



THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

Calgary is Grand Finale in Nation-wide Celebration of Scottish Heritage



Vol. XXI No. 1
January 2017

For the third straight year, kilted skaters will take to the ice this winter to honour Scottish heritage, and celebrate Canada's 150th birthday, as well as the 202nd birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister, for the Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate. This year's Calgary Kilt Skate event will be the culmination of similar events being held in six other major Canadian cities across the country, and will be held on Sunday, February



12, at the Olympic Municipal Plaza. "We are excited to participate in the Kilt Skate events. We are hoping for a sizeable turnout in celebration of Sir John A's 202nd, and Canada's 150th, birthdays," said David Aftergood organizer on behalf of the St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary, which is hosting this year's event.

The skating will take place between noon and 4 PM on Sunday, 12 February, and free birthday cake and hot chocolate will be provided for everyone who attends. Harvey the Hound, the Flames official mascot, will be there to help cut the birthday cake, serve hot chocolate, and have fun with the skaters. The Society's Gaelic Choir will sing O' Canada in English

and Gaelic to kick off the festivities, and then serenade the skaters with several traditional Scottish ballads. The Society's Pipers, and highland dancers from various dance schools, will also be present, weather permitting. A skate rental shack will be on the premises in case people want to rent a pair of skates, and a fire pit to keep the skaters warm.

This is a free event for the public and everyone is welcome to attend. Whether you skate or not or whether you decide to wear kilt or not, although it is very much encouraged, come on down and enjoy an afternoon of uniquely Canadian Scottish culture. *David Aftergood*

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Tartan Day 2017

The Society is planning to celebrate Tartan Day 2017 with a social get-together at Murdoch's Pub, 1935 — 37th Street SW on 8 April. Plans include: membership prizes, highland dancing, whisky tasting, piping, singing, Scottish Country Dancing, the Mayor's Proclamation, and much more. Murdoch's will be putting on their signature Tartan Day menu of: Cock a' Leekie Soup, 6oz Highland Steak, Steak & Mushroom Pot Pie, Fish & Chips, Tartan Day Prime Rib and Stout Cake. Members should wear their tartan, tell their friends and watch for further details on the Society website and in the March Saltire.

St. Andrew's Ball 2016

The 133rd St. Andrew's Ball was held on Saturday, 19 November 2016 at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre. The Ball is the cornerstone event of the Society and attracted over 130 members and friends. The evening began with a chance to catch up with friends, listen to the piping group play some old favourites, and then the piping in of the Head Table by piper Ross Smith, and the Saltire by piper Bill Partridge. Grace was said by Malcolm Stewart, Vice President of the Society, and was followed by Highland Cheif tossed salad, Calgary Roast Turkey, Mull Garden Beans Almandine, mixed vegetables, and topped off with Tobermory Chocolate Cake. During dinner, the company was entertained splendidly by Society Choir under Beth Ann Friesen, followed by Ross Smith, and then the Calgary Fiddlers playing their Scottish airs, jigs and reels. The formal part of the dinner was finished with the President and company toasting the Monarch; then Prab Gill, Member of the Alberta Legislature for Calgary Greenway, toasting St. Andrew; Margot Aftergood, Director for the Society, toasting Calgary; Leela Sharon Aheer, Member of the Alberta Legislature for Chestermere—Rocky View, toasted Canada, and; T Eric Coyle, Director for the Society, sang his toast to



Scotland. The dinner concluded with the company, led by the choir, singing 'Auld Lang Syne' and then prepared for the Ball starting off with the Grand March: 'Brigadier General TE Snow' under the direction of Society Marshall, Andrew Joo. The Society was pleased to have Glen Morin, with Dennis Orr, supply the music for the dancing. The piping group performed again at the intermission as everyone rested and prepared for the second half of the Ball. The music was very well received with several repeats — even the Dancemaster, Jim Adamson, joined in a

dance and still managed to wrap the whole program up by midnight. The Society wishes to thank the Society Gaelic Choir, Piping Group, and the Ball Committee: Jim Adamson, Donna Gillespie, Catherine Hand, Debby Henderson, Andrew Joo, Eric & Nonie Sundstrom, Ann Vanderwal, Jan & Sarah Vanderwal, all the other volunteers and the staff at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre for all their great work in making the St. Andrew's Ball a great success. The 134th St. Andrew's Ball is set for 25 November 2018. More pictures of the Ball can be viewed on the Society's website: www.standrewcaledonian.ca



