



# THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

## Society Suspension 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Society activities and events were suspended and will resume when conditions permit. Alberta is currently at Stage 1 of easing of restrictions and some activities have resumed with observance of health and safety precautions for members who wish to do so. Thank you for your patience and consideration.



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## Society Membership Assistance Program (SMAP)

The current viral pandemic has strengthened the bonds of membership leading to expressions of concern for members and offers to help those in need. Eleven members came forward to contact and assist Society members who could be in need.

The Society has long been a supporter of the Scottish community and at the meeting held Tuesday, 22 November 1891, the laid down the benevolent aspects of the Society as 'being of help to Scotsmen and their descendants in the district' (Alberta). This principle was reviewed on 25 March 1959 and the Board affirmed "to assist such natives of Scotland or their descendants as may have fallen into distress."

The Society would like to thank Mona Baker, Jan Boydol, Cindy Clark, Stuart Clark, Robert Henderson, Ian Lewis, Susan Lewis, Julia Looney, Stephen MacDonnell, Marion Owen and Diana Walker for their efforts in the welfare of Society members considered most at risk.

Business and government have combined to make life bearable, particularly for seniors and the role of the Society may seem superfluous. We have had one call out for assistance in removing and installing a microwave. Everyone seems to be coping quite well.

So, our role has changed somewhat to helping where needed and ensuring the Scottish community remains healthy. If any member of the Society becomes aware of any member of the Scottish community who has fallen into distress, please contact Robert at [roberthenderson@yahoo.com](mailto:roberthenderson@yahoo.com) or 403-245-5514 and the Society will endeavour to assist.

The SMAP will continue until we enter Stage 2, and the assistance to members of the Scottish community in distress will always be there. Thank you for your concern for Society members and efforts to ease the tensions and burdens of this pandemic.

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# City Recognition of Calgary Tartan

The City of Calgary has added the civic symbols to its website and this includes the Calgary tartan. Members can access the website at <https://www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Pages/Citizen-recognition-protocol/Flags.aspx> and note the tartan is listed second to the City Badge. The tartan was first suggested to the City in December 1998 which resulted in a national competition which closed 25 January 2002. The winning entry was verified with the Scottish Tartans Authority and registered 28 May 2003. City Council adopted the tartan as an official symbol of the City of Calgary on 14 July 2003x and is a major supporter. The Calgary tartan is owned by The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary.

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## AGM 2020/BannockburnBQ

**Due to the Public Health Order restricting the size of public gatherings, the Society's Annual General Meeting has been postponed until a later date when the Public Health Order permits, and members will be informed thirty days in advance of the new date, location, and the business to be conducted.**

The Society's Board of Directors is looking for one full term member 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*

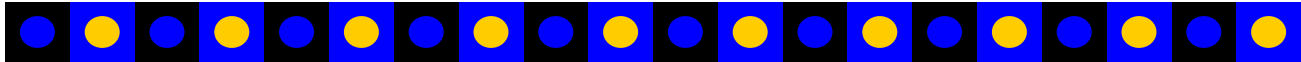
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## Influenza 1918

The influenza epidemic of 1918 was the most deadly viral pandemic of the twentieth century. The epidemic involved four stages and has been attributed to the burning of manure at an Army base in Kansas which created a viral mutation. The mutation then travelled with American troops as they joined in the fighting in France during the First World War. Press censorship at the time did not allow for the reporting of the effects of this virus as it was seen as a demoralizing issue and could influence the German Army headquarters to launch new offensives. Soon enough, Americans taken prisoner by the Germans brought the virus to their side of the fighting and it spread through the able bodied soldiers and nurses, mostly aged 20 to 40, on both sides of the battlefield. The virus would first weaken its host and then pneumonia would set in. The effect of the virus was first reported in Spanish newspapers as that country was not at war and was free to report the beginning of the outbreak and Spain gave its name to the pandemic.

The pandemic hit Canada between 1918 and 1920, with the deadliest second stage wave occurring in late 1918. Authorities knew the virus was slowly making its way across the country on the railways, and knew who the carriers were but were unwilling to take precautions until the virus was established in communities. Troops returning from France brought the virus over and it first arrived in Alberta in Drumheller. Influenza arrived in Calgary on 2 Oct 1918 by train from 15 returning soldiers. The City was forewarned and had the soldiers escorted to the Isolation Hospital (the old General in Victoria Park). Dr. Cecil Mahood was Calgary's Medical Health Officer, and Calgary's first death, Hazen Spearin, came on 7 Oct.

On 26 Oct 1918 a provincial edict made it mandatory in Alberta to wear face masks outside the home. Nurses made the masks from cheesecloth and sold them from the Carnegie Library in Central Park – 10 cents. This was followed by provincial bans on large gatherings, which prompted the closure of schools, churches



and cinemas for months at a time. Business hours curtailed to 1pm opening. Basic precautions, like carrying personal handkerchiefs, were encouraged and the populace was discouraged from giving into panic.

Hospitals were struggling to keep up with the rising number of cases. The Isolation Hospital was augmented with city schools such as Colonel Walker School and Stanley Jones as well. Around 31,000 cases of influenza were reported in the province in 1918 and 445 people died in Edmonton that year versus 340 in Calgary, but included AG MacKay, Alberta Health Minister, CW Fisher, Speaker of the Legislature, and Annie Gale, Calgary first female alderman.

