

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

At the time of my last letter, I was on my way to Scotland. In St. Fillans, where our home is, there were 4 inches of snow and my sister and I got the car stuck in the driveway! The snow-covered hills around Loch Earn were beautiful and the Loch glistened with their reflections. While in Scotland I missed the Tartan Day celebrations. However, I gather they were a great success. In addition the group that went to the Senate in Jefferson City were warmly received and the reception for the Legislators was such a hit that the Participants hope that it will become an annual event.

Our next event, "The Kilted Golf" is on May 19th. Clean off your clubs and join us, or if you do not play golf, please join us for the Ceilidh in the evening. For our children we have the bowling event on Sunday May 13th (see p2 for details). In order to help our members get to know each other better we started the monthly Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms. At the first Social we presented a plaque from the Society to an appreciative Alistair Nisbet.

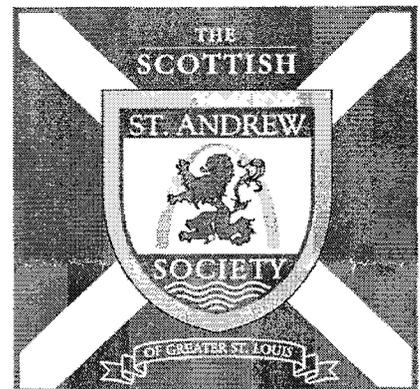
It is hard to believe that the Society year is almost over and my term as President is coming to an end. There are more programs this year but this may be my last President's Message. It is a good opportunity to reminisce. We have had a very successful year with many new members and good attendances at our functions. Nothing would be a success without you, the Membership. I would like to thank you all for the help and support that you have given to the Society and to me personally. A very special thank you must go to the hard working Board and committee members. Your work, help, and support are very much appreciated.

In looking back over the last two years I am pleased with our achievements. Those that stand out are: the New Member packet, the Member Roster, and our donations to the Games, Dance Caledonia, the drama group that went to the Edinburgh Festival and our grant to Ken Law, an Invera'an piper. The Donations help promote our Scottish culture and heritage. The most notable events were, The Games, the St. Andrew's Dinner Dances and the Burns Dinners.

At the Burns Dinners along with the toasts, piping and dancing there is a very moving and meaningful moment when there is the presentation of Lifetime Memberships to longtime members who have devoted much time, energy and expertise to the Society. This year Jen Nicoll, Tom Forrester and Norma Forrester were awarded Lifetime Membership. Last year Lifetime Membership was awarded to Jim McLaren and to Anne McLaren. All five of the recipients have contributed greatly to the Society.

The time has come for nominations for the next Board. Please consider volunteering for a position on the Board or for work on a committee. It is fun and rewarding! I have enjoyed my time in office. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Yours Aye, Iona Baldwin



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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13th, 2006 from 3-5 pm - Scotch double bowling at Crestwood Bowl. This is a fun event for parents and children. You take turns with your child or partner and the highest scorer wins. However, who wins is not important; it's playing the game and having fun! Call Anja by May 11th.

May 18th, 2006 starts 6:30 pm - Monthly Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms on Sarah Street in the Central West End. Plan to come and join us for good Scottish food, delicious beer, fabulous Scotch and even better company.

If you would like
to help out, or info
contact Anja Lodge
314 965 6077
anja.lodge@gmail.com

Other exciting events for your calendar....

July 20 - Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms

Aug 17 - Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms
September, TBA - Minigolf, AGM

Sept 21 - Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms

October 6, 7 - Scottish Games and Cultural
Festival

Oct 19 - Scottish Social at the Scottish Arms

November 18 - St. Andrews Dinner Dance

December 11 - Annual Christmas Party

January 20, 2007 - Robert Burns Dinner

June 17th Place and Time to be determined

IT'S A *TAM O' SHANTER* NIGHT!

-Recitation Burn's poem *Tam O'Shanter* by J. Duffy

-The hall transformed into a scene from the poem

-Scottish Country Dancing based on the poem

IT'S A **CEILIDH** !

-Food, Fun, and Frivolities for the entire Family

-Competition games based on *Tam O'Shanter*

This will be fun for the entire family - from grandparents to parents to children. In the spirit of the ancient Celts who dressed up to celebrate Mid Summer's Eve, you might consider dressing up as one of the characters in the poem. That's only a suggestion; we'll love to see you, even if you don't feel like dressing up!

