



# THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

## Kilt Skate 2018

The Society will be hosting its second Great Canadian Kilt Skate to celebrate the 203rd birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A MacDonal. This year's Calgary Kilt Skate event, held on Sunday, February 11, at the Olympic Municipal Plaza. will be the culmination of similar events being held in other major Canadian cities. The skating will take place between noon and 4 PM on Sunday, and free birthday cake and hot chocolate will be provided for everyone who attends. 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.



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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*



## Tartan Day 2018

The Society is celebrating Tartan Day 2018 with a social get-together at Murdoch's Pub, 1935 — 37th Street SW, 7 April, starting at 4:00pm. Plans include: membership prizes, Scottish trivial pursuit, 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



# St. Andrew's Ball 2017

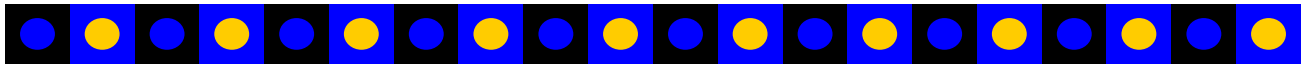
Our 134th annual St Andrew's Ball, held Saturday, 18 November at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre, was a great success. One hundred and thirty members and their friends were in attendance for a wonderful meal and performances. The evening began with a chance to catch up with friends, listen to the Society Pipers play some old favourites, before the piping in of the Head Table by piper Nonie Sundstrom. Grace was said by Grace & Lloyd Northcott, members of the Society, and was followed by Calgary Bay Farms Green salad, Mull Roast Beef, grilled mixed vegetables and broccoli and cheese sauce, and topped off with Tobermory Tiramisu. During dinner, the company was entertained firstly by the Calgary Fiddlers with their rousing Scottish sets, followed by outstanding selections from Carol and Trish Johnson with Chellan Hoffman, superb Highland dancing performed by Heather and Fiona from the Wendy Wilson School of Highland Dance, finishing off in fine fashion with several selections from the Society Choir under Beth Ann Friesen. Greetings were read out from The St. Andrew's Society of the Eastern Shore (Maryland), The St. Andrew's Society of Savannah (Georgia), The St. Andrew's Society of Petrolia (Ontario), The Frederickton Society of St. Andrew (New Brunswick), The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg and, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The formal part of the dinner was finished with the President and company toasting the Monarch; then toasting St. Andrew; Andrew Joo, Life Member and Marshall for the Society, toasting Calgary; Dr. Kathryn Hannah, OC, toasted Canada, and; Margot Aftergood, Director for the Society, toasted 'The Homeland', 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. Our musicians, Luke and Adam Brady (Dundee UK), brought their lively style to the dance portion of the evening and they were very impressed by the level, and stamina, of participation. The Ball was preceded earlier in the day by a well attended Scottish Country Dance workshop with teachers Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (BC) and Barbara Johnston (AB). 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 several dances. The evening started with over eighty dancers on the floor and ended with over sixty to finish the evening with 'Mairi's Wedding'. The Ball is the cornerstone event of the Society and the Society wishes to thank our ticket sellers: Margot Aftergood, Donna Gillespie, Debby Henderson, Susan Lewis, Barrie Purvis, Nonie Sundstrom, and Ann Vanderwal. Also thanks to Nonie Sundstrom for decorating, and Ann Vanderwal for organizing the dance workshop and the bar.

## Casino 2018

The Society's Casino has been set for Sunday, 1 April and Monday, 2 April 2018 at Cowboys Casino, 421—12th Avenue SE. This casino has free parking in the parkade off 12th Avenue between MacLeod Trail and 3rd Street East on the P2 level and they have night time escorts to the parking area. The Society truly appreciates the members and friends who have stepped up to support this major fund raising activity. The Society is looking for Count Room Staff (2230-0330hrs) for both days, and Bankers, Cashiers and Chip Runners for all shifts. Interested members should contact Robert Henderson at [roberthenderson@yahoo.com](mailto:roberthenderson@yahoo.com) or (403) 245-5514 and he will be calling as well. Your participation helps Calgary's Scottish community activities and is greatly appreciated. *Robert Henderson*



