

See page 6 for information.



Piper's Dram

By: Rob Hanold

Competition day, RI Highland Games. This is the band's I<sup>st</sup> competition of the season. The pipers have worked hard all winter, while dealing with an uncertain drum corps. Two nights before the Games, we had an extra practice, and the band sounded better than we had in many months. The chanters were matched, well tuned, and the drummers finally knew their settings.

But nothing goes according to plan. We changed bass drummers at the last minute, because of an uneven bass line. The opening ceremony is the bane of the competing band. While we want to be fine-tuning our medley under our tent, we a required to pipe in the ceremony. I enjoy the marching and playing, while fearing that my lip will get tired and be unable to maintain proper air pressure in the bag.

At 1:30 we got to work on our pipes, and everything started to go wrong. I thought we would be spared, especially after the reed problems of the morning. I had arrived early to help my student Andrew with his morning solo competition. He is such a strong blower that he blew out his reed, and a backup reed that morning while warming up. He blew out my reed, so I gave him a new reed that worked well for him. We got all this fixed with just a few minutes to spare.

But other reeds were going hay-wire as the weather cleared, and the air started to dry out. As we were called into the circle, we were still trying to get the reeds to match each other.





Two pipers, who had worked so hard for months, were cut at the last minute, because of reed problems. When we struck our bags, two pipers sounded ahead of the beat, with ugly squawking sounds, and the opportunity was lost. We played well enough, but the damage was done—3<sup>rd</sup> out of 4 bands.

So we go back to work, hoping to do better at Loon Mountain, where there will be many more bands in our grade level. While disappointed, I had a good time. My pipes did not let me down, as I had to pipe the clans onto the field. This involved marching right past my old band, the RI Highlanders, so I had to be prepared.

Unfortunately, this year there were some bands missing from the games - specifically

the "Worcester Kilties", a fine old grade 3 band with a long distinguished history.

Having been inactive for a long time, they restarted under the direction of the former Pipe Major of the Rhode Island Highlanders.

After many months of practice their Pipe Major determined they were not up to competition standards and withdrew their participation in these games.

It was quite disappointing that they were not afforded this opportunity to play as it impacted all of us – as the remaining bands (now being one band down) could not formally compete.

To compete and share the fellowship and growth experiences with other bands – even being last – should be the true spirit of the Scottish games. Some of that was lost on this day.



# North Sea Gas

By J. V. Houlihan, Jr.

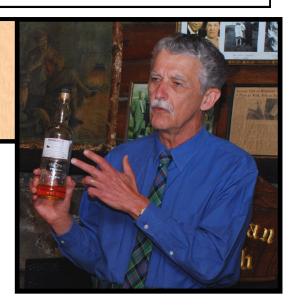


On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, North Sea Gas performed for the St. Andrew's Society. This was one memorable evening of music. Between the impeccable musicianship of the players: Dave Gilfillan, Ronnie Mac Donald, and Grant Simpson, and their precise comedic timing, it was hard to process all that was going on. Moreover, their harmonies gave every song they sang a strong emotional pull. They sang a fine balance of material, ranging from sentiments of love and longing, to the commercialization of Rosslyn chapel, resulting from "The Davinci Codes" recent popularity. The funniest note of the evening-pun intended- was the following. Dave Gilfillan says with patriarchal sincerity, "My daughter married a mushroom farmer last week; he was a fun guy." There was a five second pause, and silence in the audience, then Dave repeated, "Fungi," and the audience finally got it, and roared with laughter. North Sea Gas is indeed a group of very talented Fun Guys, and a great time was had by all. I'll be in the front row again next year.

