



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

President's Saint Andrew's Day Message

Saint Andrew's Day is celebrated on November 30th throughout the world in honour of Saint Andrew the Patron Saint of Scotland. The national flag of Scotland is the cross of Saint Andrew, a white diagonal cross on a blue background, which is recognized as a symbol of national identity, the flag is also an integral part of the Union Jack flag.

Saint Andrew and his brother, Simon Peter, were believed to have been fishermen in Galilee, the brothers eventually became apostles of Jesus Christ. Saint Andrew, as an apostle spread the word of God throughout parts of Asia and Greece for which he was crucified by the Romans on a diagonal shaped cross, hence the origin of his flag.

The association of Saint Andrew with Scotland is based on fact and legend but is generally believed to have come about as the result of some of his bones (relics) being removed and transported to Scotland to the vicinity of present day St. Andrews. The relics were placed in a chapel which was later replaced by the Cathedral of Saint Andrew which became a focal point for pilgrims to view the relics and St. Andrews became the religious capital of Scotland.

The relics were believed to have been destroyed during the Scottish Reformation and a plaque now marks the location of where the relics were located within the ruins of the Cathedral.

The relics of Saint Andrew, which are now located in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Edinburgh, were sent to Scotland in 1879 in order to re-establish the Roman Catholic Church and in 1969 Pope Paul VI sent additional relics.

To honour the memory of Saint Andrew in New Brunswick celebrations are being hosted by the following; The Saint Andrew's Society of Saint John, The Caledonian Society of Restigouche in Campbellton, The Moncton Chapter of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association, The Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew, the Bathurst Chapter of

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the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association and the Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi. For more information on attending these events check the website of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association, www.nbscots.com . The New Brunswick Provincial Legislature will be flying the flag of Saint Andrew on November 30th.

Please take the time to honour the memory of Saint Andrew, you could attend one of the organized events or you could take some personal time to learn more about Saint Andrew and Scotland and perhaps your family's heritage and cultural association with Scotland and remember 2009 is Homecoming Scotland with a year of celebrations.

Happy Saint Andrew's Day

Mel Fitton

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