



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

Burns Day Message 2011

New Brunswickers of Scottish descent are today celebrating an important event in their annual calendar: the birthday of Robbie Burns, an enduring symbol of Scottish identity and the 18th century Scottish Enlightenment.

Recent developments in the province have brought Burns and his legacy into public discussion, and the final verdict has demonstrated that after two centuries the infamous Scottish poet is still relevant to the descendants of his fellow countrymen and to those across New Brunswick who appreciate what a pivotal figure he was in the development of Scottish identity at a time when showing one's true colours in Scotland was frowned upon by authorities.

Due to the vast degree of support received from New Brunswickers of Scottish descent, other interested community members, members of Fredericton City Council, and – most especially – the J.K. and Jean Irving family, Robbie Burn's legacy in New Brunswick will once again be enshrined on the Green in Fredericton. He will return to "his rightful perch," just across from the Legislative Assembly, where so many New Brunswickers of Scottish descent have helped to shape the policy of our province.

This Robbie Burns Day, you are encouraged to reflect on Burns' impact on our identity, and to be proud of the generosity of your fellow New Brunswickers, who allowed for the statue to be cast a century ago, and who have stood up again so that his future may be assured.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Executive Council of the New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association, please accept my best wishes for Robbie Burns Day. May all of your celebrations be memorable.

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