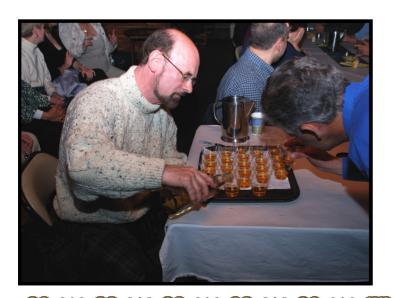


# WHISKY TASTING BY GLEN FAIRBAIRN

We had our annual Whisky Tasting on April 27th at the Anawan Cabin in Mass. The Tasting was another outstanding SASRI event with the Master of Ceremonies, John Aulerich, taking us on a tour of Scotland's Single Malts! The Whiskies were complimented by some awesome hors d'oeuvres, that were just enough to let us recharge our palettes. The festivities were enjoyed by all, with several non-tasters insuring that the tasters were not bothered by anything that would interfere with the matter at hand....tasting great single malts! John's right hand man this time was Peter Dell, who 'engineered' the pouring so that not a drop was wasted!! For those of you who missed this tasting, Keep your eye out for the next tasting and come join us.





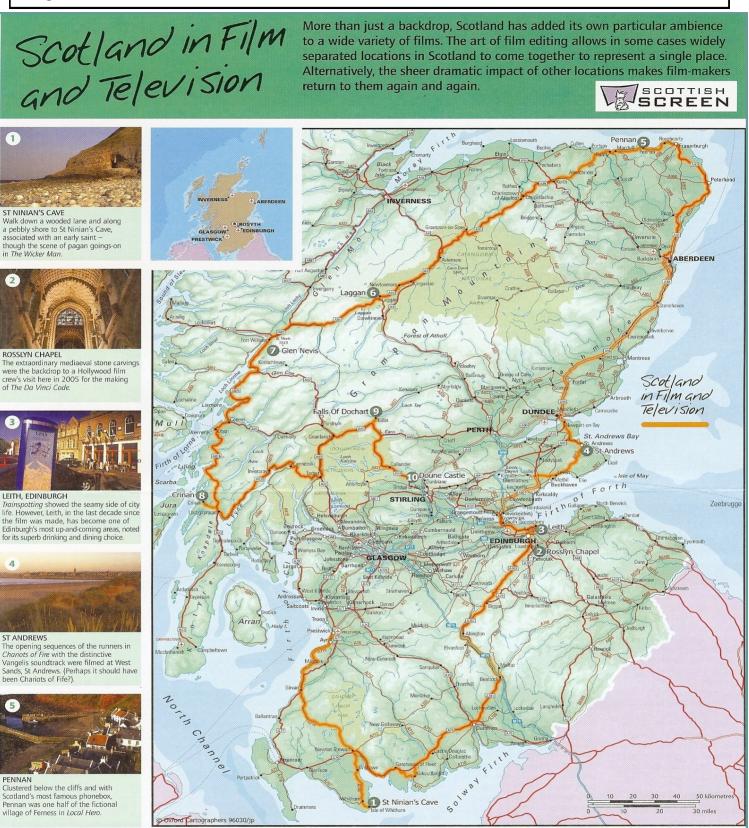




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**SPRING 2008** 

Volume 88, Issue 2





The successful and widely exported TV series *Monarch of the Glen* was filmed in a variety of locations around the village of Laggan, when it became the fictional village of Glenboole. GLEN NEVIS With some of Scotland's finest scenery

easily accessible, film-makers have used

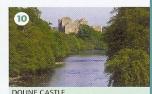
and Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fin

this location repeatedly – for example, for scenes in *Braveheart, Rob Roy, Highlander* 



The spectacular boat chase scenes near the end of *From Russia with Love* were filmed in the waters just off Crinan, where the Crinan Canal reaches the sea. FALLS OF DOCHART An impressive series of rapids in the middle of Killin has played its part in Scottish scene setting – for example in *Canno Royale* and the 1959 remake

of The 39 Step.



Forever associated with *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* – and still very much a place of 'pilgrimage' for Monty Python fans.



# **USA v Scotland - Polo**

Saturday June 21st, 5:00pm

Glen Farm, 715 East Main Road (Route 138) Portsmouth, RI

6 miles north of downtown Newport.

Tailgate picnics on the lawn are welcome with field-side admission of \$10.00 for adults. Children 15 & under are free! Great Family Event.