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Karen Pearlman, Hazelwood, MO
Phil Munro, St. Louis, MO
Lynne Nabors, St. Louis, MO
Garth Reynolds, St. Louis, MO
Christi Jones, Laurie, MO
Jennifer Hooker, Godfrey, IL
Mark & Amy Sutherland, Barnhart, MO

Society & Scottish Games Info Booths

(feel free to stop by and help or visit)

Festival of Nations

At Tower Grove Park

Sat, July 22nd: 10am-7pm

Sun, July 23rd: 10am-6pm

(Parade of Nations is at 10am, Saturday)

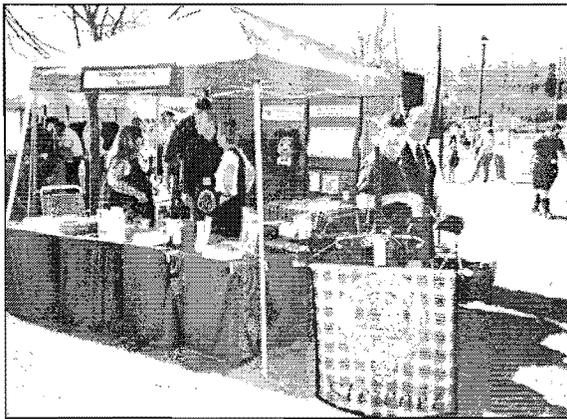
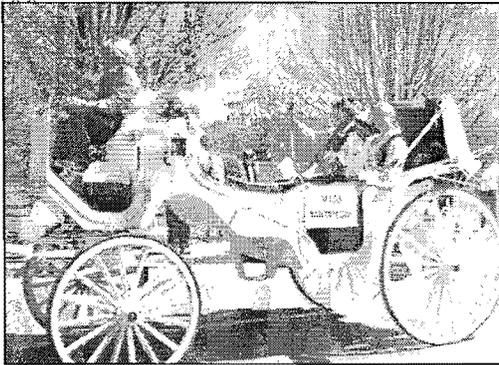
Festival of Faiths and Cultures

At Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville

Sat, Sept 9th: 10am-7pm

Tartan Day

The Tartan Day parade, in historic St. Charles, was another great success, with a good turn-out and an enjoyable time for all. Thanks to Judie Chaboude and her team for all the hard work in organizing this event. If you didn't make it, the photos provide a sense of the festive atmosphere:



The Tartan Day celebrations at the State rotunda, in Jefferson City, were well-received and a fun time was included. Thanks to Carrie Sutherland and her team for all the hard work and arrangements.



Caledonia Corner

Donald Trump Joins Scottish Global Network

Donald Trump has achieved considerable success and public acclaim, even playing the businessman role on TV these days. So, you'll perhaps not be surprised to learn that he has solid Scottish roots. Mark Hallan, Head of the GlobalScots network, which is part of Scottish Development International, recently announced:

"I am delighted to announce that American businessman, Donald Trump, has accepted an invitation from Jack McConnell, Scotland's First Minister, to become a member of the GlobalScot network.."

Mr. Trump, whose mother was from Stornaway, on the Herbridean Isle of Lewis, commented: "As an international businessman, I've enjoyed success over the years and I like to think that part of my achievement can be attributed to my Scottish roots. All my life I've been aware that Scottish people are fiercely proud of Scotland and that they like to help their fellow countrymen. This is why the Globalscot network was established - to harness the experience, knowledge and contacts of Scots operating in senior business positions around the world for the benefit of Scottish companies and entrepreneurs. This is a powerful network and I am very pleased to have been asked to join the Globalscot network."

You might be interested to know that we have two GlobalScots (and founding members) in St. Louis: H. Grant, CEO of Monsanto and yours truly, J. McLaren, CEO of StrathKirn.

Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. Where is Queen Victoria's lookout?
2. Who wrote "The 39 Steps"?
3. Who's statue guards the gates of Edinburgh Castle?

Sorry, nobody had all three correct this time.

Answers:

1. First Tartan Day in Scotland was in 2004.
2. A creel is for catching lobsters.
3. Forth Road Bridge was built in 1964.

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@strathkirn.com
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Society members Scott and Tammy Lyle tied the knot in April, and Chris Fulton and Iona Baldwin were in attendance.



