Vol. 27 No. 2 | $5.95 CDN/USA | Summer 2013 | celticlife.com

CelticLife
INTERNATIONAL

INSIDE!

Gerard Butler

The Waterboys

World Peace Tartan

Chris Hadfield

SUMMER FLINGS!

Highland Games and Celtic Festivals

Alan Bradley, Summer Fashion, Wildcats, Learning Welsh, King Arthur, Barrule, My Big Fat Gaelic Wedding, Isotopes

Display in Lifestyles
Display until FALL 2013

32
0 74470 86369 4

KILBEGGAN®
TRADITIONAL IRISH WHISKEY

NEW LOOK, SAME AWARD WINNING TASTE

2012 Gold Medal
San Francisco World
Spirits Competition

KILBEGGAN CO DISTILLING 1757

The Secret of Kilbeggan is out. See how the Kilbeggan locals are coping with the news:
youtube.com/Kilbeggan

drink smart® Enjoy Responsibly Kilbeggan® Blended Irish Whiskey 40% Alc./Vol. ©2013 Kilbeggan Distilling Import Company, Deerfield, IL KB123159

ROYAL NOVA SCOTIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

JUNE 30 – JULY 7
HALIFAX METRO CENTRE

PRICES START AT $24.50

EVENING & MATINEE PERFORMANCES

BUY 3 TICKETS GET 1 FREE
CERTAIN CONDITIONS APPLY

Fun Filled Family Entertainment

TICKETS BY PHONE OR ONLINE

1-877-451-1221
www.ticketatlantic.com

Sobeys · Nova Scotia · Halifax Regional Municipality · Canada

Saoghal Ceilteach Iris chinnidheach
air fhoillseachadh sia uairean 's a bhliadhna le

Clansman Publishing Ltd.
PO Box 8805, Station A, Halifax,
NS, Canada B3K 5M4

Celtic Life International is an ethnic journal
published in Canada four times a year by
Clansman Publishing Ltd.

Angus M. Macquarrie, Publisher
Stephen Patrick Clare, Managing Editor
Carol Moreira, Senior Editor
Melanie Furlong, Senior Writer
Catherine Green, Sales

Celtic Life International Office
Phone: 902-835-CELT (2358)
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Fax: 902-835-0080
Email: info@celticlife.ca
Website: www.celticlife.ca

Subscriptions
Phone: 902-835-CELT (2358)
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Fax: 902-835-0080
Email: subscribe@celticlife.ca

Advertising
Phone: 902- 902-405-5332
Toll-Free: 888-215-6850
Fax: 902-835-0080
Email: sales@celticlife.ca

Please send review books and CDs to:
223 Bluewater Road, Bedford,
NS, Canada B4B 1H1

Please return undeliverable
copies of Celtic Life International to:
PO Box 8805, Station A, Halifax,
NS, Canada B3K 5M4

Publication Mail Registration
No. 40050439 ISSN 1918-0497

Contributors
Shiromi Arserio
Ray Cavanaugh
KJ Elsdon
Andrew Ferguson
Dorothy Gremillion
Ivan Hansen
James Hare
Tom Langlands
Gerald M
Rosalie MacEachern
Amy MacKenzie
Emily McEwan-Fujita
Stephen Milton
Michael Newton
Pádraig Ó Siadhail
Allen Robertson

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C021322
FSC
www.fsc.org

By its publication Celtic Life International does not endorse the historical accuracy or the editorial stance of materials submitted for publication. We do reserve the right to edit all submitted manuscripts prior to their publication. © Celtic Life International, 2013

Fáilte!

It's that time of year again – when we say goodbye to winter and welcome summer. Winter is a time of promise, patience and practice as we labour to hone our musical skills in hopes of contributing to pleasing summer presentations at concerts, festivals and Highland Games. Now, young and old will begin competing, entertaining and having fun.

This summer, there are two Highland Games that need to be singled out for both their longevity and for the many volunteers who have made their continuity possible. The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit will present its 164th annual Highland Games August 7. The society boasts that these are the oldest continuous Games in North America. The first Games, then known as a Scottish Picnic, were held in 1849. The Detroit Games are run by a team of more than 275 volunteers.

In Nova Scotia, organizers of the Antigonish Highland Games are celebrating their 150th anniversary. The first Games were held in 1863, four years before Canada became a country. The Antigonish spectacle has long been one of Canada's premier Scottish occasions. This year, the event has been named to the American Bus Association's top 100 events on the continent. The 2013 Games will be of particular interest to followers of the Heavy Events as they will include the International Highland Games Federation World Team Championships and the World Caber Toss Championships. Organizers are also inviting 150 pipers and drummers to join in a Pipe Band for performers who played at past Games.

Whether it be Highland Games in Detroit, Antigonish, the Tattoo in Edinburgh or some other occasion around the world, these events are made possible by the generosity of thousands of volunteers. So this summer, pack your bagpipes, dancing slippers or a picnic basket and attend the Games of your choice.

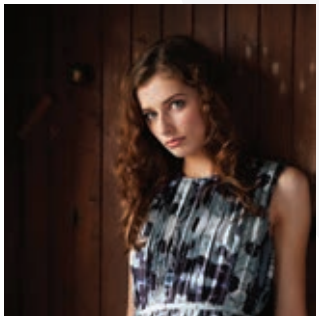
In our last issue we were preparing for Tartan Day, which was celebrated throughout the Celtic world on April 6. In New York, where Tartan Day included a week-long celebration, we had the privilege of meeting Victor Spence of Scotland who was there to promote the World Peace Tartan initiative. Spence, who studied Comparative Religion at the University of Edinburgh, has taken it upon himself to ask world leaders to support his efforts to make the Tartan a symbol of world peace. He has gained the support of many world leaders in religion and politics, including the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, and Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams.

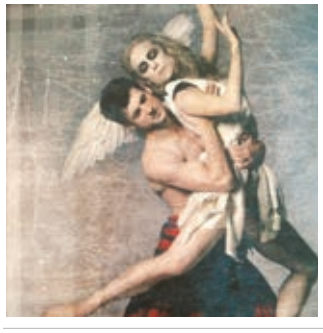
Spence's campaign reflects the Tartan's long, international history. Plaid twills (tartans) have been found at prehistoric digs in Egypt, Austria and Far East Asia. The Celts have been weaving their tartans for more than 3,000 years. The Tartan has proven its universality and longevity, so it is appropriate that the Tartan be promoted as a symbol of peace. It would be wonderful if the Tartan became a thread to help unite peoples of the world as a widely recognized symbol of universal peace.

Enjoy and May God Bless!
Angus M. Macquarrie, Publisher

INSIDE

Volume 27/No. 2 / Summer 2013





Special

41. Gerard Butler
45. Summer Flings

Stories

17. Adventures of a Waterboy
18. Alan Bradley
20. Learning Welsh
23. Griffintown
28. World Peace Tartan
30. Chris Hadfield
32. King Arthur
34. My Big Fat Gaelic Wedding
36. Wildcats

Style

38. Iona Crawford

Standards

9. First Word
11. Up Front
13. Seven Celtic Questions
77. Dram
79. Slainte
81. Cabrini's Kitchen
85. The Piper
87. The Fiddler
89. The Dancer
90. All in the Family
98. Last Word

Our Summer 2013 cover photo is Hungarian model Enji Night. Photograph by Födémesi Csaba

CLICK IT!

CONTEST!

Celtic Life International and Entertainment Cruise Productions want to send you and a friend on a Cruise in the Caribbean with Irish super-group Celtic Thunder this November 2-7! Subscribe to Celtic Life International Magazine (for as little as $10 per year!) to qualify. Visit our website for full details!

SIGN UP & WIN!

We have a treasure trove of great prizes to give away this issue, including an iPad 2, concert tickets, books, CDs, DVDs, and all sorts and styles of super Celtic swag! Simply sign up for our monthly newsletter via our website!

GO REALTIME!

Be sure to follow our live online coverage of several events over the coming months, including the ScotDance Canada Championship Series, the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, the Antigonish Highland Games and more!

GET CONNECTED!

As always, you can enjoy a daily dose of Celtic Life International on our website, where we profile the people, places and things that comprise our vibrant Celtic community! We also have the most complete and comprehensive listings of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals anywhere online!

BE SCENE!

With over 880,000 print and online readers, Celtic Life International Magazine is your gateway to the global Celtic community! Full details on advertising opportunities are available via our website!

DE THA DOL

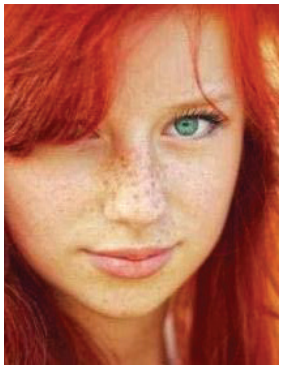
Scotland celebrates osprey chick born to famous older mom

An osprey chick is thriving after being born to Lady of Loch of the Lowes on June 1. Lady has nested at the reserve at Loch of the Lowes in the Perthshire highlands for the last 23 years where she has raised 49 chicks to fledging, including Blue 44 in 2012.

Emma Rawling, a ranger with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said staff and volunteers swung into action with the usual 24-hour nest protection when Lady laid four eggs in late April. On June 1, one chick emerged from the third egg. Staff hope the chick will go on to fledge successfully and be Lady's 50th offspring to do so – "a remarkable milestone achievement for this bird," Rawling said. "We have plans to satellite track this youngster… so we can follow its journeys and fate." *www.swt.org.uk*

Tipperary Festival planned for July 4-14

Last year's Tipperary Festival marked the centenary of the iconic song and attracted thousands of visitors. This year's festival will run from July 4 to July 14. Most activities will be free of charge and will celebrate the farming and historical heritage of the region. The festival will feature churn-racing, a trad music session, a set dancing exhibition, a food fair and a Meet your Great-Grandparents day. *www.tipperarytown.ie*



The Redhead Convention, Co. Cork

A festival of whacky ginger-loving madness for all the family, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society, will take place in Crosshaven, Co. Cork on August 23-25. Highlights will include fire eating, carrot tossing, a DNA seminar, a ginger chefs' cook off, a redhead parade, red hair colouring, photo shoots, certificates for all genuine gingers and discounts throughout Crosshaven village for natural redheads. *www.redheadconvention.com.*

Precious Gift welcomed at Scottish library

Scotland's first lending library, the Library of Innerpeffray in Perthshire, is celebrating over 200 Scottish first editions coming home. Worth around $1 million, the Scottish Collection incorporates work by great Scottish authors, including Robert Burns, David Hume and Samuel Johnson. The donor, Mrs. Janet Burns Saint Germain said she wanted people to enjoy the books. *www.innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk*

Manx Language Cartoons launched

A new tool for young Manx learners is available following the launch of the Manx Gaelic version of Friends and Heroes (Caarjyn as Fenee) cartoon series. First shown on the BBC in 2007 and already available in eleven languages, these fun Biblical stories are set in the first century AD and follow the adventures of two children, Macky and Portia, as they fight for justice across the Roman world. *www.learnmanx.com*

New SMO Visual Artist in Residence

Scottish photographer Alex Boyd is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI's new Visual Artist in Residence. Alex is known for Sonnets, a series of large-format landscapes featuring a lone figure in some of Scotland's most distinctive and remote locations. The Visual Artist joins the Writer, Musician and Gaelic Drama Artist as part of the residency programme at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. *www.smo.uhi.ac.uk*

editor@celticlife.ca

One of a Kind.

L&M
Highland
OUTFITTERS

www.landmhighland.com

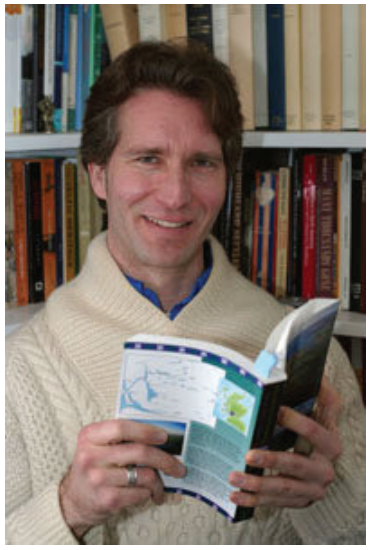
FIRST WORD

The Hidden History of Highland Games

People regularly come together at Highland Games to celebrate popular forms of Scottish culture. Despite claims of their antiquity, however, Highland Games are essentially inventions of the nineteenth century that contrast sharply with the ways in which Highlanders, and people of other parts of Scotland, celebrated their culture and identity in previous eras.

Like all societies, Scottish Gaels – the people of the Highlands – have calendar customs which bring communities together to celebrate. In the past, many of them occurred on a saint's feast day, and involved special foods, music, poetry, dance, and sports such as horse-racing, hunting, swimming, archery, and wrestling.

During the eighteenth century, however, many old traditions were terminated intentionally or as a result of social disruptions and changes in social norms. Old leaders – clan chiefs and tacksmen (land holders) – who survived looked for ways to retain their social status and make a profit through transitions, and recruitment of former clansmen into Highland Regiments proved rewarding. The Highland Games as we know them were devised by these Anglophone élite who wished to imbue Highland culture with the values of the British Empire and emphasize the athletic prowess and military potential of Highland men. The first Highland Games were held in 1818 at St. Fillans, Perthshire.



Whenever new traditions are invented, people feel the need to connect them to the past, even if this involves fabricating origin legends. A story began circulating that Highland Games were instigated by King Maol-Chaluim III (Malcolm Canmore, 1031–1093). He was a real and important king of Scotland with good name recognition, but there is no historical evidence that this was anything other than a romantic fable created by an advocate of the Highland Games to legitimize the new tradition.

Twelfth-century Irish literature describes a large annual "tribal" gathering at Carmun which included horse races, athletic competitions, storytelling, songs, legal proceedings and other activities. Some see this as evidence of the antiquity of Highland Games, citing common cultural connections between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland, but if this were true, why is there nothing like Highland Games in Ireland?

The contrived and orchestrated nature of Highland Games, and their neglect of the most important aspects of Highland culture – indigenous practices of literature, song, and music – has long been obvious to native Highlanders. Caroline MacDonnell commented in 1885: "Various efforts are being made to revive the old Highland Games, but it seems to be either unknown or overlooked that they were the pastime of the people – whereas now, several persons endeavour to gain a livelihood by them, which materially alters their character." Games were not the means of participation in a shared, living heritage, but a spectacle put on by performers and competitors for outsiders thirsty for exoticism.

New events were created, and older practices were selected from certain areas, in order to create dramatic entertainments. The caber toss, for example, was held in the Central Highlands in earlier times, but not in the Northern Highlands or Outer Hebrides, where there are virtually no trees.

The choice of activities demonstrates who was in charge and what their agenda was. Although initially a few Highland Games offered support for authentic forms of Gaelic cultural expression and a variety of physical recreations, the overseers soon narrowed the choice of activities to those that would appeal to a non-native audience who shared their vision of the Highlands as a breeding ground of imperial soldiers. Such contradictions are revealed in a Gaelic text from 1880 written in the form of a dialogue between two native Gaels, one of whom had just attended the Highland Games in Oban. (The term "laird" refers to the landlords in the Highlands who also ran, supervised and judged these spectacles.)

"Did many of them wear the Highland dress?"

"It was worn by most of the competitors and by a few of the gentry. …"

"Will you tell me this: were prizes given at it for Gaelic poetry?"

"There were not."

"I am very sorry for that. It was different in the time of Duncan Bàn Macintyre. …"

"Is it not surprising that the lairds do not encourage our own bards?"

"It is, considering that Gaelic is the language of the people. The lairds are generally intelligent and well-informed men."

"They are, but they are not so zealous about learning as they might be."

The dialogue contains innuendo and requires an explanation: "Highland dress" was not worn by the Highland natives attending the Games but only by competitors and the aristocrats displaying their pomp. Next comes a comment about the contents of the Games. One of the major Gaelic poets of the late 18th century, Duncan Bàn Macintyre, won the Gaelic poetry contests at the first several Falkirk Gatherings – precursors to the Highland Games – and the men lament that there is no patronage for Gaelic poetry as there once was. There is a hint of sarcasm in the compliment to the lairds' intelligence, but criticism of their lack of interest in Gaelic – the native language and culture of the Highlands – is more explicit.

Highland Games can be great fun, and sometimes some learning is imparted along with food and entertainment. Those involved with these events should realize, though, that the Games are not accurate representations of Highland culture or heritage but are by-products of its suppression and assimilation.

By Michael Newton

See What's In Store For You!

Your local Celtic Shop features an incredible array of gifts for all occasions. For birthdays and anniversaries; for christenings and weddings; for all tastes and budgets.

When you want to say more than words ever can, your local Celtic shop speaks your language. Discover the wealth of unique gift options fashioned by artists, designers and crafts-people from the Celtic nations. From exquisite jewelry in traditional and contemporary designs, classic crystal, handcrafted linens, modern ceramics, rich textiles, bold new knitwear, art & wall hangings and unique decorative accessories in pottery, pewter and wood. All fashioned to the highest quality standards. All waiting to be discovered, wrapped and rediscovered.

What do those most precious to you really deserve: a chain store or something truly choice? Speak from the heart and express yourself more exclusively.

When you want to make the thought really count, count on your local Celtic Shop. For a list of NACTA member shops in the USA and Canada, go to *www.celticshopsinamerica.com* or call toll-free **1-866-622-2244**

NORTH AMERICAN CELTIC TRADE ASSOCIATION

UP FRONT

Scotland has a long history of valuing education, hard work and innovation, but the country lacks entrepreneurial spirit and passion, according to Sandy Kennedy, CEO of the Saltire Foundation, a group dedicated to "finding, fueling and sparking" Scotland's next generation of business leaders.

"The entrepreneurial mindset is central to resolving issues in every walk of life," Kennedy told Celtic Life International. "In Scotland, we have a number of social issues to address and entrepreneurism has a central role to play because entrepreneurs have a sense of passion and energy that will create jobs and wealth – that wealth can help to bring Scotland forward."

The Saltire Foundation was inspired by a group of international Scots, mostly resident in the U.S., who felt that modern Scots were failing to capitalize on their potential and their strong legacy of entrepreneurship and innovation. The visionaries included people like Crawford Gillis, Kip Forbes, Don MacLeod, Helen Sayles and Mark Bamforth, some of whom sit on Saltire's Board. The Foundation was established by the Scottish Government in 2007 and became independent in 2011. Appropriately, it takes the Saltire (the St. Andrew's Cross seen on Scotland's national flag) as its emblem.

"For the past 30 years, Scotland has performed less well than would have been expected, both within the U.K. and compared to similar size countries (Scotland's population is about 5.3 million), despite having strong science and education," Kennedy said.

"Saltire's founders concluded that the real reason Scotland was falling behind is that we don't have enough ambitious, globally minded business people. They decided this was due to lack of confidence – the idea that "I canna do that" – and the Tall Poppy Syndrome (the tendency to frown on people who get above their 'station'). The lack of a global perspective is ironic really, given that Scottish business people have done well around the world," Kennedy added, "But it often takes Scots to leave Scotland to realize this. Also, in places like the U.S., selling and marketing are seen as skills or arts, but in Scotland they're seen as dirty."

The Foundation's Undergraduate and Fellowship programs are both sought after. The Undergraduate Program offers some of Scotland's most talented youngsters the opportunity to work with senior level, influential people in the world's leading companies. Applicants don't have to be Scottish, but they must be studying at a Scottish university. Last year, the group received more than 1,000 applicants and interviewed 300 for 100 places.

The Fellowship Program is for applicants who are an early to mid-career entrepreneur or a potential business leader with at least four years' work experience (to date, the youngest has been 26 and the oldest 48). Again, applicants don't have to beScottish but, as the Foundation provides a bursary of up to 80 per cent, Fellows must pledge to work for a Scottish or Scottish-based business for three to five years following graduation. Kennedy said the Foundation aims to build a cohort of different types of people who will learn from each other and contribute to the group.

Saltire also builds partnerships with other organizations and employers around the world. "We are not only investing in individuals, we also find working partners to help build the Scottish ecosystem – for Scotland, the impact could be truly dramatic," Kennedy said.

Kennedy believes that elements of entrepreneurship may be inborn, but he thinks the entrepreneurial mindset – how to spot opportunities and capitalize on them – can be taught. Babson College, near Boston on the U.S. east coast, has a global reputation for nurturing entrepreneurship and plays a central role in the group's work. Saltire has worked with Babson from the start on developing the Fellowship Program and the Fellows go to Babson to learn entrepreneurial leadership from teachers who have themselves run global businesses.

Now in his forties, Kennedy began his own career by training as a lawyer at England's Cambridge University. He then worked in the City of London for a venture capital firm for four years, but he found the work dull. His father and grandfather had run dry cleaning and photo development stores and he found his own mind turning toward business. "In Scotland, if you were bright you were encouraged to be a doctor, an accountant or lawyer… but I'd always been interested in business and the closer I got back to it the more I realized it was what I wanted to do. I think my passion for shaping Scotland's economic future comes from what I heard and learned around my family kitchen table."

The Saltire Foundation has charitable status and that is important, Kennedy said. "We're not in this to corner the market. I'm happy to share what we're doing with others. I want people from around the world to reach out to us. The more people who can benefit from what we've learned and done the better."

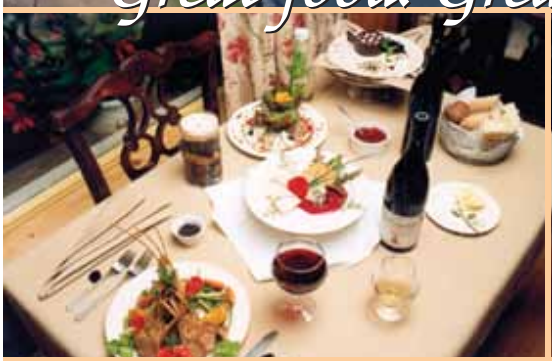
www.saltirefoundation.com

Experience the Glenora Inn & Distillery

glenoradistillery.com

A Cape Breton Destination

Great food. Great music. Great hospitality.



Free Daily Ceilidhs
1–3 pm, 8 –10 pm
July–October

Single Malt Whisky Distillery

Distillery Tours 9 am - 5 pm
Single Cask Bottlings
Tutored Tastings and Seminars (by appointment)
Purchase Your Own Whisky Cask

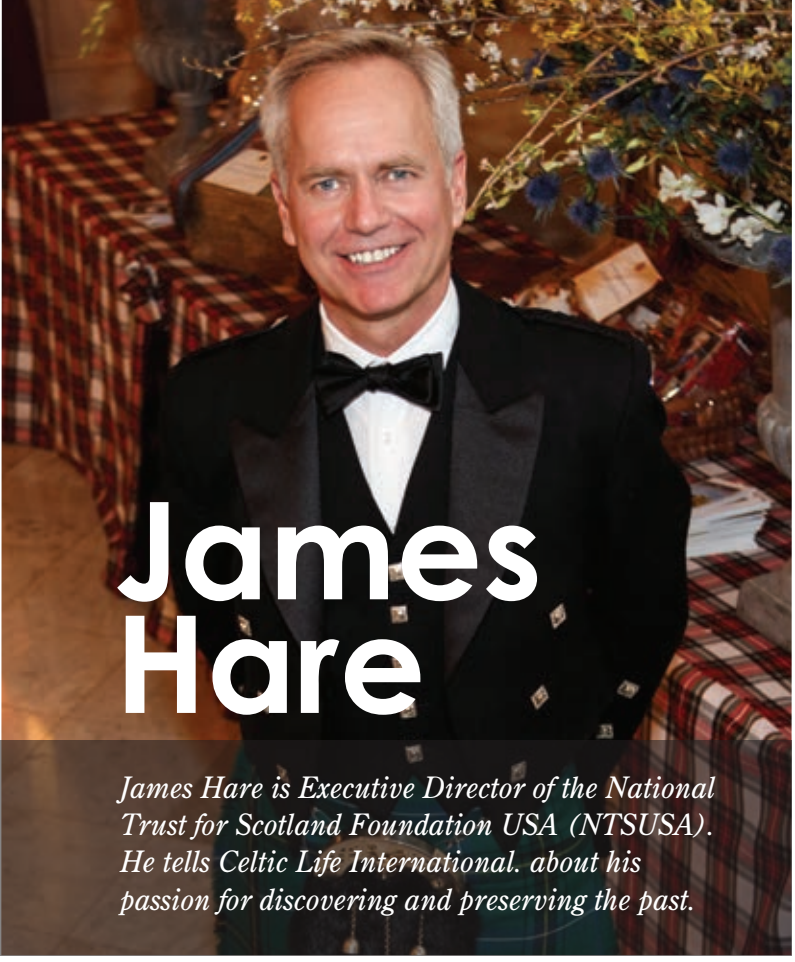
GPS N 46 09.163 W 61 19.425

Inn & Accommodations

- 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Chalets overlooking the panoramic valley below
- 9 Beautifully Appointed Guest Rooms in main complex
- Manicured Gardens & Grounds
- Casual Fine Dining (reservations recommended)
- Pub offering select "Rare" Glenora tastings
- Gift Shop featuring unique Celtic Jewelry, Glassware & Whisky
- Wireless high-speed Internet
- Cabot Links Golf – 10 minutes
- Canada Select ★★★★

North America's First Single Malt Whisky Distillery
Located in Glenville between
Mabou & Inverness
13727 Route 19 on the Ceilidh Trail
Email: info@glenora1.ca
(902) 258-2662 or **1-800-839-0491**
@glenbreton

Rated #1 restaurant on Cape Breton in *Where to Eat in Canada 2011/12/13*.



James Hare

James Hare is Executive Director of the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA). He tells Celtic Life International. about his passion for discovering and preserving the past.

SEVEN CELTIC QUESTIONS

What are your own Celtic roots?
Like many Americans, they're very mixed. In addition to Scots, there is English, French and German DNA in my tree. When I'm asked what I wear under my kilt, my answer is always lederhosen.

Why are those roots important to you?
I am foremost a Coloradan because of my great-grandfather, James Scot Henderson, who was born in Duns, Scotland. As editor of a British monetary journal entitled The Bullionist, he traveled from London to Denver in 1882, presumably to investigate the Colorado gold rush. He then returned to the UK and promptly died leaving my great-grandmother, Elizabeth, another Scot from Portpatrick, with seven children to support. She's the one who really directed my Celtic journey by packing up her five youngest and emigrating to Colorado in 1886 to a cow town on the eastern plains called Lamar. Unfortunately, that's as much of the story as I've been able to piece together. Lamar is still a remote place, but in the 1880s it was the center of a booming international cattle industry. A consortium of Edinburgh bankers, organized as the Prairie Cattle Company, controlled about six million acres of range land in Colorado and northern New Mexico, and I assume that there must have been a connection with their business interests and my great-grandparents that brought that portion of my family to the West.

What does it mean to you to be of Celtic heritage?
Because many of the details of my Celtic origins remain unclear, this heritage means a great deal to me; it provides the historian in me with the greatest treasure of all – a rich and wonderful past to explore. I have a lifetime of entertaining investigation still before me; and not just in Scotland, but in Ireland, most likely, as well.

How are you involved with the American Celtic community?
NTSUSA aims to generate support from Americans to help protect the natural and cultural treasures under the care of the National Trust in Scotland. That task has put me in touch with Scottish organizations across the U.S., and Canada as well, where a sister foundation, the Canadian National Trust for Scotland Foundation, has recently been established. But it's not just about Scotland, as much as I love it. Recently, for example, I was at an event for The Irish Georgian Society, which is working to protect Ireland's architectural heritage. I am also working with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center to help interpret the story of the Scots in the West. Our first annual symposium will be held at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, on August 8-9.

Why is it important to keep Celtic culture alive in the U.S?
A day without tartan is like a day without sunshine, and that is reason enough for me and many others I know, like the great American retailer, Brooks Brothers, who have brought my favorite kilt maker, Kinloch-Anderson, into their New York flagship store on Madison Avenue. But I'd like to focus on another topic near to my heart and to that of the NTSUSA, which is Scottish Roots Music. Our organization has helped incubate a new organization called the Alliance of Scottish Roots Music, which aims to educate Americans and people across the globe about the tremendous influence that music of Celtic origin has had on that of their own lands. The Alliance has a musical ensemble called Atlantic Seaway, which brings brilliant young musicians from both sides of the ocean together to demonstrate just how fundamental Scottish Roots Music is to world musical culture.

In your estimation, are we doing enough to keep Celtic culture alive generally?
We're doing great because we have so much to work with, although there are unexplored possibilities. Thanks to Skyfall (significantly filmed in Glencoe, which is a special property of the National Trust for Scotland) we finally all know that James Bond is a Scot. But if you really want to see how Celtic culture is being celebrated today, go see From Scotland With Love, the astounding New York fashion extravaganza that anchors Tartan Week in New York each spring, or enjoy the holidays with Clan Currie's Pipes of Christmas concert in Manhattan, or Brian O'Donovan's Celtic Christmas concert series in New England. If you are in NYC right now, don't miss Alan Cumming in Macbeth.

What can we be doing better?
Here's an idea...wear your kilt to work. You'll be the most popular person around the water cooler and you'll remind the world that the Scots (and some Irish, too) are the most brilliant business leaders.

www.ntsusa.org

CELTIC THUNDER CRUISE

EACH GUEST TO HAVE THEIR PHOTO WITH THE CAST AND THEIR AUTOGRAPHS

NOVEMBER 2-7
2013

MIAMI
OCHO RIOS
GRAND CAYMAN

CARNIVAL'S VICTORY

SAIL WITH CELTIC THUNDER!

FEATURING
CELTIC THUNDER SHOWS

Keith Harkin - Solo Gig
Ryan Kelly & Neil Byrne - Acoustic by Candlelight
George Donaldson - Folk Favourites
Emmet Cahill & Colm Keegan with guest Rebecca Harkin
Deirdre Shannon
Sandra O'Hara
The Celtic Thunder Band - Traditional Music
Goitse - Traditional Irish Band
Gaelic Rhythm - Dance Show

ENTERTAINMENT CRUISE PRODUCTIONS

TOLL-FREE US
855.5.CELTIC
855.5.235842

WWW.CELTICTHUNDERCRUISE.COM

Gaelic College *75th* Anniversary

When the pipes and fiddles echo over St. Ann's Bay on Cape Breton Island this July they will mark three-quarters of a century since farmers and lumberjacks hoisted the first logs to establish Colaside Na Gaidhlig. Rosalie MacEachern takes a look at Nova Scotia's famed Gaelic College.

Located on a jutting peninsula and accessible via the lovely Cabot Trail that hugs the eastern and western shores of the Cape Breton Highlands, the Gaelic College attracts students from across North America. The pupils come eager to learn the Gaelic once spoken in many of the farmyards and kitchens of eastern Nova Scotia. The language was passed down by the thousands who left the western highlands of Scotland for the New World. When students arrive at the college, some know remnants of the language gleaned from songs or common expressions. Others bring vocabulary and phrases acquired in community classes, universities or on-line courses, while some of the youngest students have learned their Gaelic, a word or two at a time, in Nova Scotia classrooms.

Former Nova Scotia premier Rodney MacDonald, who joined the college as chief executive officer 18 months ago, said the Gaelic College is a centre of excellence for the teaching of Gaelic and the only institution of its kind in North America.

"We've organized a week-long festival to celebrate 75 years of operation," he said. "We'll be showcasing the language but also the music and traditional crafts of the college. We've not forgotten our roots and we're calling people everywhere to come home."

Language training is only part of what the college offers and the music of the Cape Breton Highlands is never far away. There are programs in piping, small pipes, whistle, harp, guitar and fiddle as well as in Gaelic song, step dancing, highland dancing, drama and story-telling. Music can be heard emanating from classrooms and at outdoor evening jam sessions and after-hours parties.

Traditional weaving is also taught and products are sold in the campus craft shop where visitors can search through a wide selection of clan tartans and perhaps purchase a kilt.

Alex Morrison, a retired military officer who chairs the college board of governors, said MacDonald's appointment has sparked a period of renewal on the 80-acre property.

"We're getting back into the world, modernizing our residences, sprucing up our facilities and enhancing our landscaping," he said. "We're extending the invitation to anyone who wants to experience the language, the music, the culture, to come visit us and stay awhile."

Anna C. MacDonald, the college's marketing director, is emblematic of a new directive that all staff must speak some Gaelic.

"I studied Gaelic in university for three years so I had a base to build on and I'm continuing to learn on the job," she said.

