

Newsletter

Vol 169 #3, Summer 2015
ISSN 1492-4420

Society Patron
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine

Newsletter Editor and President:

D. Hugh M. Reekie 613-728-5343 - h.reekie@iecc.org
164 Bayswater Ave., Ottawa, ON, K1Y 2G3

web page: <http://www3.bell.net/max-com/Andrew.Ottawa.html>

Society Calendar

- Sat. 01 Aug - Glengarry Highland Games - Society booth - p1
 Sat 22 Aug - North Lanark Highland Games, Almonte - Society booth - p1
 Sat 26 Sept - Presentation & tea "Scottish Cheeses" tentative Olde Forge 2pm- p1
 Sat 24 Oct - Presentation to be determined - tentative date - Olde Forge 2pm - p1

Fall Activities - talks & movies

A varied programme is being set up for the Fall, with most events at the Olde Forge Community Centre, Richmond & Carling. The first event will be a "Combination" of talk and tea on the same subject. If all goes to plan, your editor will bring back to Canada some Scots hard cheeses; he has had an interest in the topic for quite some time. On Saturday 26th September, the Talk should be on "Some varieties of Scots cheeses." Attendees will have an opportunity to sample some, over tea. Other lectures and movies are in the planning stages, and the full details will be in the Fall issue of the Newsletter, scheduled for release in late August.

Highland Games - Society Booth

If all goes as planned there will be booths at Maxville on Saturday 1st August & at Almonte on Sat 22nd August.

Gala Dinner 2015 - Plans

Members will recall that we held no formal Dinner in November 2014. A tentative booking has been made for *Saturday 28th November*, with all previous arrangements. But, as mentioned in the last newsletter, the 'Gala Committee' requires a certain minimum number for their efforts to be worthwhile. It has recently been established that the non-member attendance obtained in 2013 may not be available in 2015. The Gala Planning Committee, *Pat Shaver, Avril Price* & yours truly *Hugh Reekie* are quite concerned about this. Expect further announcements.

A Pub Nights - past & future

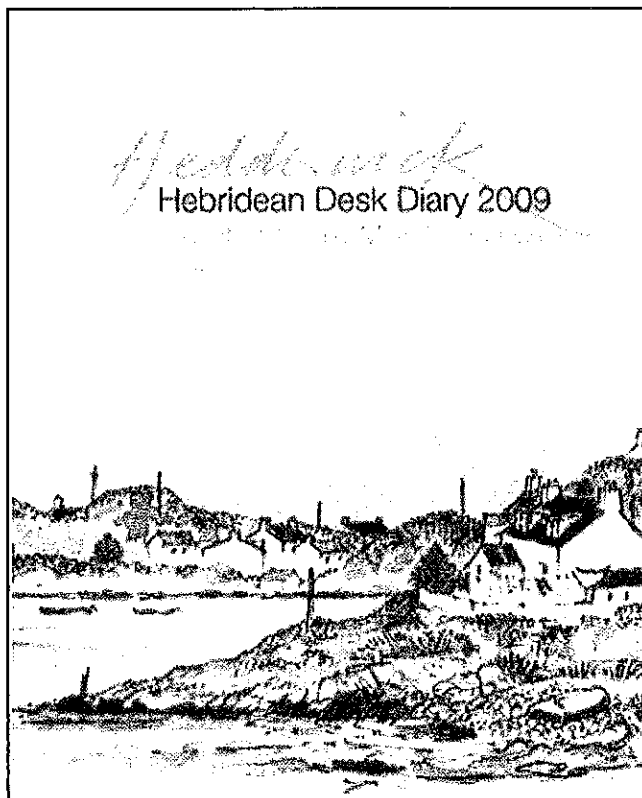
Pub nights are an opportunity to meet other members and to talk on a range of subjects - there was good crowd at *Deacon Brodie's Pub*, Elgin St., in April. The gatherings will be back in September.

