

# THE SCOTS CANADIAN

Issue XXVI

Newsletter of the Scottish Studies Society: ISSN No. 1491-2759

Spring 2007

## Mother of Tartan Day is 2007 Scot of the Year

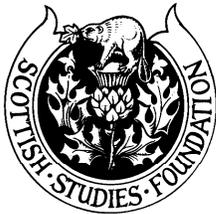
Jean Watson is honoured during  
ceremonies at Casa Loma.

On April 18 at Toronto's famous Casa Loma, the Scottish Studies Society paid a long overdue tribute to Jean Watson, a very special Nova Scotia individual, at the Society's Annual "Tartan Day Dinner."

Jean is the person whose unrelenting efforts succeeded in establishing the concept of "Tartan Day" which is now celebrated all over the world, especially in the United States where the annual Tartan Day Parade in New York City rivals the St. Patrick's Day Parade - all of this thanks to Jean who hails from the town of Lower Sackville.

At the event, Jean was presented with our

*Scots Wha Hae*  
*a desire to nurture and preserve*  
*their heritage in Canada*  
*are invited to join*



**THE SCOTTISH STUDIES  
FOUNDATION**

*a charitable organization dedicated  
to actively supporting the  
Scottish Studies Program*

*at*

*The University of Guelph*

Charitable registration  
No. 119253490 RR0001  
www.scottishstudies.com

annual "Scot of the Year Award" which was initiated in 1993 to honour individuals with a Scottish connection who have achieved distinction through their contribution to Canadian society or the international community at large.

We are especially delighted that this award was presented in the same year that Nova Scotia will be hosting the 2007 International Gathering of the Clans, which will attract people from all over the world. Moreover, it coincided with the 20th anniversary of the first "Tartan Day" in Canada.

The concept of "Tartan Day" began at a meeting of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia on March 9, 1986 when members Bill Crowell and Jean Watson put forward the following motion to the Federation:

"That we establish a day known as 'Tartan Day.' This to be a day chosen to promote Scottish Heritage by the most visible means: the wearing of the Scottish attire, especially in places where the kilt is not ordinarily worn, i.e.: work, play or worship."

Started originally as "Tartan Day in Nova Scotia," Jean Watson approached every provincial Legislative Assembly in Canada, as well as other Scottish cultural societies across Canada, to help get such a day established.

After 10 years of work, Tartan Day in Canada was approved in every Provincial Assembly from sea to sea by Premier's proclamation or Members' Bill, the last being in the National Assembly at Québec City,



*Jean Watson with last year's Scot of the Year Hugh Boyle*

where it was finally proclaimed in December 2003 -- 16 years after the first such proclamation in Nova Scotia.

As you can imagine, we are all very proud of Jean Watson who has reminded us how, in this age of committees, corporations and bureaucracy, a dedicated individual acting alone can actually make something positive happen!

We were also delighted that the Nova Scotia government celebrated Tartan Day on April 4 on which day the Honorable Len Goucher, Nova Scotia's Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, introduced a motion in the legislature on her work and the award.

The motion made specific reference to Jean's tireless efforts to establish Tartan Day and acknowledged the fact that the tartan and traditions that the Scottish settlers brought to Nova Scotia continue to shape and enrich the lives of all living in Nova Scotia (and the lives of all Canadians) to this date. The motion was passed unanimously by the House.

Jean was born on May 29, 1936, in Pictou, Nova Scotia, and is the daughter of Angus and Rita (Nee: Heighton) MacKaracher.

She was a cancer survivor at age 15 which took a toll on her youth and education. Despite this, she moved to Halifax in 1958 and continued to work there as a bookkeeper for 21 years.

*(more on page 2)*



P.O. Box 45069,  
2482 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada M4P 3E3

www.scottishstudies.com

## From the Chair

Dear fellow members:

I do hope the year has gone well for you so far and that Spring is starting to get underway in your part of the country.

As always, I would like to thank you all for your support over the past year. It is truly appreciated and it is great to have such a tangible indication of what preserving the Scots-Canadian heritage means to each and every one of you.

On a sad note, we were all saddened at the death of Jill McKenzie, wife of Alan McKenzie, past president and major supporter of the Foundation. The McKenzie family has gone above and beyond in their support of the Foundation from its inception and has devoted many hours of effort working to ensure its success.

In recognition of this, I am pleased to announce that the Foundation's Board voted unanimously to create and fund the "Jill McKenzie Memorial Lecture" to be given on an annual basis at the University of Guelph's Fall Colloquium in honour of Jill and in



Scots Jazz Singer Michael MacKenzie Danso and David Hunter are seen here with the Hon. George Reid MSP

ongoing memory of this wonderful person.

The first such lecture will be given at this year's Fall Colloquium by Professor Christopher Whatley and will be based on his new book examining the Union of 1707 on its 300th anniversary. Professor Christopher Whatley BA, PhD, FRHistS, FRSE is Vice Principal, Head of the College of Arts and Social Sciences and Professor of Scottish History at the University of Dundee. He has published widely on eighteenth-century Scottish history.

