



St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks



March 2008

Message From The President

Dear Friends and Kinsmen,

The St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks is off to a good start for 2008. Our Burns Supper on January 19th was well attended and well received. I extend thanks to all those who made this a special evening

In July we have an opportunity to be involved in a major event being held at Fort Ticonderoga to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Carillon. This engagement between French and British forces during the French and Indian War is notable for the sacrifice of the officers and soldiers of the 42nd Regiment of Foot, known as the Black Watch. July 5, 2008 will be Scots Day at the Fort. Scots from the US, Canada, and the UK will gather to commemorate the sacrifice on both sides and to affirm our historical connection as Scots. More on this in the future. Anyone interested in participating can contact me at 518.523.3987.

Best regards,

Bill

Future Events

March 2nd: meeting with Battle of Carillon committee at Baxter Mt. Tavern at 2 pm to discuss the part that SASA will play in the celebration at Ft. Ticonderoga on July 5th.

April 5th: Tartan Day Hike under the leadership of Peter Fish. The traditional hike up a local mountain will take place at a time and place yet to be decided. A dinner will follow. Call Peter at 576-4405 for details.

Mission Statement:

- ◆ The Perpetuation of Scottish Heritage, Traditions, Culture, Education and Genealogy.

To Contact Us :

- ◆ St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks, P.O. Box 1424 Lake Placid, NY 12946
- ◆ We are on the Web: www.kvvi.net/~adkscot

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Burns Night: SASA

To paraphrase the slogan of the U.S. Postal Service: “Neither rain nor snow nor sleet nor gloom of night can keep the St. Andrew’s Society from having a Burns’ Supper”. The weather certainly affected the attendance, but the smaller than usual group enjoyed the evening.

The usual ceremonies were observed with Cameron Anderson leading the Parade of the Flags. Peter Fish gave his excellent rendition of Burns “Address to the Haggis” and all sampled the “Great chieftain of the pudding-race”. An ample pot-luck dinner followed. Toasts were made to the lassies, the laddies and to Scotland. During dinner music was provided by Susan Grimm on keyboard and Joel Perkins on fiddle. They also played afterwards for dancing. A round of “Strip the Willow” and “Eightsome Reel”, led by Ian Strachan, left the dancers breathless and the audience cheering.

If the weather kept you away this year, please plan on joining the group next January.



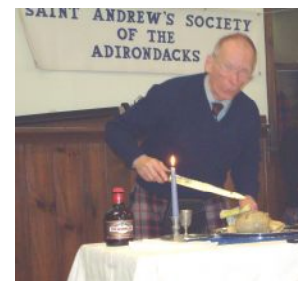
Diane Kimmey, Ken Galloway, Marjory and Don Moeller, and Peter Fish



Bob Breen, Ian Strachan, and Dorothy Irving



Joel Perkins and Susan Grimm provide the music.



Peter Fish addresses the Haggis.

Burns Night: Glens Falls

The Adirondack Pipes and Drums presented “A Celebration of Robert Burns” at the Park Theater in Glens Falls. The group has been organizing similar gatherings since the 1970s. This year they decided to forego a dinner and celebrate in the form of a concert. The band was joined by the Wild Irish Acres Dancers.

Jim Hood, manager of the Pipes and Drums and an SASA member, welcomed the crowd. He noted that he was one of three people in the room related to Robert Burns. The others were Al Hood from SASA and Jim’s son, Cameron. (See the accompanying picture).

Selections from Robert Burns’ writings were recited by band members, including “A Red, Red Rose”, “To A Mouse”, and “Address to the Haggis”. There were the traditional toasts to the lads and the lassies. Homemade desserts were sold and a raffle was held.

The dancers performed several sets that had the floor bouncing. They do not go into competitions but dance just for fun. It certainly looked like great aerobic exercise.

The Pipes and Drums showcased their drum corps and their competition ensemble, as well as performing several sets with the entire group. They are now preparing for Memorial Day parades and the Highland Games season..



ADK Pipes & Drums



Al, Cameron, & Jim Hood

Burns Night: Hemmingford, Quebec

It was a night of music and tradition showcasing talent from both sides of the border. The evening was hosted by Ian Strachan, SASA's director emeritus, and French co-host Alain Reid who provided translation for those Scots and would-be Scots who did not understand the banter.

Festivities began with a cocktail hour by the fire with the Celtic sounds of Saranac Lake's own Inisheer to get people in the mood for the rest of the evening. The parade of talent and tartans was led by the Elgin and District Pipe band. Marcy Hough, also from Saranac Lake, sang the Canadian national anthem (entirely in French no less!) and "Flower of Scotland" widely regarded as the Scottish Anthem. Courtland Wood from Plattsburgh sang the American anthem.

As has become a tradition, the Cameron dancers performed several dances for charity donations with a sporan pass. Heather Bremner did a powerful, stomping Irish jig to the music of Morgan Waller's flute, and Anne-Marie Keenan, seven times Canadian Irish dance champion, performed "The Four Masters". Both performances were in tribute to a family who had made Burns night an annual event but were unable to attend this year due to illness.