The college had its rudimentary beginnings in a log cabin in 1938, its construction overseen by the Rev. A.W. R. MacKenzie, a Presbyterian minister who left his home on the Isle of Skye to seek his fortune in North America. When he arrived in rural Cape Breton he was captivated by the story of another Presbyterian minister who had settled on the site of the college eighty years earlier. Three decades after establishing a community on the peninsula, the zealous and autocratic Rev. Norman MacLeod led his people, beset by crop failure and hunger, to better prospects in New Zealand.

MacKenzie, who had no Gaelic himself, built the college in hopes of anchoring the language against the growing threats of economic hardship, out-migration, an English-only education system and the widespread perception that Gaelic was a language equated with poverty and backwardness. His own passion for the college inspired the people of the area, who had little in the way of money, to volunteer their time and labour.

"He managed to evoke a latent pride in the Scottish descendants of the area and it is a pride in our college that continues to this day," said Morrison.

Some of Cape Breton's finest musicians, including singer Jimmy Rankin, fiddler Ashley MacIsaac and fiddler and pianist Wendy MacIsaac will be on hand for the June 30 to July 6 anniversary celebrations, as will Gaelic singer Mary Jane Lamond, fiddlers Kinnon and Andrea Beaton and the Celtic fusion band Sprag Session.

CEO MacDonald said the enthusiasm for the celebration has already convinced him that from now on a concert will be held to mark the start of each summer.

"We'll do it all again next year," he said. "We're open year-round with immersion and instruction programs but summer is our peak season for visitors. Our concerts will kick off the summer and Celtic Colours (an international music festival held in Cape Breton each October) will be the other bookend."

www.gaeliccollege.edu

Barrule

Loving the music of their island home and wanting the world to love it too is what motivates the three members of Barrule, the Isle of Man's new trad power group. Having just launched their self-titled debut album, the young musicians are now spreading the love and touring the U.K. and Europe.

Appropriately, Manx Gaelic has pride of place on Barrule, the album, which offers diverse material, from rousing marches, jigs and reels to slow airs and ballads.

"We recorded music solely from the Isle of Man, traditional and original, so the overall theme would be Manx," bouzouki player Adam Rhodes told Celtic Life Intl. "The first track, Mylecharaine's March, is the tune on which the Manx national anthem is based and, throughout the rest of the album, we search for Manannan, the ancient God of Mann, and tell stories of the hardships the Manx people were embroiled in – from sailing the sea in the song She Lhong Honnick Mee (A Ship I Saw Sailing) to working the land in Ny Kirree fo Niaghtey (Sheep Under the Snow)."

Rhodes said that all three band members are united in their love of Manx traditional music.

"Music fulfills the soul, and the feeling of bringing joy to an audience is second to none…"

"Even though it's similar to the music of its closest Celtic relatives, Scotland and Ireland, Manx music has hardly been heard outside the Isle of Man. On the island, the individual musicians' styles are quite varied. There aren't any specific teaching styles like you often find in Ireland's Comhaltas and Scotland's feis movements, so the individual players tend to develop their own styles. We all feel strongly that Manx music deserves to stand shoulder to shoulder with its more famous cousins," he added.

Rhodes' fellow band members include accordion wizard Jamie Smith, who was born and raised in South Wales, and 19-year-old Manx fiddle player, Tomas Callister, who is also a soloist and a player with Manx group, The Reeling Stones. Rhodes was born in England, but moved to the Isle of Man at age eight. Rhodes and Smith both play with the Celtic group Mabon and Rhodes also plays with Manx band King Chiaullee.

The three first got together as a group for a festival concert in 2011, although they had played together in various capacities before that. When they decided to form a band, it seemed apt to name themselves Barrule, after a famous Manx mountain.

Rhodes said all three musicians come from families rooted in traditional music. "It's a huge part of our heritage and culture. The more we play as a trio, and with our other projects and with other musicians, we all grow as musicians. You never stop learning."

Recording the new work was an unusually relaxed process, Rhodes said. "Our album was recorded in a bright, spacious studio surrounded by trees on the outskirts of a beautiful Welsh town. We took our time trying to perfect the sound of each instrument, while at the same time making a conscious effort to keep the feel of the music true. We recorded much of the album live to preserve the genuine interactions between us."

It sounds fun, but he does not find being a musician an easy job. "It's erratic, frustrating and hard work, but incredibly rewarding. Music fulfills the soul, and the feeling of bringing joy to an audience is second to none. We're also very lucky that through our profession we get to travel the world, seeing many places and meeting people we would be unlikely to otherwise encounter."

Rhodes believes that those who love Celtic culture should do more for it. "Despite some brilliant ideas and schemes throughout the Celtic world, more must be done to preserve and nurture our music, language and tradition. It is this generation's responsibility to protect what we have left and keep our historical individual cultural identity. We can't grow without our roots. We should teach more music, speak our own language and be proud of our heritage."

No one could accuse Barrule of being slackers in this regard. Over the coming months, the trio will be introducing many audiences to Manx music. Big events in their calendar include the Mull of Kintyre Festival in Scotland, the Fylde Folk Festival in England and the Scottish Weekend and Zilleghem Folk Festivals in Belgium.

www.barruletrio.com

Adventures of a Waterboy

For Mike Scott, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

"Yeah, pretty much," laughed the longtime musician over the phone from his home in Dublin. "I still write music for the same reasons that I started doing it as a young man; I've got to get it out of my head."

Born and raised in Edinburgh, Scott left home after university to follow his rock 'n' roll muse to London, where he performed with various bands and eventually formed The Waterboys in 1983.

The group released their self-titled debut recording that year. The follow-up, A Pagan Place, came in 1984, with a third recording, This Is the Sea, issued in 1985.

"Those were "The Big Music" years," he chuckled, referencing one of several singles from the band's sophomore release. "Everything was larger-than-life; the songs, the melodies, the words, the videos, the concerts. There was very little subtlety in what we were doing."

Amidst an explosion of new Irish music – the massive success of U2, Sinead O'Conner, Clannad and Elvis Costello put the Emerald Isle squarely under the global spotlight – Scott relocated to Dublin in 1986, where the conservative Irish environs seeped into his creative skin.

"In Ireland, particularly during my years on the west coast, I found myself immersed in classic Celtic culture, inspired as much by the unspoiled surroundings as I was by the music I heard and the musicians I was playing with. I was also exploring folk, roots, country and gospel music at that time."

Drawing on those influences, and with the support of his nine-piece "raggle-taggle band", Scott released the Celtic-heavy Fisherman's Blues (1988) and Room to Roam (1990).

"It was in this period that I became a songwriter," he recalled. "I studied the structure of traditional tunes; instrumentation, arrangements, the give and take of melody and harmony, and I learned how to bring words and music together in such a way that each element could complement one another, without stepping on each other's toes."

That growth in craftsmanship would continue over the next two decades with a series of recordings, both with the band and as a solo artist.

"Stylistically, I have been all over the map," acknowledged Scott, noting the impact that both personal and personnel changes have had upon his music during that time.

"The thing is," he added, "I can dress up a melody any way I wish, but, at the core, the piece has to be rooted in a firm foundation; so long as the fundamental skeleton of a song is solid, then it can be draped with any shade of skin."

The creative process, he confided, is not without its challenges.

"It's part inspiration and part hard work. Sometimes it all just comes; the music plays in my head, or the words appear out of thin air, and I go with it - simple. More often, however, it takes me some time to bring these things together into some sort of cohesive whole."

The approach was similar with Adventures of a Waterboy, his 2012 biographical retrospective.

"Writing a book was much more challenging than I expected it to be," he explained. "I was very focused and disciplined during the process, often rising early in the mornings to work for as many hours uninterrupted as possible. The editing and rewriting was a struggle at times, but the exercise was invaluable."

The tome is also a testament to Scott's lifelong love of literature, something that he explored musically with the 2011 recording An Appointment with Mr. Yeats.

"Poetry, in particular, is appealing to me as it attempts, much like a good song, to condense an idea or emotion or experience into a small space. To express more with less is far more challenging that it might seem, and thus it is the true hallmark of artistry."

His literary endeavour gave him a chance to look back at his own musical accomplishments as well.

"I'm not really one for sentiment," he confessed. "But I am proud of the work that I have done, and writing the book has inspired me to keep going forward doing what I love and loving what I do.

"And it also reminded me of why I keep doing it; because there's still music in my head that needs to get out."

www.mikescottwaterboys.com

AlanBradley

Canadian author Alan Bradley, creator of the best-selling Flavia de Luce series, is enjoying life on the Isle of Man. Here, he shares his thoughts on the island and his feelings about the popularity of Flavia, his eccentric 11-year-old sleuth, who will soon be brought to TV screens by director Sam Mendes.

It's said that from the top of Snaefell, the highest mountain on the Isle of Man, one can see the seven kingdoms: Man; Ireland; Scotland; England; Wales; the Sea and Heaven. Many ride the Snaefell Mountain Railway to take in the view that Alan Bradley has often enjoyed during his six months on the island, where he lives with his wife Shirley.

"Historically, this island was beyond the bounds of the Roman Empire," Bradley told Celtic Life International, "so that the antiquities are Druidic and Viking. The Celtic influence is strong, and there are still many Celtic crosses to be seen in the ancient churchyards. The music, too, betrays its origins, as does the lilting rhythm of Manx speech."

Bradley said the Isle of Man is known for its artists, its kippers, its queenies (Queen Scallops), and the TT motorcycle races, "and to that I might add its beauty, which, to the eye, is a wonderful blend of the other six kingdoms," he said.

"In many ways, certain aspects of the landscape, and in certain lights, remind me of my ancestral home territory east and somewhat north of Cobourg in Ontario, so it's a very comforting place to live. There has always been a powerful literary tide here, and it's wonderful to be invigorated by an atmosphere in which the Arts are so well respected and flourishing."

Life is generally invigorating for Bradley, whose literary career is blossoming at a time of life when many are relaxing into retirement. Since 2007, when his initial Flavia story won the esteemed Debut Dagger Award, the author has written five Flavia de Luce mysteries and the sixth, The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches, will be published in early 2014.

The writer was 69 when he won the Debut Dagger. Until then, his short stories and various other kinds of writing had been well received, but Flavia's global popularity has brought success on a different level.

"I now realize, much to my surprise, that I am what my mother would have called 'a slow starter,'" Bradley said. "Although I began writing my first novel when I was a boy, I wish I'd started publishing sooner."

Critics praise the Flavia books for their wit, clever plots and detailed representation of life in 1950s England, but the main appeal lies in the character of Flavia herself, whose individualistic voice dominates the novels. A gifted and eccentric girl with a passion for chemistry, Flavia lives in a decaying country house with her father and two older sisters.

"Flavia is just your ordinary precocious 11-year-old girl with a passion for poisons. Oh, yes, and she has violet eyes," Bradley said. Her age is important. "An 11-year-old is on the cusp: neither girl nor woman; man nor boy. It is a magical age, when, given the gift of wonder, anything - anything! - is possible."

Bradley's adept handling of Flavia's passion for science suggests the author may be a retired scientist, but in fact he worked as a television engineer in Canada before retiring in 1994 to focus on writing.

"Researching the chemistry for the Flavia books is hugely enjoyable, since I don't know anything whatsoever about the subject," he said. "Throughout history, that particular science seems to have been blessed with an unusual number of quirky adherents, and it's always a treat to happen upon them unexpectedly in the dry, dusty pages of an antique textbook.

"As someone who has always admired eccentrics - I still remember the thrill of discovering John Stuart Mill when I was in high school, who said: 'The amount of eccentricity in a society has generally been proportional to the amount of genius, mental vigour and moral courage which it contained. That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of the time.' I couldn't agree more."

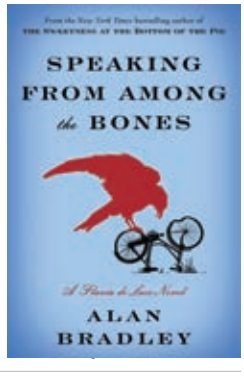
Bradley is thrilled that Sam Mendes, award-winning director of American Beauty and the Bond movie Skyfall, will be adapting his books for TV. "Sam Mendes has the perfect vision of Flavia and her world," Bradley said. "I think it's highly likely that the Flavia de Luce series will be seen internationally."

Bradley intends to write at least four more Flavia books, but "Who knows?" he added, "An author might be swayed by having such devoted readers."

Speaking from Among the Bones

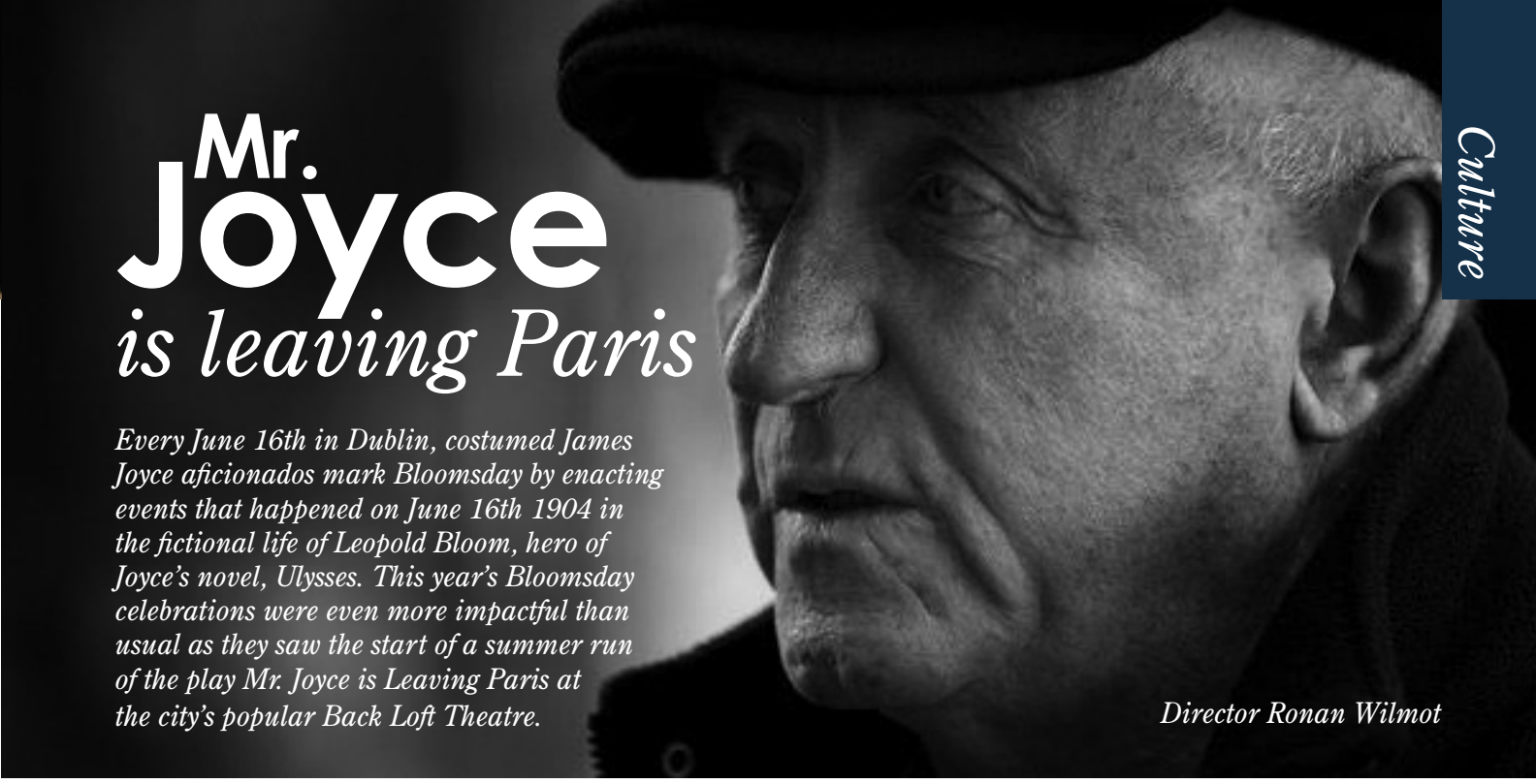
In the fifth book in his Flavia de Luce series, Bradley offers readers another colourful adventure in the company of his brilliant creation, 11-year-old super sleuth Flavia de Luce. In this book, the ever-curious child comes face to face with a dead body and crawls through putrid graves. Bradley develops his character's passion for chemistry, revealing that nose oil is useful for picking locks! And he explores Flavia's maturing emotional and moral consciousness, concluding with a final sentence that leaves readers eagerly awaiting the next book.

www.flaviadeluce.com



Mr. Joyce *is leaving Paris*

Every June 16th in Dublin, costumed James Joyce aficionados mark Bloomsday by enacting events that happened on June 16th 1904 in the fictional life of Leopold Bloom, hero of Joyce's novel, Ulysses. This year's Bloomsday celebrations were even more impactful than usual as they saw the start of a summer run of the play Mr. Joyce is Leaving Paris at the city's popular Back Loft Theatre.



Director Ronan Wilmot

The work of James Joyce, one of the most influential writers of the 20th century, is admired around the world, although the writer's memory is particularly dear to natives of the city where he was born in 1882. This summer's production of Mr. Joyce is Leaving Paris runs until the end of August, allowing Dubliners to learn about and pay homage to one of their city's greatest sons.

Written by Tom Gallacher, the play begins in 1909 and sees Joyce living in poverty in Trieste with Nora Barnacle and their children. The second act is set in the Paris of 1939 when the Germans are advancing on the city and Joyce is about to leave for Zurich. Aging and nearly blind, Joyce is confronted by ghosts of past friends who have inspired novels such as Ulysses, Finnegan's Wake, and The Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man.

The play's director Ronan Wilmot, who has previously staged the piece in London and Berlin, said Joyce lived most of his adult life in Europe, but set his famous, ground-breaking novels in his hometown – a fact that is intriguing and important to understanding the man and his work.

"Dublin was a huge inspiration to Joyce," Wilmot said. "The play is a tribute from the city to the man who devoted his life's work to it. To present a truly fascinating play about the man himself, his personal experience and reflection is a major highlight of this summer. It is extraordinary that Joyce lived abroad all his writing life – in Trieste, Paris, and Zurich – yet he did not write one word about anywhere other than his native city of Dublin."

Wilmot is pleased that the play will be presented by the Dublin Theatre Company at the Back Loft Theatre on the city's Augustine Street. The bohemian venue is located in a restored Victorian factory and exhibitions and theatrical events are often held in its large warehouse-style open space. Wilmot said this will be the first classical theatre programme the venue has staged that will run for a lengthy period.

"The Back Loft is a venue with a magnificent creative spirit and authenticity that cannot be simulated but springs from its own history," Wilmot said. "It is situated right in the middle of the city in the well-known Liberties, which is also the home of Ireland's National College of Art & Design and the famous Guinness Storehouse & Factory."

Despite having worked on the play before, Wilmot remains excited about Joyce, the play and this opportunity. "Joyce's writings are accessible and yet revolutionary – like pieces of music," he said. "James Joyce is an extraordinary concept – born of an itinerant drunken father who moved his family 14 times, raised in poverty and yet he excelled unarguably in his art.

"When Joyce was 18 years of age he corresponded with (the playwright) Henrik Ibsen, sharing with him that he had told W. B. Yeats that 'he (Yeats) was finished and it was my (Joyce's) time now'. Joyce had failing eye-sight and yet he wrote the greatest novel of the 20th Century, Ulysses, displaying a truly admirable determination and skill."

As the annual throngs of Bloomsday revellers demonstrate, Joyce remains important to the city where he was born and where he set his work. The writer has been quoted as saying that he placed his characters in his home town because getting to the heart of Dublin allowed him to get to the heart of all the world's cities. "In the particular is contained the universal," he said — a sentiment this year's theatre goers may well appreciate.

www.thebackloft.blogspot.com

Tongue *in* Cheek

Having studied French and German, Dorothy Gremillion felt she had a knack for languages. An Episcopal priest, the Texas resident is tackling Welsh in retirement and is finding it the most difficult academic endeavor she's ever undertaken. But since she's part Welsh and feels profoundly at home in Wales, Dorothy is persisting. Here, she describes her experience with the language.

The Welsh language creates an event in my life. It changes me bit by bit, rearranges my way of knowing, satisfies my sense of humor, and fulfills the longing of my heart.

So why can't I speak it or write it? How can I be at home in those sounds while my eyes glaze over with non-understanding? Recently, I took an immersion language course at the University of Wales. With forty hours of classroom time every week for two months, you'd think I'd be a fluent speaker. Yet speaking and writing elude me.

Sometimes I think Welsh is alive, with a personality as impish as I imagine the dragon of Wales to be. It's as though the beast picks me up and wrestles with me. Just when I want to understand, I have no comprehension, even though I'm aware that's the vocabulary I mulled over at breakfast. In the next moment, I'm surprised at knowing something I didn't know I knew and am sure I hadn't studied.

The dragon must have caused Welsh to grow inside my brain when I wasn't looking!

Difficulties include the fact that stating possession places pronouns before and after the modified noun. And 'mutation' changes the first letter of a word to another letter according to certain rules. For example, the Welsh word for 'father' is 'tad'. If I want to say "your father," I translate "eich tad chi," which literally means "your father you". Strange, but fair enough, 'tad' is still 'tad'. But, "his father" becomes "ei dad e;" "her father" becomes "ei thad hi;" and "my father" becomes "fy nhad."

The dragon chuckles over my shoulder.

The word order seems illogical to me. I've yearned for a grammar book that would give a literal translation in English of each Welsh sentence, so I could construct another sentence on my own. One day I came across a text that does just that. It didn't help. Take the sentence "Mary is tired of running." The Welsh equivalent, "Mae Mair yn blino ar redeg," translates literally back into English as "Is Mary in tire on run."

The dragon breathes a cloud of smoke, making my head spin in a mental fog, as I wonder how I will ever grasp the language.

The appearance of written Welsh stupefies the uninitiated with a seeming preponderance of too many consonants. Strings of consonants appear that don't go together to the English-trained eye.

Consider,Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysyliogogogoch." It means "the Church of Mary in the hollow of the white hazel near the fierce whirlpool and the Church of Tysilio by the red cave."

The dragon and I squeal with delight!

Hearing the sounds of the language would also make you swear there are too many vowels. There are seven vowels in Welsh, one of which is 'w', which sounds like 'ooh' in English. The word 'pwll' suddenly becomes pronounceable. Well, almost... First you must know how to utter the 'll' sound. Place your tongue behind your upper teeth as in saying the letter 'l'. Now hiss with your tongue in that position. You just made a lateral lisp, a sound sort of like English 'sl' but not exactly. After I've made several lateral lisps reading Welsh, I find it difficult to place my tongue in the correct part of my mouth to pronounce English 'sl.'

The dragon laughs as my native tongue stumbles, and I wonder if I'll need speech therapy to speak English again.

My comprehension of Welsh is improving, though. I recently visited some Welsh-speaking friends. As I listened, I gasped, "I understand what you're saying!"

They answered, "Wrth gwrs," ("Of course.") Then one night I dreamed in Welsh! While asleep, I 'heard' a sentence that I hadn't studied. To my amazement, word order, verb tense, and mutations were correct. Wide-eyed, I thought, Welsh has burrowed its way into my subconscious!

No matter how difficult the language, my heart sings with happiness as the time comes around again to study Welsh.

The dragon smiles and blinks his eyes as I pick up my books for another session. He knows I love it.

www.museofthehills.com

WELSH *Comedy* CIRCUIT

Welsh Comedians are gaining a higher profile. KJ Elsdon reveals who to watch for.

For several decades, Max Boyce bestrode the world of Welsh comedy like an impish colossus. Ask an English person to name a Welsh comedian and chances are they would mention Boyce, whose tales of drunken rugby fans and misbehaviour on the terraces of Cardiff Arms Park, the revered temple to Welsh sporting achievement, miraculously managed to strike a chord with English rugby fans, while gaining massive appeal in Wales.

For years, Boyce simply was the Welsh comedy scene, but in the past decade there has been a renaissance, with more Taffy accents than ever hitting the stand-up circuit.

Rhod Gilbert is certainly one of Britain's hottest comedic properties, but his delivery is distinctly Welsh. His spittle-flecked rants on subjects as diverse as the inappropriateness of digital toothbrushes as Christmas gifts and the absurdity of packaging baking potatoes in pairs bring to mind the hellfire and brimstone sermons of some maddened 18th century Baptist preacher.

While Gilbert can reasonably be considered the current king of Welsh stand-up, he is by no means the only contender. Rob Brydon, although perhaps better known for his work on the award-winning Anglo-Welsh sit-com Gavin & Stacey, has also gained a reputation for his comedy routines; his eponymous TV talk show also gives him the opportunity to deliver some one-liners with the panache of a Celtic Jay Leno.

Chris ("Korkey") Corcoran is regarded as a national treasure due to his humorous voice-overs that can enliven the most unpromising documentary and his regular appearances on his friend, Rhod Gilbert's Saturday morning radio programme. Despite his media commitments, Korkey retains a formidable reputation as a strong stand-up performer; along with Elis James (another up-and-coming comedian) he regularly performs as Mr. Chairman in his free-form comedy show, Chris Corcoran's Committee Meeting.

Realizing the extent of the country's growing comedy talent pool, Wales' national newspaper, The Western Mail, this year featured a roster of 25 comedians who are most likely to succeed in 2013. Occupying first place was Matt Rees, whose disgruntled approach to life and irascible delivery has gained him a loyal following. Even more strikingly, Rees' success has led him to move from Wales to London. Are the streets of London really paved with gold, or is it possible for an aspiring stand-up star to flourish in Wales?

Ammanford-born Phil Evans knows a thing or two about being a hard-working Welsh comedian. An old Chinese saying emphasizes the necessity of eating cold porridge, which means that a certain amount of hard work and dedication is essential to achieving real success. Evans has consumed bowlfuls of the stuff.

"When I started off many years back, some of the workingmen's clubs were hard and unforgiving. Tough nights build character and enforce the fact that tools and practise are so important in order to stand any chance of winning over the odd hostile crowd," he said.

These days, comedians can market themselves far more effectively via the internet and Evans has seized this opportunity with both hands, creating a new fan base via Facebook. His website, which allows him a platform to offer visitors a taste of his humour and central cwtsh (Welsh for cuddle) theme, stresses that his act is multi-generational.

Above all, Evans said, Wales is enjoying something of a renaissance. "Comedy in Wales is a booming industry, both in Welsh and English. There is a comedy night somewhere most nights. It has been discovered that it does well in a wedding reception, mainly because a comedian is cheaper than a band, but maybe also because we all need a good laugh during challenging times," he deadpanned.

His belief in humour's ability to travel was tested quite literally in 2012 when Evans, along with fellow Welsh comics, Daniel Glyn and Gary Slaymaker, was invited to take his The Dragon Has Three Tongues show to Toronto. It went down a storm, proving his assertion that funny is always funny, wherever in the world it might find itself, although some preliminary research is necessary: "Being able to adapt is so important in any line of live entertainment. We should never take an audience for granted and must do some homework on the country, venue and audience. If you fail to prep well you are only fooling yourself. "

While a small elite of comedians bathe in the glow of success that comes with the UK-wide exposure delivered by prime time TV appearances, many stand-ups still labour happily at the coalface; it might not be easy, but it can be massively rewarding, although it perhaps takes a fellow survivor of the stand-up trenches to appreciate its discipline.

Phil Evans might be a professional comedian, but he is also a fan: "For me, anybody who stands before a room full of strangers with only a microphone and wins them over is a true hero."

Hugh, the Soldier Munro

Genealogist Allen Robertson helps many Canadians unearth their family trees. Here, he reveals the complex trail that led to an impressive citizen and pioneer.

Standing in the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Pictou, Nova Scotia, on Canada's east coast, is a sandstone monument with elegantly carved script that reads: *In memory of Hugh Munro who parted this life on the 17th October, 1836 aged 68 years. He was a native of Croy – Nairn Shire Scotland a kind husband and a dutiful parent.*

Recently, Hugh's descendants set out to uncover their progenitor's past. Research revealed that his sons included William and Alexander, the latter a shipwright. Grandsons included sailmakers, master mariners and sailors. One grandson, Hugh the Sailmaker Munro, went on to own vessels and become Harbour Master of Pictou.

The first clue to Hugh the elder's life was found in the 1867 provincial death certificate of his son, Alexander Munro. Curiously, it gave the birthplace not as Scotland but rather Dublin, Ireland, in 1805 (a date that should have been ca. 1802). His parents were listed as Hugh – a soldier – and Margaret Munro. Alexander's Laurel Hill tombstone repeats the same information. This record meant that the family arrived in Nova Scotia no earlier than the year of Alexander's birth. In the Nova Scotia Archives are two petitions, dated 1818 and 1826 respectively, by Hugh Munro. He described himself as, *a native of Crowey (sic) County of Nairn Scotland, and recently emigrated to East River of Pictou (the 1826 petition gave the year 1817) and, served five years in the Highland Regiment of Fencibles* – later corrected to seven years.

The original 1818 petition went on to state that he had *served his majesty in the Duke of York Highland Regt. of fencibles seven years & _- months – has a wife and 5 sons the oldest aged 21 years the second aged 19 years is married your Petitioner emigrated to this province last autumn.*

The fencible regiments were created in response to the French Revolution and the later rise of Napoleon. Many of these were required to serve in Ireland before and during the 1798 Rebellion. The fencible unit Munro served with was at first called the Loyal Inverness Fencible Highlanders, a kilted regiment, which was stationed at various places in Ireland. It was renamed in 1801 as the Duke of York Royal Inverness-shire Highlanders for offering to serve elsewhere as needed, then disbanded in August 1802 at Stirling.

Hugh the Soldier Munro has been traced to the parish of Croy and Dalcross. He and his wife Margaret McIntosh had their first children baptized at Cawdor in Nairnshire, including William White Munro. Their son Alexander, as noted, was born during the Irish sojourn, at a time when families travelled with the soldiers' regiments. At some point after 1802, Hugh Munro moved his family to South Leith at Edinburgh. It is assumed that here William was apprenticed to learn the sailmaker's trade while Alexander became a woodwright. Sons James and John Hodson were baptized in the parish church there.

Leith, an important fishing port, was beginning to participate in the trans-Atlantic trade, including the transportation of emigrants to British North America. The work of author Lucille M. Campey, advertisements in the Edinburgh Advertiser, and Hugh the Soldier Munro's petitions indicated that the decision to emigrate was taken in 1817 by way of passage on the ship Scotia, described in the Advertiser of July 1 as "a fine, copper-fastened vessel of 400 Tons burden ready to take on goods and passengers for sailing on the 12 July…" One next hears of the Scotia arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on September 8 with 120 passengers.

Hugh the Soldier Munro arrived at Black Rock, Upper Settlement of East River and up-river from where the community of New Glasgow was destined to become an important ship building centre. Across Pictou Harbour, lay the bustling trading town of Pictou where there was constant shipping traffic and ship building. Hugh's sons William and Alexander were listed in the 1838 Census at Pictou, and Hugh followed them when he retired from his pioneer farm.

Hugh was a determined settler. He brought under cultivation 20 acres, built a house and barn, all within eight years. He survived the vagaries of army life, the bold adventure of an Atlantic crossing and set his family on the way to becoming stalwart Pictou citizens. This "kind husband and dutiful parent" can be remembered in words from Alexander's own tombstone that speak of another crossing: *A few short years of evil past we reach the happy shore where death divided friends at last shall meet to part no more.*

Montreal Documentarian Records City's Social History

Montreal filmmaker Scott MacLeod has always been interested in the idea of self-enquiry and family heritage. "Where are you from? What are your roots? Why did your people come here?" MacLeod asks. "All of these big questions interest me."

As a first-generation Montrealer with family roots in Cape Breton on Canada's east coast, MacLeod considers his natural curiosity an inheritance from his grandfather. "He was a historian from Cape Breton and he was very interested in Scottish history in Canada because our ancestors came from the Hebrides Islands in Scotland."

MacLeod's done extensive work with both Scottish and Irish communities in Montreal, including a film called The Great Hunger about Irish immigrants arriving in Quebec at Grosse Isle, a quarantine station in the St. Lawrence River, during Ireland's Great Famine.

MacLeod also made a documentary film about a woman who lived in Berlin during the Cold War. The film features seven vignettes with stories elicited through photographs the woman holds to camera. "The photographs trigger a memory of the area, building or event that happened near where she's standing. That's a technique that I use to drum up people's life history. I use it as an entry point."

