



# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

Press Release #330

## New Brunswick Celebrates Tartan Day April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Are you one of over 239,000 residents of this Province with the privilege of having proud Scottish blood flowing through your veins? Today one-in-five of all New Brunswickers are proud to be counted as part of the greater Scottish community.

For over a decade, April 6<sup>th</sup> has been a day of Scottish celebration in New Brunswick. According to the "Tartan Day Proclamation" issued by then-premier the Honorable Frank McKenna: *"Scottish immigrants and their descendants have played, and will continue to play, a major role in the development of the Canadian and New Brunswick identity. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that [we] declare today, April 6th, and every April 6th thereafter, as Tartan Day in New Brunswick. "*

As with other cultures, Scots celebrate their collective identity through anniversaries:

November 30<sup>th</sup>            The origins of Scots worldwide are celebrated with the Feast of Saint Andrew the Disciple, Patron Saint of Scotland.

January 25<sup>th</sup>            Scottish literature is celebrated on the birthday of the poetic genius, Robert Burns.

Recently, a movement has evolved with Scots worldwide to add a third day to the cultural calendar - the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, 1320. This historic document, an assertion of Scotland's independence from England, became the basis of the American Declaration of Independence four centuries later.

Here in New Brunswick Scottish colonization began in 1621 when King James I granted all lands between the St. Croix and Cape Breton to Scottish poet and nobleman Sir William Alexander who quickly went about developing our region into a Scottish colony. Renamed "Nova Scotia" or "New Scotland," the St. Croix was renamed the "Tweed", and the St. John River became the "Clyde." The southern peninsular area was renamed "Caledonia" and the northern region (modern New Brunswick) was the barony of "Alexandria." In the latter 1700's and early 1800's, successive waves of Scottish immigrants found their way to New Brunswick. Many were

Loyalists fleeing persecution in the new republic to the south. Others came for the King's Bounty. Rural farming communities such as Glassville (Carleton County) and Kincardine and Lerwick (Victoria County) were settled by hundreds of hopeful Scots with the promise of hope for the future.

After the turn of the nineteenth century, as Scotland continued to industrialize, many more Scots found themselves here, taking advantage of the New Brunswick's burgeoning lumber and timber trades. Today communities such as Dalhousie, Balmoral, Rothesay, Ben Lomond and many others remind us of Scottish settlers who traveled to this Province with no more than their strong values, proud culture and undying work ethic in search of a better life for themselves and their children.

BE PROUD OF YOUR SCOTTISH HERITAGE!! The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association encourages all of New Brunswick to take the opportunity April 6<sup>th</sup> to attend one of several Tartan Day celebrations held around the Province - our even start your own tradition! Organize a Tartan Day activity in your own community and help spread the word of New Brunswick's rich Scottish Cultural Heritage. Send information of your Tartan Day activities to the NBSCA [nbsca@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:nbsca@nbnet.nb.ca) , and we will post it on our website [www.nbscots.com](http://www.nbscots.com)

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