



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

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Fredericton

NEW BRUNSWICK SCOTTISH-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (NBSCA)

Message for Tartan Day 2010

New Brunswickers of Scottish descent will soon be celebrating Tartan Day on April 6th. Officially proclaimed as an annual cultural observance in 1993, Tartan Day offers New Brunswickers an excellent opportunity to celebrate their Scottish Heritage. Chapters of the NBSCA and affiliated Scottish organizations commemorate this special annual occasion with a variety of events throughout the province, and in other provinces in Canada, where Tartan Day has also been adopted by respective Legislative Assemblies. The celebration is also observed in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

The date of April 6th was chosen by those involved in the early movement in Nova Scotia, where Tartan Day was first proclaimed in the 1980s, because it was on 6th April 1320 that the Scottish nobility signed the Declaration of Arbroath, which has been considered ever since as one of the most important political documents in Scottish history. It was, in affect, the Scottish declaration of independence from the English and any others who may try to tame her wild highlands and great hills and lochs.

Tartan Day is especially significant for New Brunswickers because, of the three Scottish "holidays" on the Calendar, it is Tartan Day, and only Tartan Day, which celebrates the distinct Scottish-New Brunswick identity. The celebrations commemorating the Feast of St. Andrew and the Birth of Robert Burns are tremendously important and steeped in tradition, but Tartan Day acknowledges all

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that the Scots who settled and tamed this province endured, and how they have prospered and continued to contribute to our society.

The NBSCA, along with the United Council of Scots, has been seeking for some time to have Tartan Day officially proclaimed in Canada by Act of Parliament in a move similar to the 1998 Act of Congress which established Tartan Day in the United States. The NBSCA encourages all those with an interest in preserving and celebrating their culture to implore their Members of Parliament to support such a bill when it comes before the House of Commons, hopefully in the near future.

Similarly, Scottish organizations across the nation are desirous that Parliament should officially adopt the Maple Leaf Tartan as the official tartan of Canada. The tartan is widely regarded as Canada's Tartan, but has never been officially adopted. Astute observers will have noticed that the Maple Leaf Tartan was even featured prominently in the costumes of several performers during the recent Closing Ceremonies of the Games of the XXI Winter Olympiad in Vancouver. Given its widespread use and popular support, the NBSCA hopes that Canada will soon take the final steps towards adopting the tartan.

Best wishes to all members and friends of the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association everywhere for an enjoyable Tartan Day. Slainte!

BACKGROUND

The New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association (www.nbscots.com) was founded in 1980, and represents that province's Scottish cultural communities and organizations, acting as both an information resource and promoter/defender of the Scots and their descendants who have contributed to New Brunswick's economic, social, political, and cultural development.

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