St Louis Expat in Edinburgh

Peggy McNulty “Discovers” Edinburgh

The ancient city of Edinburgh, seat of Scottish kings and now home to the Scottish Parliament, is two cities in one; just one's not quite as ancient as the other. On one side of the railway, built on a series of extinct volcanoes, is the Old Town of medieval alleyways, half-timbered houses and hidden closes under the gaze of Edinburgh Castle. On the other is its less-lauded but equally lovely New Town, already more than 200 years old, with its squares, parks, circuses, crescents, public baths and grand neo-Classical buildings, not to mention cutting edge restaurant and night club scene. As old, romantic and historic as it is, Edinburgh is a working town that prides itself on being hip, secular, sophisticated and spectacularly prosperous -- real estate prices are among the highest in Europe, and you can't go a block without passing a restaurant, cafe, bookstore, boutique or fancy food outlet.

Having been born and raised in St. Louis, with its strong Celtic roots, I always felt akin to the part of the world from which so many of our grandparents emigrated. So when I got the chance to redirect the short 32 years of life I've built in St. Louis and move to Edinburgh Scotland, it was not a decision I had to ponder in the slightest.

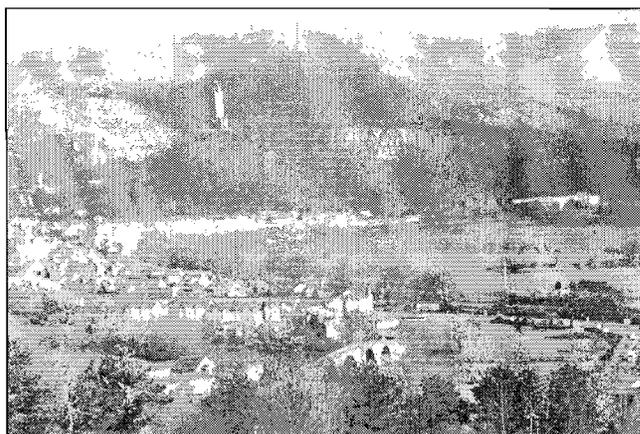
On March 8th, 2006 I arrived in bonnie Scotland, with 2 pieces of luggage, large ones mind you, and a big American smile. I've relocated to Edinburgh to work and attend a masters degree program. My first few days in Edinburgh I rented a temporary flat in the Grassmarket, in a part of Old Town that is now a tourist hub because of its quaint cobblestone streets, historical significance, proximity to the Royal Mile and picturesque location at the base of Edinburgh Castle. It was tremendous to have rain, hail, snow and a gorgeous sunset over the Edinburgh skyline from Calton Hill, all on my third day of residency. There is however one consistent weather element in Edinburgh, the wind. Chicago ain't got nothin' on this place. I have grown to adore my scarves and gloves. Scotland in general though, I have found, can be a very sunny place. The white puffy clouds come out of nowhere and go on forever.

I have easily made many friends and the amount of 30 some-things working and living in the city makes for an exciting atmosphere. Most of the women I know and see are rarely dressed down even during the day. And at night, the social scene in various state of the art venues rivals that of Paris and Milan. There is an essence of gender confidence and sophistication among the young professionals that I have never seen at, forgive me, Parties in the Park or any of those type events at home. While St. Louis has more than its fair share of beautiful people, world renowned restaurants and a thriving social scene, I was pleasantly surprised to find that a city less than a fourth the size of my hometown, is so hip and truly happening on a daily and nightly basis.

So now, spring has sprung in Edinburgh, azaleas are in bloom, wee whin bushes cover the hills of the city and pinching myself has become a daily ritual as to not become blasé about my surroundings. It has been an easy transition for me and I'm breathlessly anticipating Edinburgh in the summer and the excitement of the International Festival, The Fringe, The Military Tattoo, and the Edinburgh International Film Festival. Everyday is a school day in Edinburgh.

TOASTS & THINGS

Photographs from a recent trip to Scotland by our Society President, showing a nice northern scene complete with snow, and the panoramic view from Stirling Castle with the Wallace Monument...and Wallace himself (the statue!)



Friday, May 19, 2006

Aberdeen Golf Club

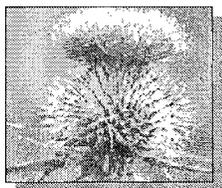
ANNUAL KILTED GOLF

4-person scramble: \$90/person: 1:00pm T
Fee includes cart, post-golf food and music

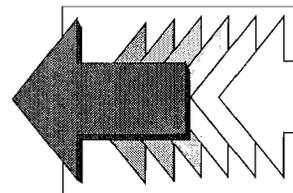
Prizes for men, women, mixed teams.

It's a fun event, reserve a space now

Contact: Jim McLaren (info below)



**Know anyone interested
In joining the Society
Call Alex Sutherland
At (636) 519 7979**



Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. Comments, new material, and letters to the Editor:

Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017

or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@strathkirk.com.

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>

The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979