



The Thistle

November/December 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Caledonian Club,
Welcome new members & thanks to all the members who have participated in making this a rewarding Scottish year.

The Piper in the Park every Sunday at Sunset has enlightened many guests to our historical Scottish roots, and the Caledonian Club's involvement in contributing to Sarasota's growth in modern times.

Our 30-year history as a Scottish organization is something to be very proud about. The Heritage Luncheon was a great success and it was grand to hear John LaHurd speak to us on Sarasota Scottish history. Thank you to all the volunteers that made it a truly wonderful afternoon.

This year our Club had the opportunity to share the media limelight by participating in the Sarasota Lawn Bowling Club US Open Championships. Fourteen nations and over 200 athletes from around the world participated in the event that took place between November 12th through November 19th. Thank-you to all who volunteered and to helped celebrate their 89th year as a club founded by our Scottish ancestors on 1927.

We are having a membership table available on Thursday the 17th and Friday the 18th of November from 4pm to 9pm and Saturday the 19th from 9am till 4pm. inside the City Municipal Auditorium. See the expo, meet the people, & inform them about the Caledonian Club. The press & TV will be covering this great event.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2016-2017

President: Robert Howard

Vice President: Janice Iversen

Treasurer: Bob Kradoska

Secretary: Vivienne Sivak

Membership Director: Sioux Hurley

Director: Alice Flint

Director: Frank MacIntire

Director: Diane Kemp

Director: Allan McIlraith

Past President: Bill Wallace

Our Christmas Luncheon at the Meadows is coming up in, December and the Highland Games is scheduled for February.

I look forward to seeing all of you our supporting the Caledonian Club as we grow with new friends.

Your President,
Robert Howard

THE HERITAGE LUNCH



The Annual Heritage Luncheon has come and gone. A great time was had by all, judging by the very lively chatter as we caught up with one another after the long, hot summer. Sixty-two people found their way to River Strand Country Club on Sunday, October 23, and listened to a fun and informative talk by Jeff LaHurd, a witty fellow and host of information on the early Scots who settled Sarasota. This was our first venture to River Strand and everyone seemed to enjoy both the lovely surroundings and delicious food. Thank you to our Piper, Kevin Wiegand who welcomed us as we arrived and then piped in our President and current board.

Obviously, these events do not just happen ... it takes a lot of planning, preparation, and organization by countless volunteers as well as many hands on the day of the event.

Special thanks to our many helping hands Joanne Anastasia, Bob & Shona Burtner, Janice Iversen, Paul & Caryn Johnson, Diane Kemp, Al & Phyllis McIlraith, Larry & Vivienne Sivak, Peg Tonn and Bill Wallace.

Vivienne Sivak and Janice Iversen
Committee Co-Chairs

SCHEDULE FOR PIPER IN THE PARK

The Caledonian Club's fresh creating quite a stir at sunset on from Marina Jacks restaurant.

The program was initiated on lady Blue Skye Pipes and Drums, a performances will be staged

Each Sunday evening, about 20 minutes before sundown, a member of the Club leads a "parade" from O'Leary's restaurant along the north side of Bayfront Park to the Sarasota Sister Cities Walk, waving proudly the Saltire (national flag of Scotland and the oldest national flag in the world – circa 849) and followed by the piper(s) and another Club member who passes out "Piper in the Park" information cards to all onlookers.



marketing effort, "Piper in the Park" is Sunday evenings at Bayfront Park, across

Sunday, October 16 and featured the all-Celtic performance band. Weekly through the end of April.

At Sister Cities Walk, a 10-15 performance by the piper(s) precedes the brief walk to the Dolphin Fountain where the sun is laid to rest for another day to the strains of “Amazing Grace”.

The Club has been most gratified with the response from the several area pipe bands and individual pipers. In addition to the Blue Skye group, Pipe bands include the Shriners Pipes and Drums, Loch Ness Pipers, those from both Riverview High School and the Sarasota Military Academy as well as individual pipers Kevin Wiegand and Robert Thierfelder.

Current members assisting are Robert Howard, Janice Iversen, Paul and Caryn Johnson, Frank MacIntire and Mary Ellen McMahon and Bill Wallace (yes, we could always use more!)

Piper in the Park follows last year’s four programs featuring the “Great Estates of Scotland” in partnership with Selby Public Library, viewed by some 400 members and area residents.

For a moving close to your week, come with your friends and join the music on Sunday evenings at sundown in this Scottish city of Sarasota and grab a bite to eat at O’Leary’s afterward.

PIPER IN THE PARK SCHEDULE

November 20th will be The Riverview Kilties

November 27th will be Blue Skye Pipes and Drums

December 4th will be The Sarasota Military Academy Pipe Band

December 11th will be The Loch Ness Pipers

December 18th will be The Shriners Pipe Band

December 25th will be Robert Thierfelder

NAME BADGES

Name Badges are available to our members. They are attractively designed, purple in color and logo in white. They are made by an engraving company in Sarasota. If you would like to order a name badge, please send payment of \$10.00 to our Treasurer: Robert Kradoska, 821 Simpson Falls Court, Sarasota, FL 34243 Please specify pin or magnet.

