

# THE SCOTS CANADIAN

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## Busy Being Scottish!

Recently appointed Chair of Scottish Studies Dr. Graeme Morton files this report on his first few months in Canada

The level of interest in Scottish Studies that I have experienced over the last four months has been nothing short of amazing. The University of Guelph seems full of descendants of Scottish Pioneers either on the payroll, amongst our students or visitors, or amongst the many who make enquiries to the Scottish Studies Office at Guelph (tel. (519) 824-4120 ext 53209, email [scottish@uoguelph.ca](mailto:scottish@uoguelph.ca)).

The creation of the Scottish Studies Foundation Chair after nineteen years of fundraising, the first such endowed Chair in North America, and the \$1 million gift by The Scottish Studies Foundation: these developments have really caught the imagination of our community. It has meant a non-stop start to my time in Guelph, and a whole host of new experiences for my family and I in the short few months since we disembarked from the Air Transat flight to Pearson International Airport.

The first University event was the 2004 Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium (October 2nd). This year the occasion was a celebration to thank publicly The Scottish Studies Foundation for their Herculean efforts in establishing the Chair. The President of the University of Guelph, Alastair Summerlee, was there to present a debater's gavel to Alan Mackenzie from the Foundation.



Dr. Graeme Morton

It was fitting that each and every one of the speakers were current or past Scottish Studies folk at Guelph, and all gave stirring and entertaining presentations. The free lunch was inevitably a highlight, along with the Scottish book sale and, new this year, the 'Scottish Studies at Guelph' T-shirts which, at \$20 each and after the sales pitch of Professor Kevin James, were doing a brisk trade.

The event was also the occasion for me to give my inaugural lecture, a daunting task I thought after two months in the country, let alone the post (and considering that two years was believed 'about right' before such a lecture at my old institution, Edinburgh University). But the audience was kind and my cheap jokes were appreciated by at least some in attendance! The event led to many more calls to the Scottish Studies Office at the University.

The three graduate students who this year keep the Office running, Trudi Wright, Megan Selva and Andrew Bonnell, and who did such an excellent job along with Professor James in organising the Fall Colloquium, have been diligent in dealing with all that has come their way.

We have also received some wonderful donations of books and an emigrant's letter to add to the University's Archive. We are deeply grateful for these donations.

Since then I have been out and about with a dinner hosted by President Summerlee to thank key donors to the Chair and to speak to the annual St Andrew's Day celebration organised by the St Andrew's Society of Petrolia. Each was a real pleasure and again evidence to me of the vital involvement of the Scottish community in Canada with the work we do in encouraging students to come



The balloon pipe band. Children at the Fergus Highland Games ensure that having a Scots heritage is fun!

to Guelph to study all aspects of Scotland's history, culture and politics.

One great sadness was the death of Dr Ed Stewart just prior to the Fall Colloquium. Dr Stewart was the great organiser and motivator in the campaign for the Chair, and his loss was keenly felt by colleagues and friends who shared his vision for Scottish Studies. I was honoured to attend his memorial service in Toronto and it was moving as well as thought-provoking to hear about his deeds and his friendships from so many in the room.

That day saw the launch of 'The Dr Edward Stewart Scholarship in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph'. The Scholarship is an acknowledgement of all that he did for education in Canada and for Scottish Studies at Guelph. The campaign has the target of \$100,000 to qualify for 2:1 funding from the provincial government.

If achieved, it will produce the funds to sustain an internationally important award in Scottish Studies, one that will be offered in perpetuity. We are hopeful that this target will be reached sooner rather than later, and anyone wishing to commemorate Dr Ed's life in this way should contact Deborah Maskens, Senior Advancement Manager, College of Arts University of Guelph (Tel: (519) 824-4120, ext 52122).

It has been a busy time being Scottish – next, we roll out the haggis for the Burns Supper season

## From the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

Once again, on behalf of the Board of the Scottish Studies Foundation, I would like to thank you all for your wonderful encouragement and support during the course of 2004 which is drawing all too quickly to a close.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, each and every membership fee and every donation is absolutely crucial to us, especially now that the Chair is in place and our ongoing fundraising commitments to the University of Guelph need to be met. Our financing of the Scottish Office at Guelph, and our travel and other assistance to students remains necessary in order to maintain the world class academic status that, together, we have set as our objective.