Since my last letter to you we have had a couple of visits from Professor Robert Cormack, Principal of UHI Millennium Institute. As mentioned in the last newsletter, UHI (the future University of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland) is seeking university status in order to become the first Highland university of Scotland and is soliciting support from as many interested individuals and organizations in Canada that might be in a position to assist.

We also had a visit from the Hon. George Reid MSP, who until recently was the Scottish Parliament's Presiding Officer -- one more example of the attempt by the Scottish Executive to strengthen ties between Canada and Scotland since devolution.

In January, thanks to the efforts of the indomitable Gordon Hepburn, we had a wonderful Burns Night at the Granite Club in Toronto. This event is held in conjunction with the Burns Club of Toronto and the funds raised are a welcome addition to those raised by memberships and donations.

And of course, as you can see on our front page, we were all delighted with our Annual Tartan Day Dinner which gave us a long overdue opportunity to present Jean Watson with the Society's "Scot of the Year" award. We were also delighted to welcome back Peter McCutcheon, Cathy Ann Macphee, pianist Margaret Miklait, the Pipes and Drums of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders and Sandy MacIntyre's band, "Steeped in Tradition."

This year our mini-concert pulled together the music of Scotland from both sides of the Atlantic and we were especially pleased to introduce a new song entitled "The Pipes and the Mist," composed recently in Canada by Don Graham. This song will be featured on Peter McCutcheon's new CD which will be released in the Fall.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support and pass on best wishes

from all of us on the Board to you and your family and friends.

Sincerely,

David Hunter

*Jean Watson (continued from page 1)*

She loved to draw from a very early age and went on to become an amateur artist gaining her teaching status some 25 years ago and still teaches art classes on a regular basis. She founded the Dalriada Art Group which she still manages, and assisted other art groups to form.

As a child, her parents always encouraged her interest in her Scottish background and she delved into her history after joining the Federation of Scottish Clans In Nova Scotia and has served as its President on two occasions.

She and her husband founded the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson in 1981 and she served as their President for six years. She was a founding member of the Clan Farquharson Society of Canada later founding the Clan Lamont Society of Canada, the Clan Watson Society of Canada and in 2002 the Stewart/Stuart Association of Nova Scotia, helping all to get active and, at various times, serving as President for each Society.

She served from 1996 to 2000 as President of the Royal Canadian Legion in Waverley, N. S. (Branch 90) during which time she received the Meritorious Service Award for her work in preventing the closure of this Branch. She is a 30-year member of the Legion and has been active in various Heritage Societies and community endeavors.

In 2004 she was recognized by the St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Scottish Heritage Center in Laurinburg, North Carolina for her work in promoting "Tartan Day April 6th" and received the Flora Macdonald Award.

She served as a one-person committee for 10 years following "Tartan Days" initiation by the Federation of Scottish Clans In Nova Scotia in 1986 and, as a result, has justly become known as "The Mother of Tartan Day."

As if all of this were not enough, at age 70 she had her first song released on CD: "Isobel's Song" a ballad about the attack on Toward Castle, in Argyll, Scotland in the 1700s.

## *Black Isle Bronze memorial emigrates to Canada*

A replica of the 30 foot bronze statue commemorating the Highland Clearances is being cast and shipped to the Canadian City of Winnipeg.

The 10-ft figures of a man, a boy and a woman carrying a baby will be a replica of a 30-ft statue designed as part of a monument commemorating the heritage of the Highlands that was to have been erected on a hill near Helmsdale, in Sutherland, Scotland

Founder of Black Isle Bronze, Farquhar Laing (37), received the request for the replica of the three-figure statue from the St Andrew's Society in Winnipeg several months ago.

Laing said: "We're delighted with the commission - it's a big piece involving four tonnes of bronze. We're especially pleased to be picking up work from across the Atlantic; there's also a possibility of another replica memorial being commissioned by an organization in Nova Scotia."



At work on the statue

Laing established the foundry in 1994 on the Black Isle before moving into purpose-built premises on the outskirts of Nairn in 2002 with the help of a development grant from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise network.

Black Isle Bronze now employs eight full-time members of staff, including two metal workers, a mold maker, a welder and sand molder; the most recent recruit joining the foundry from Poland.

Further commissions the foundry is currently working on include two statues for Newcastle Football Club of Alan Shearer and Jackie Milburn; and a statue of Bob Dylan for a private client.

A recently completed commission saw the Highland company collaborate with sculptor Sandy Stoddart and British builder Sir Robert McAlpine on a Robert Adam designed building in Piccadilly, London. Black Isle Bronze supplied all 66 cast bronze elements of the eight-storey structure.

Robert Adam said: "We were delighted to be working with Black Isle Bronze to ensure the highest standards of craftsmanship. The combination of a Paisley sculptor and an Inverness foundry brought the art and craft of Scotland to the most important thoroughfare of London."

Farquhar said: "We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for the help we've received from HIE; their support has enabled me to grow the business, develop my workforce and access the global marketplace."

The replica of The Emigrants, to be called the Scottish Highland Settlers Monument, will be unveiled in Winnipeg this summer.

## *Sell-out at Scottish Studies Spring Colloquium*

With a little panic as the hunt went on for extra chairs, the organisers of the 2007 Scottish Studies Spring Colloquium were delighted to announce 'House Full' for the second event running. With an impressive contingent of UoG students car-pooling their way to Toronto to join a strong showing from the Scottish Studies Foundation's membership, it made for one of the liveliest colloquia in recent years.