Local Canadian Myriam Reid played lilting Celtic harp music during the dinner hour while people enjoyed their meal of haggis, neeps and tatties with delicious homemade pies for dessert. After a beautiful remembrance of Robert Burns by Rev. Donald Sterling in the Immortal Memory, the highlight of the evening was again this year the incredible violin talent of Roman Fraser, a 12-year old from nearby Franklin, Quebec, now playing with the Montreal symphony. Accompanied by his mother on keyboards (also a very accomplished musician!), Roman played two stirring movements by Kreisler, a love story set to music, that brought tears to the eyes of those in the audience. He is an amazing musician at a young age! Marcy and Roman teamed up for another romantic tune "Ae Fond Kiss" in honor of Robert Burns and his love of women!

It was an evening full of wonderful music, good food and plenty of laughter. There was dancing for those that stayed afterwards. Mark your calendars for January 24, 2009 and plan to venture north for the next Hemmingford Burns Night!

Royal Scots Dragoons & Coldstream Guards

On January 26th, Proctor's Theater in Schenectady presented a performance by the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Band of the Coldstream Guards. It was an evening of stirring sights and sounds which brought the near-capacity audience to its feet, cheering and applauding.

The regimental band of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards was splendid in scarlet tunics and bear-skin hats. The stage was barely large enough to accommodate the 25 members as they performed their drills. The pipers of the Royal Scots Dragoons wore kilts and plaids in the Royal Stewart tartan. The drummers were in tartan trews. Other performers included a solo singer, a string septet, and four energetic young men who danced the Highland Fling and the Sword Dance.

Narration between the sets provided a history of the two groups. The Dragoon Guards were formed in 1971 from the 3rd Carabiniers and the Royal Scots Greys. They are Scotland's only Regiment of Cavalry, now using tanks instead of horses. The Coldstream Regiment was formed in 1650, one of the oldest regiments in the world.

The performance included a tribute to America. The anthems of all the armed services were played, as well as "Yankee Doodle", some Stephen Foster, and a Sousa march. This set concluded with "America the Beautiful" and "When the Saints Come Marching In".

All in all it was a spectacular and memorable evening.

A Man For All

Robert Burns appeals to people from all walks of life and all cultures.

There is a story of a Burns Supper that took place in Fiji some years ago.

A big Fijian native rose to propose the Immortal Memory and introduced himself to the audience this way.

"In spite of what you might think, I do have Scottish blood coursing through my veins. Many years ago one of my ancestors ate a Presbyterian missionary."

The Scottish Banner

The Amazing Grace Story:

The Regimental Band and The Pipes and Drums became internationally known following their 1971 album featuring "Amazing Grace". It was a multi million pound best seller, and was number one on the British pop charts for over six weeks in 1972.

On their current tour they are selling a CD entitled "A Royal Celebration".

Joseph McCallie Scholarship

The SASA scholarship for 2008 has been awarded to Michael Murdoch, a 13-year-old piper from Schroon Lake.

Michael became interested in bagpipes after hearing a piper play on the beach in Schroon Lake one summer. He studies under David Jones and Jerry Cashion, and has been a member of the Adirondack Pipes and Drums for 3 years.

In addition to playing bagpipes, Michael also plays classical violin, fiddle, baritone trumpet and piano. He is 2nd violin in the Saratoga Springs Youth Orchestra. His other interests include fly tying and practicing wilderness skills with the Adirondack Guides, a 4-H affiliated organization.

Michael will attend the Crane Music Camp in Potsdam this summer



Michael Murdoch

A Big Thank You

St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks has begun a program to help support our area food pantries. Our first collection was during the Kirkin' of the Tartan and annual general meeting last November. As a result of the collection, we were able to donate more than 20 pounds of non-perishable food to the Lake Placid and Keene food pantries for the holiday season. Thank you to all who donated food and/or money to this cause.

We would like to encourage everyone to bring a canned good or other non-perishable item to SASA events. They will be collected and distributed to food pantries in a rotating order. We will also gladly collect money that will be donated to the pantries.

Remember all these donations are tax deductible so don't be afraid to write a check and bring it with you or send it to SASA, PO Box 1424, Lake Placid, NY 12946. You can use the cancelled check as a receipt.

Once again, thank you for helping to make our first food drive a success. If you have contact information and/or address of food pantries in your area, please call Sarah Irving at 946-1224.

Welcome New Members

Joellen and Ed Cattell	Lake Placid, NY and Cherry Hill, NJ.
Kenneth Galloway	Queensbury, NY
Diane Kimmey	Queensbury, NY
Jen Tavorming	Saranac, NY

Raffle Winners

The winning raffle tickets were drawn at the SASA Burns' Night. Winner of the hand-made birch bark mirror was Sheila Seifried of Saranac Lake. The basket of Scottish goodies was won by Deborah Schaum from Tupper Lake. Congratulations to both and thank you to everyone who supported the raffle.

Wanted

Someone willing to do publicity for our Society. We would like to have stories about past and future events in the local papers. You will be given the information to send in via e-mail or snail mail. Ability to send photos a plus.

Your News

You are invited to submit your news. Family events, travels, favorite stories, recipes, and Scottish humor will be welcome. Send articles to Jini at a-al-hood-1@att.net

SASA Newsletter

The newsletter is published quarterly. Items of interest to our membership and comments are always welcome. Contact us at P. O. Box 1424, Lake Placid, or e-mail: adkscot@bearpond.org