It is, however, sad that just as the Chair was being put in place, we should have lost two dedicated and hard working former members of our Board.

Past President Dr. Ed Stewart O.C. passed away on September 25. Born in Montreal in 1930 to Scottish immigrants, he grew up in Windsor and London, earning his doctorate in education from the University of Toronto.

A long-time civil servant, Mr. Stewart ascended the ranks during the latter half of the Progressive Conservatives' 42-year political dynasty at Queen's Park, eventually becoming former Premier Bill Davis' secretary of cabinet. To quote Davis... "Ed was respected by everybody. There's not a person you'll find who will say anything unkind about him."

Ed was a gentleman and a gentle man. Not only did he do a tremendous amount of work while on the Board of Directors but afterwards was instrumental in raising substantial funds to endow The Scottish Studies Foundation Chair at the University of Guelph.

We were also saddened by the death of John H. Macdonald (FSA Scot), on 15 Oct '04 at age 75. John was a former Director of the Foundation and was also the first President of the Scottish Studies Society

John retired from the Toronto Star in 1995, after 50 years as a reporter, feature writer, columnist and editor. After retirement, John was active as Travel Editor for the seniors' magazine FiftyPlus and was a former Chairman of the Canadian Chapter of the Society of American Travel Writers. From 1971 to 1980 he was Associate Producer and Director, Scottish World Festival Tattoos at the CNE. John was the founder of the Clan

Donald Society of Canada, Clan Donald Canada and CASSOC. He was also a founding Trustee of the Clan Donald Lands Trust.

It was the wish of both Ed and John that Canada should be in the forefront of Scottish Studies and that the Scots influence in Canada should never be forgotten. Thanks to their inspiration the academic infrastructure is now in place for this to be a reality.

At the various Highland Games I was able to attend this year and at our Tall Ship Cruise last September I was struck by the number of youngsters enthusiastically sporting the tartan and expressing great pride in being Scottish. It is with confidence that this new generation of Scots-Canadians can look forward to maintaining their heritage backed by the support of a major university.

In closing I would like to remind you that our annual Burns Supper will be held on Friday 21st January 2005 at the Granite Club, Toronto. For further details or to order tickets call Gordon Hepburn (905) 881-5780 or Duncan Campbell (416) 633-8974, or email [info@scottishstudies.ca](mailto:info@scottishstudies.ca)

Also, the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society will be held on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at: The Arts & Letters Club, 14 Elm Street, Toronto at 2 p.m. so I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Please accept my wishes to you and your loved ones as the year 2005 approaches. Take care and once again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

David Hunter

### Colloquium on 2 October 2004 a memorable event

*John B. McMillan, Secretary, Scottish Studies Foundation and Secretary, Scottish Studies Society reflects on the recent Colloquium at Guelph.*

My wife Blanche and I wish to express our thanks to the University of Guelph for the happy day provided at the Colloquium last October to celebrate the introduction of Professor Graeme Morton, his inaugural address, and the official launch of the new Scottish Studies Foundation Chair, the first such chair in North America.

It was indeed fitting that the founding chairman of the Scottish Studies Foundation was present at the launch: Harry Stewart Ferguson, (Chairman/President 1986-1991).



*At the Fergus Games, this very new Scots-Canadian wisely catches a nap before the Pipes and Drums go by!*

For me, there was a pleasant "sky" thread running through the whole day. We thank President Alastair Summerlee for his delightful glance back at his childhood view from the shining Isle of Skye; to Dean Jacqueline Murray for her "skylight" overview of the impressive career of that academic shooting star, "Graeme the First"; to Professor Graeme Morton for the brilliant sky-shot of his colourful home town Kirkaldy, Fife. (Graeme is supported in his new venture by his wife Angela and their young twins Sam and Evie.) And to Dr. Kevin James for his clear review of Scottish Studies Programme at Guelph, his gracious welcoming of Graeme and also for the unseen "skyhook" that seemed to support the unstable cow being milked in one of Kevin's late nineteenth century photographs from Northern Ireland. (Both rear legs of the cow on the left appeared to be too far to the right to be stable.) I couldn't help but think that the late Ed Stewart was likely peering down from high on a cumulus in the sky -- so very pleased with the events of the day, particularly when "pie in the sky" became a reality.