# Scots Gathering 2018

The Scots Gathering Committee has reviewed suggestions from participants and Society members and implemented several changes to the event format. In order to respect concerns about the workshop falling on a family long weekend, the Gathering will now conclude mid-afternoon on Sunday. The Gathering will start with the Three Sisters Ceilidh on Friday evening which will be free to those registered for classes, and a nominal charge for those not registered. Saturday will be the full roster of classes, with many returning lecturers and activities, plus new classes and instructors. The Saturday meal package for the Lady Macdonald Lunch and the Wild Rose Ball that evening will be offered at \$80. Those only wishing to attend the Wild Rose Ball will be charged \$65. Classes will resume Sunday morning with more classes and lunch on your own. One class will be offered Sunday afternoon and participants can depart at their own discretion. The Canmore Coast Hotel is offering a special rate of \$139 per night plus taxes for one, two, or three night stays. All interested persons are encouraged to check the Scots Gathering website at [www.calgaryscots.org](http://www.calgaryscots.org) and the coming issues of the Saltire for details as they are posted. *Robert Henderson*



## Remembrance Day 2017

Members of the Society Piping Group participated in the Remembrance Day Service, Sunday, 5 November 2017, at Knox United Church. In addition to playing the Lament, the group also performed 'The Water is Wide' and 'Amazing Grace'. The service was followed by a social reception in the church gymnasium.

## History of Curling

Curling is thought to have been invented in medieval Scotland, with the first written reference to a contest using stones on ice coming from the records of Paisley, Renfrewshire, in February 1541. Evidence that curling existed in Scotland in the early 16th century includes a curling stone inscribed with the date 1511 (uncovered along with another bearing the date 1551) when an old pond was drained at Dunblane, Scotland. Kilsyth Curling Club claims to be the first club in the world, having been formally constituted in 1716; it is still in existence today.

## I'm Naebody Noo

We all know about "fair weather friends" but they are not a modern phenomenon. This poem by William Anderson (1805-1866) describes the situation perfectly - expressed in the couthie language of Scots.

I'm naebody noo, though in days that are gane,  
Whan I'd hooses, and lands, and gear o' my ain,  
There war mony to flatter, and mony to praise,  
And wha but myself was sae prood in those days.

Whan I'd nae need o' aid, there were plenty to proffer,  
And noo whan I want it, I ne'er get the offer;  
I could greet whan I think hoo my siller decreast,  
In the feasting o' those who came only to feast.

An' then roun' my table wad visitors thrang,  
Wha laughed at my joke, and applauded my sang,  
Though the tane had nae point, and the tither nae glee;  
But of course they war grand when comin frae me.

The fulsome respec' to my gowd they did gie  
I thought a' the time was intended for me,  
But whanever the end o' my money they saw,  
Their friendship, like it, also flickered awa.

Whan I'd plenty to gie, o' my cheer and my crack,  
There war plenty to come, and wi' joy to partak;  
But whenever the water grew scant at the well,  
I was welcome to drink all alane by mysel.

My advice ance was sought for by folk far and near, once  
Sic great wisdom I had ere I tint a' my gear,  
I'm as weel able yet to gie counsel, that's true,  
But I may just haud my wheest, for I'm naebody noo.



## Calgary Tartan Sales

The Society has a number of items in the Calgary Tartan available to members, including: Brushed wool scarves, Brushed wool lady's wraps and heavy weight, light weight, Calgary Tartan material yardage. The Society has added to our selection of Calgary Tartan items with the addition of: Bow Ties, Long Ties, and Cummerbunds.. Items will soon be available on the Society website, Society events, and the highland games..



## A Tartan for Mars

Charles Cockell, professor of astrobiology at the University of Edinburgh, hopes to one day see people exploring or even living on Mars while wearing scarves featuring his tartan. Mars now has its own tartan as the pattern represents future human settlement on the Red Planet.



*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 Andrew Joo at [andrewjoo@msn.com](mailto:andrewjoo@msn.com) via an email indicating their interest, or if they are proposing someone as a candidate, then please supply a contact telephone number and/or email address for follow-up with that individual. Thank you. *Andrew Joo*

### 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.
- Special room rate (SAB13) at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre Calgary

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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