



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

2006 Tartan Day President's Message

How things have changed considerably in the world of Scottish culture. As many of you know most of the dates we celebrate throughout the calendar year (Saint Andrew's Day and Robbie Burns Day) have come from Scotland. Even the concept of Highland Games has been passed down from Scotland through the years to Scottish Societies around the world.

However a change in the tide started a few years ago and has continued of recent with the announcement on December 1, 2005. Scotland's parliament announced Scotland would join Canada, United States, Australia and New Zealand in celebrating Tartan Day. The December 1, 2005 announcement from Scotland laid out this year's grand celebrations that would include a gala dinner in Angus where the original 'Declaration of Arbroath' was signed and will mark the first time Scotland will celebrate an important Scottish date that was actually recognized around the world before Scotland decided to pay tribute to the date.

THE CREDIT FOR ESTABLISHING TARTAN DAY IN CANADA GOES TO MRS JEAN WATSON OF NOVA SCOTIA. HER UNTIRING EFFORTS TO HAVE THE SCOTS' CONTRIBUTION TO CANADIAN HISTORY OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED BORE FRUIT WHEN THE CLANS & SCOTTISH SOCIETIES OF CANADA SUPPORTED HER IDEA, THIS LED TO THE ONTARIO M.P.P. WILLIAM MURRAY TO PLACE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL BEFORE THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE, TO ADOPT TARTAN DAY IN ONTARIO, WHICH WAS PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY ON 19TH DECEMBER 1991, OTHER PROVINCES AND THE YUKON TERRITORIES PASSED SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS AND BY 2000 ALL, EXCEPT QUEBEC AND NEWFOUNDLAND, HAD ADOPTED 6TH APRIL AS TARTAN DAY.

Here, in New Brunswick, Tartan Day has been celebrated since 1993. On December 11th, 1992, a resolution was introduced in the New Brunswick Legislative

221 Springwater Lane
New Maryland NB
Canada E3C 1J5

Toll free: 1-877-627-2234
Local: 451-6226
E-mail: nbsca@nbnet.nb.ca

Fax: 506-454-9936
Url: www.nbscots.com

Assembly at Fredericton by Georgie Day, MLA for Kings Centre. The following April 6th, it was proclaimed that April 6th of that year, and each year thereafter, would be known in New Brunswick as Tartan Day, a day on which to remember and appreciate the contributions made to Canada and to New Brunswick by Scottish immigrants and their descendants.

WHY THEN WAS 6TH OF APRIL CHOSEN? ON THAT DATE IN 1320, AT ARBROATH ABBEY IN ANGUS ON THE NORTH EAST COAST OF SCOTLAND, THE NOBLES, BARONS AND FREEHOLDERS, TOGETHER WITH THE 'COMMUNITY OF THE REALM OF SCOTLAND,' SIGNED A LETTER ADDRESSED TO POPE JOHN XXII, ASKING HIM TO RECOGNISE THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND FOLLOWING THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN IN 1314.

As far as we can tell no one has (yet) attempted a comprehensive study of the impact Scots have had on Canada but there is no doubt that it has been considerable. Scots integrated into the culture of their new country and contributed to many all aspects of society. Curiously they rarely have been vocal about their endeavours. While Scottish 'Clannishness' is often commented upon in celebrating their culture they are frequently overlooked, especially as an ethnic group in their own right. Perhaps this is because of the multicultural mixture of Canada. It is perhaps also partly a consequence of the fact that they have been part of the culture for so long that they are now 'taken for granted'. Unfortunately, Scots are normally included in the 'English' ethnic population by officialdom thereby submerging the Scots in another quite different ethnic grouping. This lack of clarity in defining who the Scots are has meant that there no accurate statistics as to how many people of Scots descent there actually are in any particular country. There are only estimates.

Finally I would like to remind everyone that the largest and grandest of Tartan Day celebrations in New Brunswick this year will be the Celtic Gala scheduled to take place on April 8th. The event sponsored by the Friends of the Games and is the official launch of the 25th New Brunswick Highland Games is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM at the Fredericton Motor Inn in the grand ball room with dinner to be served at 7:00 PM. There will be a silent and live auction the same night. Tickets are \$60.00. We encourage all our members to get out and help support the event and have a great time. It is a great way to mark the beginning of spring.

Happy Tartan Day everyone!

221 Springwater Lane
New Maryland NB
Canada E3C 1J5

Toll free: 1-877-627-2234
Local: 451-6226
E-mail: nbsca@nbnet.nb.ca

Fax: 506-454-9936
Url: www.nbscots.com