



THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

Society Suspension 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Society activities and events have been suspended. Alberta is currently re-introducing restrictions and we are all waiting for the vaccine. Society events and activities will resume once everyone feels safe. Thank you for your patience and consideration.



Vol. XXIV No. 5

November 2020

Society Memberships Extended

The COVID – 19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of most Society events and activities since March 2020. The Board has reviewed this unfortunate turn of events and that members have not received value for their Society membership. Therefore, the Board of Directors has approved a proposal to extend every member’s membership expiry date by one year to ensure value for the cost of membership and to ensure that once life returns to normal, all Society events and activities are available to all members. In the meantime, please practise safe health precautions to protect yourself, those in your family and the Scottish community.

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Kilt Skate 2021

On Sunday, February 7, 2021, at the Olympic Plaza, the people of Calgary will take to the ice in their kilts, tartans and other Scottish regalia to participate in the 7th Annual Great Canadian Calgary Kilt Skate. The annual Great Canadian Kilt Skate began as a modest house party in our nation’s capital



but spread throughout the country a few years ago as a tribute to Canadian Scottish culture and heritage. For the past six years, Calgarians have come out to celebrate that heritage—Calgary is a Gaelic word for ‘bay farm’ - and our common Scottish roots with bare knees and ice. In previous years, Kilt Skates have featured not only kilted skaters, but pipers, Highland dancers, a choir singing O Canada in Gaelic, and special guests’ appearance by the Flames Harvey the Hound along with free Hot Chocolate for the public. You don’t have to wear a kilt to be part of the kilt skate. You don’t even have to be Scottish. The Great Canadian Kilt Skate is an opportunity to celebrate the inner-Scot that lives in many of us. After all, tartan is Canada’s favourite colour!” The kilt skate will take place at Calgary Olympic Plaza, in front of City Hall, on Sunday, February 7, from 12noon until 4 p.m. Official opening ceremonies will start at 12:30 PM.



This event will conform to Public Health directives in place at the time which may include: physical distancing and masks.

For updated information, check 2021 Events at www.kiltskate.com

Pandemic Poetry

T'was a month before Christmas,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly,
This virus spread fast,
Like a wildfire that starts
When fuelled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their verve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.

Now it's November
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers,
Doctors and nurses,
Try to save people,
From riding in hearses.

This virus is awful,
This COVID-19.
There isn't a cure.
There is no vaccine.

It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner-
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
When no one will see it,
No-one but me.

But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.

*By: Shawna Hickling, Calgary, AB,
Canada
November 19, 2020*

Celebrating Scottish Culture in Calgary for over a century

Tae a virus

Ten months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since
then,
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while



Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be 19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta by the ton
and twenty stane o' rice.

So dinnae think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up

Agnes Loosemore

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.

**The St. Andrew-
Caledonian Society of
Calgary**

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