald 2nd 10 ft; J Newton 3rd 9ft 9 in.
- Standing high leap – EW Johnson, 1st 4ft 8 in; M Macdonald 2nd 4ft 7 in, DC Ross 4 ft 6 in.
- Vaulting with pole – Thomas Aitken, 1st 9 ft 4 in; Wm Robertson 2nd 8 ft 10 in; Alex Miller and John Anderson equal 8 ft 4 in, divide 3rd prize.
- Pony race- Thomas Irving's "Rosebud"; 2nd, J Irving's "Minnie"; 3rd Douglas Lorne McGibbon's "Princess Louise."





## Tartan Day Potluck & Activities in General

A week before the planned Tartan Day Pot Luck supper, the Activities Committee had to make the difficult decision to cancel. We had tried to promote the event through traditional means, but a week before we only had Activities Committee members confirmed as attending. The rental of the St Andrew's and St Paul's Church Hall comes at a fair cost, but with so few coming, we could not justify the expense.

And so it has happened quite frequently that the Committee has had to contemplate cancelling events because few people bother to contact us to say that they are coming. We do have last minute calls, usually on the day of or the day before the event which saves the day, but we cannot count on this to happen.

While we understand that people's schedules are jam-packed, and it is often difficult to plan too far ahead, we are urging members to please, if you are at all interested in an event, to contact us and tell us you intend to come, or that you would like to come and will reconfirm..... When we hold events in venues we don't own, we are constrained to when events are held, and numbers of participants, and we are also financially obliged to pay for the space regardless of the numbers present.

Thank you.

### How to find the Society:

**The Society on the Web:** [www.standrews.qc.ca](http://www.standrews.qc.ca)  
**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/standrewsmontreal>  
**Twitter:** @standrewsociety  
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