



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

Dear Editor:

On Tuesday December 14th the Gleaner carried an editorial entitled "Would the Scottish please stand up?" The editorial would lead people to believe that people of Scottish descent do not pull their weight here in Fredericton and New Brunswick. I believe that the paper did not base this on fact and believe the paper has crossed the line and showed very little respect to people of Scottish descent. In fact, based on the headline, content and cartoon of said editorial, the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA) believes the staff members at the Gleaner might consider training in cultural sensitivity. That headline was very insulting, demeaning, tasteless and unprofessional!

The statue of Robert Burns has been located on the Green in Fredericton since 1906 and was commissioned by the Fredericton Society of St Andrew, St Andrew's Society of Saint John, Highland Society of NB at Miramichi and the Restigouche Caledonian Society.

The statue was turned over to Fredericton many years ago with the understanding the statue's maintenance and upkeep would be looked after by the City of Fredericton. It wasn't until 2006 and the 100th anniversary of the statue's unveiling was celebrated that the City decided to clean Robbie Burns up. The work only began in 2008, however, it was then discovered that due to flooding over the 100 plus years, the base of the statue was compromised. So the entire structure was removed. It has taken three years and letters from Scottish groups to the City asking for Robbie to be returned to his spot on the Green to bring about action. At no time during that three year period did anyone from the City of Fredericton ask for assistance from the Scottish community.

The NBSCA's contact information is listed in the telephone books across New Brunswick, we are on the internet at www.nbscots.com, and we are on Facebook and even Twitter. Neither Councillor Jordan Graham nor The Daily Gleaner contacted the NBSCA to ask for our feedback. It is time our leaders stand up and be leaders. It is also time our local newspaper does what is right and report responsibility.

Dan Taylor
New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association