



# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 6, 2011 - Fredericton**

## **NEW BRUNSWICK SCOTTISH-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (NBSCA)**

Robbie Burns Statue Re-Unveiling will be an historic Scottish celebration

On Saturday, September 10th, New Brunswickers of Scottish descent will have much to celebrate, as thousands are expected to gather in the provincial capital to witness the re-unveiling of a statue of Robbie Burns, which for three years was missing from the Green in Fredericton. Prior to its restoration, the statue had been a Fredericton landmark for over a century.

In 1906, the four original New Brunswick Scottish societies (located in Miramichi, Fredericton, Saint John, and Restigouche – all of which are still operational and which, along with the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association) have contributed to the planning of this weekend's celebrations) commissioned the statue as a permanent monument to the achievements of Scots and their descendants in the province. Although Robbie Burns never made the journey to Canada, hundreds of thousands of his countrymen did. Burns is a tangible symbol of the values, traditions and culture which they carried with them when they settled across the New World.

It is for this reason that all NBers of Scottish descent, whether or not they enjoy or appreciate the Bard's poetry, should plan to attend the statue celebrations on September 10th and 11th. The schedule of events will commence at 2:30 pm on September 10th with a Pipes and Drums parade along Queen Street from City Hall to the Legislative Assembly. At least five bands will be in attendance.

At 3:00pm, the official unveiling ceremony will begin, with special guests from all three levels of government and many of New Brunswick's Scottish organisations, as well as the Hon. Graydon Nicholas, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and J.K. and Jean Irving, whose generosity was instrumental in having the statue returned to its rightful place. Mrs. Irving will officially unveil the statue and His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will offer a short address. A formal dinner will follow at the Fredericton Convention Centre.

On Sunday, September 11th, a special church service will be held at 11am at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 512 Charlotte Street.

Scottish immigrants to New Brunswick and their numerous descendants have contributed a great deal to the development of our province. This weekend's celebrations will pay tribute to that contribution and inspire future generations of NBers of Scottish descent to continue the rich tradition of service to their communities and their fellow men and women.

The public is warmly encouraged to attend the parade and unveiling, and church service. For more information on this weekend's activities, visit [www.nbscots.com](http://www.nbscots.com).

## **BACKGROUND**

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association ([www.nbscots.com](http://www.nbscots.com)) was founded in 1980, and represents the provinces Scottish cultural communities and organizations, acting as both an information resource and promoter/defender of the Scots and their descendants who have contributed to New Brunswick's economic, social, political, and cultural development. The Fredericton Society of St. Andrew, the Highland Society of NB at Miramichi, the Saint Andrew's Society of Saint John, and the Caledonian Society of Restigouche, all have rich histories of promoting the Scottish culture, as well as helping fellow New Brunswickers in need through, collectively, centuries worth of community projects and charitable works.

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