"Granny Island"

For those of us, like your Editor, who came to Canada before 1980 and have not interacted with Scots children in recent years, the name *Mairi Hedderwick* may be unknown; but she is very popular now in the UK.

Raised in *Gourock*, she studied mural painting in Edinburgh. When married, she qualified at Jordanhill Teacher's College, Glasgow and then became a travelling art teacher in *Argyll*. After time spent on the *Applecross peninsula* Ronnie & Mairi put down roots on the *Island of Coll*, buying the old farmhouse *Crosspol*, with its Rayburn stove. Moving from teaching and farming, Mairi continued sketching and started a postcard printing business. By chance on the beach, she bumped into a children's book editor for MacMillan books. She was signed up as an illustrator, and soon won an in-house contest for illustrating a version of *Rumer Godden's* book *The Old Woman who lived in a Vinegar Bottle* (1972).

Mairi's first book in the *Katie Morag* series came out in 1984 - after she decided to write her own stories. It describes life on the *fictional island of*



Struay. After this first book *Katie Morag Delivers the Mail*, she returned to Coll and wrote the story *Katie Morag and the New Pier* (1993), where she addresses the changes in island life - so many since the 1960s.

Becoming unhappy as a "tourist attraction" on Coll, Mairi Hedderwick moved to the *Borders* and then the *Black Isle*, restoring cottages. Then in 2005 she moved back to a new home in Coll, to be closer to her family. Many of her 14 books have been made into a BBC-tv children's series.

It is curious to note that her first written draft included two characters "*Granny island*" and "*Gran'pa mainland*". The *USA*

editors suggested a change to "*Granny mainland*". So popular are the books that for some young scots, it is more appropriate to say "We are going on *Granny Island's holiday*" than to say "We are going on *Granny's Island holiday*"; but both would be true.

Ms. Hedderwick now spends much of her time helping children in writing stories. She has a busy engagement calendar.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mairi_Hedderwick

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/profile-author/937>



This popular event went off very well, with about 30 members turning out. The first part had a strong *Mackenzie King* theme, since we started at his town residence, *Laurier House*, at 9:30 on a pleasant Saturday morning, then changed provinces for a stop at our long-time PM's country estate.

Registration, drinks and snacks were managed efficiently at Laurier House by Society volunteers and the House itself was full of interest. *Moorside*, the rural residence that Mackenzie King bequeathed to the nation, also offers many fascinating insights for visitors, though the time available on the tour was necessarily fairly short.

Next stop, after a longer than expected drive because of road closures, was at *St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Chelsea* for lunch, where Society volunteers again performed sterling service. The meal was followed by an interesting talk by *Carol Martin*, a member of the *Gatineau Valley Historical Society*, who told us, *inter alia*, about the award of one of *Queen Victoria's Boer War Scarves* to a Chelsea resident. Carol passed around a replica scarf and also accompanied us to the next location, the *Old Chelsea Pioneer Cemetery*, burial place of the scarf recipient and other early settlers, some Scots.

The tour then moved north to *Wakefield* and *Fairbairn House*, which was built by an early Scottish settler, *William of that ilk*. Moving house

has a different meaning here, since the house itself has been moved *twice!* It is now a Heritage Centre in public ownership, with many artefacts dating from early settlement, as well as a *round-log cabin* in the grounds, furnished as an old one-room school. There is also a *very Scottish kailyard* surrounded by a drystone wall. A heritage centre staffer made a presentation to the group.

The formal tour ended after this visit, but a good number had signed up for an optional High Tea

later at the *Chelsea Tea House*. In the meantime, we were free to explore *Wakefield* and call at the *Wakefield Inn*, built as a large mill by *William Fairbairn*. Some also took the opportunity to visit the village cemetery, resting place of another Canadian PM, *Lester Pearson*. High tea back in Chelsea was very enjoyable, with cookies, tea, shepherd's pie with potatoes and vegetables, as well as a choice of dessert.