While doing a master's degree in Art Education at Montreal's Concordia University, MacLeod completed another life history documentary called Dans L'Grif or In Griffintown. In this film, he interviewed the Mercier family living in Griffintown, a post-industrial neighbourhood in south-west Montreal that is now experiencing a real estate boom.

The area was populated mainly by Irish immigrants and their descendants from the 1820s, but the community emigrated and moved on to other Montreal neighbourhoods, like Verdun, Notre-Dame-de-Grace and La Salle, after World War II.

"I tried to focus on the French Canadian community that moved into the area from rural Quebec after the Depression and World War II because not much had been written or documented about it," said MacLeod. "At that time, Griffintown was an industrial hub. There were all kinds of factories along the Lachine Canal, like tanneries, metalwork and machine shops, sugar and flour refineries – all kinds of things. Some of that remains."

The family-oriented neighbourhood that the Merciers knew when they were young had schools and churches. Most people lived in two- or three-storey apartment buildings. It was the kind of community where children played in the street, doors were left open and women watched each other's kids. Griffintown had a strong sense of community.

But over the years, the neighourhood became run-down as more and more people left. By the 1970s, it was largely abandoned save for the odd carwash or other light industrial facility.

Now, after years of being away, the Merciers have returned to live in Griffintown. "From the living room window on the 21st floor of their condominium building, you can still see the Five Roses Flour Refinery in the background behind the cranes," said MacLeod. "But with underground parking and rooftop pools, there's no street life anymore. It's a real contrast to what they remember."

As the new neighbourhood lacks community infrastructure like schools and green spaces, there has been much debate in the city over its long-term viability.

"I landed on a thesis topic that's being contested and talked about today," said MacLeod. "I was very lucky."

Although MacLeod had no scholarship money for this project, he used Indiegogo to raise funds online. With the $8,000 he received, Concordia put the film together.

MacLeod did receive a small scholarship from the University of British Columbia to create an online element, www.ingriffintown.com, that includes all the data and information on how he put the film together and the individuals that participated in its creation. MacLeod also created a 21-site walking tour that can be downloaded from www.griffintowntour.com.

The video itself is available online for free viewing at https://vimeo.com/57020055.

People can use the film as a template to further their own expertise or enquire about their own communities, said MacLeod. "It's a platform that they can borrow ideas from to talk about their own social history and where their grandparents are from. You can apply this to any neighbourhood in Canada or the Old Country."

In Griffintown will be shown June 13 through August 29 at the Maison de la Culture Marie-Uguay on 6052 boulevard Monk, Montreal.

By Melanie Furlong

HEATHERGEMS

handcrafted in Scotland

Unique jewellery and gifts
made in the highlands of Scotland
from natural Scottish heather stems

Pendants, Brooches, Bangles, Rings, Earrings
and Traditional Scottish Gifts

10% Online Discount
enter **hgem10** at checkout

www.heathergems.com

T: +44 (0)1294 313222 F: +44 (0)1294 313666 E: sales@heathergems.com

Margaret Todd's Immortal Word Turns 100

Everyone loves to help a friend, but pioneering medical doctor and novelist Margaret Todd, born in Glasgow in 1859, would doubtless have preferred to be remembered for her six novels or pioneering medical work than the one-word suggestion she made to a friend exactly 100 years ago.

The friend was chemist Frederick Soddy, and the suggested word was "isotope", a combination of the ancient Greek words for "equal" and "the same place". There is an injustice in having one's lifetime corpus of work eclipsed by one word. But Todd, compelled to write largely under a pseudonym, was probably better able than most to accept such a fate.

A female writer when it was still quite taboo and a female doctor when it was almost unheard of, Todd understood the constraining gender roles of her era. She was also motivated to defy those constraints.

Moving from Glasgow to Edinburgh in her mid-twenties, Todd was among the first enrollers at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women, where she embarked on a novel, Mona Maclean, Medical Student. This largely autobiographical book was released under the nom de plume Graham Travers.

The book generated enough of a reaction to make the pages of the popular satirical magazine, Punch. Unable to track down Mr. Graham Travers, people soon suspected that a female scribe operated behind a man's name.

Todd acquired an important role at an Edinburgh hospital, but only five years into her medical career she retired and moved to England. Several more books and short stories followed, although the "Graham Travers" pseudonym was effectively dead, as "Margaret Todd, M.D." was added in parenthesis.

Aside from the iconoclasm of her professional life, Todd's personal life was also, for its day, rather against the grain. The love of her life was a female doctor, twenty years her senior: Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake.

Jex-Blake had been a leader of the Edinburgh Seven, who, in 1869, became the first group of female medical students in the U.K. Most in the medical establishment did not welcome them, and debate about the female students raged in newspapers like The Scotsman and The Times.

On November 18, 1870, the female students were ambushed by a disapproving crowd as they arrived to take an anatomy exam at Edinburgh's Royal College of Surgeons. Biographer Shirley Roberts tells how the women were heckled and pelted with rubbish in the incident, later dubbed the "Surgeons' Hall Riot" (Sophia Jex-Blake: A Woman Pioneer in Nineteenth Century Medical Reform). Even after the debate died down, there was widespread institutional prejudice and animosity directed towards women becoming doctors.

In her ironically-titled article Why Women Should be Nurses and not Doctors, Glasgow University professor Anne Crowther wrote that medicine was at the time "one of the few professions to offer ladies a genuine chance of economic independence". Such independence threatened longstanding patriarchal notions.

According to Anne Commire's book, Women in World History; A Biographical Encyclopedia, Todd and Jex-Blake eventually moved to Rotherfield in England. There Todd wrote The Way of Escape, in which a 17-year-old girl is deserted by a seemingly respectable gentleman.

Following Jex-Blake's death in 1912, Todd embarked on a biography of her friend called The Life of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake. She also kept in touch with some of the interesting people she and Jex-Blake had entertained. Among these, was chemist Frederick Soddy, a lecturer at the University of Glasgow and eventual Nobel Laureate.

One day in 1913, Soddy was telling Todd about his research on radioactive elements that, despite having a different atomic mass, occupy the same place on the periodic table.

Thanks to her scientific background and classical education, Todd was able to volunteer a word to describe these elements: isotope, which has since become a ubiquitous term in the scientific community.

At the time, however, Todd was more interested in her biography of Jex-Blake, which finally saw print in 1918. The author then destroyed Jex-Blake's remaining personal papers, in accordance with her dying wishes. Several months later, Todd herself died at 58; there were rumours of suicide.

Her writing, both fiction and nonfiction, has since fallen into obscurity and memory of her medical career has faded. The one aspect of her life that has not dimmed is the word she ventured to her chemist friend in 1913.

By Ray Cavanaugh

CLADDAGH RING
The Claddagh ring has a rich past that dates back over 300 years. The hands symbolize friendship and togetherness. The heart signifies love, and the crown stands for loyalty. In sterling silver.

ONE CLICK *and* YOU'LL NO LONGER *care* WHAT'S UNDER *the* KILT.

MAC IN A SAC
Waterproof, breathable, and ready when you aren't. In Royal Stewart.

If **plaidplace.com** had a scent, it would be steel-cut oatmeal *with* undertones of highland heather, and a *wee* hint of sheep manure and whisky. *But it doesn't.* You'll have to settle for *fine* woolens, clan crests, jewellery, Buchan Thistleware pottery, tweed caps, and enough buttery shortbread to leave you breathless, and dreaming of Loch Lomand.

IRISH KNITS
For laddies and lassies.

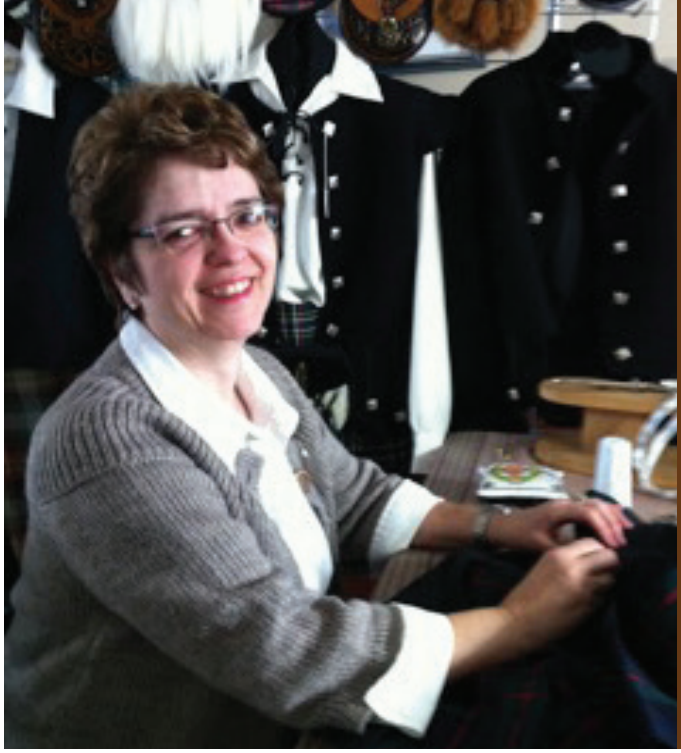
BALMORAL BONNET
Dating back to at least the 16th century, the Balmoral cap, or bonnet, is named after Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

the Plaid Place

tel: 902.429.6872 *toll free:* 1.800.563.1749
1903 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

plaidplace.com

the Kilt Lady



Canadian couple Dawn and Rick McNally turned a corner in their professional lives when a back injury forced Dawn to leave her nursing career and Rick retired as an auditor. After watching a television program about the history of Scotland and traditional kilts, Rick suggested Dawn try making hand-sewn kilts because she had a talent for making things from scratch. She took a kilt-making class in Ontario, and loved it. Their fledgling business – The Kilt Lady – took off from their home in Saskatchewan in Canada's prairies four years ago and now, while Dawn makes the kilts, Rick does the books and product research.

"Both of us have deep Scottish, Irish and English roots. I am third-generation Canadian and Rick is first-generation Canadian," Dawn said. "My father was very proud of his Scottish ancestry and I grew up with an appreciation of its history and tradition. Our Celtic history has always interested us."

Dawn calls herself "a detail-oriented perfectionist" in everything she creates, including her kilts. "I enjoy everything about it, from discussing the project with the customer to actually making the kilt. I once counted the stitches I did for an eight-yard knife pleat kilt and it came to 7,467."

The Kilt Lady works with woolen tartan mills in Scotland, England and Wales, which weave with a clean selvage that stops the bottom edge of the kilt from unraveling or fraying. Dawn's hand-sewn kilts are made with either the knife-pleat or the more traditional, and less common, box-pleat.

"I realize that not everyone requires a hand-made kilt so I also offer kilts made by Locharron of Scotland that are partially done by sewing machine," Dawn said. "But I don't believe ordering a quality garment like a kilt on the Internet from a drop-down menu is right. I contact every customer before, during and after the construction of their kilt. People appreciate it."

Competing with the mass-produced kilts and accessories that are available online is one of Dawn's biggest challenges. Price is always a factor for clients, and there are many products that may appear to be similar but cost less. Also, the label 'hand-sewn' can mean that only a small amount of the kilt was sewn by hand. "My kilts are 100 per cent hand-sewn by me alone," Dawn said.

The Kilt Lady also sells quality Highland accessories, such as cuff links, sporrans and brooches. Dawn and Rick try to source all of their accessories from either Scotland or Canada. They plan to add more Irish and Welsh products in the future.

Up until now, their market has been mainly in the Saskatchewan area. "We don't have a lot of Celtic-related events here, but there certainly are a lot of people with Scottish, Irish or Welsh ancestry," Dawn said. "When we attend festivals, we usually meet a lot of young people who have a Celtic heritage, but over time, have lost touch with it. They are very interested in talking to us and many of them want to regain that connection with their history. We find a lot of young people wanting to integrate some aspect of Celtic tradition into a special event such as a graduation or a wedding."

The Kilt Lady now has a website and will answer messages received there. "We will also be attending as many Highland Games and festivals as possible to show people the quality of the products we offer," Dawn said. "We want to offer products made by the craftsmen and women in Scotland, Ireland and England as much as we can, because we feel that we will lose the traditions if we don't support them. The market we are catering to is looking for quality and can recognize it."

The most important thing is that she and Rick are enjoying their new careers in the business they have created. Dawn loves watching the reaction of clients when they see their kilt for the first time.

"I try to build a relationship with each customer through the process of researching the tartan, determining the type and quality of kilt they require and through the construction of the kilt," Dawn said. "When I'm finished, pride isn't even the right word for the feeling I have."

www.thekiltlady.ca

WORLD PEACE TARTAN

The Dalai Lama is wearing it, so are Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and Dr. Mustafa Ceric, the former Grand Mufti of Bosnia. In April, Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma, modeled it during New York's From Scotland With Love fashion show. With such high-profile supporters, it's not surprising that the World Peace Tartan is fast becoming an iconic symbol of peace.

You might think that a fabric that harmoniously blends shades of light blue, purple, green, red, black and white must be the work of a designer. But no, the World Peace Tartan was created by Edinburgh-based Victor Spence, a 51-year-old inter-religious consultant and founder of The World Peace Tartan Initiative.

Spence created the tartan in 2011 to convey a message of peace while generating revenues to fund the work of a charitable foundation through the licensing of its brand, design and products. As it grows, the World Peace Tartan Foundation will invest in education initiatives intended to build a culture of peace and address child poverty.

Spence told Celtic Life International about his influential foray into fashion.

"It takes a lot to overwhelm me," he said, by phone from Edinburgh. "But I've had a warm response from everybody. The message really seems to touch people and move them. I was very overwhelmed by the response in New York and since New York."

Victor Spence

Following his vision

It all began in 1998 when Spence, who had studied Comparative Religion at the University of Edinburgh years earlier, had a profound dream about meeting the Dalai Lama. "This dream, from a person that didn't remember any dreams, stayed with me and seriously influenced the rest of my life," Spence said. "Eight months later, I had a clear, audient experience, the only one of my life. The voice said, 'Now is the time.'"

Spence knew exactly what the voice meant – he was to bring the Dalai Lama to Scotland. To help with this, Spence decided to ask Scottish and Edinburgh-based leaders to write the Dalai Lama letters of invitation. Before long, he'd collected eight letters from religious leaders and others from Edinburgh's Lord Provost and the Speaker of the Parliament.

Spence wasn't sure what to do with the letters, but a Tibetan Buddhist lama in Scotland suggested he contact the Office of Tibet in London. There, the Dalai Lama's representative was surprised to hear about the invitation, but not as surprised as Spence was 48 hours later when he received a call telling him the invitation had been accepted.

The Dalai Lama could not actually visit Scotland until 2004, but Spence realized the delay would give him plenty of time to maximize all the opportunities associated with the visit. It also allowed him to hope he might be able to deliver the invitations to the Dalai Lama in person.

An important meeting

Several months after the invitation was accepted, Spence learned of a large inter-religious gathering taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, called the Parliament of the World's Religions. More than 500 spiritual leaders and 8,000 delegates from around the world would be in attendance, including the Dalai Lama. Although Spence had no contacts at the event, his friends encouraged him and even paid for him to go.

After much persistence and luck, Spence was introduced to The Dalai Lama and was able to present his letters of invitation. In turn, the Dalai Lama gave Spence a white silk Tibetan scarf called a khata, which he wrapped around Spence's neck. This experience was a catalyst in the creation of the World Peace Tartan because, at the very moment he received the khata, Spence decided to give the Dalai Lama a tartan scarf.

With his letters of invitation delivered, Spence returned to Scotland inspired by interfaith relations. He began to work with the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and in the last 12 years has built the Edinburgh group into one of the leading local interfaith bodies in the world.

He saw the Dalai Lama again in Paris in 2003 and presented him with a gift of a folded tartan scarf. "He took it from me and wrapped it around his neck himself," Spence said. "At that point, I realized there was something significant in the actual giving of a scarf as he had done to me in Cape Town. I thought, next time I'll put it on you myself."

Spence then began giving tartan scarves to other religious leaders and Nobel Laureates he met, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire, whom he hosted in Scotland. Having realized it was important to connect physically with the recipient, he made sure to do more than just hand them the scarf. "I put it over their head, or around their shoulders, and said, 'I'm giving you this tartan scarf as a gesture of peace and friendship from Scotland.'"

The Dalai Lama eventually visited Scotland in 2004 and again in 2005. Both times, Spence gave him tartan scarves. It wasn't until 2010, when Spence was still giving his guests various tartan scarves that he realized it was time for a specific tartan for this purpose.

"That's when the World Peace Tartan arrived in my mind," he said. "It would be for giving to people in peace and friendship from Scotland. It would also have another dimension of meeting on a peace level. I started to build a narrative of meaning alongside this tartan and what it would look like."

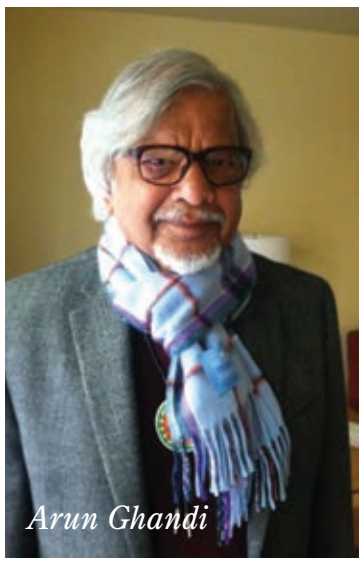
The end result appeared in 2011 when Spence created his new tartan. The light blue represents the presence, hope and potential of the United Nations. Scotland is symbolized by the purple and green of the Scottish thistle. The red and black are reminders of the realities of war and violence and the great need for a new living culture of nonviolence. The white running through the pattern provides a counterbalance by representing peace and light.

The tartan was launched on June 22, 2012 when the first ever World Peace Tartan scarf was presented to the Dalai Lama during a visit to Edinburgh. During the three-day visit to Scotland, which included stops in Dundee and Inverness, two other peace tartan scarves were also presented to His Holiness.

Jody Williams, chair of The Nobel Women's Initiative, is among the influential people who have endorsed the tartan. "The creation of this new tartan to symbolize the personal commitment of those who wear it to helping create a world of sustainable peace is a beautiful new way to promote peace," she said. "Peace is not simply the absence of armed conflict; it is a commitment to a new kind of security ~~o~~ne that places the security of people - human security - above the security of the state - national security."

Spence believes the World Peace Tartan is for everybody, but he encourages the Scottish and Celtic diaspora to get behind it.

Dalai Lama


Arun Ghandi

"Its narrative of meaning is inclusive, but at the same time, the Celtic diaspora communities around the world have got a more recognizable relationship with tartan, its history and meanings than others who don't have any real connection culturally. I would like them to be the ambassadors of this idea because, at the end of the day, it generates revenues for charitable purposes to help invest in localized, grassroots peace initiatives around the world and the alleviation of child poverty."

Spiritual Leaders on the World Peace Tartan:

"I think this idea of a world peace tartan is inspirational. Wearing such a tartan is not a nebulous nod to world peace; it is a personal commitment to live at peace with all people in so far as we are given the strength to do so."
–Right Reverend Albert Bogle, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

"It's beautiful! Wearing this tartan will be a daily reminder to commit ourselves to working for peace in the world."
–Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and president of the Gandhi Worldwide Education Institute.

"The spiritual significance of clothing is already found in the Hebrew Bible where the children of Israel are instructed to put fringes on the corners of their garments in order to be conscious of the Divine commandments (Numbers 15:37-41). In other words, an article of clothing has the capacity to deepen our consciousness. Such consciousness of our own humanity, and that of the other, is precisely the goal of the World Peace Tartan initiative; for peace can only come through greater awareness of our common humanity."
– Chief Rabbi David Rosen, international co-president, Religions for Peace, international director of Inter-religious Affairs, AJC, Commander of the British Empire (CBE), and Knight of Saint Gregory the Great (KSG).

World Peace Tartan products can be purchased online at HeritageofScotland.com. Cloth can be ordered by contacting Victor Spence at victor@worldpeacetartan.com.

By Melanie Furlong

Biography

Chris Hadfield

More than a dozen years ago, Canadian musicians Dave Hadfield and the Purveyors took to the stage at the International Celtic Festival in Brittany, France, to play some foot-stomping fiddle tunes and original folk songs. The line-up that night included Dave's brother, astronaut Chris Hadfield. Chris returned to Earth this May after spending 146 days at the International Space Station (ISS) from where he recorded an album of original songs and reached out to people around the world through music. The first of the original songs Chris recorded in space, Jewel in the Night, was written by Dave. "I helped Chris come up with a portfolio of songs for this album," said Dave. "I've got a little more free time so I was able to help him out."

Dave fronts the Purveyors performances at pubs in Barrie, Ontario, when he's not flying over the Pole on 15-hour flights between Toronto and Beijing as an airline captain. "Music is something we have to do. It's not a question of finding time for it, it's a question of finding time for other things," said Dave. Ivan Hansen takes us inside the Hadfield brothers' musical collaboration.

Cape Canaveral, Florida, it was not. Chilling winds howled across the Kazakh steppe, as the mercury dropped to minus 20. Evolved from a once-secret Cold War missile test-range, the Baikonur Cosmodrome is the world's busiest spaceport.

Last December, on the day before launch, quarantined Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield had a visitor. His older brother Dave was allowed half an hour, but could not get closer than 3 metres, despite medical clearance. Finding a vacant room, they sang family favourites; a fitting send-off tradition. Chris' wife Helene looked on.

"I love listening to him. I'm not musical but I love that he is," she said. "It gives him a release of energy and fun he can't get elsewhere. Chris relaxes when he plays, and it's a great creative outlet."

One of the songs they played was Big Smoke. Dave wrote it for Chris' first spaceflight in 1995. "When the shuttle launched it left a big trail of steam and other gas pointing up into the sky," said Dave, "And there's the idea of smoke, hiding things. You never really know what the future's going to bring."

The next day, December 19, 2012, Chris kissed Helene goodbye—through the glass wall. "I was worried about something happening that would stop him from going, like tripping and breaking an ankle," said Helene. "As for the launch and being on top of a bomb, that doesn't bother me because if you worry about it you'll make yourself crazy."

Qualified to fly the Soyuz, Chris was in the left seat as 1st Flight Engineer (Co-Pilot). Roman Romanenko, seated in the middle, was Soyuz Commander, with Dr. Tom Marshburn, 2nd Flight Engineer on the right.

At dusk, fingers of fire flickered for an instant before erupting in a brilliant yellow-orange conflagration that raced through the blast pit, accompanied by the smoke and earsplitting roar

of rocket engines. Rising on a tower of flame, Expedition 34/35 was International Space Station bound, where, for Expedition 35, Chris would be Commander.

Not long after docking at the austere orbital outpost, Chris made a personal rendezvous with the onboard Canadian-made Larrivée Parlor acoustic guitar. He sang carols in the Cupola's 360-degree Earth observatory. Jewel in the Night was Chris' first recording on the space station, just in time for Christmas.

For the following five months, his days were heavily choreographed; right down to five-minute increments. "On weekends, we do get some free time on Sunday afternoons so, just as I sort of squeeze it in on Earth, I will be playing guitar," he said. "Music brings some art to a place that is otherwise kind of a serious laboratory."

In addition to a full slate of science experiments, Chris exercised for two hours a day to combat muscle and bone loss, the biggest health hazard on long-duration spaceflights. Astronauts must stay fit enough to deal with possible emergencies like depressurization, fire, chemical leaks and evacuation.

Dave Hadfield

Formed to raise morale at NASA after the first space shuttle disaster, Max-Q is an astronaut band that Chris plays in, along with Bandella, another band composed of astronauts. He has also played with Dave Hadfield and Friends, now the Purveyors.

"At the 1997 World Celtic Music Festival in Brittany, we were recruited to go along with Chris, sort of as his back-up band," said Dave. "He insisted that we never practice in hotel rooms, so we worked up some songs playing street cafés."

Chris and Dave also share a love of aviation. Their dad Roger was the first flying instructor at the Sarnia Ontario Airport when they lived there—today renamed Sarnia Chris Hadfield Airport. "Chris has been flying since before he was born," said his Mom Eleanor. Chris was seven when they moved to a corn farm, in Milton, Ontario. Roger went on to fly for Air Canada. Chris and brothers Dave and Phil became air cadets. Today, Dave and Phil are captains with Air Canada, and Chris was an award-winning fighter test-pilot with the Air Force, retiring as a Colonel. There are also two daughters; Patty, and Anna-Jean.

Around the time Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were landing on the moon, Chris and Dave bought an old guitar for $5 at an auction. Even at that price it was no bargain. "We worked and pooled our money to buy a decent acoustic," Chris said. They learned to play together, and have been sharing songs ever since. "If David did something, Chris would have to do it too," said Eleanor. Meanwhile, Chris was in his school choir then in high school he played the trombone.

He also acted in a high school production of The Man Who Came to Dinner. For fellow student Helene (nee Walter), there wasn't much to do—as understudy for the female lead, she was bored. One day Chris asked Helene if she needed a ride home. "I took a ride home, and that was that. We were dating," she said. Four years later, they were married.

Helene said about Chris' selection for the ISS expedition, "I thought it was the best thing ever; it's what he's wanted, it's what he's worked for. In the grand scheme of your life together, five months is not that much time." While in orbit, Chris kept in touch through email, daily phone calls, and weekly videoconferences.

Chris' sons Evan and Kyle encouraged him to start a Twitter account as a way to share his experiences. Managing the account, Evan has dealt with a million followers who signed on for Chris' several-times-a-day micro-blog posts, photos from space, and video-conferences.

"He's very social, and one of the best things about this mission is that people can see Chris' quirky sense of humor," said Helene. "He's not afraid to kind of be out there, showing his enjoyment. And he's a workaholic, but he doesn't think of it that way – it's all fun."

Chris' last live video downlink from ISS was on May 6, for Music Monday, the Coalition for Music Education's signature event. Chris co-wrote this year's theme song, I.S.S. (Is Somebody Singing?), with Ed Robertson of Barenaked Ladies. The TV production of the video, released in February, went viral online. "I'm pretty proud of this little ditty," said Robertson. Across Canada, 700,000 students took part in the day's festivities.

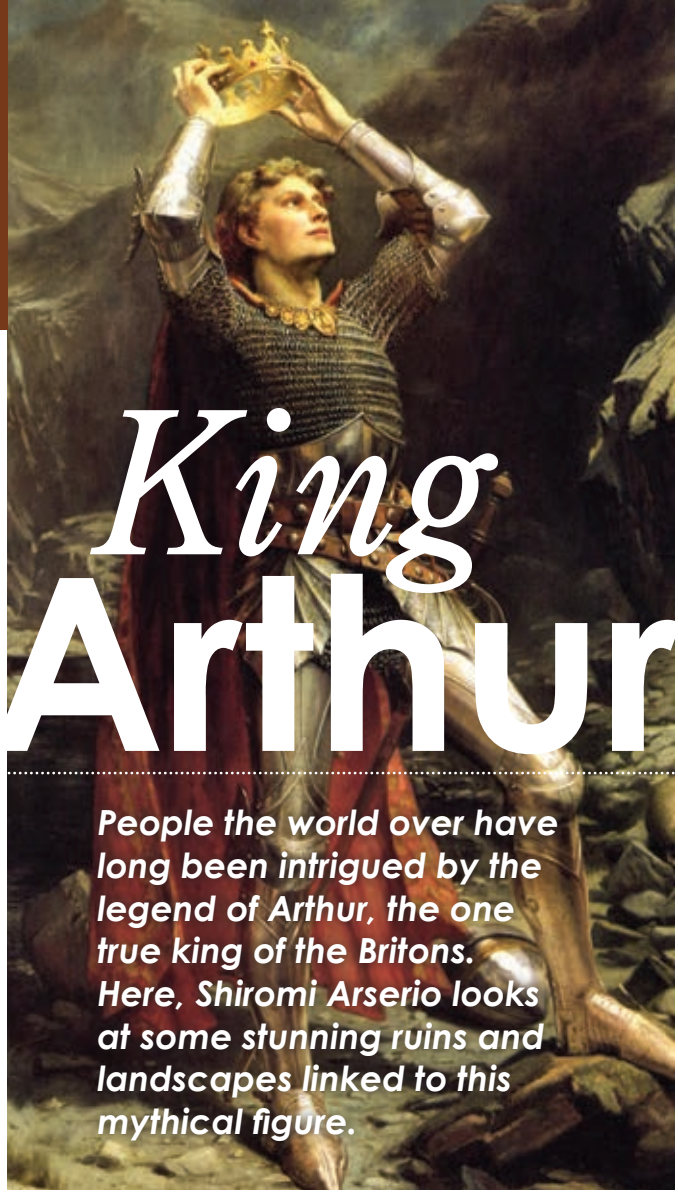
A showcase concert was staged at Ontario Science Centre, where Wexford Gleeks and the Chris Hadfield Public School Choir sang along with Chris who was on-screen, playing live from the ISS. After the performance, Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen said from the Science Centre, "Chris, the atmosphere is absolutely electric here."

Chris, his guitar floating before him, replied, "Jeremy, the atmosphere up here is mostly acoustic." Then, as he has done countless times before, Chris entertained questions from students. "He loves to share when he thinks something is cool and exciting, and he's so good with kids," said Helene.

Award-winning folk, root, and children's music producer Paul Mills, having worked with Dave and Chris before, came up with the idea of Chris recording an album of songs in space. "It's just become huge, I think largely because of the song Chris co-wrote with Ed Robertson. A lot of people have really been inspired—it's captured the public's imagination," Mills said. "And most people aren't aware that we're continuing to record up there." Chris sent down his vocal and guitar tracks; terrestrial musicians will also play a part.

The songs include Space Station Blues, Moving On, Feet Up, and Ride That Lightning. "All of them touch on the experience of being up there," Mills said at the time. "There's a space lullaby that Chris has recorded. And there's a love song to his wife who he's away from."

Chris' space voyage has proven that today, musicians don't have to be on the same planet to collaborate.



King Arthur

People the world over have long been intrigued by the legend of Arthur, the one true king of the Britons. Here, Shiromi Arserio looks at some stunning ruins and landscapes linked to this mythical figure.

In the popular imagination, King Arthur is often associated with medieval knights in shining armour, but archaeologists agree that the story is much older. It's believed that Arthur united Britain to fight off Saxon invaders around the fifth century, but everything else about him – his connection to the wizard Merlin, his wife Guinevere, his half-sister Morgan Le Fay – belong to the world of mythology. Did Arthur even exist? We don't know. He could have been Riothamus, a Romano-Britain who disappeared in the French town of Avallon after fighting the Visigoths around the year 470A.D. Or maybe he was Arturius, a sixth century Scot who allied with the kings of Britain to fight the Saxons and had a half-sister named Morgan. Most likely he is an amalgamation of Arthurs from that period.

Despite the lack of evidence for a real-life Arthur it is easy to find sites in Britain claiming a historical connection to the man author T.H. White described as "the once and future king". These locations attract thousands of visitors on a kind of Arthurian pilgrimage. Tintagel Castle in Cornwall, the supposed birthplace of Arthur, drew 174,000 visitors last year, according to the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions. Whatever the truth of the Arthur legends, the rich beauty and history of these sites in Southwest England is undeniable.

Tintagel Castle

The dramatic grey ruins of the stone castle perch atop the craggy coast in stark contrast to Cornwall's emerald-green countryside and the blue Celtic Sea. Tintagel is an enchanting site for an Arthurian myth. It was at Tintagel that, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, the wizard Merlin bewitched Uther Pendragon to look like Duke Gorlois so he could bed Gorlois' wife, Igraine, and conceive Arthur.

As you climb the 100 steps to reach Tintagel Island (actually a peninsula) you can't help but wish that Geoffrey of Monmouth was right when he said this dramatic spot was the birthplace of the Once and Future King. It's easy to see why both Monmouth and the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson were so inspired by Tintagel. Glancing down the rocks at the beach below, you can spot Merlin's Cave where Tennyson said the baby Arthur washed up on shore. If the tide is low, you can stroll down to the beach and explore the cave. It is "a wonderful place with a wonderful magical feel," Claudine Cross, a recent visitor from Bournemouth told Celtic Life International.

So, it is almost a disappointment to discover that the castle ruins only date to the 13th century. There have been other ruins though. Evidence suggests the peninsula was occupied as early as Roman times (sometime around 300A.D.) and a Celtic monastery once stood there. However, it wasn't until the 1998 discovery of a piece of slate, thought to be a dedication to a ruined building, that a connection with Arthur was found. Inscribed on the slate are the words "Artognou, father of a descendant of Coll, has had (this) made". Artognou is Latin for Arthnou.