Taking place on Saturday 31 March in Knox College, religion and military history were this year's themes. Special guest was former UoG graduate Dr Stuart Macdonald (Knox College, University of Toronto) who examined the legacy of 18-year-old Margaret Wilson, one half of the Wigtown Martyrs, allegedly drowned in 1685 for refusing to swear loyalty to the king and for her covenanting beliefs.

Historical debate has raged over whether the execution ever took place, and Margaret Wilson has become a major figure for historians of seventeenth-century Scotland, while her depiction in a statue has been the subject of much controversy amongst Knox College students. Dr Macdonald explored her heritage as 'martyr, mascot or icon' and concluded his talk with a guided tour of the College and its now infamous statue to Margaret Wilson.

The status of Scottish Catholics and their relationship to a national identity that was long based on Presbyterianism was the theme of the talk by Dr Karly Kehoe. Dr Kehoe, SSHRC Post-Doctoral Researcher in Scottish Studies at UoG, placed her presentation within her long-standing research into the women's religious movement and Catholicism in Scotland, especially after the influx of Irish Catholics fleeing the famine of the 1840s. Many of her former students were in attendance to welcome Dr Kehoe back to Canada.

And the fans were out of force to greet the genealogical research advice as well as insights from behind the camera presented by Dr Kevin James (University of Guelph). The *Ancestors in the Attic* panellist used his expertise in Scottish and Irish History to

explain the potential and the limits of using different kinds of 'stories' in the History TV programme. His examination of "The Mysterious Case of the Mad Hatter's Death" was as entertaining as it was instructive, with fascinating links in the subsequent Q & A session made to Dr James's recent book on the Ulster hand-loom weavers.

How the British military was reformed after the Boer War and immediately prior to the First World War is the research focus of Scottish Studies doctoral student Kris Gies. His talk at the colloquium focused on the years before compulsory conscription in 1916, highlighting the part-time soldiers of the Territorial Force. Taking Glasgow as his case study, Kris examined recruitment to the Force from different occupations and from different sections of society. His ability to answer some of the most detailed military questions impressed all, especially when called upon to explain the likely price of beer in the officers' mess.

It was a combination of papers that reached out to the wide and varied interests of the audience. The welcome challenge for the organizers is to repeat the trick at the Fall Colloquium taking place in Rozanski Hall on Saturday 29 September.

## *Tall Ship Cruise scheduled for September 2*



The arrival of the Hector

Once again, we invite you and your family and friends to join us on our 16th annual tall ship cruise on Sunday, September 2 aboard Canada's largest sailing ship, the Empire Sandy to help commemorate the voyage of pioneer ship "Hector" which arrived in Pictou, Nova Scotia in 1773.

Singers, dancers and the sound of the pipes will accompany and entertain you with songs and music from Scotland and Canada. As you might expect, there will be lots of tartan in evidence!

There are two sailings: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children (15 and under) or \$25 and \$8 respectively if purchased on the day.

For more information please telephone Robert Stewart at 905-294-4389 or follow the links on our website: [www.scottishstudies.com](http://www.scottishstudies.com)

## *Sir Walter Scott and Malachi Malagrowther* by Harry Ferguson

The Scottish Nationalist today is the target for two opposing accusations. There are those who dismiss his claims to serious consideration by describing him as an impossible romantic, a creature deliberately shutting his eyes to the realities of the age we live in and blindly searching in the dark for a lost cause.

Others approaching from a different angle are impatient with what they describe as his mean and niggling preoccupation with parochial facts. "Of what use" they say, "are these infinitesimal considerations of how much money is put into Westminster by Scotland compared with how much is returned? In a world rapidly contracting into one vast estate, what possible good can come from counting so assiduously and noisily the costs of the largesse received by all from the general pot?"

The romantic type or the dry economist -- Bonnie Prince Charlie or Adam Smith! Unfortunately, we Scots see ourselves expected by critics to play either of these two familiar roles. It is only thus (so it appears) that we are comprehensible, and only thus that our actions can be judged. Being essentially a sensitive nation, small wonder if we shrink from an explicitly emotional expression of our point of view. We hide our real selves beneath a material and carefully chosen matter of fact array of arguments, most of them lacking the only real justification for materialistic political arguments -- a spiritual basis. I do not say that the spiritual basis is not there, and crying out loud to be used. I merely mean that the arguments of so many of our allies ignore it. Was and is Scotland more than a mere

Thames and Hudson

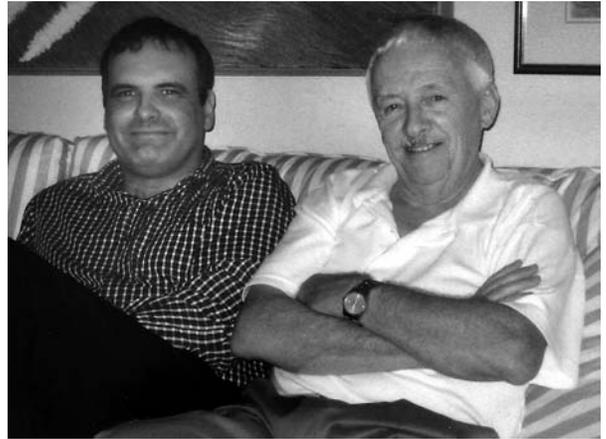


*Sir Walter Scott – an 1824 oil sketch by Sir Edwin Landseer*

collection of people agreeing to live together under certain conditions? In other words, has the word Nation any real meaning with us, and is it to continue to live? That is the question.