The Mystic Highland Pipe band will perform before the match, the Scots National anthem and at half time.

The Scots' fifth appearance in the USA-they lead the series 3-1.



We invite you to join us for an enjoyable late afternoon game. SASRI will have a tent on site. Remember your chairs, and bring your best cheering voice. Hope to see you there.

Annette D. Cla

**SPRING 2008** 



Lady MacLean Meets Penelope

CARD PARA

Lady MacLean meets Penelope, member of the Rhode Island St. Andrew's Society who was on tour in Scotland with the Little British Car Co. May, 2008.

SPRING 2008



celtic music reviews

By Ruth Gravel

#### **My Favorite Summer Festivals**



**Saturday, June 28th— Western Mass Highland Games**:-You saw them at the RI Games \*Rathkeltair" with fabulous piper Neil Anderson back from Iraq. Prydein Celtic band with bagpipes. Fiddler Katherine First. <u>www.wmhg.org</u>

**Saturday and Sunday, July 4th and 5th—: New Bedford Summerfest:** Laura Cortese: great Celtic fiddler/step dancer. Eileen Ivers + Immigrant Soul: Celtic. Malinky: Scottish folk. And much more music of all kinds. <u>www.newbedforsummerfest.com</u> \*A great festival.

**Saturday, July 19th-** \*GLASGOW LANDS Scottish Festival: 9:00am-9:30pm \*Enter the Haggis 7:00pm (my personal favorite), The Rising, Charlie Zahm, more. <u>www.glasgowland.org</u> Nice festival, pretty setting.

**Saturday, July 19th- RI's own Blackstone River Theatre Celtic Festival,** Diamond Hill Park,Rte 114,Cumberland,RI: wonderful fiddler US National Scottish Fiddle Champion: Hanneke Cassel +her Trio, RI's Pendragon, Paddy Keenan (don't miss him), Bua, Aoife Clancy & Robbie O'Connell, more <u>www.riverfolk.org</u> see schedule



## Board of Directors

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The 5th international polo match between the USA and Scotland at Portsmouth, north of Newport Rhode Island, began for the first time with the Mystic Highland Pipe Band in Full Regimental Dress playing "Flower of Scotland" which the Scottish contingent in the crowd enjoyed immensely. The horses, on the other hand were not so sure and pinned their ears back, looked skittish, but endured. The Scottish team had arrived in the US a day late due to a flight cancellation and heavy traffic in New York, so they missed a warm-up match in Virginia. Their problems continued as the Scot's number 1 had to leave the field injured in the middle of the second chukka - an American had to be loaned to make up the Scots team. So by half time Scotland were 5 goals down, despite the vociferous support of a contingent from the St Andrew's Society of Rhode Island. At half-

time, the pipe band gave a flawless display of sword dancing! Maybe that inspired the Scots team because they held on in the 4th and 5th chukkas, but were still 5 goals down entering the final session. Then a miracle "nearly" happened - the Scots scored three goals and a penalty, leaving the score at 14-15 in favor of the US. Hanging on grimly, the US team managed another goal in the dying seconds of the match. The final score of 14-16 was the highest score of all the matches between the two teams so far. The Mystic Highland Pipe Band offered the "Dark Isle" in commiseration. But Scotland remain 3-2 ahead in the series - and are looking forward already to next year!

Celtic Music

SASRI

Country & Ceilidh

Dance Class

FALL DANCE SCHEDULE

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Review

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Graeme J.W.Smith



**Piper's Dram** By: Rob Hanold

Another season of band and solo competition is almost over. Once again there have been moments of satisfaction and frustration. My band, Crann Tara, has finished as high as 3<sup>rd</sup>, and as low as 10<sup>th</sup>. We have been relaxed and well-tuned, and tense and terribly tuned. Our worst performance was at Hunter Mountain, a 400 mile round trip. The most satisfying aspect of the season has been the progress of one of my piping students. From a musical family, Andrew is highly motivated and focused. He always finds time to practice, even when faced with large doses of academic homework.

