



New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association Inc.

IN UMBRA CARDUI VIOLAE VALESCANT

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK
N.B.'S SCOTTISH COMMUNITY MOURNS JOHN ALLAN CAMERON

With great sadness the Board and Membership of the New Brunswick Scottish-Cultural Association learned of the death of John Allan Cameron on the morning of Wednesday, 22 November 2006, after a courageous and lengthy struggle against thyroid cancer. He was 67.

John Allan - affectionately known as the "Godfather of Celtic Music in Canada" - was a featured performer at the NBSCA's 20th Anniversary Celebrations that were held in Bathurst in 2000. All who worked with him love him.

During the 1960s and '70s, Cameron led the charge for traditional Scottish music. Gradually, he won the loyalty of thousands of music lovers from coast to coast.

His ability to play Scottish pipe and fiddle tunes on the guitar was a surefire crowd pleaser everywhere, even at the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, where he appeared in 1972 as an unknown.

Born in Mabou, Nova Scotia, on 16 December 1938, to a family of fiddlers, he started playing guitar in public at age 12. He referred often to his "geee-tarr."

In 1964, John Allan left the Ottawa seminary in which he was enrolled, and embraced a career in music. Cameron became a regular on the Don Messer Show and Singalong Jubilee on CBC, then became an opening act for Canadian songbird Anne Murray.

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John Allan Cameron will be sorely missed by the Scottish community of New Brunswick. He will be laid to rest in Ontario. A statement from the family says the music icon will be remembered at St. Isaac Jogues Church in Pickering, Ontario. He is survived by his wife Angela, and son Stuart.

Karen J. McLean
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NBSCA

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