Into these sensitive subtleties and evasions, the thought of Walter Scott comes like a breath of robust and cleansing air, sweeping away the cobwebs, which we have so delicately spun about our minds. With all his faults, both in life and in art, there was a man who knew well what he meant by Scotland. He was not afraid to present his idea of it in the most forceful, the most glowing and highly coloured manner possible. Rousseau may have begun the romantic view of life, Wordsworth given it its poetic interpretation, but Sir Walter Scott was the one who really presented it to the world. Whatever one may think of romanticism nowadays, one cannot deny that Scott's was a marvellous achievement. And what Scots must remember is that, along with his presentation of Romanticism to the world, he gave it also a concept of Scotland which has endured to this day.

It is easy for us in our traditional self-consciousness to laugh at or grow angry at the modern romanticised view of Scotland. Indeed we are right to be impatient of the decadent symbols of mock tartans, "Monarchs of the Glen" on shortbread tins, the tam o'shanter worn by Cup-tie crowds in London, the singing of "O Flower of Scotland" at International Rugby matches, the Loch Ness Monster souvenirs and all the other paraphernalia with which we are so familiar. But at least it is a collection of symbols. It represents (however shallowly) a certain attitude towards Scotland. That attitude was begun by Walter Scott. And, however one may regard her present state, it is doubtful whether Scotland would have had left to her in the eyes of the world any outward and visible signs if it had not been for Walter Scott. The romantic view of life put Scotland on the map of Europe once again -- and in tartan colours. Secretly, in his heart, every Nationalist is proud of it. He may look down his nose at the modern mass production of tartan and sentiment, but at the back of his mind he is gratified that an Italian composer should have thought his country's ambience sufficiently highly coloured to write an opera around it, and call it *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He must be pleased that



*Harry Ferguson (right), pictured here with his cousin Dr. Mark Elliot, was the first president of the Scottish Studies Foundation and is now President of the Sir Walter Scott Society at the University of Toronto. The picture was taken shortly after Dr. Elliot's talk on the role of the Scottish Covenanters at the University of Guelph's Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium*

Balzac should have looked upon Scotland as the source of his Romantic dreams that owing to the spread of the novels of Sir Walter Scott throughout the world there remains in the nations of Europe and North America a perception of Scotland which is -- God forgive us -- purely idealistic.

Apart from being a friend of the King and the Duke of Wellington, there was a strong tendency in Scott to be a Nationalist; there was a very private side to him in this regard which was not even confided to his rather famous Journal published in 1891. The private conversations around the dinner table at Abbotsford must have been very interesting, but they never saw the light of day in print. One surprising snippet that comes down to us is his son-in-law Lockhart's declaration that if Scott had been alive in 1707 there would have been no Act of Union passed. One remembers his intense preoccupation with the speech, customs and individual life of the Scots poor folk -- themselves the real living examples of Scottish Nationalism now as then. One also remembers his passionate defence of every passing custom in art and life that spoke of the old Scotland. His whole life was little more than a passionate and laborious expression of his country's genius. He became aware, as Pierre Elliott Trudeau several generations into the future was to become aware, that his country was "in bed with an elephant." Scott realized that his nation would have to struggle for recognition of "Scottish content against a more powerful southern neighbour. He was apprehensive of Scotland being engulfed culturally by England, and her interests and culture being suppressed by the weight of the larger nation. He was once asked by a friend where he

thought his place was in Scottish literature, and he penned this note in reply... I may contribute something to the history of my native country, the peculiar features of whom manners and character are daily melting and dissolving into those of her sister and ally, and, trivial as may appear such an offering, I hang it upon her altar, with a mixture of feelings, which I shall not attempt to describe."

Aside from his historical romances, his factual writing of Scottish history is where the nation owes him the greatest debt. He was the first to chronicle such a broad and detailed sweep of his country's history. In fact, until Scott started to write, there was an absolute dearth of modern outlines of the nation's story, the gap being filled by a whole series of popular myths, which were delved into, used and distorted by any writer who came along; Shakespeare being an example. His version of Macbeth is woefully short of the truth. Indeed, Macbeth was a strong, generous and well-loved King; furthermore his reign was a very prosperous one for the country

The following incident shows how true a man Scott was when it came to major issues affecting the nation. It is a well known fact that the system of branch banking was invented by the Scots, and indeed it is historically true that the Scottish public had access to their banks through the branch system, whereas the English public did not until the Scots introduced them to it much later. Scottish banking was sound and healthy from very early days. In Scott's time, disorders in the financial world between the two countries were mainly in England, since many failing English banks had been unable to redeem the bank notes which they had issued. A somewhat similar disaster in recent years, happened in the United States with the savings and loans banks. The success of Scottish banks during this period was built on the solid rock of prudent and consistent economic management, not the shifting sands of boom and bust. The government of the day was concerned about the lack of controls and resultant chaos in the English system. They decided therefore that private banks should no longer be allowed to issue notes, and that even the Bank of England should be limited to notes of five pounds and upwards. As Edgar Johnson, in his massive biography *Sir Walter Scott: The Great Unknown*, states... "This was a disaster to the Scottish banks, whose prosperity depended on the credit they created and it was also a serious handicap to business in Scotland, where gold and silver were scarce and the small notes essential. However imperative the measure might be for England, for Scotland it was a calamity.

