



THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

Robbie Burns Night

The Society will be holding its annual celebration of the life and works of Robbie Burns on Friday, January 24. We are joining with the Confederation Park 55+ Activity Centre, 2212—13th Street NW, for this joint event. The Society will be in charge of the entertainment part of the evening and we are pleased to be able to once again welcome Glenmorin who will play for the dancing segment of the evening. Be sure to mark your calendars for an evening of haggis, poetry, song and dance. Tickets are \$40 for St. Andrew's members and \$45 for non-members. Doors open at 6:00pm and a buffet-style dinner will be served at 6:30 by volunteers from Confederation Park. A cash bar will also be available. Tickets are available from: Ann van der Wal Annvanderwal@shaw.ca and Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842 Janyn_Bertram@hotmail.com. Ann van der Wal



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Curling Bonspiel

One of the Society's objectives is to promote and sustain Scottish cultural activities, which includes the game of curling. Canada is seen as one of the top counties in the world at this sport, and it is immensely popular at all ages. It seems appropriate that the Society encourage members to get involved in this Scottish-Canadian pastime. The first recognized Curling Clubs were formed in Scotland, and during the 19th Century the game was "exported" wherever Scots settled around the world in cold climates, most notably at that time in Canada, USA, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and New Zealand. The first Rules were drawn up in Scotland, and they were formally adopted as the "Rules in Curling" by the Grand Caledonian Curling Club, which was formed in Edinburgh in 1838 and became the sport's governing body. The Society is working with Calgary Curling Club to hold a LEARN TO CURL event toward the end of the season, likely a weekend in March. The event would consist of on-ice coaching from CCC, to learn (or improve on) the proper technique of throwing a curling stone and some coaching on the strategy of playing a couple of ends. In order to book weekend ice-time and an available coach, we need to gauge the interest of our members. I appreciate it is difficult without a specific date, but would ask you to register your interest so that we can arrange the event. The event would be free to members and open to friends or family members who would be charged the appropriate fee for joining the Society. To register your interest, please e-mail djherdman@shaw.ca by the end of December.



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BURNS DINNER FOR THE HOMELESS

The Society's Annual Burns Dinner for the Homeless will take place on Sunday January 19 2014 at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehabilitation Centre, 423 – 4th Avenue S.E. Volunteers wishing to help out can contact Margot Aftergood at margotaftergood@shaw.ca. Kitchen staff is a priority position, aprons will be provided and you can bring your own head wear. Please feel free to wear your plaid. Car pooling is suggested and a map will be



provided. Volunteers should arrive at 10:30 a.m. and proceed to the 6th floor to get settled into work groups. We require people to kitchen serve and table serve. The DI staff will direct the kitchen serving. This is a funday, we begin the morning's activities with the kitchen helpers going down to set up the kitchen. Then the entertainers go down to start the Robbie Burns Show at 11:30 a.m. The show consists of piping, singing, highland dancing, poetry reading and the Address to the Haggis. Once the address is finished, the entertainers are piped to the kitchen and the serving begins. It takes about 40 minutes and we serve 900 plus people depending on the weather and...



the 120lbs of haggis the Society supplies is eagerly anticipated by many of the clients. When all the dinners have been served; please stay for dinner upstairs. The dinner we provide is one of the most anticipated dinners of the year and the clients "mark" it on their calendar!
Margot Aftergood



Budget Meeting 2013

The Society's annual Budget meeting and Ceilidh was held on September 28 at the Forest Heights Community Centre. The meeting started at 7:30pm, the budget for 2014 was introduced, discussed and approved by the members. Ryan Mikucki from Collette Vacations gave a presentation of the Society's proposed Scotland trip which is planned for July 2014 and he responded to questions from the members. Full infor-

mation on the tour can be found below and on the Society's website. The remainder of the evening was devoted to Scottish Country dancing with music supplied by Mercat Cross who played for the ceilidh portion of the evening and

partaking of the excellent buffet supplied by the Society. To end off this event the Society's pipers and newly formed drummers played together in public for those remaining members. *Ann van der Wal*



Gaelic Lessons

The Society is pleased to announce that our Gaelic classes will be restarting on January 7 at the Confederation Park +55 Activity Centre, 2212—13th Street NW. We will meet every Tuesday at 6:45 pm. Donna Gillespie is our teacher for this wonderful opportunity to keep Scottish Culture alive here in Calgary. All are welcome and no prior knowledge is necessary. Please contact Ann van derWal, Annvanderwal@shaw.ca, to register for these classes.