All in all, it was a very informative and pleasant day, and thanks are due to members *Hugh Reekie, Anna Foster* and helpers *Bill White, Derek Loder* and *Isaac Ives* as well as the staff and volunteers at the various locations visited.



The photo, taken on Iain's camera by a Fairbairn House staffer, shows just some of the attendees. Note that five are "hiding" on the back row - out of the sun. Some of the 1840 house detailing is also shown.

- report by Iain & Gloria Paterson

Tartan Day Event & AGM

Our Tartan Day Dinner & Annual General Meeting was held on *Friday April 10th 2015* at *Kristy's Restaurant*. The dinner included a raspberry shortcake - a pleasant change. After the meal there was coffee and conversation - and the magazine and Scots book table was quite busy. *Stuart Jardine* took a moment to remind us of the *Signing of the Declaration of Arbroath*.

Our Annual General Meeting had brief reports, and an election. *Bill White*, the Nominating Committee Chair produced a slate for election.

Elected for '15 - '16 were - President *Hugh Reekie*; 1st VP *Stuart Jardine*; 2nd VP *John Shaver*; Hon Treasurer & Hon Membership Chair *Ian Jeffrey*. Hon Secretary *Anna Foster*; Committee members: *Wilma Jardine, Lynn Paul, Avril Price, Pat Shaver, Bob Bhan, Isaac Ives & Bill White*.

In addition to selling tickets for events, the rôles that members perform on the committee - most are

informal - are: *Bob Bhan* - publicity; *Stuart Jardine* - Bard; *Wilma Jardine* - registration - Burns supper etc.; *Lynn Paul* - ticket sales etc - Burns supper & Gala; *John Shaver* - Scot-of-the-Year - Pat & John Shaver - wall decorations; *Bill White* - Olde Forge - Set up, tear down; *Isaac Ives* - Olde Forge - Set up, tear down; *Anna Foster* (Bill White #2) teas at The Olde Forge; *Hugh Reekie* - Newsletter editor.

The AGM took its usual course. The close-out process for the "*Charity arrangement*" that the Society has had for a few years, giving out charitable receipts for part of the Gala Dinner, was discussed; the Society is most grateful for the sub-committee's hard work. In April a formal, and hopefully final, submission was made.

Ian Jeffrey produced a financial statement. Our membership is pretty steady - going down slightly.

The meeting concluded with the President thanking all on the executive for their efforts over the year.

Margaret Bell



Margaret Bell is seen here at the 2011 Gala Dinner with Ted McNabb.

It is with extreme regret that members are advised that *Margaret Bell* passed away on 13th May. She was a strong supporter of our Society and served on our Executive for many years. In addition to being our *Gala Chair* on many occasions, she was very involved in the catering for our private "President's Reception" at our Gala Dinner.

A native of Penicuik, Scotland, Margaret first came to Canada on a

summer student assignment; she liked what she saw and accepted a permanent position at the National Research Council with nuclear physics. She married Dr J.K. Stuart-Bell; they have two children - *Kate* and *Alasdair*; the latter has accompanied his mother to our Gala Dinners. After retirement, Margaret was very involved with charities - especially the *May Court Hospice*, both in Ottawa and across Canada. Our condolences are extended to her family.

Membership Application and Renewal Request - St. Andrew's Society of Ottawa - 2015

Fees \$15 individual; \$20 family - make cheques payable to *The St Andrew's Society of Ottawa* mail to *Ian Jeffrey*, Hon. Membership Chair, 711 Cezanne Cresc, Ottawa ON K4A 2A7

Name new / renewal (circle one)

Address

..... postcode

Phone e-mail

I wish to apply for single/ family membership. Other names (family membership)

..... Sponsored by (if new member)

Scots family connections, if any:

New members paying after 01 July get the rest of the year free - 18 months for the price of 12