Getting there: Tintagel Castle can be reached from Tintagel village. Just follow Castle Road for 0.3 miles until you reach the lower entrance ticket booth. Tintagel is maintained by English Heritage and is open 10-6 daily, year round, except for holidays. Tickets are £5.90 for adults, £3.50 for children age 5-15 years.

Glastonbury Tor

The sloped hill of Glastonbury Tor rises 521 feet above the Somerset countryside like a beacon calling to visitors. Atop the

Tor, sits the 14th century tower of the church of St. Michael. Years ago, a lake of water surrounded the mound-shaped hill.

The Tor has long been connected with Celtic mythology. Legend says that beneath the Tor lies Annwn, home of Gwynn Ap Nudd, Lord of the Underworld. The gateway to Annwn is through Avalon, and thus the Tor is believed to be the place where Arthur came to heal his wounds. The Tor is also said to be the location of the Holy Grail, after Joseph of Arimethea buried it at the base of the hill.

On the Tor, you will find a mix of New Age travellers hoping to retrace the steps of Arthur, as well as hikers out enjoying expansive views of Somerset. "I'm not a believer in the mysticism of Glastonbury," Sharon Davies a recent visitor to the Tor said, "but I met some wonderful characters whose enthusiasm for the area was infectious."

Gaze to the south and you glimpse the ringed features of nearby Cadbury Castle. To the west lies Brent Knoll, an Iron Age hill fort. The climb is steep, but once you reach the top and walk through the ruins of the medieval church, it is easy to understand why visitors feel so drawn. As Sian, a visitor from Cardiff said, the Tor is "a mystical place."

Getting there: Glastonbury Tor is just a short walk from Glastonbury town. Go to the Chalice Well and follow the lane leading up the hill. The Tor is maintained by the National Trust and is free and open daily from dawn to dusk.

South Cadbury Castle

Just 15 miles from Glastonbury, South Cadbury Castle is said to be King Arthur's Camelot. Camelot was King Arthur's legendary court and first made an appearance in a 12th century poem called Lancelot, the Knight of the Cart by Chretien de Troyes. The site of the castle is a hilltop fort rising 492 feet and ringed by terraced banks. Local legend says that Arthur and his knights lie sleeping below in a hidden cave.

The hilltop fort has a long history of occupation, dating from the Bronze Age. Recent archaeological excavation uncovered a large timber feasting hall dated to the fifth or sixth centuries, along with fragments of Tintagel pottery from the same period. While links to Arthur are tenuous, one thing is clear: Cadbury Castle belonged to a high king and was designed to hold a large army of the kind Arthur might have had.

Today, little remains of the castle. After making the long trek up the hill, the only thing that tells the traveller he has arrived at Camelot is a stone cairn and plaque. Although the climb is steep, the hike is tranquil and the view at the top breath-taking. Jan Suchaki, a traveller from Taunton, described it as "a place to sit and stare and think about all those many lives that have come and gone."

Getting there: South Cadbury Castle is an easy jaunt from Glastonbury. Take the A361 going southwest. At Sub Road, follow the B3153. At the junction, follow the A37. At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto the A303. After six miles, take the South Cadbury exit. The castle is located south of the village church and is accessed via a small lane near the free car park. Protected by English Heritage, South Cadbury Castle is open all year and entry is free.

Slaughterbridge

In The History of the Britons, Nennius wrote that Arthur fought in twelve major battles. His final one was the Battle of Camlann around 537 A.D. According to the Annals of Wales, found at the monastery at St. David's in Wales, Arthur is said to have either died or been fatally wounded at Camlann by his enemy Mordred. It is unknown where the true Battle of Camlann took place. However, Geoffrey of Monmouth said the battle occurred by the River Camel, and was so gruesome the water ran red with blood. Monmouth named Slaughterbridge, the nearby stone bridge, as the site where Arthur took his fatal blow.

Gazing about the peaceful English countryside beside the River Camel it is difficult to believe such a battle could have occurred here. However, archaeological evidence suggests that a fierce battle really did take place at Slaughterbridge, in the ninth century when the Cornish Celts fought invading Saxons. Most likely, this is how the association with the Battle of Camlann came about.

Close to the bridge, lies a stone said to mark the place where Arthur fell. The stone was first discovered in 1602 and is inscribed in both Latin and Ogham, a sixth century Celtic script. Although the Ogham is incomplete, the Latin reads: "The Stone of Latinus, here lies the son Magarus."

None of this offers a real connection to Arthur, yet the legend of Arthur and Slaughterbridge remains strong. Nearby, sits the Arthurian Centre, a museum devoted to King Arthur. At the centre you can learn about the Battle of Camlann and the real battle that took place on the banks of the River Camel.

Getting there: Slaughterbridge is located five miles from the village of Tintagel, along the A39. Both Slaughterbridge and King Arthur's Stone are protected by English Heritage and are free and open to the public year-round. To get to the Exhibition Centre, follow the signs for King Arthur's stone. The centre is open 10-5 daily from Easter to November. Tickets are £3.50 each.

My Big Fat Gaelic Wedding

As a Gaelic speaker, linguistic anthropologist and author specializing in the study of Gaelic revitalization in Scotland and eastern Canada, Emily McEwan-Fujita wanted the Gaelic language to play a central role when she married Tim Aggett in 2011. She shares the details of her Big Fat Gaelic Wedding (Banais Mhór Ghàidhealach Dha Rìribh) with Celtic Life Intl.

Some folks might think that a Gaelic wedding is about bagpipers and kilts, but I'm talking about getting married in Gaelic. Wedding planning is complicated, but incorporating Celtic language revival into your nuptials makes it doubly challenging.

My husband and I met through Gaelic. It was love at first sight, at a salt codfish supper at the Highland Village Museum, An Clachan Gàidhealach, in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. We were there on a bus trip from the Scottish Gaelic Studies Conference which was being held at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. It was July 2008 and I was presenting a paper on adults learning Gaelic, and my husband was there because of his voluntary work with Gaelic in the province.

So, when it came time to plan our wedding, we wanted to have the entire thing in Gaelic. We both speak the language and advocate for it, it's a big part of our relationship, and we are always looking for more ways to use it meaningfully in our lives.

We agreed that the best place to have our wedding would be at the Highland Village Museum where we met, because we're romantics and the museum contains a decommissioned church building. The relocated Malagawatch Church was originally built in 1874 on the shore of the River Denys Basin, replacing the first one constructed there in 1829. The congregation and ministers were Gaelic speaking for over a century. It remained a Presbyterian church until 1925, when it joined the newly formed United Church of Canada. With the population declining in the area, the church was eventually closed, and in 2003 the structure was relocated to the Highland Village Museum by loading it on a barge and floating it down the Bras d'Or Lake. It now serves as a beautiful beacon of Cape Breton's Gaelic heritage on the hill overlooking the water.

After securing the historic location, we faced a new problem: finding someone who could perform the ceremony in Gaelic. I assumed it would be our minister, Reverend Ivan Gregan of Port Wallis United Church in Dartmouth, who grew up in a Scottish Gaelic-speaking village in the Miramichi area of New Brunswick. But no: Ivan was booked to lead a church trip to Ireland on our wedding date.

We found only one other minister in the province who spoke Gaelic, and sadly he was unwell. There are still several Catholic priests who speak it, but we needed a minister. Gaelic-speaking ministers have been tending to Nova Scotians' spiritual needs since the first one came from Scotland to Nova Scotia in 1786. Significant numbers of Gaelic-speaking clergy worked in Cape Breton throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth to serve Gaelic-speaking congregations. Fortunately, in the past two years there has been a turnaround, and there are five new Presbyterian and United Church ministers learning Gaelic in Cape Breton.

Having exhausted every option, I started to pray. I said, "OK, God, if you really want this wedding to happen in Gaelic, please send me someone who can officiate."

Soon after, I was driving down Oxford Street in Halifax, when I noticed that the car in front of me had a Gaelic bumper sticker. I didn't recognize the car, and wondered if it could be a Gaelic

speaker who I hadn't met. I decided to "follow that car," as long as it didn't get on the highway heading out of town. Eventually, it turned down a side street and into a parking lot. I pulled in a few spaces away, rolled down my window and yelled, "Hello! I have to ask you a question! A bheil Gàidhlig agad?" (Do you speak Gaelic?)

He indicated, "Tha" (Yes) and I asked, "Co as a tha thu?" (Where are you from?) We had a brief chat and exchanged e-mail addresses. I learned that my new acquaintance was The Honourable Judge Jamie Campbell of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia. "Nice one," a friend congratulated me. "You stalked a judge!"

Jamie told me he was surprised when I approached him: "I normally would just default to English, but the whole thing seemed surreal and I was content to have it remain that way. I told her in Gaelic that I was from Cape Breton, but because she'd asked in Gaelic I also told her that all of my people were from North Uist.

"Three of my grandparents were Gaelic speakers," Jamie continued. "My father's father and my mother's mother were each from North Uist families who arrived in the same part of Cape Breton in the 1830s. My grandmother was particularly proud of her Uist Gaelic. I would occasionally hear the language at family gatherings and recall one party in Mira where Gaelic was used in the kitchen and English in the good room."

I was delighted to meet Jamie, but it wasn't until a few weeks later that I realized: Judges can perform weddings! Jamie agreed, but says now that he was nervous about taking it on: "It appealed to me on one level but I was fully conscious of my lack of comfort in Gaelic," he said. "Wondering what my grandmother would have thought of the whole thing made me committed to doing it. I'm quite sure she would have corrected my pronunciation but the whole process was almost symbolic to me. It was someone else's wedding I know, and it's not about me, but at the time I felt an amazing connection with my own family."

So Jamie would officiate, but we still needed a ceremony. Rev. Ivan obtained a copy of the Church of Scotland's official Gaelic service and I modified it in a linguistic labour of love. Jamie's own minister reassured him that using this form for marriage wouldn't be a problem for a lay person, and Ivan coached him on the liturgical Gaelic. I selected hymns, the 23rd Psalm, and a scripture reading, added a congregational response to a prayer, and substituted a new benediction. The main change, though, was adding a new section based on part of the United Church of Canada's wedding service for blended families. I rewrote this Promise to the Child, adapting it to the expressions and structure of the Gaelic service. During this part of the ceremony we took turns promising to love and care for my daughter, Eri, and presented her with an Irish silver pendant with a triquetra knot inside a heart, to symbolize both the Trinity and our new family.

On our wedding day, we were blessed with gorgeous Cape Breton summer skies. The photos say it all. We poured most of our linguistic efforts into the ceremony, but our reception also featured Gaelic touches. We picked blueberries and made jars of home-made jam for favours, decorated with a bilingual label. I made a banner for our reception with the second half of a well-known Gaelic proverb: Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal, ach mairidh gaol is ceòl – The world will come to an end, but love and music will last.

Photo credit Richard Foote

If you want to incorporate Scottish Gaelic into your own wedding, but don't speak the language, a Gaelic psalm or hymn would be suitable because singing is at the heart of Gaelic culture. If you prefer a secular song, be careful – many Gaelic ballads feature pining and jilted lovers. I remember a well-meaning friend suggesting Gràdh Geal Mo Chridhe for our own ceremony (the original Eriskay Love Lilt), but it ends with: "You left my eye tearful… my heart broken… You left me with a sickly pallor… and thinning hair." Not terribly romantic.

You'll also need to find someone who can sing in Gaelic, who speaks or has at least studied the language. It's best not to ask someone to sing a song or recite a prayer in Gaelic if they've never studied the language before – at least if you still want to be friends after the wedding! But, it's never too late to start learning Gaelic for your own future wedding or vow renewal, for someone else's, or for the future of the language itself.

The Scottish Wildcat has lived in the north of the country for thousands of years, but research suggests this unique animal may now be more endangered than the Bengal Tiger and could soon be extinct. Tom Langlands investigates whether anything can be done to prevent the loss of this mysterious predator.

Scottish Wildcats

The summer sun dips behind the pine trees. A deer drinks at the edge of a rippling stream, its ears flicking with every sound. An owl on sentry duty calls, heralding the changing of the forest guard. There is a stirring on a branch above and the rising moon catches a pair of waking eyes as they pierce the gloom. Then, slowly he descends, like amber sap sliding down ancient bark. On the ground he pauses, displaying tiger-like black markings and a distinctive broad, ringed tail. He is alert and his senses keen. Something in the heather moves and he hugs the woodland floor, silently edging forward. He pounces and lifts his head to reveal a small vole caught in his mouth, then turns and melts into the night.

He is a Scottish Wildcat and his ancestors have lived in these forests since the last ice age separated this land from mainland Europe around 8,000 years ago. He was here before man and before domestic cats existed. Back then, he shared this island with his distant cousin the Lynx, before the latter was hunted to extinction. Now the wildcat stands alone, the only native member of the cat family to live in Britain and sadly, he too is perilously close to extinction.

The Scottish Wildcat (Felis silvestris grampia) is around fifty per cent larger than the average domestic cat. He is stockier, muscular, untameable, and has a pelage with distinctive black stripes and a blunt, broad, black-ringed tail. This, and his reputation as a ferocious fighter, gave rise to his other title – the Highland Tiger. Other less obvious differences between this cat and his domestic relatives include slightly different skull dimensions and a smaller intestinal tract. There are also genetic differences and scientific research in this area is on-going.

The wildcat's preferred habitat is a mixture of woodland for shelter, fresh water for drinking and open land in which to hunt. Voles, mice, rats, birds and rabbits all form part of his diet and the ancient Caledonian forests of the Scottish Highlands and the adjacent tracts of open land provide the ideal home. It is only here, in the north of Scotland, that native wildcats can still be found. Wildcats tend to breed in midwinter producing an average litter of three or four kittens in the spring and otherwise, they are solitary animals. Scent marking is their main way of communication with a male's territory ranging up to 18 square kilometres.

The independent and fearless qualities of the wildcat were admired by ancient Scottish tribes and clans. The myths of the ancient Catti tribe of northern Scotland tell how their ancestors were attacked by wildcats. Caithness (Land of the Cats) was home to the Pictish tribes that venerated the wildcat. Today, the Chief of the Sutherland Clan is known as Morair Chat (Great Man of the Cats). The association of Highland clans, known as Clan Chattan (Clan of the Cats), that led the charge at the Battle of Culloden, has the clan motto, 'Touch not the cat bot (without) a glove'. Many clans have the wildcat as their motif.

Wildlife filmmaker Steve Piper, while filming the documentary Last of the Scottish Wildcats, was so moved by their plight that he founded the Scottish Wildcat Association. It became a formal charity in 2008 and is set to become The Wildcat Trust. As Chairman of the organisation, he said, "It's hard to imagine

another animal with anything like so many links into the human culture and heritage of the Highlands. It is unique to that place but sadly, much of that has been forgotten."

Historically, wildcats have been hunted for their fur or because they killed small farm animals or birds bred for game shooting. This, along with habitat loss through deforestation, has greatly reduced their numbers. Today, the biggest problem for the wildcat is interbreeding with domestic and feral cats. The resultant hybridization destroys the true genetic signature of the species while contact with domestic cats renders them susceptible to unfamiliar feline diseases.

Establishing precisely how many wildcats exist is difficult.

Recently, efforts have been made to record as many wildcat sightings as possible and then attempt to determine if these are pure wildcat or hybrid. The results suggest that at worst, there may be only a few tens of these cats in the wild and at best, perhaps four hundred.

Piper is pessimistic about the numbers, "The hard evidence we have certainly suggests tens but there are large areas of the Highlands which have not been properly surveyed, so no one is really sure, but they are exceptionally rare. There are just a handful of sightings that seem to be true wildcats over the last decade."

The situation is critical. If these numbers are correct, the Scottish Wildcat is now more endangered than the Bengal Tiger. I asked Piper how serious the risk of extinction is and how close we are to that position. "The situation is extremely serious. It could be months away because the conservation effort has been left to a handful of scientists and a tiny charity. It's an appalling situation for a first world country to be in."

Chillingly, Dr. Paul O'Donoghue of the University of Chester, who has developed a test to confirm the true genetic make-up of the Scottish Wildcat, believes that without immediate action the extinction of the species is a certainty within 12 to 24 months.

The plight of the wildcat is now acknowledged but whether the situation can be redressed remains to be seen.

Piper is an advisor to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Between 2007 and 2012, SNH instigated the Cairngorms Wildcat Project. It was a Species Action Framework intended to raise awareness of the wildcat problem. SNH sought to educate farmers, game-keepers and cat owners and expand neutering programmes through local vets. It endeavoured to work with estates to promote feral cat control without harming true wildcats and it intensified reporting and documentation of potential sightings.

Piper explained a Scottish Wildcat Association initiative. "We have developed a project with several expert scientists where a large number of cats are live trapped across a large field area suspected to include good wildcats. All cats can then have blood samples taken to genetically test if they are true wildcats. Anything else can be neutered to take it out of the breeding population. Over time, you end up with a region that only has wildcats in it and captive bred animals can then be introduced to diversify genetics and fill gaps between fragmented population groups."

Given the enormity of the task I queried if it wasn't inevitable that time for the wildcat had run out. Piper is adamant this need not be the case, "It simply isn't their time, these creatures still appear to be here in spite of centuries of habitat destruction, heavy human persecution and of having their bloodline flooded with genes from a far more abundant species. If you took away the feral cats, the wildcat population would bounce back very quickly. This isn't natural extinction."

As the first shafts of sunlight sparkled on the woodland stream I looked for the wildcat that had inspired my ancestors, but he had gone. I could no longer be certain that he would return.

With thanks to: Steve Piper of the Scottish Wildcat Association; the Highland Wildlife Park, Kincraig, Kingussie, Inverness-shire, Scotland and the Scottish Deer Centre, Cupar, Fife, Scotland.

www.scottishwildcats.co.uk
www.tomlanglandsphotography.com

Iona Crawford

I was born in Stirling, at the heart of Scotland. As a child, I held a fabulous passion for dressing up.

Design, like fine art, has to come freely and naturally; it is this fusion of art and fashion design which defines my brand and aesthetic.

There is nothing more magical than my eye being caught by an unknown woman wearing my designs.

- Iona Crawford, 2013

ionacrawford

ionacrawford

MacIsaac Kiltmakers
www.mackilts.com
Toll free: 1-866-343-4000
Cape Breton Island

Gerard Butler

One of Hollywood's most likeable players, Gerard Butler has built a career on being a nice guy. The Paisley-bred actor talked to Stephen Milton about his work and his Scottish identity.

Admittedly, he's not the best actor out there, and he freely acknowledges his limits. More often than not, his reputation as a ladies' man - after romances with the likes of Jennifer Aniston, Jessica Biel and Cameron Diaz - has eclipsed his performances, but there's so much more to this power-packed performer...not that Butler himself would admit that.

"Sometimes I think I'm going to be found out," he laughed in his charming West Scots brogue. "Sometimes I think people will discover that really I haven't a clue what I'm doing, that I'm just a mouthy Scot who got lucky."

By Tinseltown standards, Butler was a latecomer to the game. He shot to fame in 2006 when he was in his mid-thirties thanks to his hulking turn as King Leonidas in mythological comic book smash 300. He's since cultivated an action man image with Guy Ritchie's RocknRolla and a decent turn in last year's flawed biopic, Machine Gun Preacher.

Despite being relatively mature when he found fame, Butler is not immune to the pressures and temptations of the film industry.

"I can see easily how the younger ones in the game go off the rails," he said. "The money's been thrown at you, the fans too. You're constantly being praised and it's hard to stay grounded. And it doesn't matter what age you are when you start or when success hits. I was that bit older than some of the young fry setting off now but it doesn't make any difference; it's adulation and you have to block it out to an extent. There are a lot of privileges and opportunities taken for granted in this game, until you sit back and realize, it's a good life."

Of course, actors are not always adored – Butler's recent baffling attempt at gross-out humour as a foul-mouthed leprechaun in Movie 43 didn't exactly strike a chord with audiences, while the role of a former football pro in Playing For Keeps was a commercial disaster, although it did offer Butler the chance to play for his beloved Celtic, if only in an alternate reality.

So now he's flexing his impossible muscles once again as a Secret Service agent protecting the White House from North Korean terrorists in Antoine Fuqua's Olympus Has Fallen, alongside a respected cast that includes Angela Bassett, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman.

"Antoine Fuqua, the man who gave us Training Day - he's a genius," Butler mused. "Coupled with a cast of that calibre... I mean Freeman, Angela Basset, Aaron Eckhart…it's like, let me just pretend I'm meant to be sharing a scene with you; that I'm at the same standard...that we're not on completely different plains."

After training in weapons artillery and hand-to-hand combat for his gruelling shoot in Louisiana, the 43-year-old admits the action in his movies is starting to take its toll.

"I think I can do everything," he explained. "I'm a typical Scot in that way – nothing's impossible. I can run and hurtle back and land on the ground. And that's fine if you do it once, but after 20 takes, you're cut to shreds. At one point my arm went black and blue all the way round because I was doing this same kung-fu move over and over. I'm no spring chicken anymore."

He flashed that twinkly grin. "And you'd think I'd have learned my lesson after Hawaii."

While on the set of surf movie Chasing Mavericks off the coast of Oahu nearly two years ago, Butler was caught out by a series of freak waves. "It's like you're in an avalanche and you don't know if you're ever coming up. You can't breathe and there's nothing you can do about it.

"It was so scary and frightening as I just couldn't get up to the surface. So for future movies, I'm starting to see the logic in hiring a stunt guy. But it's hard because you want to be on that chopper, you want to be surfing that wave or you want to be in that fight. You want to be doing the sh*t that boys do."

A Scottish childhood

Born in Glasgow, Butler was immediately relocated to Montreal in Canada for the first two years of his life, before returning to home shores with his mother when he was two-and-a-half years old. It's a transition he praises her for.

"My mum decided to leave my dad, and Montreal, because that wasn't going well. She brought us back to Scotland. That was a big decision and I have nothing but respect for her for making it.

"She didn't have an easy time," he shared. "My mother is ultimately like my hero. When she came back to Scotland she had three kids – and absolutely nothing else. She ended up taking night classes and became a lecturer in business studies. She then went on to become a senior lecturer at college, which is a big thing, and brought up us three kids on her own.

"It's superhuman stuff. I don't know if I could ever do it, but I loved my childhood. I was raised next to Paisley and, coming from a huge Irish Catholic extended family, there was so much love surrounding us. There was also a passion for being Scottish, and you didn't have to leave Scotland to feel it."

Butler added: "For me, Scotland is home. Scotland is my roots and, you know, you always get that feeling when you arrive back, each and every time."

Building a career

Butler didn't first set out to be an actor – after graduating with a law degree from Glasgow University, he was taken on as a trainee by an Edinburgh law firm, but his party-loving lifestyle led to dismissal a week before full qualification as a lawyer.

So he headed south to London to pursue a career on the screen, eventually landing a string of minor roles in Tomorrow Never Dies and Mrs Brown.

"When I first moved to London, it took a good two or three years of slave labour, doubt, and pure what am I doing here attitude," he recalled. "I was working waiter jobs in Soho, as a telemarketer, you name it. I did it while trying to pursue this impossible dream.

"But then I landed a job behind the scenes at the Mermaid Theatre in Blackfriars and that's where a shift happened, where I suddenly found myself in an environment where I could potentially meet people who could help me."

Introduced to director Steven Berkoff, who cast him in a stage adaptation of Coriolanus, this eventually led to a theatre reworking of Trainspotting, offering the young actor a platform.

"Those years in London, they gave me a foundation. As much as I love the international lifestyle my career has afforded me, and a base in LA at that, coming back to London – just like going back to Paisley – reminds me of what I went through to get where I am today."

The future – Scotland's and his own

As he is a proud Scot, one wonders where Butler stands on the Scottish Independence referendum, which will be held next year. Oddly, or maybe, practically, he's somewhere in the middle.

"I'm not 100 per cent sold on the idea. I used to have intense feelings for an independent Scotland but now I'm more about coming together, rather than a separation. I think some separate taxation and more of a connection with local government is smart, and should be worked on, but I don't think an independent Scotland is necessarily a good idea."

Butler is currently in what appears to be his longest-standing relationship to date with Romanian model Madalina Ghenea, whom he met on the set of a commercial in Dubai. Butler gives the impression he may be finally ready to put down roots.

"Priorities change as you get older," he said. "I guess part of me would love to have toddlers running around, to enter that new stage in my life. But sure, that's pretty normal for anyone really."

And career-wise, he seems to be embarking on a new direction too, with plans to start shooting on harrowing Holocaust drama Dynamo, which charts the Ukrainian uprising against the Nazis as well as Thunder Run, an Iraqi war epic co-starring Matthew McConaughey and Sam Worthington, in similar vein to The Hurt Locker.

And what of the rumours of an appearance in the sequel to 300? "I think that rumour is done. Unless they've used CGI (computer-generated imagery) and not told me about it, I don't think I'm in it," he joked. "They offered it to me and I really liked the script but I didn't understand what I was there for; all I was doing was giving a political speech - it was only a minor sideline. It just felt better that I wasn't a part of it."

It's fair to say Butler straddles the line between action and rom-com pretty successfully. In the past 12 months alone, he's gone from Machine Gun Preacher to Playing for Keeps and now Olympus Has Fallen. Is this an intentional mix?

"I wish I was that calculating," he chuckled. "Honestly, I just take what I can get. I guess I like to mix it up... isn't that what acting's all about? Hopefully there's no fear that I'll ever be typecast.

"And of course, it'd be great to think a big award might be around the corner. I mean it would be lovely, wouldn't it? So many say they aren't bothered but it's a lovely recognition for your work. I think every actor has a moment where they think, that'd be nice. But we'll see down the line, who knows?

"My goals are just to keep working, be happy, be healthy. No-one can really ask for more than that, can they?"

Jetsetting around the world may be all well and fine for now, but in the future, Butler foresees a move back to his homeland.

"I think ultimately that's what I'm working towards. LA and Dubai, and Australia - all these places are phenomenal and wonderful for the short-term, but I think I really want to move back to my roots and settle in Scotland – back to Paisley. Yeah, I could see that happening very easily. And whenever I return home it restores a bit of the bullishness that I carry around with me. That can become a bit too softened in LA, so I like to recharge in that way!"

ANTIGONISH
150
HIGHLAND GAMES
Celebrating
150
YEARS
July 7-14, 2013
Visit the 150th anniversary of the Games and make history by celebrating history
www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca
Proudly sponsored by:
Central
MacLEOD GROUP
HOLD FAST
HEALTH SERVICES LTD.
RIVERSIDE
INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

SUMMER FLINGS!

Highland Games and Celtic Festivals

Antigonish!

This July, the Antigonish Highland Games in Nova Scotia will be 150 years old. Melanie Furlong takes a look at the event that has become synonymous with summer on Canada's east coast.

Appropriately enough, the 2013 Antigonish Highland Games is shaping up to be the best-attended in living memory. Thousands of spectators are expected to flock to the small host town in northeastern Nova Scotia for the week beginning July 7. Many spectators will come from around the world, thanks to the event's international reputation for authenticity, attention to detail, and hospitality.

The Antigonish Games are one of the oldest highland games to be held outside of Scotland and began in 1863, four years before Canada was established as a country. Nova Scotia, which means New Scotland in Latin, has a strong Celtic heritage and, over the years, the Antigonish event has raised funds for charitable causes such as the Antigonish Highland Society, a cultural organization dedicated to relieving "distress in indigent Highlanders," and St. Ninian's Cathedral, which was being built when the games started and still stands in Antigonish.

Long one of the province's premier events and a magnet to fine musicians like fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and Ashley MacIsaac, organizers were thrilled when this year's games was named to the American Bus Association's annual list of the Top 100 events on the continent. "To be selected from hundreds of other events in North America and to be included on ABA's list is a huge honour," event chair Alisha Grant told Celtic Life Intl.

Diversity is part of the event's appeal and many of the historic contests such as foot races, piping, the Highland Fling competition and the dramatic traditional Scottish heavy events will be part of this year's celebration along with the re-introduced track events, last held in the 1970s. The track events will occur on a brand new track at the town's respected St. Francis Xavier University. Grant said those in the track and field communities are very excited and believe the re-introduced events will bring a fresh dynamic to the celebrations.

Pipe and drum bands from across the region and the country will compete July 13 and 14 on the town's Columbus Field. These big competitions are seen every year in Antigonish as the town traditionally hosts both the Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Canadian pipe band championships.

Dancers will compete in the New Scotland Open Championships, featuring the four highland dances: Fling; Sword; Seann Truibhas and Reel. A new event called the Highland Heart Open Premiership will also be held, featuring Scottish national dances such as the Lilt, Earl of Errol, Highland Laddie, and Sailor's Hornpipe.

"This is a big deal," Grant said. "We're anticipating a lot of dancers to continue to travel east after the Canadian championships in Montreal the week before. We really hope there will be a good showing of dancers and there will be some great judges coming too that we're very excited about."

The International Highland Games Federation World Team Championships will also be held July 13 and 14 and will see the world's best highland heavy events athletes competing in the Hammer Throw, Shot Put, Discus and other much-loved contests.

"The best heavy event athletes from around the world from each country are paired in teams of two," said Grant. "We'll have about 12 competitors representing a number of countries, such as the U.S., Germany, the U.K., and possibly New Zealand. The World Caber Toss Championships will be tied into that event."

Two of the most popular spectacles that will occur on the weekend are the Farmer's Walk and the Tug-of-War. Sunday afternoon's Farmer's Walk, entered by many of the same heavy event athletes, will be the Canadian Championship event.

"The athletes walk a 100-foot course as fast as they can, carrying 202-pounds in each hand," said Grant. "It's incredible. You'll see these men almost trying to run with this weight. It's pretty intense."

The Tug-of-War competitions are held both days. Men's and women's competitions are scheduled and they are hoping to see some junior pulls too. "It's a huge draw for the games," Grant said.

Outside the Games weekend, the Antigonish Highland Society has a few other events scheduled, such as the 80-kilometre Cape George Bike Race, a Kilted Golf Tournament, a lobster supper, ceilidhs throughout the week at various locations, a five-mile road race, an original stage production called The Ships of 1801, and the Concert Under the Stars, featuring headlining Celtic musicians Mary Jane Lamond and Wendy MacIsaac.

An inaugural event this year will be the Antigonish Highland Games Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to be held Thursday, July 11. Fifteen inductees, including two groups, will be recognized for having participated in the Games over the years. "These include dancers, pipers, athletes and builders, people that helped with the planning and growing of the Games," Grant said.

A Pipers' Reunion

In 2012, Vancouver-based bagpiper Mike Chisholm, who's originally from Antigonish and has attended more than 20 Highland Games there, began thinking about travelling across the country from his new home in British Columbia to attend his hometown's historic event. "There's lots of great Celtic music, piping, fiddling, piano, and it really makes the Antigonish Highland Games stand out more than the others that I've attended out here," said Chisholm.

He thought about getting all the pipers and drummers he'd known over the years together for a reunion at the 150th Games. While visiting Antigonish in the summer of 2012, Chisholm got together with Grant and Iain Boyd, the president of the Antigonish Highland Society. They thought a piper and drummer reunion for the Saturday morning parade was a great idea.

"My real aim is to bring people here who played the pipes or drums many years ago and haven't played them lately," Chisholm explained. "There's an expression, 'shouldering the pipes.' I want them to think about shouldering their pipes again and playing very basic tunes - nothing too difficult - to play with friends and colleagues and people that they played with many years ago to celebrate the 150 years."

So far, Chisholm and 20 other musicians have signed up to meet in Antigonish. Chisholm hopes to see 75 to 100 musicians in the reunion parade.

"I've put up a Facebook page as a place for people to meet online and discuss what's going on," he said. "It's been a great way to get pipers and drummers together from all over the place to talk about the Games, reminisce about what it was like and hopefully make plans to meet up. Our contribution to the event will be forming a mass band, marching down the street and playing some basic bagpipe tunes. That's our way of giving back and commemorating the 150th with a little bit of the music we've enjoyed so much over the years."

Keeping the Games Alive

So, how does a 150-year-old cultural festival in an area that presumably no longer has "distressed indigent Highlanders" plan to retain its relevance in the future? By appealing to future generations, of course.

Friday, July 12 will be Children's Day, or Tir Nan Og (Land of Eternal Youth) at Columbus Field. Track and field events, mini-caber toss, Gaelic speaking, Highland drumming, and butter churning are a few of the things children ages five to 12 can experience for a nominal fee. It's all part of a plan to raise the profile of the Antigonish Highland Society and promote Scottish heritage, language and culture to young people.

