



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

NBSCA President's- Saint Andrew's Day Message

As many of you know Saint Andrew's Day has been celebrated here in New Brunswick for over 209 years in one form or another. In New Brunswick today, Scottish groups can be found in Campbellton, Bathurst, Miramichi, Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John. Each of these groups celebrate Saint Andrew's Day with either a dinner or a concert. I encourage all our members to get out and support one of your local groups in celebrating this important day.

Many things have changed in New Brunswick over 209 years. One thing however, that has not changed is that we are still trying to make this province strong economically and increase our population. Two hundred years ago there were many different programs to increase the population of New Brunswick and it was much easier for people to move here. Some failed, but many were successful. Today New Brunswick is faced with a similar problem but with modern-day rules and road blocks that make things complicated. Out migration of our young people and a shrinking birthrate is resulting in the population of New Brunswick to actually decrease and it has become a serious problem. In some areas the death rate has actually exceeded the birth rate.

Because of this decrease in population and out migration, the number of people of Scottish descent in New Brunswick has actually been one of the hardest cultures affected. The result, the future of our heritage and culture could very well be threatened.

With this in mind, the Association will be drafting a letter to the minister responsible for the newly formed population and growth Secretariat expressing our concerns about the decline of the people of Scottish descent. We will be outlining the economic impact this has had in different areas of the province. With this it is very evident what is happening. Family names that have been an important part of cultural fabric of this province since the early 1700's are disappearing and could cease to exist in less than seven years. This is significant.

The Association has experienced, first hand, the frustrations of Scottish immigrants moving to New Brunswick and the hassle one must go through to obtain their Canadian Citizenship or a working visa. It makes one wonder if there are certain groups the government is favoring. Whether true or not, perception is reality. The province must step up to the plate and make some changes to its rules it has in place today. It must become serious about increasing the province's population. Whether through changing conditions so that ex-New Brunswickers return home, or to make it easier to move here from another country. We realize that this is a joint effort with the federal government, but the province must first take the necessary steps.

Happy Saint Andrew's Day!

Dan Taylor President