It was also a flagrant violation of the Act of Union of 1707, which had pledged that no changes would be made in the laws of Scotland, except for her own evident utility. The real motive of the proposal, Scottish nationalists cried, was not to help the north but simply to introduce uniformity in the currency and to assert English power." (It is interesting to note that this is the self same argument that the Bank of England put forward, some years ago, against the increasing power of the European Union during the Eurocurrency debate.) The nation was in an uproar and Scott's true heart came to the fore. "They do" (meaning the English) "treat us very provokingly," he said, dashing off a series of biting letters and pamphlets, which were nothing less than a plea for Scottish Nationalism in currency. These letters made a sensation. They were published as a pamphlet by Blackwood, and went into four editions. The Scottish banks enthusiastically ordered 500 copies. This was not done without some agony of conscience on Scott's part, for he confides to his journal on February 17, 1826... "I am horribly tempted to interfere in this business of altering the system of banks in Scotland; and yet I know that if I can attract any notice, I will offend my English friends without propitiating one man in Scotland. I will think of it till tomorrow." On the following day, February 18, having thought the matter over, he pens this pensive rhyme into the journal:

*O Land of Cakes!  
Said the Northern bard,  
Though all the world betrays thee,  
One faithful pen thy rights shall guard,  
One faithful harp shall praise thee.*

He decides to launch these protest publications, and, on February 21, corrects the proofs with this entry being made in the Journal... "It may chance to light on some ingredients of national feeling and set folk's beards in a blaze -- and so much the better if it does. I mean better for Scotland -- not a whit for me."

These publications, of which there were several, directly attacking the Government on the scheme, were written under the strange pseudonym of one *Malachi Malagrowther*; they were published in the press of the day and achieved their objective. The Government backed down in the face of the storm being led by Scott out of the north. They first promised that the new currency regulations should not be applied in Scotland for six months, then for six years, and finally due to continued resistance abandoned altogether.

He had many influential friends in London and at the Royal court, and they knew well the identity of Malachi. Scott did not care, and flew in their faces in anger, and when the storm was all over, they admired him for the stand he had taken. Scottish banking and the freedom it has today, owes a lot to Sir Walter. The evidence of this stubborn act by Scott and the financial community still has an effect, for the National Bank of Scotland continued to issue one pound paper notes, long after the Bank of England changed the one pound note to a coin similar to our Canadian Loonie There are also major differences in Scottish banking in the areas of inspection, foreign investment and inter-bank lending rules. What he did for Scotland can never be forgotten and he is still with us, for this man casts a long shadow.

In protecting Scottish banking he foresaw that Scotland should retain control of this major state function for the sake of its future. In so doing he forged a gift of inestimable value to generations of Scots. ■

### Jock of Hazeldean

(one of Sir Walter Scott's best-loved poems)

"Why weep ye by the tide, ladie?  
Why weep ye by the tide?  
I'll wed ye to my youngest son,  
And ye sall be his bride:  
And ye sall be his bride, ladie,  
Sae comely to be seen"  
But aye she loot the tears down fa'  
For Jock of Hazeldean.

"Now let this wilfu' grief be done,  
And dry that cheek so pale;  
Young Frank is chief of Errington  
And lord of Langley-dale;  
His step is first in peaceful ha',  
His sword in battle keen"  
But aye she loot the tears down fa'  
For Jock of Hazeldean.

"A chain of gold ye sall not lack,  
Nor braid to bind your hair,  
Nor mettled hound, nor managed hawk,  
Nor palfrey fresh and fair;  
And you the foremost o' them a'  
Sall ride our forest-queen"  
But aye she loot the tears down fa'  
For Jock of Hazeldean.

The kirk was decked at morning-tide,  
The tapers glimmer'd fair;  
The priest and bridegroom wait the bride,  
And dame and knight are there:  
They sought her baith by bower and ha';  
The ladie was not seen!  
She's o'er the Border, and awa'  
Wi' Jock of Hazeldean.

# A Novel Idea

*In search of a castle that doesn't exist*

A couple of years ago, residents of the West Highland Scottish town of Mallaig were surprised when a group of about 40 French-Canadian tourists arrived in search of "Le Chateau de Mallaig" (Mallaig Castle). As no such castle exists, the residents were curious as to what brought the tourists all the way from Quebec and quickly welcomed them in true Highland fashion with tea, coffee and, as you would expect, Uisge-Beatha.

In the evening, Malcolm Poole of the local Heritage Centre made the facility available and a soiree was quickly put together with Rachel Inglis playing the fiddle and dancers in full Highland dress.

It turns out the tourists had been inspired *La Chatelaine de Mallaig*, a book by Diane Lacombe which has become a best-seller in the French-speaking world.

