



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

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New Brunswick Recognizes Tartan Day 2005

Tartan has become the main symbol of Scotland and Scottish Culture and is an emblem of pride for those of Scottish descent around the world. Examples in the new world first arrived with Scottish regiments crossing the Atlantic serving garrison duty in Canada prior to Confederation, and later with the many Scottish immigrants who settled in the Maritimes and the new United Canada.

There is evidence that Celts have used striped and checked material for thousands of years. Possible derivations of the word *tartan* come from the Irish *tarsna* (crosswise) and the Scottish Gaelic *tarsuinn* (across). Opinions differ as to the historic origins of the tartan. Most agree that each distinctive design was associated with a specific family name and are compiled of colorings that originated from the plants and dyes available in their respective areas of the highlands. Others however, claim that the origins of the tartan were more "regional" than clan-based. Military regimental tartans were developed as early as 1725 (Black Watch) in Scotland with many others following over the years.

Today, many district tartans reflect geographical areas across Canada. They link land and community through symbolic and imaginative use of colors. Every province and territory, except Nunavut, possesses its own tartan. Some are official. Others are not. But the colors of the cloth represent distinctive characteristics associated with each region. Some groups wear their colors in corporate tartans: the Hudson's Bay Company has its own, as do the Royal Canadian Legion, the RCMP and the Salvation Army.

The New Brunswick Tartan

First commissioned by Lord Beaverbrook in 1959, the New Brunswick tartan is officially registered in the court of the Lord Lyon, King of arms, Scotland. Designed and first woven by the prestigious Loomcrofters of Gaagetown, NB, its beautiful coloring symbolizes our Province's 3 major industries of lumbering (forest green), agriculture (meadow green) and fishing (blue). Bright Red blocks were chosen to honor the New Brunswick Regiment and the devotion of our Loyalist settlers. Accented with strands of gold and

gray are in recognition of New Brunswick's potential wealth and the colors of the Provincial coat of arms. And finally in honor of Lord Beaverbrook's original commissioning, the red blocks are accented in "Beaver" brown. For over 45 years, the NB tartan has proudly represented the Province of New Brunswick at Scottish events worldwide. Appealing to the eye, it one of the more recognized Canadian tartans. For more information on the New Brunswick Tartan take a moment and visit the NB Scottish Cultural web-site at www.nbscots.com.

Tartan Day in New Brunswick

For over a decade, the celebration of Tartan Day has been officially recognized in New Brunswick. Proclaimed by the MLA for Kings Center, Georgie Day, in December, 1992, "April 6th each year be known as Tartan Day. A day on which to remember and appreciate the contribution made to Canada and to New Brunswick by Scottish immigrants and their descendants".

Many people of Scottish descent in New Brunswick celebrate Tartan Day every April 6th. Rousing concerts with Celtic entertainment or Tartan Teas are hosted to across the Province to the delights of all attending. This year, why not do your part to celebrate the rich Scottish heritage of our Province. Wear your kilt to work (or school); pin on a plaid or tie your best Windsor knot in a tartan tie to show everyone just how proud you are of your Scottish heritage!

A Call for Tartans

Not only does our Province make claim to its rich Scottish heritage with a registered tartan, but within the north-western flank of it's borders, the County of Victoria displays its own distinctive plaid of colors. The NBSCA has recently discovered that a Victoria County Tartan was designed and first woven by "Tobicrafters" (Perth-Andover) in the 1960's and skillfully combines a distinctive combination of brilliant green, yellow, lavender and browns.

The NB Scottish Cultural Association would be very interested in recording any information specific to the recently rediscovered tartan above, along with any others district or county Tartans that may quietly awaiting resurrection? If you have information specific to tartans of our Province, please contact the Association toll free at 1-800-627-2234 or by e-mailing info@nbscots.com. Your assistance will greatly be appreciated!!