



# New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

## President's Tartan Day Message

Tartan Day -- It's a time to appreciate the importance of our Scottish ancestors and their descendants who have made Canada and New Brunswick their home. It's a time to recognize the vital contributions they have made, and continue to make, to our cultural and economic makeup. It's also a time for us, as members of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association, to proudly display and celebrate our Scottish ancestry and heritage.

Tartan Day evolved from a concept developed by the Federation of Scottish Clans of Nova Scotia. It was first proclaimed in Nova Scotia on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1987, and later in New Brunswick on December 11, 1992. Today, all Canadian provinces have similar proclamations, designating April 6<sup>th</sup> as Tartan Day, a day to proclaim our Scottish heritage. (A copy of the New Brunswick Proclamation is located on the NBSCA's website.)

As a country, however, Canada has yet to recognize and proclaim April 6<sup>th</sup> as Tartan Day at the federal level. The United Council of Scots of Atlantic Canada is an organization comprised of member organizations from the Atlantic Provinces. This organization, which includes the NBSCA, has taken on the role of encouraging the Canadian federal government to make this proclamation, as well as proclaiming the Maple Leaf Tartan as our National Tartan. By encouraging your local MP to actively support these declarations, you can play a role in this process and help to make a national Tartan Day a reality.

The commemoration of Tartan Day is now spreading around the world, with celebrations in the United States, Australia, Scotland, England, Argentina, and New Zealand. Here in New Brunswick, recognition of Tartan Day will take various forms such as wearing of the tartan, community flag raisings, Tartan Teas, media information, and family celebrations. The Cross of St. Andrew will be proudly raised at the Provincial Legislature in Fredericton on Tartan Day. Encourage your local community to fly the Cross of Saint Andrew at an appropriate location if plans have not already been made to do so.

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As well as Tartan Day, there are many other occasions in New Brunswick to celebrate your Scottish Heritage throughout the year. There are four highland games planned; in May, The Gathering of the Scots in Perth-Andover; in June, the Moncton Highland Games; in July, the New Brunswick Highland Games Festival in Fredericton; and in August, the Miramichi Highland Games.

Aside from these Highland Games, those of us of Scottish descent also celebrate Robert Burns Day, on January 25, and St. Andrew's Day in November (both, of course, with the traditional haggis). Ongoing Gaelic classes are also successfully promoting and preserving our Scottish heritage.

Another exciting event this year will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Highland Society of New Brunswick at Miramichi will be hosting the official opening of the Wilson's Point Church, with special guest speaker, Lucille Campey, author of *With Axe and Bible*, a book dealing with the Scottish pioneers of New Brunswick.

Be proud of your Scottish Heritage. On Tartan Day, wear the Tartan in recognition of the important contribution which our Scottish ancestors and their descendants have made to Canada and New Brunswick.

Have a great Tartan Day!

Mel Fitton

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