"The Canadian heavy events' junior competitors will be there to help out," said Grant, "and we hope to see a couple of hundred participants. We had a contest among Gaelic classes in high schools to design a logo for the event, too. We got a product we were happy with and we engaged hundreds of students. Any way we can get in front of youth in a meaningful way is so important."

Mike Chisholm feels the same. He says most bagpipers learned the pipes because they wanted to play solo or be in a pipe band parade. "The more we do that, the more people will be interested in playing the instruments and participating in the games and perpetuating that culture that's so important to that area and is so unique.

"It's really important to do what we can to encourage younger people to become involved, whether it's through piping, music or dancing, those are important things and we can only do it by performing. I've said this to a lot of people. It's wonderful here in British Columbia that there are so many different cultures to celebrate, but it's also great to be able to celebrate your own culture, and Nova Scotia is really lucky to have the Antigonish Highland Games."

www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca.

ScotDance Canada

2014 Vancouver

July 2 – 6, 2014

Our Venue:

Richmond Oval

(home of the 2010 Olympic Speed-skating events)

6111 River Road, Richmond BC

richmondoval.ca

Host Hotel:

Sheraton Vancouver Airport

7 minute walk to dancing venue

(Overflow hotels once Sheraton's block is full:
Marriott Vancouver Airport/Hilton Vancouver Airport)

www.sheratonvancouverairport.com

Sheraton Vancouver Airport

604.273.7878/1.800.663.0299 toll free

Reservations open July 8, 2013, 9 am PST

Booking reference:

ScotDance Canada Championship Series 2014 (SDCCS 2014)

$145/night Sheraton & Marriott $149/night Hilton

NOTE: Maximum of 2 rooms may be booked under one credit card

www.sdccs.ca

www.facebook.com/ScotDanceCanada

Twitter: @ScotDanceCanada #SDCCS2014

ScotDance Canada *Championship Series*

Making new friends, keeping fit and learning to cope under pressure are just a few of the benefits highland dancers get from competing in the ScotDance Canada Championship Series. Scotdance Canada, formed in 1987, is an affiliate of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing (SOBHD) and has provincial affiliates across the country. One of its mandates is to promote highland dancing through its Championship Series, which will be held this year from July 3-7 in Montreal, Quebec. Already, more than 825 dancers from across Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa have registered for the event, ensuring an excellent turn out.

"It's actually a series of competitions that cover all the different levels a dancer can progress through to develop their skills," Deborah Wardrope, the national secretary for ScotDance Canada told Celtic Life International. "We have primary, beginner, novice, intermediate and premier levels. Then the top level, the premiers, are split into two levels. One is called a restricted group and is open for dancers who haven't won a trophy in the last two years. Each of our provincial affiliates sends a team and they compete in the seven age categories." The marquee event of the series is the Canadian Championships held on July 5, 2013. Each of our provincial affiliates sends a team and they compete in the seven age categories to determine the National Champion."

It's because of the annual Championship Series that dancers are able to make friends from all over the country and beyond. ScotDance Canada has nine provincial affiliates – in Manitoba, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec. From British Columbia to Prince Edward Island, Canada's highland dance community is both widespread and close knit. In fact, the social aspect of ScotDance Canada's organization makes it very appealing to young dancers and their families.

Wardrope, who's also a highland dance judge, teacher and author, knows first-hand the results of all this networking. "My best friend and I met through dancing as teenagers," she said. "Our friendship grew because we started dancing together, then we started travelling with our dancing. She's now in PEI, and I'm in Ontario, but we still keep in close touch."

Wardrope said she has a student at her studio who made a dance friend in Manitoba.

"They keep in touch through email and have become life-long friends. I think pretty much anyone on ScotDance Canada's board of directors can give you a similar scenario. There are relationships built. If you look on Facebook, you'll see the dancers' worldwide network is spread to even New Zealand and Australia."

Bill Troock, ScotDance Canada President, said the social aspect of the Championship Series and competitions in general is key. "That's really what binds us as a small community. That's the networking we do and hopefully that will keep building numbers. That's what the hope is."

The health benefits to each dancer are also very important. "By simply watching highland dance you'd appreciate what the health benefits are," Troock said. "The dancers learn about balance and coordination, balancing on one foot, which is always important for young children, and finding their centre and core strength."

Troock said highland dancing especially benefits children with asthma because it builds lung capacity and strength. "We've had examples of severe asthmatics that have gone on to win Canadian championships so there are huge health benefits, far more than we've even tapped. We probably don't even know what they all are yet. That's not something ScotDance Canada has looked at, but it may be something we'll look at in the future."

Wardrope said being in a competitive field like highland dancing also helps develop other life skills. "The dancers are expected to perform under pressure. If you take what they're doing out of the equation and look at somebody trying to perform under pressure, on a stage in front of an audience and a judge that is marking them on performance, dancing does that. If you relay that to adults in their business lives, many are paralyzed by the fact that they have to get up in front of their peers and perform. In that regard, asking these dancers to perform to the best of their ability teaches them to cope with pressure in a controlled environment."

The ScotDance Canada Championship Series rotates between eastern and western Canada each year. Next year's Series will be held at the Richmond Oval, in Richmond, B.C., and the 2015 Championship Series will be in London, Ontario.

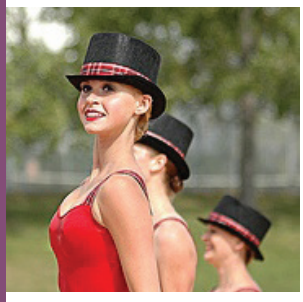
~ By Melanie Furlong

www.scotdance.ca

TEN *to* ATTEND

The Antigonish Highland Games

This July, Nova Scotia's Antigonish Highland Games will be 150 years old. As if in celebration, the games have made the American Bus Association's annual list of the Top 100 events on the continent. The event traditionally hosts both the Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Canadian pipe band championships and dancers will compete in the New Scotland Open Championships. A new event, the Highland Heart Open Premiership, will feature Scottish national dances. The International Highland Games Federation World Team Championships will be held July 13 and 14. Sunday afternoon's Farmer's Walk will be the Canadian Championship event. Other offerings include a lengthy bike race, a road race, a kilted golf tournament and music and theatre. *July 7-14, 2013 / Antigonish, Nova Scotia www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca.*



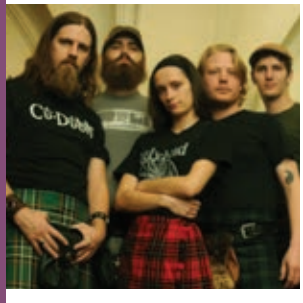
Calgary Highland Games

The city of Calgary, Alberta, in western Canada, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its Highland Games this year, making this one of the oldest gatherings in North America. The one-day event features all the classic Games mainstays such as piping, highland dance, heavy events, and a thrilling tug-o-war. High-level competitors will attend from around the world. These Games are officially twinned with the Inverness Highland Games in Scotland, an alliance which also links the event to the Triad Highland Games in Greensboro, USA, and the Waipu Highland Games in New Zealand, making this a truly international occasion. *August 31, 2013 / Springbank Park for All Seasons, Calgary, Alberta www.calgaryhighlandgames.com*

Celtic Colours International Festival

Every October, Cape Breton Island on Canada's east coast is home to a unique celebration of music and culture as the Celtic Colours International Festival presents dozens of concerts all over the island as well as an extensive line-up of community events and a nightly Festival Club. Artists travel from Great Britain, Ireland, Brittany, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, and Cuba as well as the United States and Canada to join the finest of Cape Breton's musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers and tradition-bearers. Celtic Colours festival-goers can tailor their musical experience to suit their tastes. Workshops, offered in many aspects of Celtic culture, allow visitors and residents alike to get the hands-on experience they desire.

October 11-19, 2013 / Various Locations in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada / www.celtic-colours.com



Detroit Highland Games

This year, the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit presents its 164th annual Highland Games, the oldest continuous games in North America. The celebrations kick off with a traditional ceilidh on Friday evening featuring the Kreelers, Mudmen and Cu Dubh. On Saturday, the Games begin with pipe band, heavy athletics, and highland dancing competitions. Border Collies will be a highlight on the main field. There will also be two stages of non-stop entertainment featuring national and regional artists. Visitors can find links to their ancestry at the Parade of Clans and enjoy shopping for Celtic crafts, jewellery, merchandise and collectibles. Youngsters will enjoy the Wee Bairns area.

August 2 and 3, 2013 / Greenmead Historical Park, Livonia, MI / www.highlandgames.com

The Highlands of Durham Games

Now in its 18th year, the myriad events at these Games include great musical entertainment, Celtic livestock demonstrations, including a Border Collie sheep-herding demo, all the traditional heavy events and highland and folk dancing competitions. There will also be an Avenue of the Clans under the shady trees where experienced genealogists will help visitors identify their clan and find sources of information. The event also features a traditional massed band ceremony, a lively ceilidh and the construction of a dry stone wall using an ancient Celtic technique. The Games will close with the dramatic Burning of the Viking Ship ceremony. *July 26-28, 2013 / Elgin Park, Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada / www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com*

KVMR Celtic Festival

Sponsored by radio station KVMR, this Californian Celtic festival got its start because of the popularity of a weekly Celtic music program. It has since flourished and now boasts five entertainment stages with musicians like Deby Benton Grosjean performing. There are also music workshops and jam sessions, opportunities for dancers to perform and dramatic heavy games events. But the Celtic animals are sure to steal the show. Visitors will love the regal Irish Wolfhounds, Border Collie demonstrations with Celtic sheep and Mountain and Moorland Ponies, including the rare Dartmoor and endangered Exmoor breeds. Visitors are welcome to camp on the grounds and can even book their weddings for that weekend! *Sept. 27-29, 2013 / Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA*
www.kvmrcelticfestival.org

New Brunswick Highland Games

Looking for cultural immersion? This weekend Games event offers introductory workshops to the bagpipes, Gaelic language, the tin whistle, and the bodhran. If you're after a taste of Scotland, you can buy tickets to a whisky or beer-tasting, sample the haggis, see your tartan blessed or join a Scottish sing-a-long. All of this is in addition to the Games mainstays, such as piping, drumming, dancing and heavy athletics. Fabulous musicians will include award-winning Ten Strings and a Goat Skin as well as Castlebay, the lively Fredericton Fiddle Orchestra, Salty Dog, One Acre Lot and many more.
July 26-28, 2013 / Old Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
www.highlandgames.ca

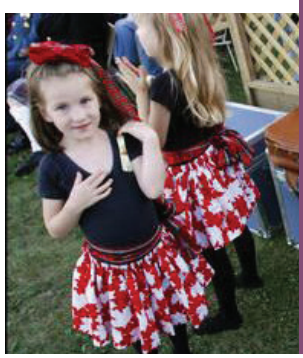
New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival

One of the largest and most diverse games in the U.S., the New Hampshire Highland Games and Festival presents a gathering of Scottish clans, massed bands, athletics, instrumental competitions, sheepdog trials and Celtic music. There will also be various New England championships, including those for Scottish fiddle, Highland dance and solo piping and drumming. A youth program for youngsters ages five to pre-teen, offers music, dance, crafts, stories and games. The bands Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Albannach and Prydein will perform, as will fiddlers Brendan Carey Block and Alasdair Fraser, cellist Natalie Hass, singer and guitarist Charlie Zahm, band leader John Carmichael and the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire. *September 21-22 / Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH*
www.nhscot.org

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

The largest indoor show in the world, featuring over 2,000 Canadian and international military and civilian performers, is held every year in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Visitors enjoy bagpipes, highland dancers, la culture de l'Acadie (the French culture of Canada's east coast) and military traditions. The Tattoo also features innovative acrobatic acts, modern music, contemporary dancing, trampoline routines and cutting-edge videos. This year's show themes will include the Battle of the Atlantic and the capture of the USS Chesapeake by the MMS Shannon during the 1813 Battle of Boston Harbour. Countries represented include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Acts like the Langley Ukulele Ensemble, OzScot Dancers and The Flying Saxons make this year's show a must-see. *June 30 – July 7, 2013 / Halifax Metro Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada / www.nstattoo.ca*

Trenton Scottish Irish Festival



This event appeals to all Celtic culture-lovers with both Scottish and Irish dancing, music and events. Live entertainment from Poor Angus will kick off the celebrations on Friday night and the Saturday morning parade through downtown Trenton will lead spectators to the main field where heavy events, piping and drumming competitions and Highland and Irish dancing will take place. The Steel City Rovers will be there from Hamilton, Ontario, offering some mini-workshops on Saturday, and Montreal's Salty Dog will be entertaining at the Saturday ceilidh. Visit the Celtic market, witness the Kirkin of the Tartan ceremony and the stunning massed band at the Highland Cathedral.
Sept. 6-7, 2013 / Centennial Park, Quinte West, Trenton, Ontario, Canada
www.trentonscottishirish.com

PROFILES

*the*DANCER

Thirteen-year-old Larissa Godin is at the top of her game–her Highland Games, that is!

Last year, this talented Highland dancer from Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada, competed at four Highland Games and won seven trophies. She also became a Canadian champion at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series in Edmonton.

The teen has quite a bit of Celtic background, both Scottish and Irish, but she loves Highland dance for many reasons besides celebrating her heritage. "I like how I've gotten really strong by practicing it and how there is a specific technique for every position. I love that there are competitions to go to and that I get to meet dancers from all different places."

She was very excited to become a Canadian champion in July 2012. "It was always something I dreamed of, but I didn't think my dream would come true," she said. "…The top six people in the group get a trophy so that was my goal."

Godin worked very hard to meet that goal. "They started announcing the top six trophies at sixth place, so I couldn't believe it when they got all the way up to first runner-up and they still hadn't called my name…I hope to be able to become champion again, but there are a lot of wonderful dancers in my age group so it will be very difficult to do."

This summer, Godin and her mother will travel to Scotland for the Cowal Highland Gathering where she will compete in the preliminaries for the Highland Dance World Championship. "I've been telling my parents for the last few years that I really want to go to Scotland to compete. They didn't have the time off work or the money to travel to Scotland so they said that maybe if I were Canadian Champion it would be different and they would have to take me," said the youngster. "They were surprised when I won and they decided that we should go and see what it's like to compete at the World Championship in Scotland."

*the*PRODUCER

As chief executive and producer of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Brigadier David Allfrey's greatest pleasure is seeing someone in the audience completely connecting with the show.

"The tattoo has the ability to touch the audience in a very remarkable way," Allfrey said. "The sound of the pipes is extraordinary and when the bands get it absolutely right, it is not far short of magic."

Allfrey retired from the regular army in 2011 to produce the tattoo, but he has had notable success producing other civil/military spectaculars since 1987. He has now produced two sold-out tattoos and is getting ready for his third.

"The tattoo has been an important part of my life for many years," he said. "One of my abiding memories is my own son at aged seven standing on his seat, swinging his kilt to the sound of the massed pipes and drums. The place, the people, the music, lights, sounds, fireworks and the atmosphere are unique."

The tattoo performs to 8,800 people each evening from across the world. "For many visitors, an evening at the tattoo is the culmination of a visit to the United Kingdom and the highlight," Allfrey said. "While for others, it's one component of a wonderful trip to Scotland, taking in a range of destinations, absorbing the majestic countryside, the heritage, the food, drink and the entertainment and hospitality for which Scotland is famous."

The tattoo is also important to the United Kingdom's economy, contributing £77 million and a further £31 million in the equivalent of full-time employment. "Running any business in the current economic climate is challenging," Allfrey said. "We need to attend carefully to our bottom line and we must be responsive and customer-focused in all that we do. The toughest piece is invariably setting the budget and sticking to it. Because we draw acts from a wide international sphere, it's always a challenge to scout our acts and deliver them safely to the show. Come what may, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo - along with the rest of Scotland - can offer a warm and traditional welcome!"

www.edintattoo.co.uk

PROFILES

*the*VOLUNTEER

The first Glengarry Highland Games was held in Maxville, Ontario, in 1948, when Connie Blaney was just 15. "On the morning of the Games, I told my mother, 'The day I have dreamed of is finally here,'" she said.

In 1948, Blaney was already an excellent piper, although back then, not many girls played the pipes. But with instruction from her father and then pipe major Steven MacKinnon, Blaney's playing flourished.

"On the day of the Games, I was a novelty," Blaney said. "I did pretty well. I won often. I have a coat full of medals that I've kept as a keepsake."

Sixty-five years later, Blaney still finds the Glengarry Highland Games "every bit as exciting as the very first one." The massed band is her favourite event. "We have a lovely infield and when you get 70 different bands counter-marching and playing en masse it's quite a sight."

She has undertaken many volunteer roles, including secretary and chairman of the pipe bands as well as Games president in both 1990 and 1991 and liaison with the Pipers' Society. Her enjoyment of the events and the camaraderie of her colleagues have kept her interest. "It's just the love of it," she said.

In 1948, only eight pipe bands attended the Glengarry Highland Games. Now, with up to 70 bands competing, it is one of the biggest competitive Games in North America, attracting around 25,000 to 30,000 visitors each summer.

Blaney has seen a lot of changes since the poor crowd control of that first year. Today, the Games run efficiently and the Maxville site exceeds 85 acres. Blaney, who worked as an elementary school teacher, lives about one mile from the site. The Games are never far from her mind either. "Volunteering is a year-round thing for me because you just get finished with one Games and then you get all hepped up and preparing for the next one."

This year, Blaney will be meeting and greeting dignitaries and guests. She believes that the most successful volunteers are those who "have it in their bones."

www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

*the*MUSICIAN

Fiddler Katherine Moller is looking forward to playing outdoor concerts and music festivals around the Canadian Maritimes, particularly the New Brunswick Highland Games in Fredericton July 26-28.

Moller said she loves playing Highland Games events because everyone's there to enjoy life. "I enjoy playing to all ages and I like it when people bring their kids to the concerts and they're dancing around. Playing outdoors is one of my favourite things."

Now 35, Moller first played at the New Brunswick Games in 2002. Since then, she has performed and run workshops for many years at the New Brunswick event as well as at other festivals.

It was while attending the Antigonish Highland Games in Nova Scotia years earlier that she was inspired by seeing renowned fiddlers Natalie MacMaster and Ashley MacIsaac play for the first time. "I was in high school then and I started playing fiddle more seriously after that." Her music studies took her to the Gaelic College in St. Anne's, Cape Breton, to McGill University in Montreal and to Ireland.

Moller has favourite tunes she shares with her Highland Games audiences, including her original tune, Belfast, and several sets of faster tunes. The writing process varies for the fiddler. "I work best when I can focus on the music and not have to think about the day-to-day aspects of life," she said. "…sometimes I simply noodle and wait for a tune to come to me, and other days I set out with a challenge, such as – today I am going to write a slip jig in the key of G Major. I love the darker sound of minor keys, especially E minor."

Moller performs as a solo artist and as a member of the Celtic band, Different Folk. She teaches school string programs, private lessons and runs a group called the Fredericton Fiddle Orchestra that performs at seniors' residences. Her greatest reward is performing. "Connecting with the crowd as well as with my fellow musicians and sharing the act of music-making with them is the most meaningful part of my work."

www.katherinemoller.ca

FESTIVAL FOCUS

Italy's Montelago Celtic Festival has grown rapidly since it was founded 11 years ago. Organizers Maurizio Serafini and Luciano Monceri describe the popular event that will be held August 2-4.

What is your own ethnic heritage/background.

We are from the Marche region of central Italy, which, before the expansion of the Roman Empire, was a territory inhabited by Celtic tribes called Gauls. There are many archaeological remains that bear witness to their presence: from the discovery of jewelry at Sassoferrato, in the central province of Ancona, to fortification ruins on the hilltops around Montelago and Colfiorito, where the festival is held. It is therefore quite appropriate for a Celtic festival to take place in the Marche on the Colfiorito plateau.

How, when and why did you get involved with the event?

Everything stems from our great passion for Celtic music and the crystal clear sounds of its acoustic instruments. It made us dream from an early age of ancient worlds populated by fantastic creatures, maidens, and knights with high human and spiritual values.

What is the event's mandate?

Every year, the Montelago Celtic Festival attracts 20,000 people from across Italy and Europe through a philosophy of civil and joyful association, a rapport with the elements of nature, and the enjoyment of a healthy, carnival atmosphere based on dancing, social encounters, European identity, an awareness of history, and the best cultural values of man. It also represents a brief escape from the hectic pace of modern life.

How has it grown over the years?

The festival began as a one-night show under the administration of the Province of Macerata. It immediately drew a crowd of 5,000 and later became an annual, autonomous initiative. That first Celtic Night has become a bona fide festival, offering the opportunity to spend the whole weekend in campers and tents on an alpine plateau 800 metres above sea level. In addition to the concerts, festival-goers can enjoy a Celtic craft market, thematic conferences, music, dance and traditional craft workshops, Celtic games, a rugby tournament, the art of divination, Celtic weddings, paragliding, horse-riding, and battle re-enactments. In addition, through the internet and social forums, a genuine Montelago community has emerged, constantly participating in discussions on programs and services.

Who attends the gathering?

The festival is popular with people of all ages from around the world, with a large representation of youth between 18-35.

What can they expect this year?

We expect an increase in attendance of about 8-10 per cent. We will offer improved reception facilities, public services, and more staff. In addition, the concerts will feature music by groups from European countries that are not of Celtic origin, including Poland, Latvia, Slovenia and Austria. This demonstrates how Celtic culture is becoming a phenomenon of international interest.

Why is it an important event for the local Celtic community?

Montelago Celtic Festival is the largest Celtic cultural event in Italy. The Celtic theme, combined with traditional Italian hospitality and the quality of food and wine, create a unique experience.

How else are you involved with the Celtic community there?

In addition to the main August event, the Celtic community produces year-round Celtic-themed musical and literary events. In the winter, theaters, auditoriums and schools are used for music festivals, courses in violin making, dance, music, literary meetings and conferences, and television and radio broadcasts.

What are the plans for the event in the years ahead?

The main priority for the Montelago Celtic Festival community is to expand its reach internationally. For years now, we've had the patronage of the Embassy of Ireland, and we also collaborate with SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. In the future, we'd like to partner with other international festivals and develop collaborative relationships with incoming tourism agencies, as well as European and world-wide media partners interested in Celtic culture.

www.montelagocelticfestival.it

funFACTS

The Highland Games are believed to have originated in the 11th century when King Malcolm III of Scotland summoned contestants to a foot race to the summit of Craig Choinnich, overlooking Braemar, in a bid to find a fast royal messenger.

The Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon attracts 3,500 competitors and around 20,000 spectators, making it the largest Highland Games held in Scotland.

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco hosts the largest Highland Games in the Northern Hemisphere in Pleasanton, California, with over 50,000 spectators attending each year.

The Latin American Highland Games are held each year in Brazil in the southern city of Sapucaia do Sul.

The most northerly Highland Games are held in Finnmark, Norway, while the most southern games are held in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Logs used in the caber tossing competition are routinely soaked in water before the event to add moisture and regain weight lost while they are not in use.

Highland dancing was originally a men-only event. However, in the late 19th century, the first women began competing. Today, 95 per cent of entrants are female.

At some French events, the traditional caber is replaced by a giant champagne cork.

Many people participate in haggis hurling – the contestant who throws their haggis the farthest wins.

A stick of explosive is tied to a blacksmith's anvil and exploded into the air at the Prosser Scottish Festival and Games in Washington.

The Highland Games held each June at Ceres in Fife, the oldest free games in Scotland, began under a Charter awarded by Robert the Bruce in recognition of the villagers' support at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

The world record for the biggest bowl of porridge was set at the Cupar Highland Games in Fife in 2010. The huge breakfast of 690 litres of cooked porridge could feed 2,000 people and was more than double the existing record.

The first Highland games in the USA took place in New York in 1836.

The Braemar Gathering, which occurs during the first weekend in September, is the only games attended annually by the British Royal Family.

At the Bellingham Highland Games in Ferndale, Washington, you can hunt the Nessie eggs, where mini watermelons are hidden around the park. The lucky hunters can swap their precious Nessie eggs for prizes. Let's hope the eggs are easier to spot than Nessie!

Source: various

WHAT *to* WEAR

Dressing for the Highland Games can be almost as much fun as attending them. That's because the Games offer visitors a chance to wear their Celtic hearts on their sleeves–and elsewhere. Melanie Furlong talks to some eastern Canadians about their sartorial favourites.

LASSIES

Lisa Risley loves attending the Highland Games around her Nova Scotia home. "We have a ball at Games," the owner of the Plaid Place in Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital city, told Celtic Life International. "They are such a great celebration of our heritage."

Risley's favourite Games outfit is a tartan kiltie, T-shirt and flip flops. "I live in it all summer," she said. "If it's raining, it's a kiltie and rubber boots. But I've learned my lesson and now wear shorts underneath. You know, the kilties are only 20 inches long."

While kilties are popular with the younger ladies, you may see other Games attendees in everything from traditional kilts to full ancient dress or clan-crested T-shirts. Wearing clan-crested jewellery is a traditional way to proclaim your Scottish heritage. Some use clan-crested badges to pin a square of tartan wool to their jackets while other ladies pin their sashes with them.

LADS

Innis Campbell always wears a kilt to the Games, but how it's worn depends on what he's doing. "If I'm piping, I wear an Argyle outfit with my kilt: Argyle jacket; sporran; belt buckle; hose and ghillie brogues," said Campbell, who owns the The Scottish Lion store in Halifax. "If I'm doing other activities I like to wear a golf shirt with my kilt, but everything is the same from the waist down. It could be a regular golf shirt or have our company name or Scottish tartan crest of some kind."

Men who don't have a kilt in their closet often wear clan T-shirts, golf shirts or sweatshirts and many wear tartan ties. "If it's cloudy, they might bring a tartan umbrella along," said Campbell.

On cool days, a wooly tartan blanket is essential and classic fishermen's knit sweaters worn with a gentleman's kilt make for great casual wear. Tartan scarves made with worsted wool or lambs' wool can be stylish and cozy any time of year. These are quite easy to find in all the main clan tartans.

Fun items you may see popping up around the Games include Jimmy hats – the tartan hats with red hair on the sides. "Some people might show up with those on as a gag," said Campbell. "Another item that's very popular is the Instakilt, which is a towel that looks like a kilt. It can be worn as a towel when the Games are close to a beach, or they are worn just for fun.

"Most people are going to the Highland Games because they want to celebrate their Scottish heritage," Campbell added. "A lot of people will wear something that represents their clan like a clan crest, or an emblem on their hat or shirt. The gentlemen sometimes like to wear their Glengarry or Balmoral hats with a clan badge."

BAIRNS

Small children are often seen wearing adorable tiny kilts, tartan tam o'shanters or Celtic-themed T-shirts. Highland dancer Emma Townsend, 13, from Halifax, usually attends the Games ready to compete and loves to use a beautiful brooch she inherited from her great-grandmother to pin the scarf on her aboyne dress. "I like to wear it because it's a pretty brooch, but also for sentimental reasons. It makes me feel like she is watching me dance."

But when she's not competing, Townsend would rather be seen in a custom-made tartan top from popular Nova Scotia designer Veronica MacIsaac. "I like the style of her shirts even if they aren't tartan," Townsend said. "But if I'm at the Games, I like to show some spirit."

Event Guide

Around the world, Highland Games celebrations enliven the summer months. Melanie Furlong takes a look at some favourite events.

Highland Dance Competitions

Highland dance competitions can be some of the most dramatic spectacles at the Games as dancers of all ages and skill levels lay their hearts and souls on stage. Highland dances performed can include the Highland Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas and the Reel, which all showcase a dancer's strength and sharpness. National dances such as the Scottish Lilt, Flora MacDonald's Fancy and Earl of Errol may also be performed. Character dances like the Irish Jig, the Sailor's Hornpipe and the Cake Walk, featuring lively movements and costumes, are often included. Under the watchful eyes of one to three international judges who grade each performance, dancers compete for the highest aggregate of points. Even spectators with untrained eyes will find a favourite. Note: Never walk between the dance stage and the judges!

Tug-of-War

Tug-of-war is one of the most thrilling contests. Men's and women's teams, whose total mass must not exceed the maximum weight determined for the class, align themselves at the end of a rope approximately 10 centimetres in circumference. The rope is marked with a "centre line" and two markings four metres either side of the centre line. The teams start with the rope's centre line directly above a line marked on the ground, and once the contest (the "pull") has commenced, attempt to pull the other team so that the marking on the rope closest to their opponent crosses the centre line, or the opponents commit a foul, such as a team member sitting or falling down. We guarantee you'll find yourself cheering for the people on the rope!

Farmer's Walk

This intense competition sees the heavy event athletes walk a 100-foot course as fast as they can while carrying 202-pound weights in each hand. Not an original Highland game, but borrowed from the Farmer's Games, this one is a power contest and more of a strongman event than anything else. Sometimes the Farmer's Walk is an optional event with no bearing on the other heavy weight competitions. It is certainly no less exciting.

Caber Toss

One of the most well-known of the heavy events, the caber toss looks like a telephone pole throwing contest. The caber is a 16 to 25 foot-long tree, weighing 100 to 180 pounds, that's been cut and trimmed to make one end slightly wider than the other. The event can be confusing for the uninformed spectator because it is not thrown for height or distance, but accuracy. The thrower must turn the caber, end over end in a perfect 180 degrees. The biggest challenge for the heavy event athlete is not lifting the caber, but controlling it. The competitor generally runs a distance to pick up momentum and leverage before tossing.

Hammer Throw

This event is similar to the Olympic Hammer Throw, except the competitors' feet must stay put. The hammer has a steel or lead head (16 or 22 pounds) with a bamboo or rattan handle of which the overall length cannot exceed 50 inches. The athlete stands with his back to the throwing area, winds the hammer around his head and releases over his shoulder. The throw is for distance and must land within a certain pie-shaped parameter. Many athletes use a spike at the top of their shoes to dig into the ground and hold their place. The hammer throw is challenging and can put the most powerful men flat on the ground if they lose their balance.

Piping and Drumming

A parade of pipers and drummers will often open the Highland Games' events and a massed pipe band performance will often conclude them. In between, visitors will hear many different pipe and drum bands and solo pipers and drummers playing all over the fields. Solo pipers are assessed on their tuning, timing, tone, tune selection, technique and expression. Depending on their grade level, pipers can enter the light music contest, which includes strathspeys, reels and jigs, or the classical piobaireachd. Solo drummers use three types of drums: the snare; bass and tenor. Each competitor is judged on how they play a melody and how well the drum scores are executed. A common competition set consists of a march, a strathspey and a reel. Pipe bands also compete in grade levels. If you want to meet the musicians, you may find them in the beer tent at the end of the day having a jam session!