After two years Andrew showed interest in competition. I had never pushed him in that direction, in part because of the subjectivity and inconsistency of the judging, not to mention occasional instances of favoritism. Since he was determined, we set to work. He played the band tunes so well, we could afford to direct our attention to different music. I won't bore you with the requirements in the different grades. After 9 months, Andrew was ready. Grade 4 pipers are the 1<sup>st</sup> to play, so we had to be ready at 8:00 am. He was unlucky enough to draw the 1<sup>st</sup> slot on the morning's schedule. His pipes were tuned nicely, and he was surprisingly relaxed. We waited and paced in front of a vacant judge's table. Finally, 25 minutes late, the judge arrived with coffee and a cigarette. He sat down, looking very uninterested. Andrew introduced himself, named his tune, and played.





He played well, although his tone sagged a bit towards the end. This may have been a musical expression of his sagging confidence. While Andrew may have been disheartened, I was angry. During the entire piece of music, the judge continued to smoke and drink. Later in the day Andrew retrieved his score sheet from the steward's table. The judge placed him near the bottom of the roster, but gave no reasons. The score sheet was almost blank. This is surprising, because there are columns and checklists referring to drones, chanter, tempo, phrasing, interpretation, tone, etc. The judge's apathy was an insult to Andrew. I felt very sorry for his disappointment.

Determined to prove the judge wrong, Andrew entered another, larger competition. He played very well to a different judge, and at the end of the day was rewarded with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place and, more importantly, an AGL. This acronym is Above Grade Level, meaning that in the judge's opinion the piper is playing above his current grade, and should move up to the next, more demanding grade. We both felt vindicated, although I can't help feeling the same old frustration because of the inconsistent degree of professionalism from some judges.

# Postgraduate programme in Genealogical Studies at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland

2008



In 2006 Strathclyde University launched the **Postgraduate programme in Genealogical Studies** to address the need for an intensive, practitioner-led university-led award in Genealogical Studies. It is intended for those with an existing interest in Genealogy and related subjects who wish to study the subject in more detail and possibly use it in their careers. Now entering its third year, this is the only professional postgraduate university qualification on Genealogy, Family History, Heraldry, Records and Archives. The **Postgraduate Certificate** may be taken on Campus by attendance or Online, and the **Postgraduate Diploma** is fully online from the next session.

These courses run from January to July with a Project or Dissertation to be submitted mid-August.

The **Postgraduate Certificate** deals mainly but not exclusively with British (Scottish, English, Irish) subject matter. The **Postgraduate Diploma** extends and expands the Certificate topics and also addresses various overseas records in more detail. A one-year follow-on **Masters Degree** is planned.

#### **Entry Qualifications**

These courses are not aimed primarily at UK students. So far we have had students from the USA and Canada, and applications are already in from New Zealand, Australia, Africa and elsewhere. Applicants should normally have a degree or equivalent, but other appropriate professional qualifications and experience will be considered.

Note: Entry to the Postgraduate Diploma is by successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate.

#### **Course dates and Application**

For Session 2008-09 courses start in January 2009. Applications should be submitted by 13 October 2008. There are full details at <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/cll/cpd/genealogy/">www.strath.ac.uk/cll/cpd/genealogy/</a> or e-mail <a href="http://elaine.richman@strath.ac.uk">elaine.richman@strath.ac.uk</a>

Please feel free to send this information to interested parties, use in newsletters, on websites etc.

Dr Bruce Durie, Course Director, Genealogical Studies, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

ALSO – see the International Genealogy Festival – part of Homecoming Scotland 2009 at www.strath.ac.uk/homecomingscotland



# A Special Visit From the President of the Robert Burns World Federation

2008



John MacLean, member of the SASRI Board and Chairman of the Burns Anniversary Committee of Rhode Island, was pleasantly surprised when on Sunday, August 3rd he received a phone call from John Haining, the President of the Robert Burns World Federation who was visiting in this country and presently vacationing in Narragansett, Rhode Island before proceeding to other locations.