Born in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, in 1953, Diane Lacombe grew up in a family of five girls. After studying graphic communications and psychology at university, Diane freelanced in the field of journalism for 10 years. She then held the position of documentation project manager in the communications department of a government agency where she worked for 15 years.

In the Fall of 1995, Diane travelled to Great Britain with her elder sister, both long attracted by the European Anglo-Saxon world. It was during this three-week trip that she first set foot in Scotland, and where, unbeknownst to her, she was collecting ideas for stories that would incubate for five years before taking form.

In March 2000, Diane took six months' leave of absence from work. During this time off, her days of total freedom were spent writing for her own enjoyment. She would send chapters, as each was completed, to her



*Diane Lacombe*

sisters who, week after week, devoured what would turn out to be a gripping tale of love and adventure.

Following her return to work and further to urgings from family and friends, Diane agreed to have a limited edition of the story printed, which she distributed to her friends and family members throughout 2001. Concurrently, the manuscript was submitted to VLB Éditeur, which published it in 2002 by the name of *La Châtelaine de Mallaig* (The Lady of Mallaig). This medieval novel set in the Scottish Highlands was an immediate success, and in just four years' time, 200,000 avid readers in Quebec and France had purchased a copy -- quite a feat for a previously unknown author.

In Spring 2003, eager to devote her time entirely to writing and with her readers clamouring for more, Diane Lacombe resigned from her job to immerse herself completely in the writing of her second novel *Sorcha de Mallaig*, (Sorcha of Mallaig), published one year later in March 2004.

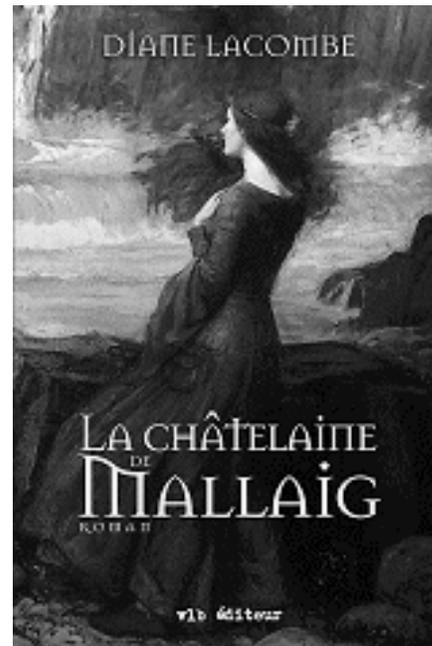
While working on the second book, Diane returned to Scotland for 15 days in summer 2003 to carry out further research on her subject matter. This visit would also provide ample material for a third novel, *L'Hermine de Mallaig* (The Rise of Mallaig Castle), already germinating in her mind. This third volume of the Mallaig trilogy, published in April 2005, would be the most historical of the three.

With the entire Mallaig trilogy finding many followers among French-speaking readers in Canada and Europe, sales reached 400,000 copies by spring 2006. Portugal and the Czech Republic bought the translation rights for the first volume, and the Czech version of *La Châtelaine de Mallaig* was the first translation to be published, appearing in summer 2006.

Diane Lacombe's novels are works of fiction. Her heroines, and Mallaig as depicted in her stories, are the fruit of her imagination. In fact, the actual Mallaig, an Inner Hebrides port, was not established until the nineteenth century.

The setting for her novels, however, does reflect, as accurately as can be, the realities of life in medieval Scotland. Moreover, some of her secondary characters have a historical reference, in particular, the kings of Scotland and the members of their royal courts. And their relationship to the trilogy's main characters, while purely fictional, remains completely plausible. Little attracted by fantastic literature, Diane Lacombe gives great importance to the authenticity of her accounts and nothing stimulates her more than to think that her stories could have really occurred six centuries ago in this far-away place.

Moreover, one cannot explain the author's work without mentioning her unabiding



passion for the Middle Ages, an era she finds fascinating, that she has studied since her teens and which provides her with a never-ending source of inspiration.

Ireland, the Isle of Man, Wales, Brittany and Scotland all have much in common, including their music, Gaelic languages and *entrelac* motifs. They are part and parcel of this ancient, medieval world that underpins Diane Lacombe's fictional works and feeds her passion for all things Celtic. It was Scotland, however, that the author found most enchanting when contemplating where in Northern Europe to situate her medieval tales.

And soon, her Highlands research began revealing many intriguing similarities with Quebec: the linguistic duality characteristic of this region in the fifteenth century, the country's political alliance with France against England, the organization of society around the clans and the lure of the wilderness, not to mention Scotland's flora, fauna, geology and oceanic climate. Such similarities are undoubtedly integral to Diane's adeptness at capturing the authentic spirit of this northern region in her novels and at moving her readers to the point where they are prompted to go and explore for themselves the land and its history.

Indeed, summer 2006 saw the author travel to Scotland with a group of 40 trilogy fans. It was a special 10-day tour on the trail of the ladies of Mallaig, featuring visits to the Highlands, the lochs and numerous remnants of the Middle Ages - the very world that her characters call home. ■

**Notice of Annual Meeting of the  
Scottish Studies Foundation  
and the Scottish Studies Society**

Dear Fellow Members,

This is to advise you that the next Annual General Meeting will take place on at 11 a.m. on **Saturday, May 26, 2007 at The Bow & Arrow Pub, 1954 Yonge St. (at Davisville) in Toronto.** (See Agenda below.)