EVENTS

JUNE

Yellowstone Highland Games
June 27

Michigan Irish Fest
June 28-29

Cheyenne Celtic Musical Arts Festival
June 28-30

Ohio Celtic Fest
June 28-30

Summerside Highland Gathering
June 28-30

Alaskan Scottish Highland Games
June 29

Ceres Highland Games
June 29

Ithaca Scottish Games & Celtic Festival
June 29-30

An Chuirt Chruitireachta
June 30-July 5

The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo
June 30-July 7

JULY

Embro Highland Games
July 1

Gathering of the Clans
July 1

ScotDance Canada Championship Series
July 3-7

Kenmore Highland Games
July 4

CeltFest
July 5-7

Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games
July 5-7

Aberdeen Highland Games
July 6

Forres Highland Games
July 6

Luss Highland Games
July 6

Round Hill Highland Games
July 6

Monterey Highland Games & Celtic Festival
July 6-7

Antigonish Highland Games
July 7-14

Barra Island Highland Games
July 11

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
July 11 – 14

Annapolis Irish Festival
July 12 – 13

Payson Scottish Festival & Highland Games
July 12-13

Saline Celtic Festival
July 12-13

Colorado Irish Festival
July 12-14

Alva Games
July 13

Haliburton Highland Games
July 13

Kamloops Highland Games
July 13

Loch Lomond Highland Games
July 13

Athena Caledonian Games
July 13-14

Glenarm Castle Highland Games
July 13-14

Skagit Valley Highland Games & Scottish Faire
July 13-14

Harpenden Highland Gathering
July 14

Rosneath Peninsula Highland Games
July 14

Sekonda Stirling Highland Games
July 14

The Swannanoa Gathering
July 14-20

Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan
July 14-21

Burntisland Highland Games
July 15

Catskills Irish Arts Week
July 15-20

Inveraray Highland Games
July 16

Hebridean Celtic Festival
July 17-20

Yn Chruinnaght
July 17-21

Mull Highland Games
July 18

Canada's Irish Festival on the Miramichi
July 18-21

Cambridge Highland Games
July 19-20

Toledo Hibernian Irish Festival
July 19-20

Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival
July 19-21

Maine Celtic Celebration
July 19-21

Orillia Scottish Festival
July 19-21

Adams County Irish Festival
July 20

Andy McGann Traditional Music & Dance Festival
July 20

Celtic Heritage Festival
July 20

Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival
July 20

Inverness Highland Games
July 20

Lochcarron Highland Games
July 20

Lochearnhead Highland Games
July 20

Portland Highland Games
July 20

Taynuilt Highland Games
July 20

Tomintoul Highland Games
July 20

Arizona Highland Celtic Festival
July 20-21

Cold Spring Village Celtic Festival
July 20-21

Elizabeth Celtic Festival
July 20-21

Saltwater Celtic Music Festival
July 20-21

Sterling Renaissance Festival
July 20-21

Ashbourne Highland Gathering
July 21

Augusta Heritage Center's Irish-Celtic Week
July 21-26

Festival de Cornouaille
July 23-28

Interceltic Festival of Aviles
July 23-28

Feile Seamus Creagh
July 25-29

Durness Highland Gathering
July 26

Celtic Festival Missoula
July 26-27

Dayton Celtic Festival
July 26-28

The Faerieworlds Festival
July 26-28

The Great American Irish Festival
July 26-28

Highlands of Durham Games
July 26-28

New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival
July 26-28

Speyfest
July 26-28

Airth Highland Games
July 27

Dakota Irish Fair
July 27

Dufftown Highland Games
July 27

Halkirk Highland Games
July 27

St. Catharines Feis
July 27

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering
July 27-28

Mary from Dungloe International Festival
July 27-Aug 5

Arisaig Highland Games
July 31

AUGUST

Irish Folk & Celtic Music Festival
August 1-3

Dornoch Highland Gathering
August 2

Glengarry Highland Games
August 2-3

Montelago Celtic Festival
August 2-3

St. Andrews Society of Detroit Highland Games
August 2-3

Balaklava Eisteddfod
August 2-4

Cahersiveen Festival of Music and the Arts
August 2-4

Dublin Irish Festival
August 2-4

Iowa Irish Fest
August 2-4

Switzerland Highland Games
August 2-4

O'Carolan Harp Festival
August 2-5

The Pipers Gathering
August 2-5

National Eisteddfod of Wales
August 2-10

Festival Interceltique de Lorient
August 2-11

Edinburgh Military Tattoo
August 2-24

Aboyne Highland Games
August 3

Arran Highland Games
August 3

Highland Village Day
August 3

Newtonmore Highland Games
August 3

Spokane Highland Games
August 3

Sterling Renaissance Festival
August 3-4

Bridge of Allan Highland Games
August 4

Montreal Highland Games
August 4

Pavilion of Scotland
August 4-10

The Goderich Celtic College
August 5-9

Isle of Skye Highland Games
August 7

Killin International Highland Games
August 7

Canadian Old Time Open Fiddle Championship
August 7-11

Feakle Traditional Music Festival
August 7-12

EVENTS

Ballater Highland Games
August 8

Guinness Irish Festival
August 8-10

John Arcand Fiddle Festival
August 8-11

Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival
August 8-11

An Ri Ra Montana Irish Festival
August 9-11

Celtic Roots Festival
August 9-11

Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games
August 9-11

Irish Faire of Minnesota
August 9-11

Irish Fest La Crosse
August 9-11

Newfoundland & Labrador Folk Festival
August 9-11

Abernethy Highland Games
August 10

Central New York Scottish Games and Celtic Festival
August 10

High Desert Celtic Festival & Highland Games
August 10

Irish Fest
August 10

North Berwick International Highland Games
August 10

Sparta Celtic Heritage Festival
August 10

Whidbey Island Highland Games
August 10

Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games
August 10-11

Wichita Highland Games and Celtic Festival
August 10-11

Cortachy Highland Games
August 11

Perth Highland Games
August 11

Piping Live!
August 11-18

Saskatoon Folk Festival
August 15-17

Berea Celtic Festival
August 15-18

Milwaukee Irish Festival
August 15-18

Bracebridge Highland Games
August 16-17

Foxburg Scottish Festival
August 16-17

Amherst Scottish Festival & Highland Games
August 17

Bardstown Highland Games
August 17

Maine Highland Games
August 17

Nairn Highland Games
August 17

International Celtic Festival
August 17-18

Highland Games at Amulet
August 18

Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Competition
August 18-22

Oban Highland Games
August 22

Annual Gathering of the Glenisla Highland & Friendly Society
August 23

Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival
August 23-24

Buffalo Irish Festival
August 23-25

Bute Highland Games
August 24

Glenurquhart Highland Gathering and Games
August 24

Lonach Highland Gathering & Games
August 24

Long Island Scottish Games
August 24

Newport Celtic Rock Festival
August 24

North Lanark Highland Games
August 24

Quechee Scottish Festival
August 24

Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival
August 24-25

Cortland Celtic Festival
August 24-25

Gathering of the Bands
August 25

Cowal Highland Gathering
August 29-31

North American Festival of Wales
August 29-September 1

Festival Celtique de Quebec
August 29-September 8

Kansas City Irish Fest
August 30-September 1

Wisconsin Highland Games & Celtic Fling
August 30-September 1

Calgary Highland Games
August 31

Birnam Highland Games
August 31

McLain Celtic Festival
August 31st

Capital District Scottish Games
August 31-September 1

San Francisco Highland Games
August 31-September 1

Scottish Games Pleasanton
August 31-September 1

Virginia Scottish Games
August 31-September 1

SEPTEMBER

Canmore Highland Games
September 1

Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival
September 1

Hooley on the Hudson
September 1

Gig'n the Bann Festival
September 5-8

Longs Peak Scottish & Irish Highland Festival
September 5-8

Trenton Scottish Irish Festival
September 6-7

Pittsburgh Irish Festival
September 6-8

Tulla Trad Festival
September 6-8

The Braemar Gathering
September 7

South Buffalo Irish Feis
September 7

The Beach Celtic Festival
September 7-8

Ship Bottom Irish Festival
September 7-8

Syracuse Irish Festival
September 7-8

Rochester Irish Festival
September 7-9

Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games
September 8

Celts On The River
September 8

Crossroads International Celtic Festival
September 11-15

Philadelphia Irish Festival
September 12-14

Dingle Tradfest
September 12-15

Irish 2000 Festival
September 13-14

Indy's Irish Festival
September 13-15

Michigan Irish Music Festival
September 13-15

Oklahoma Scottish Games
September 13-15

Innisfil Celtic Festival
September 14

New Jersey Irish Festival
September 14

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games
September 14

Will County Irish Fest
September 14

Cincinnati Celtic Festival
September 14-15

Columbus Scottish Festival
September 14-15

Gloucester City Shamrock Festival
September 15

Great Irish Fair of New York
September 15-16

New Hampshire Highland Games
September 20-22

Tuam Trad Festival
September 20-22

Appalachian Celtic Connection
September 21

Celtic Games of the Quad Cities
September 21

Central Kentucky Celtic Festival & Highland Games
September 21

Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering
September 21

Greeley Irish Festival
September 21

Ligonier Highland Games
September 21

Treasure Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games
September 21

Lotus World Music & Arts Festival
September 26-29

Spanish Peaks International Celtic Music Festival
September 26-29

St. Louis Scottish Games
September 27-28

Celtic Classic Highland Games
September 27-29

Cornish Festival
September 27-29

Inishbofin Set Dancing & Trad Weekend
September 27-29

Johnny Doherty Music & Dance Festival
September 27-29

KVMR Celtic Festival
September 27-29

Louisville Irish Festival
September 27-29

McPherson Scottish Festival
September 27-29

Northeast Squeeze In
September 27-29

Big Stone Celtic Festival
September 28

Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival
September 28

Pipes in the Valley Celtic Festival
September 28

Kilkenny Celtic Festival
September 28-October 2

Hector Quay Highland Homecoming
September-October 20

38th New Hampshire HIGHLAND Games and Festival

NH HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL · AT LOON MOUNTAIN ·

September 20, 21, 22, 2013
Loon Mountain Resort, Lincoln, NH

A Scottish Cultural Celebration of Music, Dance, Athletics, Heritage and more.

1-800-358-7268

www.nhscot.org

NH SCOT
Heritage | Culture | Future

The 2013 Highland Games

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit
North America's Oldest Continuous Highland Games
18 49
Annual Highland Games

Join us at North America's Oldest Continuous Highland Games!

August 2 - 3, 2013

Greenmead Historical Park
Livonia, MI

164 Years of Passion and Pride

For more information, go to highlandgames.com

EMVOD AR GELTED

BRETAGNE

Lorient INTERCELTIC Festival

FROM 2ND TO 11TH AUGUST 2013

The Year of Asturias

The highlands of the southern Celtie

www.festival-interceltique.com

CULTURE & CRÉATION

ORIGNAL COMMUNICATION

18TH SMASH YEAR!

Win a trip for two to Scotland! A new Ipad 64G wifi,
A new silver edition Go Pro camera, BBQ and more!!!

HIGHLANDS of DURHAM GAMES

JULY 26•27•28, 2013

ELGIN PARK

UXBRIDGE

JUST $15

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com

Come join us for a Celtic Celebration like no other!
You never know who you will see at The Games!

SO MANY THINGS TO DO...

- Massed Bands!!!
- Poor Angus Live in Bandshell
  (one of Canada's top bands for the CBC searchlight contest)
- The Little White Lies Band!
- Heavy Event Athletes
- Highland Dancers 450 in all!!
- Scottish Breed Dog Show
- Antique Car Show and Display
- Livestock Show (Scottish Breed!)
- Paul Starr and his 4 Horse Hitch Clydesdales
- Celtic Family and Children's Play Area with Face Painting & Garland Making
- Fine Scottish Food, Plus Treats to Take Home!
- Live Music All Day In Our Beer Garden

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada
PACE CREDIT UNION
zehrs
Durham
marlin travel PICKERING TOWN CENTRE
PACIFIC WESTERN
Tetley

GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL PIPING FESTIVAL

10th BIRTHDAY

Piping Live!®

Street Café Sessions

Family Fun Day

Julie Fowlis

Music of the Nations

Pipe Bands

Daily Recitals

Friday Night Folk

Festival Club

Join the week long celebration at Piping Live! Hundreds of events throughout the week for the whole family.

@glasgowpiping

/PipingLiveFestival

11th -18th AUGUST 2013

www.pipinglive.co.uk

Glenfiddich

GLASGOW CITY MARKETING BUREAU

EventScotland

THE NATIONAL Piping CENTRE

FESTIVAL celtique DE QUÉBEC

PRESENTED BY

FOLLOW THE CELTIC WAVE

FROM AUGUST 29 TO SEPTEMBER 8 2013

MUSIC • CULTURAL ACTIVITIES • CELTIC GAMES

FESTIVALCELTIQUE.COM

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Canada

Ville de Québec

Arrondissement de La Cité-Limoilou

CelticLife International

St. Andrew's

WHETHER YOU'RE A SCOT...

...OR NOT!

calgary highland games

August 31, 2013

Springbank Park for All Seasons

www.calgaryhighlandgames.com

KVMR XVII

Celtic Festival

& Marketplace

Fri-Sun, September 27-29

Friday Free Youth Arts Program

Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley

NEW this year!

Friday Evening Ceilidh with Music & Dance

Come for the **music**

stay for the *magic*

featuring

Mànran

Cathie Ryan

Paddy Keenan • Colleen Raney

Molly's Revenge • 1916

Deby Benton Grosjean & Bridge Crossing

and much more!

Marketplace • Jams & Workshops • Parades • Dance • Living History
Scottish Athletic Games • Kid's Area • Animals of the Celtic Lands
Celtic Spirits • Beautiful Park-like Camping • Camp Sessions & more

Discounted Early Bird Tickets on sale thru May!

Get Information, Buy & Print Tickets online at
kvmr.org/celticfestival or call 530-265-9073

A BENEFIT FUNDRAISER FOR KVMR WITH SUPPORT FROM

MUSIC OF THE WORLD · NEVADA CITY 89.5 KVMR · KVMR.ORG · VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY · 105.1 FM TRUCKEE

AJA VIDEO SYSTEMS · Sierra Nevada · Nevada City Winery · Mountain Peoples Organic Wine & Beer Distributors · B&C Home and Garden Center True Value

Broad Street Inn · Outside Inn · BriarPatch Co-op Natural Foods Community Market · The Union · Shelly's Smart Shopper .com · Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival · CelticLife

THE CELTIC ARTS FOUNDATION
PRESENTS THE 19TH ANNUAL

For more information or to purchase tickets:

www.CelticArts.org

360-416-4934 or 888-416-4934

SKAGIT VALLEY
HIGHLAND GAMES
& CELTIC FESTIVAL

JULY 13–14, 2013

Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon, WA
Events begin at 9:00 a.m.

- Family Entertainment
- Sheepdog Trials & Celtic Farm
- Athletic Events
- Celtic Legends Concert
- Highland Dancing
- Bagpipers & Massed Pipe Bands
- Food & Celtic Merchandise
- Children's Events
- Scottish & Irish Clans
- Beer & Whisky Garden
- Scottish & Irish Acoustic Music

Celtic Legends Concert
Saturday
featuring The **Troy MacGillivray Trio**
Mid-day and evening performances

Free Friday Night Concert: July 12

Advance Tickets
available online, www.CelticArts.org,
and at these bookstores:
- Tattered Page, Mount Vernon
- Snowgoose Books, Stanwood

WITH SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT FROM

FREE ADMISSION • THREE STAGES • FAMILY FRIENDLY • RAIN OR SHINE

UNITED IRISH of DAYTON

CELTIC FESTIVAL

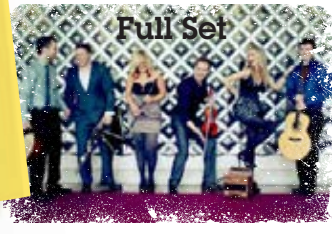
2002 - 2013

JULY

FRIDAY 26 6-11
SATURDAY 27 12-11
SUNDAY 28 9-6

At Downtown Riverscape
111 E. Monument Street, Dayton, Ohio

www.UnitedIrishOfDayton.org



It's Time To Get Down!

Celebrate Celtic-style with three days worth of FREE music, dance, entertainment and culture. Plan now to get down to Dayton's premier outdoor event – the United Irish of Dayton Celtic Festival!

Irish Ceili Dance: Saturday and Sunday ▪ **Bike Ride:** Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Celtic Breakfast: Sunday, 9:00 a.m. ▪ **Gaelic Mass:** Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

UNITED IRISH OF DAYTON

GUINNESS DRAUGHT

WDTN 2 DAYTON CW

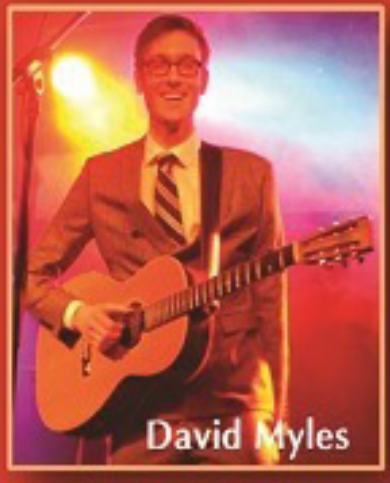
TSIF
TRENTON SCOTTISH IRISH FESTIVAL
"Bagpipes...traditionally used to warn of enemy clans...
at our festival they will welcome your clan"
September 6&7, 2013 at Centenial Park, Trenton
www.trentonscottishirish.com
www.etsy.com/shop/chelseamcpherson
QuinteWest
A Natural Attraction
Top 100 2012
SPONSORED BY: VIA Rail Canada
FESTIVALS & EVENTS ONTARIO

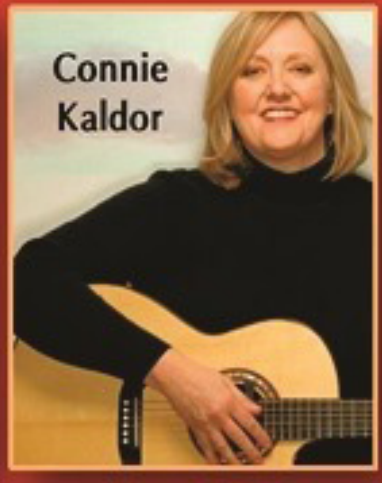
Plan your vacation this summer in beautiful Northern California....climb halfway to the stars in San Francisco... tour the world famous Napa, Sonoma & Livermore Valley Wine Country...and be sure to attend one of the world's largest and most adventurous Scottish festivals....the
148th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games
AUGUST 31 & SEPTEMBER 1, 2013
PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA
ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Presented by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco Since 1866
The Adventure Returns.....
EVENTS & 21 ATTRACTIONS
The BIG ONE!
IRISH PAVILION
· 30 PIPE BANDS-U.S. & CANADA
· U.S. MARINE BAND SAN DIEGO
· 39th U.S. INV. CHAMPIONSHIP
· HIGHLAND DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS
· 6 STAGES OF TRADITIONAL & CELTIC ROCK ENTERTAINMENT
· LIVING HISTORY: Mary Queen of Scots Scottish/Roman/Viking
· 2 STAGES CELTIC HERITAGE
· GLEN OF THE CLANS: Nearly 100 Clans
· IRISH STEP DANCING · CHILDREN'S GLEN · 100+ VENDORS
· SHEEP DOG TRIALS · HIGHLAND CATTLE · SCOTTISH & AMERICAN FOOD
· FIVE-A-SIDE SOCCER, RUGBY & SHINTY · WHISKY TASTINGS & SEMINARS
· BIRDS OF PREY · CLYDESDALE TEAM
· BRITISH AUTOMOBILES & CYCLES
and so much more.....
www.TheScottishGames.com
Information: 1-888-769-2345

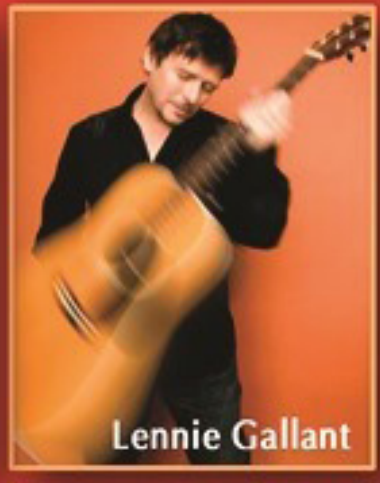
28 years of musical memories by the sea

LUNENBURG FOLK HARBOUR FESTIVAL

The province's longest running folk festival, Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival has provided a combination of beautiful scenery, astounding talent, and Maritime hospitality for over 25 years.







The McDades • Cheryl Wheeler • Balfa Toujours • The Once
Ray Bonneville • Elena Yeung • The Gawler Sisters
Gordie MacKeeman & His Rhythm Boys • Barbara LeBlanc
Jeff Davis • Unisson • Laura Cortese • Old Man Luedecke
Teresa Doyle • Genticorum • Ashley Condon • Ronald Labelle
Ten Strings And A Goatskin • Rob Lutes • Richard Wood Duo
Mollie O'Brien & Rich Moore • The Hupman Brothers

Find us on:

For tickets, schedule, and full line-up:

www.folkharbour.com

Comunn Féis an Eilein Proudly Presents our

15th Annual Gaelic Concert Series

15th Annual Gaelic Concert Series
"Bu Deònach Leam Tilleadh"
"I Would Willingly Return"

Tuesdays 8 pm
July 9, 16, 23, 30 and Aug 6, 13
Some of Cape Breton's finest musicians gather at the Christmas Island Fire Hall to share the stage with emerging talent and local tradition bearers in bilingual Gaelic- English concerts.

23rd Annual Féis an Eilein
August 20th – 24th, 2013
A Féis is a community-based festival designed to promote the Gaelic language and culture of an area through educational and social activities for people of all ages.

Contact us: Comunn Féis an Eilein
P.O. Box 317 Christmas Island, Cape Breton
Nova Scotia, B1T 1R7

E-mail: feisaneilein@ns.sympatico.ca
www.feisaneilein.ca

Ph/Fax: 902-622-2627
Facebook: Féis an Eilein
Twitter: @feisaneilein

Events take place at the Christmas Island Fire hall
8539 Grand Narrows Hwy (Route 223)

ecbc Canada Cape Breton Post Festival Fever Nova Scotia Alba Nuadh

RE-JIGGED

a celebration of new Celtic Music & Dance

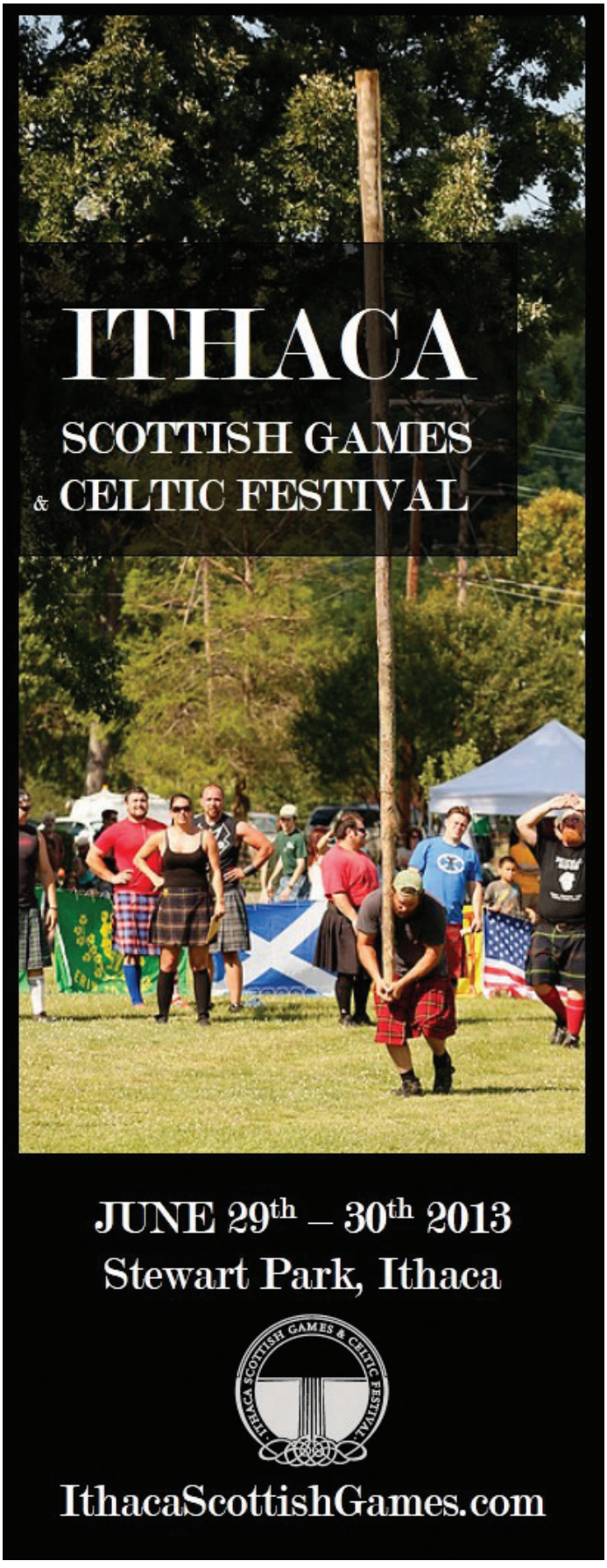
4th annual festival
in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

OCTOBER 25th & 26th 2013

workshops
master classes
sessions
concerts
children's programs
late-night ceilidh

RE-JIGGED is about learning, sharing & enjoying the best new trad Celtic music & dance.

www.rejiggedfestival.com


ITHACA
SCOTTISH GAMES
& CELTIC FESTIVAL
JUNE 29th – 30th 2013
Stewart Park, Ithaca
ITHACA SCOTTISH GAMES & CELTIC FESTIVAL
IthacaScottishGames.com

Featuring new songs, new additions to cast, and new production highlights!
SHIPS OF 1801
Who Will Remember?
A theatrical concert honouring the early Scottish settlers to Nova Scotia
July 13th at 7:30pm
Antigonish Highland Games
Keating Centre, St. FX Campus
Antigonish, Nova Scotia
July 20th at 8:00pm
Decoste Centre
Pictou, Nova Scotia
Produced by Duncan MacDonald - Directed by Rob Wolf
facebook.com/Shipsof 1801
antigonishhighlandgames.ca

BE A SCOT FOR A WEEKEND!
NEW BRUNSWICK
HIGHLAND GAMES
FESTIVAL
JULY 26-28, 2013
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Woodstock Rd, Fredericton, NB
WHAT WE OFFER
Piping, drumming, Scottish dance and heavy athletic competitions, Massed Pipes & Drums each day, a Céilidh Tent with musicians from across the region and around the world, workshops including piping, drumming, Scottish lore, Gaelic speaking, dancing, whisky and beer tasting, vendors of Celtic wares from across the region and a Kilted Run (5k) to kick off the festivities.
LIKE US /NBHighlandGames
FOLLOW US /NBHighlandGames
highlandgames.ca

Round Hill Highland Games

Get Your SCOTTISH On!

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

McPHERSON KANSAS

Scottish Festival

September 28 & 29, 2013
9 a.m. Gates Open

Lakeside Park, McPherson, Kansas

Plus
Friday Evening Clan Gathering
& Saturday Evening Concert

Join Us For 16 Venues Of Family Fun!

Ad funded in part by McPherson CVB grant

Celtic Music • Dance • Food & Products
Clans • Pipers & Drummers
Highland Athletes • Kids' Crafts & Games

Bring Coupon to Gate for $1 Off Admission

macfestival.org or join us on Facebook

1-800-324-8022

CL

Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Festival
ESTES PARK
COLORADO

September 5-8 2013
www.scotfest.com
970-586-6308
PO Box 1820
Estes Park, CO 80517

The MACALLAN · Highland Park · Estes Park Colorado

New this year!!!!!
Highlanders 5K+
Race

Festival 9:00am-5:00pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Pipe Bands, Highland Dance, Irish Dance,
US Int'l Championships Professional Jousting
Professional Scottish Athletics
Grade 1 Pipe Bands
Scottish & Irish Clan Booths, Dogs of the British Isles
Entertainers, Food&Drink, Import Goods, more-more

Concerts 7:30pm-10:00pm Friday, Saturday
Friday: Seamus Kennedy, Brigadoons, Black Irish Band, Highland Way
Saturday: Albannach, Celtica, Seven Nations, Highland Reign

Tattoo Estes 7:30pm-10:00pm Thursday, Friday, Saturday
All new for 2013 : Band of America's Few, The Fountain City Brass Band, The Bermuda Regimental Band, Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums ScottishPower Pipe Band, Queen City Pipe Band, Ft. Collins Pipe Band, Color Guards, Leprechauns, Irish Piper, Cast of over 250.

Kilt optional.

FUN MANDATORY.

Featuring: Diana Gabaldon and the CSAF Men's Championship

Fergus – Scottish Festival and Highland Games

August 9, 10 & 11, 2013

fergusscottishfestival.com
1 866 871 9442

Canada | Ontario | OLG | Mapleridge

Scotland ... without the airfare

The Great American Irish Festival

July 26-28, 2013 • Frankfort, NY

Three stages of continuous entertainment

FEATURING:

- The High Kings
- The Elders
- Young Dubliners
- Seven Nations
- Hair of the Dog
- Enter The Haggis
- Barleyjuice
- Prodigals
- Makem and Spain
- Searson
- Girsa

...and many more!

the great american irish festival 10 years 2003-2013

AT THE HERKIMER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS NEAR UTICA – ABOUT AN HOUR FROM SYRACUSE OR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

Also...

5K Run · Irish History & Cultural Seminars · Sunday Morning Irish Mass · Gaelic Football Tournament · Bagpipe Band Competition and Massed March · Children & Teen Entertainment · Irish Merchandise · Irish Dancing

Free Parking
Camping Available
Active Duty Military Free
Children under 13 free

Tickets and further information available online at:
WWW.GAIF.US

Scotland Comes to the Pacific Northwest

67TH ANNUAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

SEATTLE SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION

JULY 27 and 28, 2013

EXPO CENTER • ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON

For More Information: (206) 522-2541 or Visit www.sshga.org

© Copyright 2013 SSHGA

Syracuse Irish Festival.com

SEPT 6&7

CLINTON SQUARE

2013

GAELIC STORM

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES

Maxville, Ontario
August 2-3, 2013

Piping,
Drumming,
Dancing,
Fiddling,
Heavyweight
Events,

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES 1948 – 2013 SIXTY SIX YEARS

Massed Bands
Friday Night
Concert
and Tattoo
featuring
"The Elders"

North American Pipe Band Championships ™

Info: 1-888-298-1666 - 613-527-2876
Tickets: 1-888-527-1850 - 613-527-1850

$20 per day

Free parking, Supervised camping, No pets
GlengarryHighlandGames.com

Ferguson
WHISKY TOURS

Whisky tours of Islay, Speyside, the Highlands & Japan.

Don't just visit Scotland's distilleries, experience them!
www.fergusonwhiskytours.com

Beastia
Whiskey Beasts with Swarovski Crystal Eyes
Verres à whiskey avec bêtes aux yeux de cristal de Swarovski

Aqua Vitae Stemware
Celtic & Medieval Crystal Glasses
Verres de cristal de style celtique et médiéval

Montréal (Québec) Canada
www.aquavitaestemware.com
+1 514 909 4440

with Andrew Ferguson

Japanese whisky has long been one of the nation's best kept secrets. Andrew Ferguson sheds some light on the Japanese version of a Celtic classic.

The Japanese love affair with whisk(e)y was born when the American Commodore Matthew Perry blasted open Japan's front door to trade in 1854. In addition to cannon balls, the Commodore left a cask and some bottles of American whiskey for the Emperor as a gift. The whiskey never made it as far as the Chrysanthemum Throne – it was allegedly nicked by the retainers of the Shogun. This first taste grew into a great thirst for whisky as Japan rapidly modernized along Western lines. The nation's desire was to catch up to and surpass the Western powers in all things, including whisk(e)y.

1919 is a significant date with respect to whisky in Japanese history. In April of 1919, Shinjiro Torri launched Tory's whisky, a Scotch whisky, bottled for Japan. That same year, a young student from Japan, Masataka Taketsuru, arrived in Glasgow to study chemistry. His university studies were only part of the reason for his trip; the main purpose was to learn everything he could about the production of Scotch whisky. Masataka spent more than six months working at various distilleries throughout Scotland during and after his time at Glasgow University. He filled journals with his newly acquired knowledge, and returned to Japan with a Scottish bride.

In 1924, the Yamazaki Distillery began producing whisky in the forested hills between Kyoto and Osaka. Japan's first whisky distillery was designed and built to be operated in the fashion of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries. Yamazaki was founded by Shinjiro Torri on land he had purchased after the Great Kanto Earthquake, and his first distillery manager was not surprisingly a certain Masataka Taketsuru. Masataka had wanted to build Japan's first distillery on the northern island of Hokkaido, in the town of Yoichi. He believed the climate on Hokkaido was most similar to that of Scotland, and therefore most suited to whisky production. Masataka left Yamazaki to found Yoichi Distillery in 1933, Japan's most northern and isolated distillery. Whereas Shinjiro's Yamazaki Distillery would go on to become the foundation of the Suntory Drinks Company, Masataka's Yoichi would do the same for the rival Nikka Whisky Co. Ninety years on, Japan's oldest distilleries, Yamazaki and Yoichi, are still regarded as its finest.

Both companies added additional distilleries in the decades following World War II. Suntory built the Hakushu Distillery in the mountains to the south and west of Tokyo. It is carved out of the forest and a worthwhile day trip from Tokyo. Looking out into the forest beyond the distillery's patio while sipping a Hakushu highball, it is hard to believe that this was once the world's largest distillery. Nikka built its second distillery, Miyagikyo, in the mountains to the west of Sendai City, several hours north of Tokyo. Nestled between two rivers in the mountains, it makes for another scenic destination.

While Nikka and Yamazaki are the biggest players, they are not the only active distilleries in Japan. There are a couple of very small ones, including the new Chichibu Distillery west of Tokyo. This micro-distillery, roughly equivalent in size to Edradour is the brainchild of Ichiro Akuto, whose family once owned Hanyu and Kawasaki distilleries. Everything at Chichibu is hands on and very traditional, visitors (who have to be invited) are even asked to remove their shoes and don slippers around the still room.