John has been a very active president, having attended about 150 functions including 25 Burns Suppers. It was evident that he enjoyed meeting the members of our committee and certainly proved to be a wonderful ambassador of the Robert Burns World Federation.



John has since completed his term of office on September 7th at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne where he turned over the Founder's Chain to his successor. Before he left Scotland John had made a point of checking to see if there was a Burns club in Rhode Island and took down the information regarding the R.I. affiliate Number 1007.



Our Motto "A man's a man for a' that"

Our Secretary, Betty MacLean, checked with other Burns Committee board members and it was decided to hold a small reception at the MacLean residence for the President John and his wife, Ruth.

With special help from Joyce Dell, Bethia Rosner, Richmond Cargill, Robin Tremblay and other members of the Committee, a delightful cocktail and supper repast was put together to honor our overseas visitor.

By Betty MacLean

#### A WARM SCOTTISH WELCOME HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ALL OUR MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE 2008 ST. ANDREW'S BALL, TORONTO, CANADA.



The ball is co-sponsored by the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada and the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto. Many of our members have attended this event in the past, only to bring back rave reviews.

They invite us to join them for an elegant evening on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, where formally attired guests will be piped in to the Canadian Room, following a reception that begins at 6pm.

Dinner music will be provided by the Pipers of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders. The "Address to the Haggis" will set the stage for a wonderful dinner (haggis included).

The Ball commences with the traditional Grand March to the Canadian Room, where the Pipes and Drums of the 48<sup>th</sup> will play stirring jigs and reels for Ceilidh Dancing. Meanwhile Scottish Country Dancing, to the lively music of Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent brings the Ballroom to life.

The Ball will end with a display by the full band of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada.

As one who has attended, this is an extremely elegant event and the opportunity for a long weekend of sightseeing in Toronto. If you would like any more information, please contact Joyce at 334-2448.



### **SASRI Country & Ceilidh Dance Class FALL DANCE SCHEDULE**

Location: 7 Legion Way, Cranston Time: Doors open 7.15 pm Class starts: 7.30pm

September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 October 6<sup>th</sup>, 20, 27<sup>th</sup> November 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

<u>Note: No dancing on November 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the</u> <u>hall being used for Election Day.</u>







Flowers of the Forest George E. McDonald

#### **Upcoming Events**

October 12<sup>th</sup> - Scotland Games and Annual General Meeting Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Tartan Bash.



**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE** Members Graeme Smith and Alex Allardt recently received the Doris Duke/ Newport Restoration Foundation Preservation Award for the extensive restoration they have done on their home in Newport. The award was presented during a dinner at the Doris Duke Mansion. This year there were only three awards presented – one to a mansion, one to Fort Adams and one to our good friends Graeme and Alex.



Board Member Brother Enoch Valentine nurtures his roses.



**Celtic Thunder** Dunkin Donuts Centre, Providence, 10/29 at 8pm, Agganis Theatre, Boston, 10/28



Brigadoon Musical Colonial Theatre, Boston – Oct. 17, 18, 19,

A Christmas Celtic Sojourn PPAC, Providence – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm







**30th Anniversary Maine Highland Games, 2008** Jena Fairbairn was crowned the first New England Woman's Amateur champion. Well deserved with a tough battle with 1st year athlete Alison Tostevin. We look forward to the their meeting for the championship next year!

2008

## celtic music reviews

By Ruth Gravel



#### Also at the Blackstone River Theatre

- November 16th, **BUA**, high energy Irish Triad music.
- December 6th, a special holiday show featuring **Pendragon** Victorian carolers and others.



**Emerald Rae Trio,** Emerald Rae is a National Scottish Fiddle Champion and step dancer. Playing November 1st at the Blackstone River Theatre.

#### The Aine Minogue Annual Winter Solstice Concert will be December 20th in Portsmouth, R.I. at Common Fence Music

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