Please note that the Foundation's by-laws allow for a total of 10 directors including President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer, and Executive Secretary. The Society's by-laws allow for a total of 12 directors including President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer.

Should you wish to serve on the board of directors, I would appreciate if you could advise me of this prior to the meeting in order for us to include your name on the list of candidates for election. Also, please let me know you plan to attend so that we can have lunch ready for you.

Sincerely,



David M. Hunter  
President  
Scottish Studies Foundation

Telephone: (416) 699-9942  
email: davidhunter@scottishstudies.com

**Note: Meetings commence at noon**

**AGENDA  
(SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION)**

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at The Bow & Arrow, 1954 Yonge St. Toronto
2. Matters arising
3. To receive the Report of the Directors
4. To receive the Financial Statement for the year ended September 30, 2006
5. To receive the Report of the Auditors
6. To elect the President of the Scottish Studies Foundation
7. To elect the Directors of the Scottish Studies Foundation
8. To appoint the Auditors
9. To fix the Remuneration of the Auditors
10. To appoint the Solicitor
11. Any other matters

**AGENDA  
(SCOTTISH STUDIES SOCIETY)**

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Saturday, February 25, 2006 at The Bow & Arrow, 1954 Yonge St. Toronto
2. Matters arising
3. To receive the Report of the Directors
4. To receive the Financial Statement for the year ended September 30, 2006
5. To elect the President of the Scottish Studies Society
6. To elect the Directors of the Scottish Studies Society
7. To appoint the Solicitor
8. Any other matters

**Directors of the Scottish Studies Foundation:**

**President:** David Hunter  
**Vice President:** Nola Crewe  
**Treasurer:** David Campbell  
**Secretary:** John B. McMillan  
**Directors at large**  
Bill Davidson  
Shirley Fraser  
Gordon Hepburn  
Maggie McEwan  
Alastair McIntyre FSA(Scot)  
Dr. Graeme Morton

**Honorary Director:** Harry S. Ferguson

**Staff:**

Catherine McKenzie Jansen,  
Membership Secretary  
580 Rebecca Street, Oakville, ON  
L6K 3N9  
Res: (905) 842-2106  
alan@mkz.com  
School for Scottish Studies Office  
Room 235, MacKinnon Building  
University of Guelph, Guelph, ON,  
N1G 2W1  
Bus: (519) 824-4120 x3209, Fax:  
(519) 837-8634  
scottish@uoguelph.ca

**Honorary Patrons**

Hugh Boyle  
John E. Cleghorn  
Professor E.J. Cowan  
Harry Ferguson  
Douglas Gibson  
Alastair W. Gillespie, P.C., O.C.  
Col. the Hon. Henry N.R. Jackman,  
C.M., O.Ont., KSt.J.  
The Hon. Donald S. Macdonald,  
P.C., C.C.  
MGen. Lewis W. MacKenzie, MSC,  
O.Ont., C.D.  
Dr. Alistair MacLeod  
Kathie Macmillan  
Michael I. M. MacMillan  
Rt. Hon. Jack McConnell MSP  
Alan McKenzie, FSA(Scot)  
Bill R. McNeil  
Lloyd Robertson, O.C.  
T. Iain Ronald  
Bill Somerville  
The Hon. Bertha Wilson, C.C.  
Lynton "Red" Wilson, O.C.

**The following organizations and individuals have made charitable contributions to the Scottish Studies Foundation in excess of the basic membership fees:**

**Corporate Sponsors**

The Harold E. Ballard Foundation  
Cairngorm Scottish Imports  
Citibank Canada  
GE Canada

**Benefactors**

Dr. Colin R. Blyth and Valerie Blyth  
John Cleghorn O.C., F.C.A.  
Richard Currie  
Thomas L. Foulds

Alastair W. Gillespie, P.C., O.C.  
Gordon and Shirley Grant  
Jon K. Grant O.C.  
Ian Craig  
Marie Gregor  
Jane Grier  
Nona Heaslip  
James N. Hepburn  
Hal Jackman  
Roger Alexander Lindsay of Craighall  
James M. Main  
Dr. William Ross McEachern  
Joan and Don McGeachy  
T. Iain Ronald  
Sir Neil Shaw  
The Toronto Gaelic Society  
Dr. Cicely Watson  
The Hon. Bertha Wilson, C.C.  
Lynton "Red" Wilson, O.C.

