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## **For Immediate Release**

It's a very uncommon sight to see 100 pipers and drummers marching from Fredericton City Hall towards the Provincial Legislature. On Saturday, September 23, that is precisely the plan. New Brunswick's Scottish community and fans of Robert Burns will celebrate the centenary of the Fredericton's Robert Burns Monument.

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (NBSCA) is convening New Brunswick's Scottish groups together to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Robert Burns Memorial in the provincial capital. The people of New Brunswick are invited to participate in the Ceremony of Re-Dedication.

Robert Burns (1759-96), known simply as "The Bard" to many Scots, was an Ayrshire poet and writer of traditional Scottish folk songs, whose works are known and loved wherever the English language is read. His use of the Scots vernacular, as well as his wry commentaries on state of the human condition, made him popular with contemporaries, and after his death he became a lightning rod of Scottish national pride, and he stands as a titan of English literature.

In 1903, national pride spurred the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew to seek subscriptions across New Brunswick for the erection of a suitable monument to Burns. The Society's concept was to provide an opportunity for the citizens of Fredericton and the people of New Brunswick to express their affection, respect and appreciation for the genius of Burns, to create an incentive to study his poetry, promote a taste for Scottish literature and to strengthen the tie of Scottish kinship throughout New Brunswick. Three years later, in 1906, the Burns Memorial Monument was unveiled on Thanksgiving Day, to great fanfare and in front of an assembly of 5,000 people.

Now, a full century later, Scottish enthusiasts will come together once more to re-dedicate the monument and themselves to the principles that Burns' life represents.

Massed highland pipes and drums will leave Fredericton City Hall at 1:30 p.m. and will parade towards the monument at Queen Street.

The Ceremony of Re-dedication will begin at 2:00 p.m. His Honour Herménégilde Chiasson, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, will be the key-note speaker. Representatives from the Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew, the St. Andrew's Society of Saint John, the Caledonian Society of Restigouche, and the Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi are expected to address the assembly. New Brunswick's renown vocalist and Gaelic linguist Helen Morag McKinnon has agreed to act as Master of Ceremonies.

For more information, please contact the NBSCA Office at 1-877-627-2234.

## **Background Information**

**The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association** ([www.nbscots.com](http://www.nbscots.com)) was founded in 1980, and represents that province's 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. According to the 2001 federal census, 239,000 New Brunswickers are of Scottish ancestry, a full one-fifth of the population.

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