Burns Dinner for the Homeless 2017

The 16th Annual Burns Dinner for the Homeless was held on Sunday January 22 2017 at the Calgary Drop-In and Rehabilitation Centre in the East Village. It was a fabulous success!! Thank-you. Thank-you for the 60 plus volunteers that showed up to help. We are the ONLY volunteer group that brings in the meal, serves the meal then cleans up afterward. We are also the best dressed!! (in my opinion) The day started out with a parade



of kitchen workers taking up their positions to load the plates with the day's lunch: roast beef, mashed potatoes, turnip, gravy and haggis. The Burns Show started at 11:30 am with the pipers, highland dancers, singers and bard putting on a demonstration of Burn's work culminating in the Address to the Haggis. Then the performers paraded to the kitchen and started serving the dinner. The kitchen volunteers all sported highland aprons which made for lots of fun. Mercat Cross serenaded the patrons through the

lunch time service. The entertainers performed a second show which was enjoyed by everyone. This dinner is the largest Robert Burns



dinner in the world! We all stayed afterward for lunch, it was a great day. In all about 1000 persons were served. This dinner is one of the Drop In Centres "highlights" of the year. I wish to personally thank everyone who came and volunteered their precious time for this worthy cause. The show and dinner is always well received and I look forward to seeing everyone again next year! Thank-you once again for a day well received. I hope to see you all next year.

Margot Aftergood



Scots Gathering in Canmore

The third Scots Gathering is scheduled for Thanksgiving 2017, 6 to 9 October, in Canmore. Classes offered will include: Highland dancing, piping, Scottish Country dancing, Scottish cookery, Celtic Art, Scottish Country Dance Music, Gaelic Language, Scottish Cultural Lectures, Scottish Singing, and Whisky tasting. New and returning instructors include: Donna Gillespie, Andy Dunn, Dennis Orr, Tania Stenbeck, Elaine Forman, Glenn Potter, with more to come. The Canmore Coast Hotel will be the centre of activities and will be offering preferred rates. Saturday evening's entertainment will feature instructors, members of the Society, and members of the Alberta Scottish Orchestra all as part of the Three Sisters Ceilidh. Sunday's events will conclude with the Wild Rose Ball as a Scottish Country dance event with the full Alberta Scottish Orchestra. The weekend will finish with the Lady MacDonald Luncheon on Monday at noon. Information will be posted on the Scots Gathering website www.calgaryscots.org as it becomes available and interested persons will be able to register and pay online through PayPal. Come out and make a family weekend at the Scots Gathering.

Society Casino 2016

The Society's Casino for 2106 was held at Cowboys on 28 & 29 December in support of the Society's programs and activities that span the entire year: Scottish Country dancing, Gaelic classes, Scottish Choir, Piping and Drumming, as well as the Society's events: Burns Dinner for the Homeless, Mobile Burns, Kirkin' of the Tartan, Burns Night, Kilt Skate, Tartan Day, the Bannockburn Bar-B-Que, Golf Tournament, Scots Gathering, and the St. Andrew's Ball, as well as all the operating grants to highland games organizations and Clan Societies. The Society wishes to thank all the fifty-one volunteers and friends who came out to raise funds so that the Scottish cultural programs, offered by the Society, can continue to function. *Robert Henderson*

Celebrating Scottish Culture in Calgary for over a century

Board Member Openings

The Society's Board of Directors is looking for two members who would like to get involved with the operation of Society events and activities. The Board is the place for those who would like to make a difference in the Society. Board positions are elected for two year terms, and meetings are held usually the first Wednesday evening of the month. A director would be expected to take on a project during their term to determine: 1. the funding required, 2. source of the funds, 3. the member participation and, 4. to bring the project to commencement and/or to completion. Interested members are asked to contact Robert Henderson at roberthenderson@yahoo.com or 403-245-5514.

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.
- \$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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