And finally to Scottish novelist and Canada Company guru John Galt (1779-1839), the fine founding father of it all who was probably humming the "Skye Boat Song" in Gaelic as he celebrated the Chair by turning (counterclockwise, as was his nature) 177 revolutions in his grave in Greenock, Scotland -- one revolution for each year since he founded the hamlet of Guelph on St. George's Day, 23 April 1827.

At the used book sale that day, I bought a book printed in Kirkaldy (colloquially known as the *The Lang Town*) in 1921, and thus experienced the words of at least two "Langtonians" that day. To me Kirkaldy is an uncommon imprint.

Once again, it was a wonderful day at the Chair launch.

# Where are we now?

Former Governor W. Neil Fraser who is also the Chairman of Clan Fraser Society of Canada has provided us with some fascinating statistics.

Neil recently conducted an analysis of the 2001 Census of Canada to determine those claiming Scottish ethnic origin in Canada. For example, out of a total Canadian population of 29,639,035 roughly 14% or 4,157,210 claim to be of Scottish origin. This is close to the actual population of Scotland which now stands at just over 5 million.

Neil notes that the figures are based on an extrapolation of responses to a detailed version of the 2001 Canadian Census from a special version of the 2001 Census forms, distributed at random to Canadian respondents. He also points out that for the first time Canadians were offered the option of choosing "Canadian" or "Quebecois" as an ethnic origin. Some 11,682,680 chose "Canadian" and 98,670 chose "Quebecois". He strongly suspects that many of them have at least some Scottish ancestry, so the number of Canadians with a Scottish ethnic origin may well be higher.

Also, unlike the 2000 U.S. Census, the 2001 Canadian Census did not include a category for "Scots-Irish", only for Irish or Scottish, so Canadians with some Scottish ancestry would be likely higher if "Scots-Irish" were included.

City (Metro Area)	Total Population	Scottish Origin	%
Toronto	4,647,960	517,115	11.13%
Montreal	3,380,645	94,705	2.80%
Vancouver	1,967,480	311,940	15.85%
Calgary	943,310	189,055	20.04%
Edmonton	927,020	164,665	17.76%
Ottawa	795,255	142,390	17.90%
Quebec City	673,105	9,335	1.39%
Winnipeg	661,730	117,920	17.82%
Hamilton	655,060	125,490	19.16%
Halifax	355,940	96,305	27.06%
Victoria	306,970	79,275	25.82%
Saskatoon	222,635	42,735	19.20%
Regina	190,015	37,275	19.62%
St. John's	171,105	13,520	7.90%
Saint John	121,340	29,610	24.40%
Charlottetown	57,295	24,090	42.05%

**Table 1: Scots by City**



*Following father's footsteps – this young piper at the Fergus Highland Games gets an early start in keeping the Scottish Tradition alive in Canada!*

Province/Territory	Total Population	Scottish Origin	%
Ontario	11,682,680	1,843,115	15.78%
British Columbia	3,868,875	748,905	19.36%
Alberta	2,941,150	586,575	19.94%
Nova Scotia	897,570	263,060	29.31%
Manitoba	1,103,700	195,575	17.72%
Saskatchewan	963,155	172,305	17.89%
Quebec	7,125,580	156,145	2.19%
New Brunswick	719,715	127,630	17.73%
Prince Edward Island	133,385	50,700	38.01%
Newfoundland/Labrador	508,075	30,295	5.96%
NWT	37,105	5,190	13.99%
Yukon	25,525	6,245	24.47%
Nunavut	26,665	1,475	5.53%

**Table 2: Scots by Province/Territory**



*Another member of our future generation of Scots-Canadians pulls his weight!*