Japan's eight odd distilleries exist in a nation of 125 million whisky-loving people. By comparison, Scotland's 100 plus malt distilleries have a domestic population of just five million. While Scotland exports 95 per cent of its whisky, Japan exports less than five per cent. The demand for Japanese whisky is rising worldwide as well as at home. While we are starting to see some of these whiskies hit store shelves in North America, for some of them you still have to go to the source.

Try These:

Yamazaki 12 Year:
Spicy and chewy with lots of barley and vanilla cream.

Yoichi 15 Year:
Fruity, spicy, floral and ever-so-slightly smoky, this is one very elegant whisky.

Hakushu 12 Year:
Minty and floral, this dram is very fresh and refreshing as a Hakushu highball with soda and mint.

Miyagiyo 15 Year:
Soft and delicate with subtle spices, lots of fruit and malt.

Chichibu Mizunara Wood Reserve:
Oily, woody and spicy with white fruits and maple syrup.

www.fergusonwhiskytours.com

Unique Celtic Jewellery

Keith Jack offers his unique Jewellery collections through an extensive network of selected retailers across Canada and the U.S.A.

Please email keith@keithjack.ca or phone 604 971 4367 for details of a retailer in your area.

For wholesale enquiries please email keith@keithjack.ca

www.keithjack.ca

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Explore Celtic Studies at StFX

Courses in:

Scottish and Irish Gaelic

Celtic Civilization

Celtic Literature
(Medieval Irish and Welsh)

Celtic Paganism and Christianity

Scottish and Irish Gaelic Poetry and Folklore

History of the Gaels
(in Scotland and North America)

Also:

An active student Celtic Society and local Gaelic community

Celtic Film Series

Scholarships

Bursaries to study Gaelic in Scotland in the summer

For more information: www.stfx.ca
Department of Celtic Studies/Roinn na Ceiltis
St Francis Xavier University • P.O. Box 5000
Antigonish, Nova Scotia • B2G 2W5 CANADA

Or contact Thelma Snyder: tsnyder@stfx.ca
(902-867-2300)

Temple bar

It's been a demanding 12 months for David Walsh, co-owner of the Irish-themed Temple Bar in the populous Mexican city of Guadalajara. But three years after starting Temple Bar, Walsh and his business partner Frank Cronin are happy with the venue they've created and the clientele they attract.

"To be honest we had a tough year," a weary-sounding Walsh told Celtic Life International. "We decided to invest a lot in improving the bar and restaurant facilities. We put in a new terrace, sound system, furniture and rewired the whole building. Now that is done, I think we are set for a record-breaking year."

The Dublin-born business partners have had a hectic time since deciding Mexico needed a real Irish pub that would be as welcoming and inclusive as pubs back home.

"A lot of people try to replicate the concept of an Irish pub by merely making it look the same as pubs in Ireland," Walsh said. "But we think what is most important is the Irish atmosphere.

"Incomes vary hugely in Mexico, but in general everyone is welcome in an Irish pub, so when we were putting together our menu and pricing, we made our food and beer accessible to everybody. If someone wants to spend $1,000 in a night they can, but should a person want a dollar beer, we have that too. By creating an inclusive rather than exclusive environment, we have cultivated a varied, easy-going, educated and open-minded clientele."

Temple Bar's patrons are 85 per cent Mexican and 14 per cent other nationalities that are visiting town, usually people on business or studying. The final one per cent is the Irish community, who Walsh said treat Temple Bar as their unofficial Irish Embassy. "On St. Patrick's Day, the Irish constitute about five per cent of the clientele, but 20 per cent of consumption," he added.

Clients feast on classic dishes such as Fish and Chips, Temple Bar Shrimp and gourmet hamburgers and salads. The pub offers over 120 beers, many on tap and others bottled. Patrons enjoy Irish dancing and Irish music. "Our dancers hold a ceilí after their show, which gets everybody dancing," said Walsh. "Sometimes we get in live bands, DJs or singer-songwriters. We do beer tastings too."

The business partners have been friends since they were five years old. After getting the pub off the ground, Cronin returned to Ireland to finish an Arts degree, but he will soon return to Mexico to give Walsh a break. Money was so tight while improving the bar that Cronin decided to live in a tent for the entire final year of his degree. His entertaining accounts of this time can be found on his youtube channel, Glowpunk.

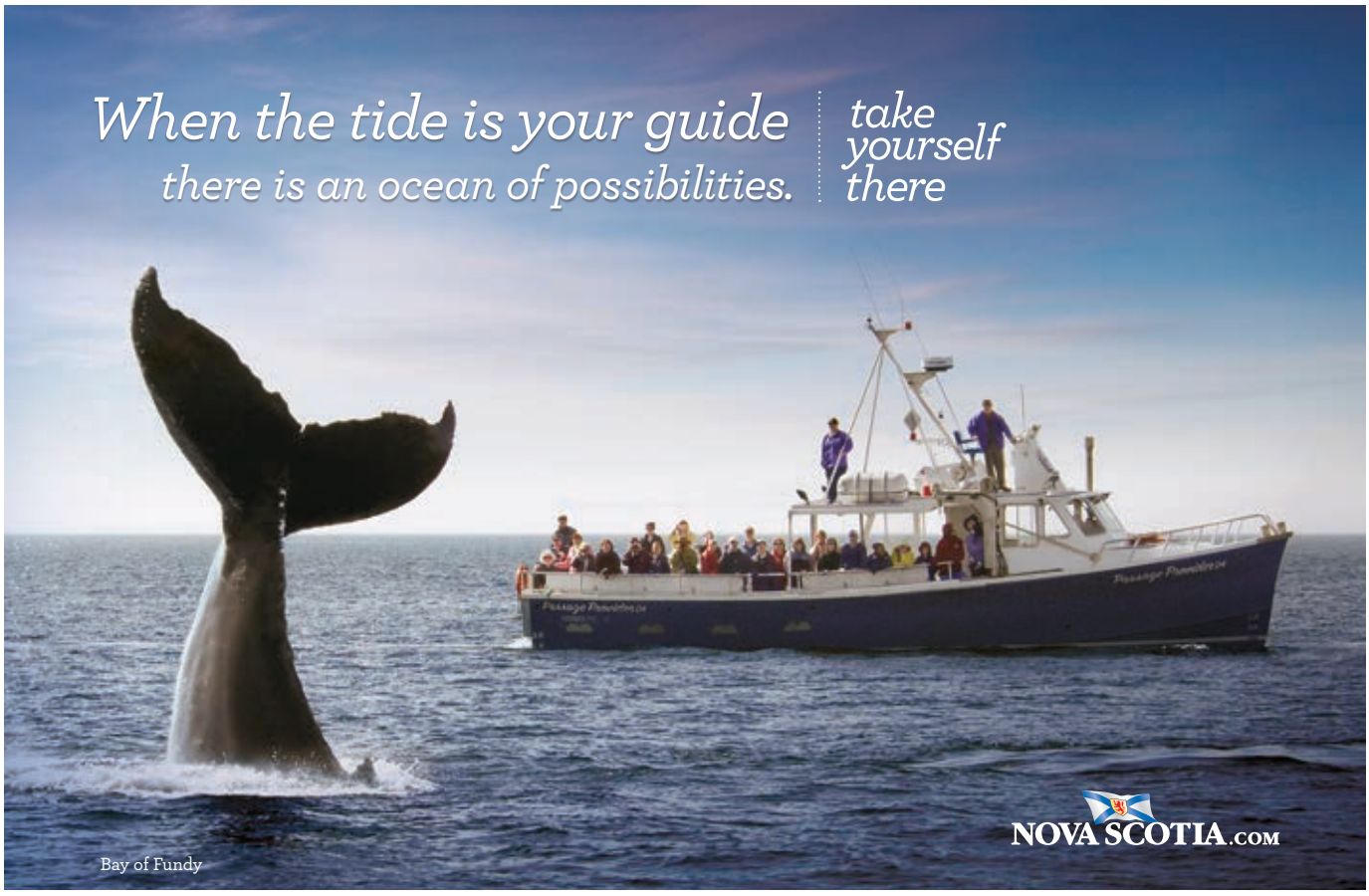
Although both grew up in Dublin, Cronin is 100 per cent Irish, with red hair and freckles, while Walsh is half-Spanish and half-Irish. "I used to spend summers in Spain where my mother was born, so I am lucky to have fluent Spanish," Walsh said. "Frank's family are all Irish. He has picked up the language along the way.

"I did an international Business and Commerce degree although I'm not sure it really helped, since we are self-employed. Frank was in the Irish Army for six years and retired a lieutenant when we invested here in Mexico. The reason we are here is because Claudia, my wife, is Mexican. We met in London years ago. It's interesting that a chance meeting can lead to opening a bar in Mexico."

Both Walsh and Cronin value their connection with other Irish expatriates. "I think I have met most of the Irish people who live in Guadalajara and there is a palpable unspoken bond between us," Walsh said. "We look out for one another. The Irish I know here are all doing great. I know a few Scottish people too who have also landed on their feet – possibly because the Celts appear to be able to burn the candle at both ends. We are, as luck would have it, generally very sociable and also hard working."

The partners may develop more Irish venues, but only after taking a breather. "We value family, health and happiness over money," Walsh said. "We will always be tinkering with things to make sure we are offering our clients the best experience, but we hope the hard work is done for now. Maybe we will spend a little more time having fun with our clients and enjoying what we have."

www.facebook.com/templebargdl



ATLANTIC STANDARDS

A COLLECTION OF EAST COAST MUSIC

AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVOURITE RECORD STORE,
RHINORECORDS.CA, AND iTUNES

Great Big Sea, The Rankin Family, The Barra MacNeils, Ron Hynes, Natalie MacMaster, The Cottars, The Irish Descendants, Ashley MacIsaac, Lennie Gallant, Rita MacNeil, Rawlins Cross, Jimmy Rankin, Vishtèn,

J.P. Cormier, The Fables, Slainte Mhath, 1755, Anne Murray, McGinty, Banshee, Dave Gunning, Fleur Manville, Samantha Robichaud, Chrissy Crowley, The Navigators, Shanneyganock, Gillian Boucher, Celtic Connection.

rhinorecords.ca

WARNER MUSIC CANADA

warnermusic.ca

Cabrini's Kitchen

Haskap Berries

Haskap berries are the new health fruit on the block in Nova Scotia in eastern Canada. They are originally from Siberia and find Nova Scotia's soil and climate very hospitable. Hailed as the new wonder berry, haskaps have three times the anti-oxidant levels of blueberries, double the Vitamin C of an orange and ten times the calcium of an apple. Haskap berries take four years to mature but are definitely worth the wait.

The fruit is a cross between a raspberry, a blueberry and a blackberry with an elongated shape and a sharp flavour. It is ideal fresh, but also good for freezing. It can be used for baking, jellies, jams, juice and wine. Gardeners can create a hedge with them or maybe a decorative shrub. They can be used in any recipe requiring blueberries and are ripe before the summer strawberries.

I would like to invite all our readers to share their recipes with me! editor@celticlife.ca

It is great to share and learn from each other, as did our forebears.

Haskap Frozen Yogurt Dessert

INGREDIENTS

Crust

2 cups graham wafer crumbs
2/3 cup butter, melted
½ cup ground pecan
1/4 cup shredded sweetened coconut
2 tbsp sugar

Filling

750 grams lemon yogurt
2 cups frozen whipped topping
2 cups haskap berries, mashed

PREPERATION

For the crust, combine all the ingredients and press lightly into the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes and cool.

For the filling, combine the yogurt, whipped topping and berries. Spread over the cooled crust and freeze for six hours. Remove from freezer and place in the fridge 15 minutes before serving. Garnish with fresh haskap berries.

Bon Appétit! Cabrini

Maggie & Me

By Damian Barr

Bloomsbury Publishing / 256pp / $22.95

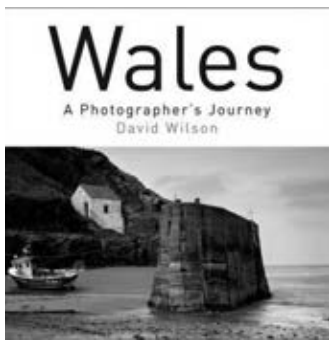
Most would agree that the Thatcher-era of the 1980s was no fun; the Iron Lady's conservative agenda and stern fiscal policies left many across the U.K., and elsewhere, broken, bitter and dour. Starting from this point, Scottish journalist and author Damian Barr brings a smile to stiff upper lips with this quaint and queer coming-of-age quest for understanding and tolerance amidst great social and economic tumult. By turns tender and tough, the scribe recounts his struggles and self-pity with a wry wit that is sometimes sarcastic, but never over-the-top. Dialogue and description are lean, leaving a strong and poignant emotional arc that will resonate with readers. Like fellow scribes John Boyne, Nick Hornby and Andrew O'Hagan, Barr's distinct voice is helping to redefine contemporary Celtic literature. ~ SPC

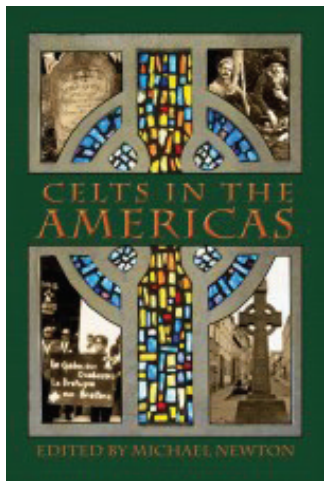
Wales; A Photographer's Journey

By David Wilson

Graffeg / 160pp / $39

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Thankfully, as the Welsh language might be a mouthful for some, veteran photographer David Wilson does well to capture and convey the core of the most overlooked natural landscape amongst the Seven Celtic Nations with Wales; A Photographer's Journey. From north to south, and east to west, Wilson brings 36 locales to life with a strong and stirring selection of black and white shots. Wisely, minimal text allows the sheer and sensual physicality of Wales to shine. As such, the work is evocative and engaging, timeless and thought-provoking, and will remind readers that the bigger picture is composed of smaller details. More than a mere coffee table ornament, this terrific tome is an experience. ~ SPC





Celts in the Americas

Edited by Michael Newton

Cape Breton University Press / 376pp / $27.95

The title may be a tad misleading — the focus in this substantial collection of 19 essays by established and new scholars is firmly on the history and fortunes of the Celtic languages and their cultures in the New World. Beginning with overviews of each language's past and current presence in the Americas (with the exception of Manx), the other four sections include individual essays on topics such as community language survival (Welsh in Patagonia and Gaelic in Nova Scotia), music, folk culture, and, tantalizingly, Interethnic Interactions. Not surprisingly, as the volume owes its origins to a conference at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, there is a healthy selection of essays on Gaelic in Nova Scotia. A must-read for those interested in the Celtic languages, this book makes a significant contribution to Celtic Studies, points the way towards further areas of research and inquiry, and is tremendous value for the price. ~ Pádraig Ó Siadhail

Ireland's Coast

By Carsten Krieger

O'Brien Press / 192pp / $33

Following up on the success of Ireland – Glorious Landscapes, photographer Carsten Krieger makes his way to the sea for the sequel, Ireland's Coast. Over 250 colour and black and white images showcase more than 3,700 km of the Emerald Isle's raw and rugged shoreline. In particular, photos of the plush and picturesque west coast are vital and vibrant, seemingly leaping off the page and into the lap. Similarly, shots of the small seaside villages of the south take armchair travellers back in time. The real treat, however, are the glorious glimpses into the north; a true testament that there is as much beauty in those six counties as there is in the 26 counties to the south. Krieger's accompanying historical notes make this compelling work complete. ~ SPC

Boards of Canada / *Tomorrow's Harvest*

Scottish brothers Michael Sandison and Marcus Eoin go minimalist on their tenth studio recording, a 16-track, ear-bending array of atmospheric electronica. Cue the Moog and vintage synthesizers on Gemini, Reach for the Dead and Transmissions Ferox. Sequenced drum tracks drive Sick Times, Split Your Infinities and Come to Dust. The haunting hues of Sundown, Uritual and Semena Mertvykh simmer like a sparse soundtrack to the apocalypse, bringing to mind the moody, brooding Koyaanisqatsi-Powaqqatsi-Naqoyqatsi film/music trilogy. Fans of Philip Glass, Peter Gabriel and Thom Yorke will adore Tomorrow's Harvest as an ambient alternative - even antithesis - to genre frontrunners Daft Punk's funk-based bestseller Random Access Memories. While certainly not for everyone, the Edinburgh duo sits solely on the cutting, avant-garde edge of modern Celtic music. ~ SPC

Joy Dunlop / *Faileasan*

At the other end of the Celtic musical spectrum, and equally stirring, is the latest release from singer (and step-dancer) Joy Dunlop. From the opening notes of Ma phòsas mi idir, cha ghabh mi tè mhòr to the closing chorus of Taigh an Uillt, the Scottish songstress revisits her rural roots – and its local customs – over 11 traditional tunes. An Roghainn, Puirt à beul Earraghàidhealach and Buain na rainich taobh Loch Èite each highlight both Dunlop's grasp of the Gaelic tongue and her ability to deliver it with proper regional nuance. As such, her lovely lilt floats with authenticity atop guitars, piano, and the uilleann pipes in Hì il o 's na hug i hò ro, S daor a cheannaich mi phòg and Eilean Luinn. ~ SPC

Enter The Haggis / *The Modest Revolution*

Beautifully bound and packaged, the 11th full-length recording from Toronto-based folk-rock quintet Enter The Haggis finds the band honing their songwriting skills. Year of the Rat, Hindsight and Up In Lights shine with masterly crafted melodies, while Can't Trust the News and Scarecrow purvey pure power-pop. The band is at its best, however, with the Celtic and country touch; in particular, Down the Line, Balto and Copper Leaves roll and rollick with homespun harmonies, and Footnote is fancy-free fun at its finest. Followers of the Barenaked Ladies, Wilco and Hemingway Corner will lap up The Modest Revolution, which was crowd-funded by fans who raised over $60,000 for its production – perhaps the surest sign that Enter The Haggis has achieved the grassroots success that so many strive for. ~ SPC

Teresa Doyle / *SongRoad*

Prince Edward Island has a penchant for producing superb singer-songwriters, including Rose Cousins, Catherine MacLellan, Tanya Davis and Teresa Doyle. The latter's latest recording, SongRoad, is a rootsy 11-song romp through the acoustic landscape. Girl on the Dunes, Gone Down the River and Song for Kate showcase the pure joy of a girl and her guitar. Loka Samasta and Un Destino Nuevo are worldlier, reflecting her time on the road, while Lazy Holiday is a subtle swipe at swing. True to her Celtic heritage, Doyle doesn't disappoint with Jimmy's Jig, A Chuachag Nam Beann and Caoineath Mhuire, each shining with simple melody. Credit the veteran storyteller for allowing these songs to breathe on their own, understanding that music lives in the spaces between the notes. ~ SPC

ANGUS MOHR
HIGHLAND ROCK & ROLL
MUSIC AND MEMORABLE MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.ANGUSMOHR.COM

USA KILTS
USA Kilts carries the finest highland wear at reasonable prices. We source ALL of our items from the UK, US and Ireland. We proudly support the culture we're promoting by only offering Celtic items crafted by Celtic artisans.
Clan Crest Items
We carry a wide range of clan crest items from cap badges to sgian dubhs
Sporrans
We stock a wide selection of unique day, hunting and dress sporrans.
Ghillie Brogues
Our gillie brogues come in a variety of styles, sizes, widths and colors
USA Kilts & Celtic Traditions
3389 Schuykill Rd.
Spring City, PA 19475
www.USAKilts.com
610-948-4110

Kevin Palm

His indifference to childhood lessons in piano and trombone left Kevin Palm thinking he was not a musician. Then, at age 39, the Ohio-based aviation worker heard piper Scott Long perform and felt an immediate connection to the sound. Now, 13 years later, Palm is an accomplished traditional piper, in demand as a Celtic rock and solo performer.

As often happens with life's turning points, Palm's introduction to piping seemed to happen by chance – in 1999, he was in Oklahoma City for work when he saw an ad for the Tulsa Oklahoma Scottish Games and Gathering and decided to go.

"The featured musical entertainment was Seven Nations, a Celtic rock group based in Florida. Scott Long was their piper, and seeing him perform was a revelation to me. I had never heard bagpipes live before, and his performance totally blew me away," Palm told Celtic Life International.

"The next day, I bought a cheap practice chanter and book combo at a local music store and tried to learn on my own, which you should not do with the pipes! I began taking formal lessons when I returned home a few weeks later."

Learning the pipes as an adult has been hard and occasionally frustrating.

"I tend to want to make quick leaps in learning new music or new playing techniques instead of putting in the time to learn like a younger player would," Palm said. "I get frustrated because my abilities do not seem to improve as quickly as I think they should. Plus, my fingers don't have the flexibility they would, had I started at a younger age."

But he has been passionate enough to persist and, in recent years, Palm has enjoyed sharing his growing skills with others. He works at the Cleveland Traffic Control Center in Oberlin and his center had control of United Flight 93 when it was hijacked and crashed in Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. Every year since, Control Center employees have held a ceremony at the flagpole and plaque that was erected in honor of the flight's passengers and crew.

"A few years ago, I decided to do something personal to commemorate the event, so I brought my bagpipes to work and played Amazing Grace at the flagpole. Word spread, and as a result I've been incorporated into our official 9/11 ceremony."

In March, Palm had the honour of entertaining dozens of U.S. military veterans at the Ohio Veterans' Home in Sandusky. "One of the medleys I played incorporated the anthems of each branch of the military, and the vets from each service sang along. It was a very humbling experience. I continue to be amazed by the strong emotions that bagpipes stir in people."

Besides Scott Long, Palm has been influenced by the music of Robert Mathieson, formerly the Pipe Major of the House of Edgar Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band.

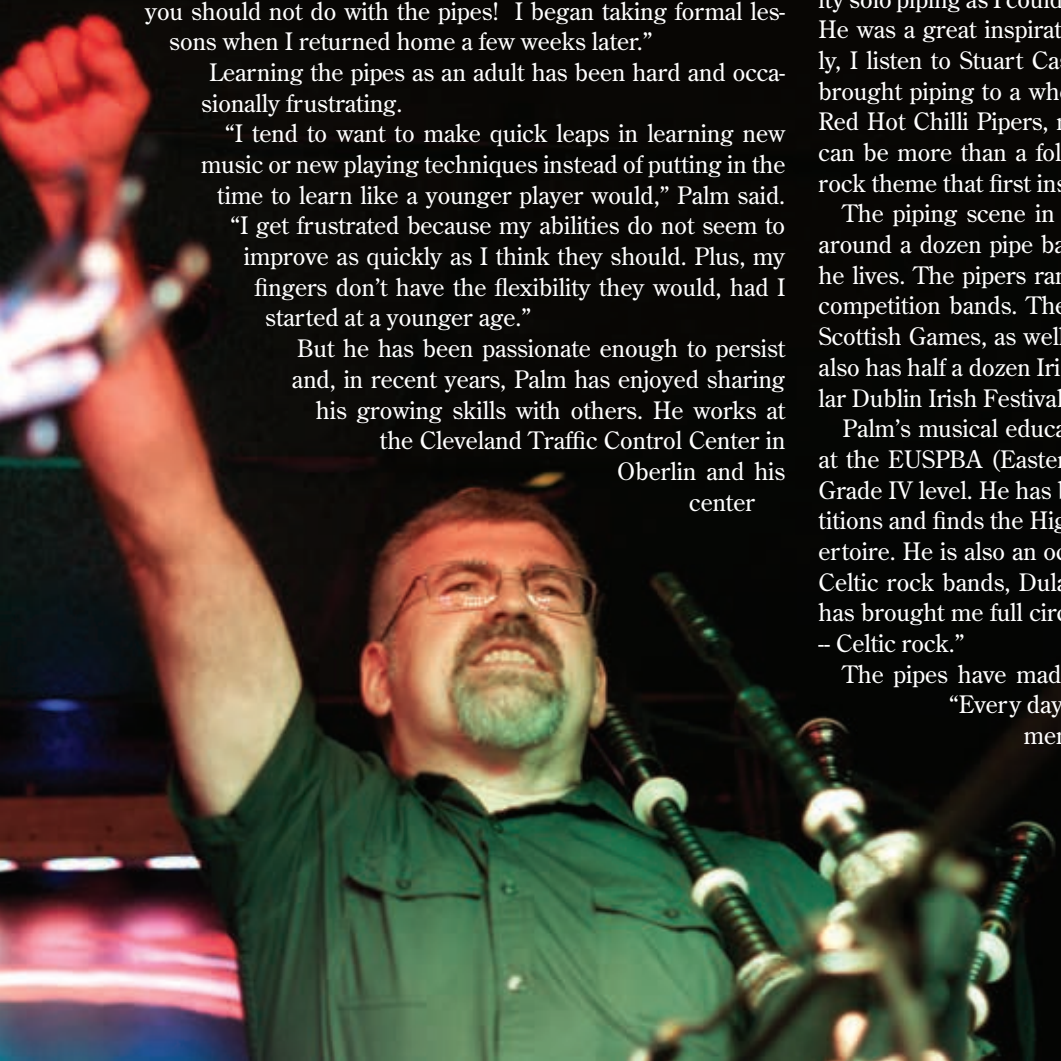
"My first instructor recommended that I listen to as much quality solo piping as I could, and he recommended Mathieson's CDs. He was a great inspiration for my playing techniques. Currently, I listen to Stuart Cassells and the late Gordon Duncan, who brought piping to a whole new level in his short life. I love the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, mostly because they show how bagpipes can be more than a folk instrument. They play into the Celtic rock theme that first inspired me."

The piping scene in Palm's part of the world is strong, with around a dozen pipe bands in the Cleveland/Akron area where he lives. The pipers range from performing bands to high-level competition bands. The city of Wellington is home to the Ohio Scottish Games, as well as the Ohio Scottish Arts School. Ohio also has half a dozen Irish festivals including the massively popular Dublin Irish Festival.

Palm's musical education is ongoing – he currently competes at the EUSPBA (Eastern United States Pipe Band Association) Grade IV level. He has begun competing in piobaireachd competitions and finds the Highlands-based genre is extending his repertoire. He is also an occasional performer with two Ohio-based Celtic rock bands, Dulahan and Homeland. "Playing with them has brought me full circle to the beginning of my piping interest – Celtic rock."

The pipes have made Palm's adult life a musical adventure. "Every day I see different possibilities for the instrument, and I love to explore them."

www.facebook.com/kevin.palm.796



- Fred Morrison Reelpipes & Smallpipes
- McCallum Bagpipes, pipe chanters & supplies
- Strathmore Bagpipes by Murray Henderson
- Professional advice and instruction

reelpipes@gmail.com
www.reelpipes.com

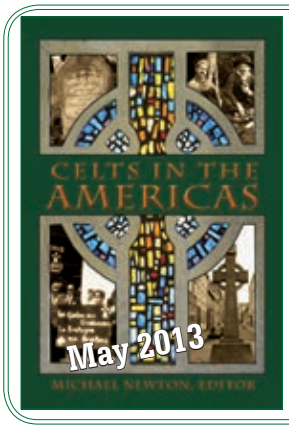
Cheryl Reid O'Hagan
Celtic Harpist, Singer, Recording Artist

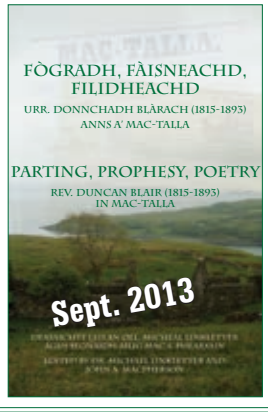
Public, Private & Corporate Events
Lessons & Workshops
sunnyday@ns.sympatico.ca • 902-832-9014

Your Dusty Strings Harp Dealer in Atlantic Canada

Facebook Pages: Harpist Cheryl Reid O'Hagan
Eastcoast Harpshop
Nova Scotia Harp Ring

Watch for
Troy MacGillivray's
New cd coming
Summer 2013





New from Acair

Available from CBU Press

CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY ·P·R·E·S·S·
www.cbupress.ca

http://cbup.ca/category/celtic-gaelic-studies/

Kathleen Gorey-McSorely

After just one year at the Dublin Institute of Technology's Music Conservatory, Canadian fiddler Kathleen Gorey-McSorley has discovered innovative traditional music and acquired a new band and a new album. But, the flame-haired teen from eastern Canada told Celtic Life International that there has been some homesickness along the way…

"The music here is fantastic," Gorey-McSorley said from Dublin as she concluded the first year of her four-year program in Irish traditional music and performance. "That's widely known, but you don't understand just how amazing the scene is until you're immersed in it."

The fiddler said she has "always leaned towards preferring the real Irish stuff, but I've really enjoyed playing innovative traditional music. Irish trad music is headed in an amazing direction and I'm so happy that I'm living now because of the way the modern and fusion side of trad is growing."

Dublin has proven to be exciting and informative for the young musician, still only 17, who hails from the province of New Brunswick.

"In Dublin, there is so much to see and places to go. However, I was surprised by how much I miss Canada. When I left for Dublin I was ready to take on the world and possibly never go back except for summers and shows...just live in a billion different countries for the rest of my life. Being away from my home and family has made me realize that I'm really an East Coast girl. I'd still like to live in a billion different places, but I will always return to Atlantic Canada."

"The music here is fantastic,"

The teen, who also sings and plays piano, mandolin, banjo and tin whistle, credits the musical melting pot of her home province with nurturing her early development.

"We are surrounded by many influences in New Brunswick… In fiddling, for example, we're close to Cape Breton so we have their influence, but we also have the influence of the Old Time competition playing in Quebec and Ontario. Sixties folk music icon Don Messer grew up in New Brunswick so we have the real Old Time stuff from him too. And from our heritage we have a strong Celtic tie to the music."

Despite her youth, Gorey-McSorley is already known on the international circuit, including in Ireland, where she's played at the Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann trad music festival in Cavan, and at Dublin's Tradfest. In Canada, she has performed at Cape Breton's Celtic Colours International Festival and with the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

The precocious musician released her second CD Ceol Binn (Irish for Sweet Music) in July 2010. The CD was nominated for a 2011 East Coast Music Award as Roots/Traditional Solo Recording of the Year. It also received two Music New Brunswick nominations.

On her new album, Bid the Muse (the name comes from the poem The Tower by Irish poet William Butler Yeats), Gorey-McSorley plays with new friends from Dublin – Eoghan Mac An Ghaill on button accordion and flute, and Maria Geheran on piano and backing vocals.

Her new band mates will also tour with her in eastern Canada and the eastern United States this summer as Kathleen Gorey-McSorley and Bid the Muse. "We come from different musical backgrounds, so when we play together there's a really unique sound," she said.

Gorey-McSorley's musical development began when she stayed up with her dad on Saturday nights to hear the music on the Grand Ole Opry show and decided she wanted to play the fiddle. When she was eight, she started music lessons. "My parents had noticed when I was very small that I was drawn to music, but I think it was a surprise for everyone just how drawn to music I was – especially as I come from a family of athletes."

She is looking forward to a summer performing in North America.

"It's exciting because I'll be getting to play at home, but also because I feel that the release of this album and this tour is the start of a new chapter in my career. People will see a side of me that I haven't really shown on stage before. With the new vocals, most of which are original, and the innovations in the instrumentals, a lot of what we're doing is brand new.

"I'm still very young and still learning about life and the world every day, but I don't think audiences will feel like they're just watching some little girl play the fiddle. I've put a lot of myself into the new set list and I'm excited to show that to people back home."

www.kathleengorey-mcsorley.com

NAGLE FORGE & FOUNDRY

CLASSIC CRAFTSMANSHIP, UNIQUE STYLES & TRADITIONAL DESIGNS

Your north american source for quality pewter, bronze & sterling silver jewelry & clothing fasteners...

At Nagle Forge & Foundry we believe in quality, craftsmanship and durability.

That's why all Nagle Forge & Foundry plaid brooches are Handcrafted in the United States & come with a lifetime Guarantee.

If you break it, we'll fix it. For life. That's our Commitment.

www.nagleforge.com
telephone: 415-897-1732
Novato, CA 94947, United States of America

For more information about our company please visit our website or e-mail us directly at: **contact@nagleforge.com**

Cindy Kimove

Photo by: Philip Roman O'Reilly

"Adding ballet and modern dance allows me to fly across the stage."