2014 Society Scotland Tour

The Society has been approached by Collette Vacations who are offering a Discover Scotland tour for 2014. Ryan Mikucki will be presenting a full 10 day plan at the Society's Budget Meeting (see above) for member consideration. Day 1 is the overnight flight; Days 2 & 3 are in Edinburgh; Day 4 goes to St. Andrews, Pitlochry & Grantown-on-Spey; Day 5 is Grantown to Thurso; Day 6 Thurso to the Orkneys; Day 7 Thurso to Loch Ness & Ballachulish; Day 8 Ballachulish to Skye and back; Day 9 Ballachulish to Erskine; Day 10 Erskine.



Currently, the start dates to be considered are: 15 May, 9 June, 16 June, 7 July and 11 August and while it would be great to go as a full group, some may find that one start date works better for them, as in the case of student summer vacation and interest in the Commonwealth Games or Edinburgh Tattoo. As a group larger than 15, we would receive one free member and the savings would be a reduction spread over the whole group. Early booking would have an additional reduction and require a \$250 deposit which would not be refundable within 6 months of the departure date. Full payment would be required 2 months before departure. The tour is open to non-members of the Society and please note that air fares do rise for the summer months. Check out the special link on the Society website.

RSCDS Hogmanay

Hogmanay will be celebrated in great style with an Evening of Dance on Tuesday, 31 December 2013 by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society—Calgary Branch at the Confederation Park 55+ Activity Centre, 2212—13th Street NW. Doors open at 7:00pm. The program will consist of a Roast Beef dinner, general and Scottish Ceilidh dancing, music by Mercat Cross and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are: \$45 for members and \$50 for non-



-members. Tickets are available from: Ann van der Wal Annvanderwal@shaw.ca and Janyn Bertram

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Janyn_Bertram@hotmail.com.

Ann van der Wal

SCD News



The Society's Scottish Country Dance classes have been very successful this year. We have a record number of beginners and most Tuesday nights have at least thirty attendees. The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society also offered free ball practice classes for the four weeks before our ball. In November we had an average attendance of 60 on Tuesday nights at these combined classes. In the New Year these classes will be moving to the Confederation Park +55 Activity Centre. Lessons will continue to be held on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7:30, so you should arrive at 7:15pm. Anyone interested in trying out Scottish Country Dancing is welcome to attend. Please contact teacher, John Bertram, at (403) 585-3842 john_d_bertram@hotmail.com for more information.

Celebrating Scottish Culture in Calgary for over a century

Mobile Burns Unit

Members who are interested in performing on Robbie Burns Day, Friday, 24 January 2014 at seniors' lodges and nursing homes around Calgary should contact Robert Henderson at roberthenderson@yahoo.com or (403) 245-5514. The day starts at about 9:30am with two or perhaps three troupes travelling around the city visiting between six and seven lodges each. The show consists of two highland dances, two songs or poems, including the Address to the Haggis, and a piping selection. The Society rents the vans to travel around and pays for the gas, but will need a driver, who is usually the singer, and everyone meets at the car rental office. The group usually performs two or three shows before lunch, which the Society sponsors, and three or four shows in the afternoon. We are looking for pipers, singers, poetry readers and highland dancers. In 2012, two Mobile Burns Units performed at a total of 10 locations for about 500 people and was well received everywhere they went.

Member Benefits

Benefits of Society membership include:

- reduced rates for pipers at your function,
- 10% discount on purchases at the Highland Scottish Gift Shoppe,
- Free entry to the Foothills Highland Games,
- Free entry to the Calgary Highland Games,
- Free entry to the Canmore Highland Games.
- Free entry to the Foothills Highland Games,
- \$2.00 reduction in the regular adult admission to the Globe Theatre 617—8th Avenue SW.

Members should consider renewing for several years to avoid missing any activities or events.

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of
Calgary

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