



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

"In the thistle's shadow, violets grow stronger."

President's Message – September 2013

With another year coming to a close I want to provide you with a brief update prior to the Annual General Meeting in October.

I want to begin by thanking all of the Board of Directors for their assistance over the last 12 months. Without the board and its committees we would not have been able to accomplish as much as we did.

Events

Our first public event of year was the Tartan Day flag raising ceremony at the New Brunswick Provincial Legislature in Fredericton on April 6th. For the first time we hosted in partnership with the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew a reception at the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook Hotel. Following the reception we joined the Society members at their flag raising ceremony at Fredericton city hall. All three events on April 6th were planned so that the two groups could support each other in celebrating Tartan Day in the Capital city.

On May 4th the 14th Annual Round Table Discussion was held at the Best Western in Fredericton. With 20 different groups presenting and sharing information from their perspective organization around the province the event was a great success.

On May 25th in Perth-Andover we were part of the 12th Annual Gathering of the Scots. Although it was very wet and very cold it was great to see so many people out enjoying the sights and sounds of the Scottish culture.

June 22nd the 7th Annual Moncton Highland Games and Scottish Festival were held on a new site at the Moncton High Sports Field. As it turns out the Moncton games had the best weather of the summer. The event was well organized and well attended.

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July 26th, 27th and 28th the New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association once again organized it Haggis Café at the 32nd New Brunswick Highland Games and Scottish Festival. A big thank you and congratulations goes to Mel Fitton and all the volunteers who made the Café a great success. The association also had its membership tent on the grounds and we are thrilled to report we picked up 7 new members during the weekend. A thank you goes out to all those who worked the membership tent that weekend. Although Friday and Saturday experienced a little traditional Scottish weather, Sunday's weather returned to normal. Congratulations to the Games organizing committee for a job well done!

Committee Work

As many of you know the Association embarked on one of its biggest challenges on February 12, 2012. With the launch of the New Brunswick Scottish Portal Project and a proposed budget of \$80,000.00 the Association's committee charged with the responsibility of building this tool has been working away towards the launch of this web based application. To date the committee has raised over \$60,000.00 and incurred over \$41,000.00 in costs. The NB Scottish Portal once completed will benefit individuals who are conducting family research, teachers who want information and material for classroom use on New Brunswick Scottish history and finally to provide the untold narrative/story of the Scottish immigrants that came to New Brunswick in the early 19th century and the impact those immigrants had on the shaping of New Brunswick.

The project hired three students this past summer and as a result Phase I and II have pretty much been completed. At the moment the finishing touches are being completed on the 1851 and 1861 census. Once the census has been completed we should begin to see content being uploaded to the portal late fall or early winter. The first Scot to New Brunswick contest is winding down and the winner will be announced at the end of November. We are all waiting to find out if William Davidson of Miramichi will lose his title of the First Scot to New Brunswick. Time will only tell. For anyone who is not familiar with this project I invite you to visit the project area on our [website](#)

Membership

I am happy to report the Association has been successful in attracting 21 new members since the beginning of the year. Membership levels continue to be a challenge and a concern and I would like to extend an invitation to all our members to invite their friends and family to take advantage of the membership deals we are currently running until the end of the year. For more information on the membership deals including the reduced life membership rate of a onetime fee of \$100.00 vs. the regular fee of \$250.00 please visit www.nbscots.com.

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Final word

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the Annual General meeting on October 26, in Moncton at St. John's United Church, 75 Alma Street. Lunch will be served at 12 followed by the 33rd Annual General Meeting. Hope to see as many of you in attendance.

All things Scottish,

Llewellyn Smith,
President and CEO
New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association Inc.

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