**Patrons**

Margaret S. Adat  
Olwen Anderson  
Robert Anderson  
Dr. Gary Ashby  
Mary G. Barnett  
Peter Baxter  
William David Beaton  
Ann Boden  
John and Ruth Borthwick  
G. Laurence Buchanan  
Robert Burns  
Cairngorm Scottish Imports  
Driffield M. Cameron  
David Campbell  
Donna Carmichael  
James A. Clark  
John H. C. Clarry  
Nola Crewe  
Bill Cockburn  
Mrs. Elma Connor  
Dr. John H. Cooper  
Phyllis M. Corbett  
Kenneth L. Coupland  
Nola Crewe & Harold Nelson  
Donald A. Crosbie  
Antony A. Cunningham  
Custom Scottish Imports  
William H. Davidson  
Dorothy Dunlop  
Heather J. Elliot  
Gina Erichsen  
Prof. Elizabeth Ewan  
Dr. & Mrs. G.T. Ewan  
Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games  
Angus H. Ferguson  
Alice Ferguson  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry S. Ferguson  
Georgina Finlay  
Dr. Harry K. Fisher  
Ian Fisher  
Allan C. Fleming  
W. Neil & Marie Fraser  
Dr. William & Mrs. Margaret Fraser  
John MacKenzie Gammell  
Gendis Inc. & Associated Corporations  
Constance C. Gibson  
Douglas M. Gibson  
John D. Gilchriese  
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Gillespie  
Stan Glass  
Catherine Goldie  
Malcolm M. Gollert  
Hon. Edwin A. Goodman Q.C., P.C., O.C.  
William A. Goodfellow  
Alan P. Gordon  
James M. Grant, Clan Grant Society of Canada  
The Great Canadian Travel Company  
Mary Gregor  
Jane Grier  
James Haliburton  
M. Gen. (Ret) James E. Hanna  
Hall of Names (Brampton)  
Mrs. Jean Hedges  
Alex B. Henderson  
Iain Hendry  
Gordon Hepburn  
David Hobbs  
Ms. Geraldine Howitt  
Maureen Hunt  
David Hunter  
James Lamont Hunter  
Margaret Anne Hunter  
John & Lorna Hutchinson  
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens  
Dr. & Mrs. Ted Kinnin  
Dr. Alison Kirk-Montgomery  
Barbara Klich  
Captain Olof & Mrs. Sheila Kuipers  
Douglas Lackie  
Susan E. Lahey  
Loch Ness Celtic Jewellery  
Elizabeth & Leonard  
MacLachlan Lain  
Marion F. Livingston  
Ruth S. MacBeth  
Miss Duncan MacDonald  
The MacFie Clan Society  
R. C. (Bob) MacFarlane (in memoriam)  
Hugh K. N. Mackenzie  
John H. Macdonald, FSA(Scot)  
The Hon. Donald S. Macdonald, P.C., C.C.  
Margaret MacLeod  
Jim MacNeil, Scottish Imports of Hamilton  
Gordon Main  
Wilson Markle  
Jack K. R. Martin  
Gordon Menzies  
William I. McArthur  
William Ross McEachern  
D.D.C. McGeachy  
Ian A. McKay  
M.R. MacLennan  
Margaret MacLeod  
Hugh MacMillan, D. Litt. U. E.  
Mary MacKay MacMillan FSA (Scot)  
Robert W. McAllister  
Ms. Doris McArthur  
Dr. K. J. McBey  
William Ross McEachern  
Murray McEwan  
Ian McFetters  
Derek McGillivray  
Margaret McGovern  
Donald G. A. McKenzie  
Capt. Duncan D. McMillan  
John B. McMillan  
Douglas and Ilse McTaggart  
Richard C. Meech Q.C.  
Mary Elizabeth Mick  
Peter Montgomery

William & Audrey Montgomery  
Allan D. Morrison  
Catherine O'May  
Orangeville Scottish Dancers  
Ed & Anne Patrick  
Darren B. Purse  
Ms. Patricia Rae  
Hazel Rayner  
Alastair G. Ramsay  
Sheldon Rankin  
Hazel Rayner  
Mary Arvilla Read  
Sadie Reynolds  
Rodger E.T. Ritchie  
Michael Paul Roberts  
T. Iain Ronald  
Royal Scottish Geographical Society  
J. Douglas Ross  
Dr. Robert and Laura Saunders  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Seagrave  
Skara Brae Collections  
Dr. David J. Scott  
Graham W. S. Scott Q.C.  
Helen B. Smith  
Stanley & Margory Smith  
Bill & April Somerville  
Capt. Stephen Spence  
Helen C. Stevens  
Dr. Roselynn M. W. Stevenson  
Allan Edward Stewart C.D.  
David R. Stewart  
Helen Matthew Stewart  
John Mac Stewart  
Ian G. Stewart Holdings Ltd.  
Alexander K. Stuart  
Prof. Ron Sunter  
Donald Campbell Sutherland  
Mr. & Mrs. J.G.C. Templeton  
Dr. Paul Thomson and Michelle Perrone  
Janis Todd  
J. James Wardlaw  
Prof. David B. Waterhouse  
Dr. Cicely Watson  
Joanne Watson  
Mitchell Watt  
Robert Watt  
Douglas Whitelaw

**Directors of the Scottish Studies Society:**

**President:** Nola Crewe  
**VP & Newsletter Editor:** David Hunter  
**Treasurer :** David Campbell  
**Secretary:** John B. McMillan  
**Assistant Secretary:** Douglas Gibson  
**Honorary Director:** Dr. Hugh MacMillan  
Duncan Campbell  
Gordon Hepburn  
Alastair McIntyre FSA(Scot)  
Dr. Graeme Morton  
Ed Patrick  
Janice Richardson  
Bill Somerville