The enforcement of masks was lifted on Nov. 23, and the public gathering restriction lifted 30 Nov 18. It is not known if the Society had an Annual General Meeting in 1918 and there was no St Andrew's Dinner that year. The Scottish Choir resumed practices on 27 Nov and reported increased attendance with many old members returning. They were looking forward to performing at the Robbie Burns functions in the new year.

Around 4,700 died in Alberta between late October 1918 to 1919. For Canada, 66,000 died fighting during the First World War outside the country and 55,000 died at home of the influenza pandemic. There were two flare ups after measures were lifted, but cases were gone by May 1919. There were also small flare ups for the next two winters.

Most of the procedures we are using today during this current pandemic come from the Influenza Pandemic of 1918. That pandemic also played an important role in creating the federal Department of Health in 1919. The department was the first dedicated body within the government responsible for "all matters and questions relating to the promotion of the health and social welfare of the people of Canada," according to the House of Commons debates at the time. *Many thanks to Harry Sanders*



## St. Kilda Anniversary

Sunday 10 May 2020 marks the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the end for the inhabitants of the remote Scottish archipelago of St Kilda. The isolated cluster of islands, situated 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, off Scotland's north-west coast, had been inhabited for at least 4,000 years. In 1930, however, the simple existence of the inhabitants had become unsustainable and the St Kildans wrote a letter petitioning to leave. Six months later, on 29 August, the last 36 people living on Hirta, [St Kilda](#)'s main island, were evacuated.

Julie Hunt, chair of the [St Kilda Club](#), explains that the decision to leave was a difficult but necessary one. 'They didn't want to go but they knew it was the best thing to do', she says. 'They'd just come out of a particularly devastating winter and things had got harder and harder for them. 'They weren't self-supporting and able to "better themselves" as the letter says. They knew they couldn't survive but they didn't know what the other options were. It had got to the point where they were relying on ships coming in and those were becoming less frequent.



'There's a history of them sending letters out on the mailboats asking for food as they were starving,

but in the 1930s that shouldn't have been something that was happening.'

There was a precedent too. [Mingulay](#), at the southern tip of the Western Isles (also now cared for by the Trust), had been evacuated in 1912. St Kilda was even more remote.

While the decision to leave – and to write the letter asking for help – was a communal one, some were keener to find a new life on the mainland than others. Julie explains: 'The younger islanders were more aware of the world outside and wanted to start afresh. For some of the older members of the community, the decision to leave was harder. They were more of the opinion that St Kilda was their life and all they'd ever known.'

Julie sees that the 10 May letter wasn't just to ask for help to leave the island, but also to set up a whole new life on the mainland. 'The islanders weren't looking for a handout. Having lived nowhere else but this tiny storm-battered island, they didn't know what work they could do or how they would go about getting it. Boats were so infrequent that communication with the mainland to set up a new life was even more difficult.

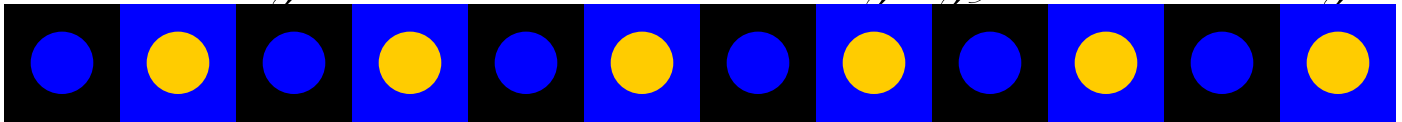
'They were happy to work but they didn't know what that could be', she says. 'The irony was they went to work for the Forestry Commission, when St Kilda has no trees.'

The letter, which is transcribed below, was passed to the skipper of the first passing trawler. Soon after, George Henderson, Inspector of Public Health, went out to St Kilda and reported back that 'swift action' was required to remove the St Kildans.

Plans were put in place over the summer to end life on this extraordinary place after four millennia of struggle against Mother Nature and, ultimately, the outside world. *National Trust for Scotland*

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## *Celebrating Scottish Culture in Calgary for over a century*



### Bylaw Changes Filed

The Society has received notice that the Bylaw amendments, presented and approved by Society members at a meeting specially called for that purpose on Saturday, 14 September, were filed by Service Alberta on 26 September 2019. The amendments were part of the scheduled five year review and added a clause regarding a Code of Conduct, establishment of a Nominating Committee with defined responsibilities, definition of Member spending authority, limits of director liability, a change in the period in which the AGM is held, and details on the election process as some members had previously demonstrated confusion on that process.

### 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 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.

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### A Coat without a Home

Please have a look in your coat closet as a coat was left behind at the 2019 St. Andrew's Ball in the Polish Canadian Club coat room. It is a black London Fog Bianca, 3/4 length. Size 12 regular, black satin lined with red trim, front slash pockets, and three buttons on each sleeve cuff. Contact Robert Henderson at [reberthenderson@yahoo.com](mailto:reberthenderson@yahoo.com) or 403-245-5514 to claim.

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