Cindy Kimove had been highland dancing most of her life, but when she started taking ballet classes in high school she quickly noticed a change in the physical appearance of her legs. The ballet exercises formed new muscles that gave her more flexibility, endurance and strength to better execute highland steps. She could jump higher, hold positions longer and her extensions became more turned out and controlled.

"It was a direct result of the time I had spent strengthening at the barre," the champion dancer said. "My legs were getting stronger in places that you don't work in highland, so it was helpful because I could rely on muscles that I didn't have before. That's when I started thinking about how ballet is beneficial for other forms of dance. I already knew that, but I'd never really applied it to highland."

Kimove is one of Canada's premiere highland dancers. She is a member of the Scottish Dance Company of Canada and is the current New Brunswick provincial adult champion. She has placed in the top ten at the World Highland Dance Championships in Scotland and has danced on New York's Broadway.

Now, the 22-year-old has designed a class that teaches advanced highland dancers ballet moves that improve their ability to execute traditional highland steps. Kimove believes that practising ballet exercises gives highland dancers an edge in competitions.

"I took the structure of a ballet class and the structure of ballet barre exercises, but altered the height of the leg or changed movements around so they applied more to highland dancers than ballet," she said from her home in Fredericton on Canada's east coast where she teaches and dances at the Barbara Murray School of Highland Dance and studies at St. Thomas University.

"Some movements in ballet are actually the opposite of what we do in highland. Doing the opposite is helpful because you're working both sets of muscle groups, not just one."

One of her students, Nicole Odo, winner of the Commonwealth Championship in Scotland last summer, said Kimove's class has improved the flexibility in her hips, giving her the strength to keep them turned out.

"I find in highland we're always working the same muscles over and over, but ballet will work muscles that we don't focus on as much so it's like cross-training," she said. "I've always been flexible, but now I can hold up better because I have strength in different parts of my legs."

Odo is also enjoying the freedom that ballet moves allow a dancer, as opposed to the rigid traditional steps in highland.

Kimove said her class, which she believes is unique, not only improves her students' traditional highland dance movements, but adds ballet to their repertoires for choreography competitions. She encourages her students to experiment.

"Highland dancing has really rigid arm movements and ballet is very soft and flowing, so a lot of dancers have never moved their arms in this way before, so they're getting used to using different space in their bodies. Many of them become more graceful dancers and they can apply that to choreography. You have to be continuously moving in ballet, and that's a new concept for highland dancers, because everything is sharp and you land in that spot at that time and that's it and you hold it there, so it's different and it expands what they can do."

Combining ballet with highland dance has increased her joy in dance.

"Adding ballet and modern dance allows me to fly across the stage," she said, "And I'm teaching my students to do that as well."

By Amy MacKenzie

the Clan MacInnes

The 1791 entry of Clan MacInnes into North America will be marked on July 12 when Clan members place their first Canadian cairn in Cairn Park, Antigonish, during the historic 150th Antigonish Highland Games in Nova Scotia.

Clan Historian Norm MacInnis told Celtic Life International that the MacInnes Cairn will be dedicated to the pioneer Clan families who settled eastern Nova Scotia during the late 18th century.

This cairn marks the second in Clan MacInnes' plan to place Clan Markers in key locations with Clan significance. "The inaugural marker was a granite bench at the entrance of Ballachulish Church in Ballachulish, Scotland, where MacInneses and other clans gathered to pray before the 1746 Battle of Culloden," Norm said.

"We decided our next marker should be in Cairn Park in Antigonish because the eastern shore of Nova Scotia was a major point of entry for families fleeing hardship and persecution from 18th century Scotland."

Modeled after the Clan's ancestral castle in Morvern on Scotland's central-west coast, the Antigonish cairn will contain a stone from Clan home Kinlochaline Castle, along with other stones donated by Canadian and U.S. members of Clan MacInnes International Association. "The placement of these stones on the cairn symbolizes the struggle of our ancestors and a union of the old world with the new and the hope for a better world," Norm said.

He is especially happy the cairn is being erected during the 150th celebrations. "The Antigonish Highland Games are the oldest in North America and have a worldwide reputation. Wherever I go in North America and Scotland, I find there is an instant, almost reverential, acknowledgement of the Antigonish Games. Even in the competitive arena of the well-funded North American "Super Games", Antigonish stands tall.

"The 150th anniversary is a testimony to the dedication of the Antigonish Highland Society, the volunteers and the performers. This anniversary recognizes that the Antigonish Game organizers of the past and present have been delivering "the real thing" for 150 years."

Norm has quite an impressive history himself, having been active within Clan MacInnes for twenty years, first as New England Commissioner, then President. His current role of Clan Historian fascinates him.

"Clan MacInnes is an ancient clan with roots in the sixth century Dalriadic period," he explained. "Closely allied with Clan Donald, Clan members fought under Somerled, the Lord of the Isles, for the expulsion of the Vikings.

"The Clan Chief and his five sons were assassinated in 1258 on orders from John the Good, then Lord of the Isles. These executions effectively ended the Chiefly line. At that time, many of the survivors took up an offer from Clan MacKinnon on the Isle of Skye to become their official bowmen."

Today, many members of the Clan live in Scotland, the United States and Canada. The Clan MacInnes Society was founded in the U.S. at Grandfather Mountain in 1970. In 2000, the Clan reorganized as the International Association of Clan MacInnes to reflect their growth as a global organization. The association now has around 400 members in the U.K., Canada, the U.S. and Australia.

The Clan has been awarding annual scholarships in Scottish arts, music and dance since 1972. Members also offer quarterly newsletters in North America and Scotland and Clan tours and travel opportunities to Scotland and Nova Scotia.

Publishing books related to the Clan as well as Scottish and Celtic culture is a focus. The group has published various Clan histories as well as The American Guide to the Auld Scots Tongue. Members offer genealogical assistance and historical research and access to a clan archive.

In July, in addition to raising the memorial in Antigonish Cairn Park, the Clan will hold their AGM in the town, which will be attended by members from all over North America keen to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Antigonish Highland Games.

Future plans include raising Clan Cairns in the Cape Fear area of North Carolina and Kinlochaline, Scotland, as well as publishing another book of Clan history, and expanding the Clan's Scholarship Program.

Members of the MacInnes Clan and the public are invited to the July 12 dedication of the MacInnes Cairn in Antigonish at 4:30pm, followed by an AGM dinner gathering and a casual get-together Saturday evening after the Antigonish Games.

www.clanmacinnes.org

Clan Arthur Association USA (CAAUSA)

Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk
Nancy McArthur Cochener, High Commissioner USA, Wm. Ken McArthur, Ambassador to Clan Arthur, Richard McCarter Clark, President CAAUSA , 105 Daniels Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12304-1605, P: 518-370-5734
E: Rclark4@nycap.rr.com
Dr. Karen Carlson, Secretary CAAUSA
3415 Bridgefield Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803-5914
E: drkarencarlson.oemc@verizon.net
Membership requests – email Dr. Karen Carlson
www.ClanArthur.org

Clan Barclay International

RR1 Box 710, Roseland, VA, USA 229 67
Andrew Barcley, President
E: weedram@sbcglobal.net
Carolyn L. Barkley, Membership Inquiries
E: cbarkleyis@verizon.net
Heath Barclay, Commissioner to the Chief for North America, E: heath.barclay@gmail.com
www.clanbarclay.org

Clan Blair Society

3413 Sunnybrook Drive
Charlotte, NC, USA 28210-4715
James E. Blair, President
Charles Diman, Membership
P: 980-254-2743
E: clanmembership@clanblair.org
www.clanblair.org

House of Boyd Society USA

Lauren Boyd McLachlan, President (& Chair of Executive Board) 1609 Truscott Court, Roseville, CA 95661 USA, E: president@clanboyd.org
Donald Boyd Mellen, Treasurer
311 Tanglewood Drive SW, North Canton, OH 44720, E: treasurer@clanboyd.org
Australia, Michael J. Boyd, Historian/Member Executive Board, 26 Blackhorse Drive, Kuraby, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia 4112
E: australia@clanboyd.org
Canada, G. David Boyd, Canadian Convenor
718 Jones Fall Rd, RR #3, Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0
E: ontario@clanboyd.org
www.clanboyd.org

Clan Campbell Society of North America

359 Wilmette Circle Ormond Beach, FL, USA 33596, Robert Campbell St. John, President
E: ccspresident@tampabay.rr.com
Cliff Campbell, Executive
E: membership@ccsna.org, www.ccsna.org

Clan Cochrane of North America

Thomas Cochran, President and Commissioner to the Chief , E: tkcochran@sopris.net
Steve Cochran, Vice President, E: rscochran@aol.com, Cynthia Cochran Scheuer-Jones, Membership, E: Cmsj27ga@bellsouth.net
Sherri Cochran Anderson, Treasurer
E: msanderson2@hotmail.com
www.clancochrane.org

Clan Currie Society

P.O. Box 541, Summit, NJ, USA 07902-0541
Robert Currie, FSA Scot, P: 908-273-3509
E: clancurrie@mail.com, www.clancurrie.com
www.clancurriegathering.com
www.pipesofchristmas.com
www.tartandayonellisisland.com
@clanMhuirich

Clan Donald Canada

19680 William St. Williamstown, ON, Canada K0C 2J0, Glenda McDonell, High Commissioner
P: 613-347-2293, E: glendamgm@sympatico.ca
Jack MacDonald, Commissioner for Nova Scotia, P: 902-542-1028
E: jack.macdonald@ns.sympatico.ca
www.clandonaldcanada.ca

Clan Donnachaidh Society

Robertson-Duncan-Donnachie-McConnachie-Reid, Clan Secretary: secretaryclandonna@btconnect.com, Membership Secretary: managerclandonna@btconnect.com
Bruar, Perthshire, PH18 5TW, Scotland
www.donnachaidh.com
Donnachaidh DNA Surname Project
Family History Research and DNA testing;
www.clandonnachaidhdna.org
Contact: Tim Duncan
HC-1 Box-86, Kelso, CA, USA 92309
P: 760-733-4002
E: tim@clandonnachaidhdna.org

Clan Douglas Society of North America

Diana Kay Stell, President
E: celt@wildblue.net, Jim Morton, Secretary
4115 Bent Oak Ct. Douglasville, GA 30135
P: 770-265-2717
E: douglassecretary@comcast.net
David Arthur Douglas PhD, KJ, Regent in Canada
5229 Dundas Street West, Suite # 1508
Toronto, Ontario, M9B 6L9
E: jaymat5@rogers.com
www.clandouglassociety.org

Clan Elliot Society

Catherine Elliot Shaw, President
58 Cottonwood Crescent, London, Ontario, Canada N6G2Y8
P: 519-641-3929
E: the_shaws@sympatico.ca
www.elliotclan.com

Clan Farquharson, USA

Chief Capt. A.A.C. Farquharson of Invercauld
Jim McKeehan, President
1620 Johnson Ave. Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601
P: 541-281-8420
E: berfert1@msn.com
www.clanfarquharon.org

Clan Graham Society of North America

Donald Graham, Commissioner
P: 705-778-1739, E: donnancg@aol.com
Bill Richardson, U.E., VP and Member-at-Large, Canada, E: sbrichardson@interhop.net
Alan Graham, Canadian Membership Chair
P: 905-982-1534
E: clan.graham.canada.membership@gmail.com, www.clan-graham-society.org
Ivan Graham, Atlantic Canada
E: Clan.Graham@eastlink.ca

Clan Hall Society

John A. Hall Jr., President, 5695 Cider Mill Crossing, Youngstown, OH, USA 44515
P: 330-270-0387
E: skipten29@aol.com
Pam Hall, Membership Secretary
8872 Bison Place
Gold Hill, OR, USA 97525-9614
P: 541-855-9551
E: shu-shu@starband.net
www.clanhallsociety.org

Clan Henderson Society
Larry James Henderson, President
E: larryseffner@aol.com
Mark Henderson, FSA Scot, Membership
204 Beagle Gap
Waynesboro VA 22980
E: hendo28@comcast.net
P: (540) 447-6783
W: www.ClanHendersonSociety.org

Clan Lamont Society of Canada
4049 Commercial Street
New Minas, Nova Scotia B4N 5A4
David Wimsett, President
Tom Brown, Membership
www.clanlamont.ca

Clan Lamont Society of North America
900 Gatling Pointe Parkway
Smithfield, VA 23430
David Patton, President
P: 214-505-3470
E: david@clsna.us
Frank C. Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
P: 757-279-0812
E: clsnatreasurer@gmail.com
www.clsna.us

Clan Little Society of North America
242 Game Trail
Thomasville, NC, USA 27360-9432
Tom Little, Steuart (President)
E: Steuart@ClanLittleSNA.com
Jim Little, Secratur/Membership
P: 336-476-7607
E: Secratur@ClanLittleSNA.com
www.clanlittlesna.com

Clan Logan Society International
6255 Towncenter Drive, Suite 636
Clemmons, NC, USA 27012
Vernon E. Logan, President
James C. Logan, VP
P: 619-252-3780
E: clanlogan_chairman@yahoo.com
Membership-
E: clanloganmembership@yahoo.com
www.clanlogansociety.com

The MacArthur Society of Canada
(Branch of Clan Arthur)
Lloyd K. MacArthur, High Commissioner
252 Kananaskis Green Drive, Alberta, Canada
T9G 1Y8
Faith MacArthur, USA
PO Box 190, Pinehurst, NC, USA 28374
E: mcartld@shaw.ca
www.ClanArthur.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America
P.O. Box 8714 Reston, VA, USA 20195
Peter Clepper, President
E: president@macdougall.org
Nancy Van Valkenburgh, V.P. for Membership
E: info@macdougall.org
www.macdougall.org

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
Founded 1911 Glasgow and London,
Re-established 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC
David & Moyra Millar - Directors of Membership
Bridgend Cottage West
Auchmuirbridge
Leslie, Glenrothes
Fife KY6 3JD Scotland
E: membership@macfarlane.org
Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot – President
www.macfarlane.org
www.clanmacfarlaneheritagecentre.co.uk

Clan MacGillivray Society of Canada
14 Northview Drive
Antigonish, NS, Canada B2G 1H7
Gerald J. MacGillivray, President
P: 902-863-749
E: jerrymacgillivray633@hotmail.com
www.mcgillivray.us

Clan MacInnes International
14 Jakes Lane
Dexter, ME, USA 04930-2194
Eric MacGinnis Perry, Director Membership Services
P: 207-924-6565
E: macinnes_membership@myfairpoint.net
www.macinnes.org

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada
102-2559 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON, Canada
M6S 1S2, Alan McKenzie, E: alan@mkz.com
www.clanmackenzie.ca

Clan MacKinnon Society
Representative of the MacKinnon of MacKinnon
Gerald McKinnon, Prince George, BC, Canada
Chairman of the Board
John McKinnon, Shelby, Michigan, USA. 49455
P: 231-861-6453
E: Stony7854@aol.com, Membership Secretary
Carolyn Jackson
E: Carolyn.Jackson@themackinnon.com
www.themackinnon.com

Clan MacLea (Livingstone) Society
12774 Wisteria Drive #823
Germantown, MD 20875
Membership requests – email Kaye Saunders
E: secretary@clanlivingstone.com
Or join online at:
www.clanlivingstone.info/ClanSocietyJoin.htm
Clan web and Forum found at: http://www.clanlivingstone.info/forum/

Clan MacLean
57 Balsam Circle
Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia,Canada B4C 1B2
George V. MacLean, President
E: president@clanmacleanatlantic.org
www.clanmacleanatlantic.org

Clan MacLellan
Larry N. McLeland, Treasurer
3372 Fourth Avenue
San Diego, CA, USA 92013
E: mrlmac@earthlink.net
www.clanmaclellan.net

CLANS

Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

Judy Tipple, Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 111, Saturna Island, BC, Canada V0N 2Y0, P: 250-539-5475
E: leodvoice@gmail.com
E: jmtipple@gmail.com
Jim MacLeod, President
338 Riverwood Drive, Woodlawn, ON, Canada K0A 3M0
E: glenelg.macleod@gmail.com
www.clanmacleod-canada.com

Clan MacLeod Society USA

Anne L. MacLeod, Membership Secretary
E: annemacleod@comcast.net
PO Box 70928, West Valley City, Utah, USA 84120
John N. MacLeod, President
www.clanmacleodusa.org

Clan MacNab Society of North America

2835 Frisco Peaks Dr.
Prescott, AZ, USA, 86301
David McNabb, President
P: 928-771-1218
E: mcnabbprescott@aol.com
www.clanmacnab.org

Clan Macneil Association of America

Robert A Neill, President
183 Pheasant Walk Way
Vilas, NC, USA 28692-8371
E: raneill@juno.com
Rhonwyn Darby McNeill, VP Membership
PO Box 230693, Montgomery, AL, USA 36123-0693, E: rdmatmgm@aol.com
Gwen McNeill, Quartermaster & Webmaster
4351 Bridle Path Court
Tucker, GA, USA 30084-6432
E: qtrmstr-cmaa@comcast.net
www.clanmacneilusa.us

Clan Macquarrie

The Red Tartan Army
Frank Fisher
E: fyfisher@roadrunner.com
www.clanmacquarrie.org

Clan Maitland Society of North America

7016 Carrondale Way
Las Vegas, NV, USA 89128-3339
Scott Medlin, President
Rosemary Maitland Thom, Secretary
E: rthomnvprdcan@aol.com
www.clanmaitlandna.org

Clan Matheson Society of Canada

88 Beaumont Drive
Lower Sackville, NS, Canada B4C 1V6.
Al Matheson, Chief's Lieutenant
P: 902-865-5735
E: al@familymatheson.com
www.clanmatheson.org

Clan Moffat Society

Roger Moffat, Commander, North America
E: commander@clanmoffat.org
Richard Badger, President
E: president@clanmoffat.org
www.clanmoffat.org

Clan Munro Association of Canada

78-24 Fundy Bay Blvd.
Toronto, ON, Canada M1W 3A4
Jo Ann Munro Tuskin
P: 416-492-1623
E: jmtuskin@sympatico.ca
www.clanmunro.ca

Clan Rose Society of North America

312 Northway Drive
Berea, KY, USA 40403
Linville Rose, Convener
P: 859-986-7104
E: rose9522@roadrunner.com
Patrice May, Secretary/Treasurer
1188 Cragmont Ave
Berkeley, CA, USA 94708
P: 510-848-1188
E: patriceandrobin@gmail.com
www.clanrose.org

Clan Scott Society

PO Box 13021
Austin, TX, USA 78711-3021
David Scott, Membership Secretary
E: membership@clanscottsociety.org
www.clanscottsociety.org

Clan Sinclair Association of Canada

3621 – 156A St.
Surrey, BC, Canada V3S 0L4
Jim Sinclair, National President
P: 604-542-2703
E: jim@clansinclair.ca
Roger Sinclair, Nova Scotia President
99 Wyse Rd. #105
Dartmouth, NS, Canada B3A 4S5
P: 902-425-6438
E: roger@clansinclair.ca
www.clansinclair.ca

Turnbull Clan Association

29 Freemont St., Tonawanda,
New York, USA, 14120
E: president@turnbullclan.com
E: secretary@turnbullclan.com
www.turnbullclan.com

Clan Wallace Society International

4634 Beechwood Drive
Macon, GA, USA 31210-2304
Karen Wallace, Executive
E: membership@clanwallace.org
Dorothy Wallace Knight,
Advisory Director for Canada
E: dknight@gosfieldtel.com
E: cwscanada@clanwallace.org
www.clanwallace.org

Clan Young

Australia: www.clanyoungaustralia.com
North America: www.clanyoung.tripod.com
U.K.: www.clanyounguk.co.uk

CLANS

The Celts and Vikings Store

Northern European Gifts & Clothing
from Medieval to Modern day.
Celtic jewelry, Walking sticks, Drinking horns, LARP armour & more....

403-796-8837
www.celtsandvikings.com

THE KILT LADY

Crafted,hand sewn quality.
Every Stitch Counts.

Visit us online at
www.thekiltlady.ca
306-260-1286

Everything Under the Celtic Sun

Tartan Table Clothes
In Select Tartans
and Lace
Made to Measure
$35-$60

Porcelin Dolls with
Wool Kilt
Includes Stand, 16"
All Tartans Available
$40

Evening Purse
Hand Crafted
Coloured, Beaded and
Initialized
$35

Dog/Cat Collars
and Leashes
Nova Scotia and
Cape Breton Tartans
$20

All Things Quirky, Curious and Celtic!
Scarves, Vests, Skirts, Fabrics,Jewellry,
Mugs, Badges, Bags, Fridge Magnets, and more!

Travghan Celtic Connections
Sackville, Nova Scotia, Canada
1.902.865.0577
gagiven100@hotmail.com
Find us on facebook: Travghan Celtic Connections

Your One Stop Celtic Shop

Wild Rose Pottery
Celtic Art Tiles

A family pottery making distinctive art for over 30

Member

Porcelain Necklaces & Celtic Parchment Tiles
A touch of Celtic charm

Toll free 1.888.703.4297
www.celticarttiles.com

New Releases....A resource for every piper

The BALMORAL Collection of HYMNS

114 pages & CD
over 100 hymns
$45 + S&H

arranged for the HIGHLAND BAGPIPE

and....a live recording of a memorable concert!

$15 + S&H

To order: BalmoralSchool.org • 1-412-323-2707
Balmoral School, 1414 Pennsylvania Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15233 USA

Celtic Roar

Celtic Roar is a t-shirt and headwear retailer that offers original Celtic inspired artworks. Our designs are created exclusively for Celtic Roar by Peter Goossens, an accomplished artist and instructor who resides in Ireland.
(877) 777-3398

Visit our website at
www.celticroar.com

Celtic Attitudes

Clothing

"Clothing Worth Fighting Over."

10% OFF

USE COUPON CODE: CELTICLIFE

www.celticattitudes.com

BELLCHAMBER RINGS
www.bellchamber.net

Celtic Ancestors?

Outstanding North American Genealogist

36 years, full-time professional experience

Can trace any of your North American family roots, connect them to the British Isles, and trace them back from there.

Mark Windover

Genealogist, Family Historian

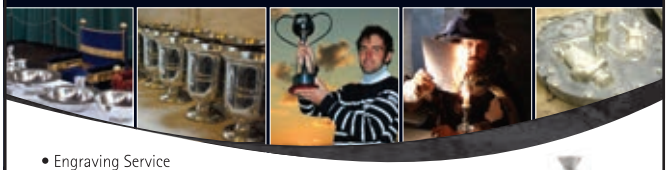
446 Hancock Road
Williamstown, MA 01267-3010
Phone: 800-634-5399
Email: research@markwindover.com
Website: http://www.markwindover.com

A E Williams

Truly British Pewter

A E Williams are the oldest family run Pewtersmiths in the world, established in 1779. Passing down the craft from generation to generation. Over the 230 years of trading the company currently own the largest and oldest range of antique bronze moulds in the world.

With the addition of a modern Pewter Gift range, collectors now have an unrivalled choice of Pewter- each piece made with care by craftsmen. Prestigious clients include Historic Royal Palaces, The PGA and various film studios.



- Engraving Service
- Enamelling Service
- Professional Repair Service
- Corporate Gifts (Your own branding or logo)
- Bespoke Casting (Casting of your own designs, gifts or other products)
- Special Commissions (Stunning One-off Pieces made to your Specification)
- Variety of Finishes Available on most Products (Polished, Matt, Plated, Enamelled)
- Historic Reproduction Pewter Using the Worlds Oldest and Largest Collection of Antique Moulds

6 Well Lane, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5TE United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 121 643 4756 Fax: +44 (0) 121 643 2977
Email: info@pewtergiftware.com www.pewtergiftware.com

O'Flaherty IRISH MUSIC RETREAT

www.oflahertyretreat.org

October 25-27, 2013

Lakeview Camp & Conference Center
Waxahachie, Texas (30 miles South of Dallas)

Classes offered for
Fiddle, Harp, Uilleann Pipes, Flute, Tinwhistle, Bodhran, Bouzouki, Anglo Concertina, Button Accordion (B/C & C#/D), Piano Accordion, Tenor Banjo, Mandolin, Guitar (dropped-D, DADGAD & standard), Singing, and workshops and enrichment classes on many related subjects.

Instructor Concerts Each Night!
Opportunities for Student Performances!
Mini-Concerts During Meals!
Irish Ceilis Friday and Saturday Nights!
Meet & Greet BBQ Thursday Evening!
Sessions, Sessions and More Sessions!

The O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat is organized by the Traditional Irish Music Education Society (TIMES) and is sponsored by the Southwest Celtic Music Association, the Trinity Hall Pub & Restaurant, and other generous Retreat Sponsors and Partners.
For more information call (972) 798-7890 or email info@oflahertyretreat.org

Guest Instructors

Myron Bretholz Bodhran
Pat Broaders Bouzouki
Patty Furlong Button Accordion
Florence Fahy Concertina
Brendan Mulvihill Fiddle
Fergal Scahill Fiddle
Liz Knowles Fiddle
Patrick Ourceau Fiddle
John Skelton Flute
Josh Dukes Guitar
Eileen Gannon Harp
Jimmy Keane Piano Accordion
Cathie Ryan Singing
Enda Scahill Tenor Banjo
Kierann O'Hare Uilleann Pipes

Carbony™ Celtic Winds are innovative musical instruments that offer the advantages of modern carbon fiber technology with the time tested designs of traditional craftsmen. These flutes, whistles, bagpipes and didgeridoos are made from a high compression carbon fiber process, creating a fiber density mass greater than the hardest of blackwoods. This provides for warmer resonance and harmonics never before possible. Based on this aeronautical grade technology, they also maintain tight tolerances and geometries in all weather conditions.

All Carbony™ Celtic Winds come with an unconditional lifetime warranty.

+1 541 829 3016
www.Carbony.com
Rob_Gandara@alum.MIT.edu
www.facebook.com/CarbonyCelticWinds

carbony™ CELTIC WINDS

BLACK DRAGON CRAFTS

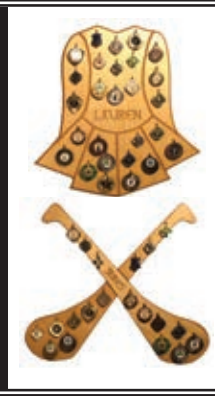
Celtic Beadshop

Beware of imitations!
100% Welsh.
annie@blackdragon.co.uk
www.blackdragon.co.uk
www.celticbeadshop.com

TOUCHWOOD
HANDCRAFTED MEMORIES

Handcrafted in Tuam Co. Galway using rich natural timbers ~ Hand finished to the highest quality...

www.touchwood.ie
fergal@touchwood.ie



Atlantic Sojourn
bed & breakfast

Come Sojourn With Us!

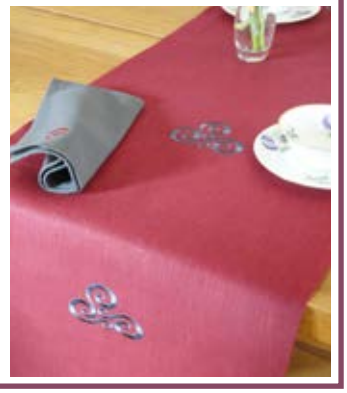
Sebelle Deese and Susan Budd, Innkeepers
56 Victoria Road, Lunenburg, NS, Canada

www.atlanticsojourn.com
info@atlanticsojourn.com
1-800-550-4824

Agnes H design

Quality Irish and French Linen

Visit www.agneshdesign.com for beautiful, bespoke, embroidered bags, baby gifts and table top linens. Handmade in Ireland.
Email: info@agneshdesign.com



waltons
make music

New Offical Website
For all your Irish Musical Needs
For USA & Canadian Customers
FREE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS

www.waltonsirishmusic.com

waltons 90

Camerons Jewellery Ltd.

Celtic Jewellery

239 Main Street, Antigonish *902-863-1283*

IrishJewelry.com

New updated Website
Jewelry inspired by the West of Ireland
Wedding Bands made in Ireland
FREE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS

www.irishjewelry.com

GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY BOOKS
Now Printed in the British Isles

Order titles by David Dobson, Peter Coldham, Brian Mitchell & other authors from Amazon.co.uk, bookdepository.co.uk, and other UK booksellers and avoid costly overseas postage.

Browse a complete list of Genealogical Publishing Company books at www.genealogical.com but place your order with a UK bookseller.

Genealogical.com

LAST*word*

"My name is Gerald M. and I am an alcoholic."

Those were the very last words I thought that I would ever utter in my life.

And yet, when they fell from my mouth for the first time on July 18, 1984, I instantly felt a tremendous sense of relief wash over me, like a long and bloody battle was over and I could finally surrender and be at peace.

I barely remember that first 12-step meeting; I recall that it took place in an old church basement, but I have no recollection of who I met or what was said. I know that I felt at home though – something I had not experienced in many years.

It was my wife who convinced me to go. She threatened to leave me and our home if I didn't stop drinking. She knew I had a problem, so did my kids. My brothers and sister had their suspicions as well, as did my friends and co-workers. I think deep down inside I knew also, but I would never admit it to myself, or anybody.

Where I grew up, a man was measured by the amount of alcohol he could consume. My parents were proud, second-generation Scottish-Americans, and my father passed on his Protestant work ethic, as well as his love of piping and pageantry, to me and my siblings.

He also shared his love of the drink with us. "Pull up your socks and pull back another pint," he would scowl after dinner, or at some Scottish-themed event. "You've got to keep up."

My brothers and sister eventually gave up the lifestyle, but I kept at it, picking up the pipes, attending Highland Games, festivals, joining our local Scottish Society and drinking my way through all of it.

Things peaked during my years with the pipe-band; amongst the men, being able to hold a drink was, and still is, a badge of honour and a merit of acceptance and inclusion. Whiskey and beer are a big part of piping culture, and the bottle was ever-present at rehearsals and during performances. You were expected to hold your own that way - it was the manly thing to do. Those who didn't or couldn't were scoffed at and even openly ridiculed.

Even at our social events – weddings, baptisms, backyard barbeques, etc – the booze flowed freely. A few of us even started our own single malt club, meeting once a week to share a dram or two or more.

Over time, drinking became a part of my daily life, and I often needed a shot first thing in the morning to work through a hangover, or, eventually, the shakes. I drove drunk many times, sometimes with my kids in the car, and I began to blackout on a regular basis. My career and family life started falling apart, and my health was becoming an issue; stress, high blood pressure, obesity and a quickly deteriorating liver.

Inside, I was a wreck. I cried all the time, went through bouts of depression, and couldn't seem to focus on anything.

But none of that was enough to quench my thirst for alcohol. In fact, alcohol was the solution to my problems. Later I learned the opposite was true.

It wasn't until my wife sat me down and told me that she loved me but could no longer watch me destroy myself that I smartened up. Sometimes it takes a rude awakening to bring about a spiritual awakening.

When I first sobered up I quit the pipe-band and stopped going to Scottish events. I distanced myself from my circle of friends and attended 12-step meetings five nights a week.

It wasn't until I was five years sober that I returned to piping, albeit with caution. After a while I realized that my condition had nothing to do with my heritage or with the company I kept. This mysterious illness known as alcoholism isn't a Scottish thing, as much as we glorify our drinking exploits. Anyone from any walk of life can be an alcoholic; it doesn't discriminate or play favourites.

It took some time, but today everyone in my little Scottish-American community knows I don't drink. In fact, over the years, many pipers have come to me seeking advice about their own drinking problems, and a few have found recovery in the fellowship with me.

My wife and kids are proud of me, and even my father, before he passed on in 2010, told me I was courageous for putting the bottle down and picking myself up. I miss him greatly and last year, when my wife and I travelled to Scotland, I spread some of his ashes in the River Dee in Aberdeenshire, near to where my ancestors once dwelled.

The following week, I went to a 12-step meeting in Edinburgh. When the chairperson asked if there were any visitors in attendance, I raised my hand. "My name is Gerald M. and I am an alcoholic."

It felt good to be home.

Mealaibh Ar Dualchas

EXPERIENCE Celtic Colours 2013

October 11–19 **Cape Breton** Island

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

EXPERIENCE it all

WE INVITE YOU to experience Cape Breton Island's living Celtic culture, renowned hospitality and spectacular scenery at 46 concerts and over 200 community cultural events in nearly 60 communities.

October 11–19 **Cape Breton** Island

Tickets On Sale NOW

Toll Free: 1 877 285 2321 **celtic-colours.com**

IRISH TRUE

FEAR THE POET & DRINK THE WHISKEY

Established 1829

The Legendary
IRISH WHISKEY

Please Enjoy Responsibly.

Represented by PMA Canada Ltd. | www.pmacanada.com