BOOK ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr. Richard Baise
Committee Members: Jean Wallace, Dr. Edward Hamilton, and Joanne Anastasia

BEST OF LAWN BOWLERS ARRIVE IN SARASOTA

More than two hundred competitors from fourteen countries rolled their “bowls” quietly over the tight-knit grass all week, seeking the ultimate goal – being the last one “closest to the “jack” – that little white ball at the other end of the green.

Travel seemed no problem as contestants arrived from all corners of the globe – Scotland, England, Canada and the U. S. of course - but also from as far away as Australia and New Zealand, Israel and Pakistan!

Competition was at all levels – Singles, Doubles, Triples and Fours. The opening ceremonies were assisted by members of the Caledonian Club, including President, Robert Howard; Past President Bill Wallace and new member Robert Thierfelder. Many Caledonians and former Caledonians were in attendance, including Sandra and George Whitelaw, who some years ago, returned to their native Scotland and returned as world-class bowlers to compete again.

Opening the ceremony was the Sarasota Military Academy Pipes and Drums, which is led by local piper and instructor Kevin Wiegand.

As part of the week-long activities, a “Health and Lifestyle Exposition” was held the last three days - a few steps away at the Sarasota Auditorium. Assisting at the Expo’s Caledonian Booth were Alice Flint, Sioux and Jim Hurley, Frank MacIntire and Mary Ellen McMahon, Al McIlraith and Robert and Bill.

Place a hold on your 2017 November Calendar – the Championships will be held for a second consecutive year here in Sarasota, again hosted by the local lawn bowling club.



Lawn Bowling the Opening Ceremonies

THE CALEDONIAN AND ST. ANDREWS CHRISTMAS



The joint Caledonian and St. Andrews Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 11:30. The location is The Meadows Country Club. 3101 Longmeadow, Sarasota, FL

ENTERTAINMENT BY THE MEADOWS CHORUS

If you have not yet received your invitation, along with rsvp information, please call Anne Wolfe [\(941\)747-0170](tel:9417470170). As this is always a popular event, please respond ASAP.

We are also asking everyone to remember those less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year, by donating either cash or a gift card to All Faiths Food Bank.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



More and more, Sarasota area residents are becoming aware they “Live in a Scottish City” thanks to early settlers coming from Glasgow, Scotland in 1885, and that awareness, plus the Caledonian Club’s extensive activities, has enlarged the Club’s membership substantially over the past 18 months.

In that period, from our Annual General Meeting in May, 2016 to November 2017, membership jumped by 39 members, from 108 to 147, up 36%; and in just the past six months, 16 new members have joined our merry band.

Since the September “Thistle” new members you can greet warmly include:

Chris Webber and Janice Libby both of whom have Scottish ancestry. Chris’ great grandmother was Rebecca Crawford, descendent of Margaret de Crawford, the mother of Scotland’s renowned patriot, William Wallace! Janice grandfather was a Craig from Auchtermuchty in Fife. They’re Pennsylvanians who happened by our tent at February’s Scottish Games.

Laura Kiah and her son Ryker are recent arrivals in Sarasota from the cold winters of Colorado - to be closer to her parents. They’ve fallen in love with our sunshine and beaches and Laura has developed a passion for all things Scottish. Laura is the local project manager for Empower Retirement and Ryker loves school - but Lego, swimming and his bike even more!

Elizabeth (Liz) Marshall and hubby John spent their careers in Washington, DC, Liz in telecommunications for the public-school system and John in Amtrak management. Liz, whose great grandfather maintained the family history, is among the 7th generation of Andrew Balfour of Edinburgh. Living now in Englewood, Liz is a fancier of history and travel; John continues a lifelong love of automobiles.

Both John and Terri Tumlin share Scottish roots – John descended from both Bruce and Ferguson clans; Terri from the McKays of the Scottish Highlands. John had a career in higher education as a professor, and for 10 years, acted on stage – mostly in Shakespearean productions. They enjoy writing, cycling, golf, photography, acting, travel and genealogy.

Sue and Tom Pound are both Michiganders and Sue's mother was from Dundee. Both worked in industry in Michigan, Sue with GE, Continental Tire and Bosch Automotive; Tom for Continental Tire for 37 years (think "steady employment!"). Sue's great aunt, a Sarasotan since 1947 who owned the first hotel on Longboat Key, encouraged them to retire here. They enjoy volunteering, sports, and theatre.

Jennifer Meinert was the first of her family to be born in America, her parents being "Londoners" (UK that is). Calling New York City home, she was for many years a pediatric occupational therapist. She tells of a relative who wandered off to Scotland sometime in the 1800's, married a Scot, and was never heard from again! Well, we hope to hear much more from Jennifer, who enjoys needlework and travel.

