



# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

October 21, 2003

Fort Nashwaak

Dear Editor:

The New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association (NBSCA) is an organization, which represents New Brunswickers of Scottish Ancestry, by working to protect and promote the importance of the Scottish culture.

In normal circumstances, the NBSCA does not enter such public debates over such things as the building of tourist attractions, etc, and in particular a project such as Fort Nashwaak due to the issues surrounding language debates, which may arise over such issues. This time however, there have been grievous misstatements made by Deputy Mayor Walter Brown concerning culture. These inaccurate statements must be addressed as he has offended many including, I am sure, some of his own constituents.

First, Deputy Mayor Walter Brown needs to realize that Fort Nashwaak will not and cannot tell the story of the "English culture". The so-called English culture, which has been defined to include many cultures including those whose first language is NOT English. Such separate and distinct cultures include, but are not limited to: Dutch, German, Danish, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish, etc. Clearly many of these distinct cultures are being lumped into one category, which is wrong, and has been done to differentiate non-Francophone speaking groups from the Francophone groups. While this is not Deputy Mayor Brown's doing, it is questionable how the Deputy Mayor would believe that this project will justly represent these very admirable and distinct cultures. It would further appear that Deputy Mayor Brown, like many other government officials, have forgotten the vast and wonderful different cultures that we have had and continue to have in New Brunswick.

The term "English Canada" or the "English culture" is an invention by our Federal Government derived for the purposes of funding either Francophone or English projects. This of course has occurred at great cost to all other cultures that exist in our country.

New Brunswickers of Scottish decent, who had family members arrive in New Brunswick either in more recent years or hundreds of years ago, should not have their culture penalized. Our early descendants rarely spoke English, but instead spoke Gaelic. Many of our families were forced to leave their homes in Scotland in order to survive, forced out in the Highland Clearances. Our Ancestors worked hard and contributed greatly to the development of Canada, New Brunswick, and yes, even Fredericton! One must ask then, why to-date this culture has not been represented in any project taken on by any level of government. I sincerely doubt that it will be represented in this project!

No one has contacted the NBSCA to learn how this culture can be accurately represented at Fort Nashwaak. So, I do question how Deputy Mayor Brown can state that this project will tell the story of the City's founding cultures. Last time I checked the history our country, our province and even our capital city, the Scots were a founding culture. If Mr. Brown would check the Canadian Coat of Arms he would learn just who the founding cultures are. I also believe that the Deputy Mayor should revisit Fredericton history, as he would indeed learn that the City's first Mayor was a Scot. If he looked further, he would learn that there were a great number of Scots who settled in the Nashwaak area as well as the entire province.

Inclosing, if Deputy Mayor Brown and City Council Could be so kind to let us all know just how all cultures are going to be represented in this project, I think that would be fair. If they conclude that this project is an Acadian project, then fine. However, being that the "English cultures" have such a prominent place in our history, perhaps we could learn what projects are being undertaken to preserve this very important part of not only Fredericton's history, but also our country's history and development.

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