Dundee was also home to Jackie Hall. She met husband John, from Hull, England and they married in 1988. European "snowbirds", when here they reside in North Port. Longing for well-known UK sports, they both enjoy lawn bowling, curling and golf. They joined after hearing President Robert talking about the lawn bowling championships here this month.

JUST A REMINDER: One doesn't need to be Scottish to enjoy the Club, just their interest in Scottish history and culture is more than ample! One of our best ambassadors is new member Barbara Driscoll, who has brought in three additional members since joining last year.

CALEDONIANS SUPPORT THE SELBY LIBRARY

The Friends of the Selby Public Library organization thanks the Caledonian Club for their very generous donation of \$100.

The gift will be used to help support free library programs and events for adults and children of all ages.

The Caledonian Club's business card is to appear in the upcoming issue of the Friends Newsletter.

CORRECTION TO THE SARASOTA TARTAN ARTICLE

As your editor, I would like to make a correction to last month's *Sarasota Tartan* article.



It was stated in the last paragraph "The Club's sponsorship requires the Caledonian Club to name a "City Director" who becomes a member of the Sister Cities Association of Sarasota(SCAS) and with his (her) counterpart in Dunfermline creates citizen exchanges in the arts, business, education, sports and government."

The word "requires" is not accurate. The Club's "sponsorship" does not require the Caledonian Club to name a City Director. Sister Cities is a totally separate organization from the Caledonian Club and is governed by its own Board of Directors and its own By-Laws.

All Country's City Directors, are nominated by a Sister Cities Nominating Committee consisting of Board members of Sister Cities. Those names of officers running, are put on a ballot and voted on at their Annual General Meeting which is open to all Sister City membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Lunch – December 3rd
This is a joint event with St Andrews Society. Mr. and Mrs. Clause have promised to drop by.

Frugal Night - January 9th
(tentative)

Highland Games - February 4 –
Alice Flint continues to need members to help out at the games. Members would man our booth and help where needed.

Thistle Ball – March 25 – to be held
at Palm Aire Country Club

BOOK ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr. Richard
Baise

Committee Members: Jean
Wallace, Dr. Edward
Hamilton, and Joanne
Anastasia

SPECIAL CHAIRPERSONS

Ambassadors: Bill Wallace, Robert Howard, and
Barbara Driscoll

Membership: Sioux Faragher-Hurley

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Nancy

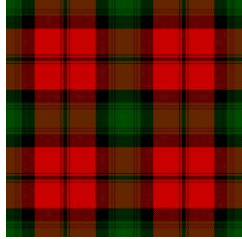
Tidrick **Sunshine Secretary:** Jean
Wallace

Book Acquisitions: Dr. Richard Baise

Media Coordinator: Pat Borland

SCOTTISH TARTANS OWNED BY THE CALEDONIAN CLUB

As promised here is the next in my series on tartans owned by the Caledonian Club. We will start with Clan Cameron. This particular tartan was donated by former member John Helford.



The Basic Clan Cameron Tartan

This tartan has sixteen green squares upon a red background set, with a bright yellow bordering, is for general use by all members of Clan Cameron. If one tartan had to be singled out for general use by Camerons worldwide, Basic Clan Cameron would be the one. As is the case with most clan tartans, this is one is a modern version of the clan tartan and was accepted by the then Lochiel. It very much resembles an old red and green square set which can be viewed in the West Highlands Museum in Fort William. There are also several other variations.

About the Clan Cameron

The Cameron clan is one of the proudest and most romantic clans in Scotland. From its beginnings in the middle ages, the Clan's early history is notable for the constant battle for possession of land in Lochaber claimed, at different times, by various clans and most notably by the Mackintoshes with whom the Camerons feuded for over 300 years.

The chief of the clan is known as 'Cameron of Lochiel'. The remarkable adherence of Clan Cameron to the Royalist and Jacobite causes was evidenced by both the famous Sir Ewen Cameron (17th chief) during the civil war and Donald Cameron (the 'Gentle Lochiel' and 19th chief) whose support for Prince Charles Edward Stuart during the rising of 1745 was crucial.

After the battle of Culloden in 1746 and the failure of the Rising, the clan system was destroyed and although the forfeited estates were restored in 1784, the Cameron chiefs were now subject to the rule of law and to economic realities. In 1802, Achnacarry Castle (current home of the Cameron chiefs) was designed by the architect James Gillespie Graham and became the Clan's focal point over the next two centuries.

In the last century, the clan has been fortunate to have had farsighted chiefs who have contributed much to the Highlands. Sir Donald Walter Cameron (25th chief) who raised three battalions for The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in World War 1 and Sir Donald Hamish (26th chief). The current chief is Donald Angus Cameron (27th chief) who is Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire.

This description of the Cameron Clan was taken from the website for "Annacarry" which was the ancestral home of the Cameron Clans. Current they rent our holiday and vacation lodging located next to the original castle structure. <http://www.achnacarry.com/history> After reading the history and you want accommodations click on their home page link.

A Note from your editor: Please excuse the slightly off format of this edition. My computer crashed several weeks ago and this is the best I can do right now as I work to recover my files.