

AUTUMN 2019



# The Pine Tree Highlander

*A Publication of the St. Andrews Society of Maine*

## 2019 Highland Games One for the Books

By George Newell

*Clan Secretary*

Well, another Games has come and gone, and preparations are already underway for 2020. A huge “Thank You” goes out to our Honored Clan for 2019, Clan Donnachaidh, for helping us to make the 41st Annual Maine Highland Games & Scottish Festival a tremendous success.

The festivities began on Friday night at the Ceilidh with some delicious camp stew and homemade bread, courtesy of the 74th Argyll Highlanders, and a Scottish tradition, haggis, provided by W. A. Bean & Sons; piped in and properly “addressed” by George P.

The food was welcomed heartily, and warmed us all on that cool evening. A few guests even had a little something else to “warm the heart” but that was unofficial.

The music was festive and lively causing one little girl to break into spontaneous dance. We all got a chance to warm up when Clan Donnachaidh started our round of war cries and then put the torch to another tradition at the Ceilidh: the burning of the castle. A special thank you goes out to Bill McKeen for providing the castle each year, a structure large enough to warm us all while sending flames 20 feet in the air. When checking out the photos of the burning castle, my pareidolia kicked in. I could swear that the flames looked just like a Scottie dog. Maybe I should have partaken of a little more of that “other warming substance” and perhaps the dog would have barked at me.

Saturday started out a bit chilly, but the cooler weather would end up helping to boost the crowd sizes. Early on, I could tell it was going to be a good day, as I received a wonderful present from the Honored Clan. I had emailed them a month or two back, letting them know about “the tradition”, one which I had conveniently just thought up at that moment. I told them it was a tra-

dition each year for the Honored Clan to buy the Clan Secretary a brand new SUV; and they came through with flying colors. I really like the Mercedes: thanks guys! I also have to compliment them on their war cry. Our photographer, Steve E. got a great photo of them at the Parade of Clans, and judging by the look on their faces, when they gave their war cry, I think they really meant it.

The weather held off and we had a wonderful day. With the good crowd sizes, the clan tents were busy and gave everyone an awesome display of clan culture and heritage. My pastor and his family came to the games (for the first time ever) and said the clan village was one of the best parts of the festival. He noted that all the clans showed great pride in their heritage, and were warm and welcoming to all visitors. His wife is a Campbell, and since I am also, I guess I can’t hold it against her. Of course, I’m part Campbell and part MacDonald, so if there’s going to be a battle, I’ll have to punch out my own lights.

With good fortune, no one will be punching out anyone’s lights and we’ll all meet again at the 42nd Annual Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival. And have another bonnie Scottish time.



**Donnachaidh clansmen,  
“fierce when roused.”**

# Report of the Nominations Committee

Greetings everyone! It's coming up on that time of the year when SASME will have its election for officers and governors. All officer and governor positions are voluntary, and we are privileged that members step forward to serve the organization; to help keep our heritage strong and vibrant. This year, we are fortunate to have a full slate for officers, and even have a competitive race or two. With some new names and faces slated for the ballot, the committee thought it would be helpful to include information about those who have offered to run for various offices or governor positions.

Listed below are some biographies and photos, along with the position each is seeking. We hope this information will help you to make informed choices for who you would like to see serving SASME. If any member in good standing would like to step up and be considered for an officer or governor position for 2021, please let a nominating committee member know, and we will be glad to speak to you about it. Sherry Smith can be reached at [scotswoman6@gmail.com](mailto:scotswoman6@gmail.com) and George Newell can be reached at [gen81465@yahoo.com](mailto:gen81465@yahoo.com) or 207-446-4141. The ballots will be generated in mid-October, and the election will run from Nov 1 through Nov 30, as usual.

## **LUANNE GRAY JACKSON:**

### ***(Running for the Office of Vice President)***

I live in Manchester with my husband Brian. I grew up in Wayne, Maine, moved to Alaska in 2006 and returned to Maine, loved Alaska, missed family and friends. My hobbies turned into a business, Northland Herbals. I am an Herbalist and make a line of herbal products, jewelry, quilts and table runners. I have worked as the Store manager for Levi Strauss and Vogue; and in Marketing, Public Relations, Event Planning at Sam's Club, both in Augusta, Maine. In Soldotna, Alaska I worked for The Kenai Peninsula, as their Marketing and Sales manager, and event planner; working on the travel for the Kenai the info and ads. As a volunteer, I have been the VFW Auxiliary President, Jay, Maine; Rotary International Vice-President, Soldotna, Alaska; Board of Trustees Fayette Town Library, Fayette, Maine; Saint Andrews Society of Maine member; and Alaska Scottish Club member.

## **BRENDON J. WHITTAKER**

### ***(Running for the Office of Treasurer)***

I am a 3rd generation American whose great grandmother migrated to Massachusetts from Nova Scotia, where her

parents had migrated to from Scotland. I claim Clan Chisholm, because that was my Great Grandmothers clan. I was born in Massachusetts and moved to Maine at the age of 21 to slow down and enjoy life a little more. I have a 2 year old daughter named Elowyn, who is the spotlight of any SASME event when she arrives. I am set to be married to my fiancée, Moriah Baribeau. Having completed an Associates Degree in Accounting at Central Maine Community College, I have the skill set and knowledge base to help an organization that I truly believe should be kept alive; not for myself, but for all the children of Scotland.

## **MARIE MACOMBER:**

### ***(Running for Office of Governor North)***

I'm Marie E Gould Macomber, serving as interim Governor North. I live in East Jay, ME, and would love to have more people join Saint Andrews Society of Maine in my area.

## **RUTH SHAW:**

### ***(Running for the Office of Governor East)***

Professionally, I have been employed since 1999 doing composition, design, and typography (telecommuting) for a non-profit institute in Boston that carries out research on air quality and promoting international air pollution accountability. I also do some local design work including party flyers for Belfast, and Brunswick/Topsham Scottish Dance parties.

I live in Belfast with my husband Dick Wilkins, who currently is in the process of assuming responsibilities for SASME and the Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival website. I am the proud mother of three grown children, and grandmother of eight beautiful grandchildren. I sing with the Penobscot Bay Singers and am a dedicated gardener, growing native plants for all the hundreds of pollinators sharing my garden, and also learning about and practicing carbon sequestering in my home gardens. I have been a beekeeper for over 10 years now, and I am just starting the long road to learning to be a good cheesemaker.

I have been involved with Scottish activities for at least half of my life. It began with falling in love with Scottish Country dancing, and dancing with great joy for almost 25 years. To my happy surprise this passion turned out to have deep connections with my family history. I am a Shaw, scion of the MacDuff clan, Aberdeenshire. Ten

# Report of the Nominations Committee

years ago I visited Scotland for two consecutive summers, traveling, admiring, and training to work with healing crystals at the Crystal Healing Academy located in Rhynie, accredited by the British Academy of Crystal Healing. Recently, I have had to forgo dancing due to breathing issues. However, I have taken up the bodhran and am learning to play piano with a small Celtic band, the Tattered Tartans. They entertain playing Scottish favorites, sharing the stage with the Belfast Scottish Country Dancers, together performing in nursing homes in the midcoast Maine area.

Since 2016 I have been working with SASME helping with design, publishing, and advertising for the Maine Highland Games, generally attending Board and Games meetings, as a non-voting participant. I hope to engage more fully with the Board, and Games planning in the new position of Governor.

## **JAMES HART:**

### ***(Running for the Office of Governor East)***

I was born in Glasgow, Scotland and started my drumming career when I was around 4/5 years old. I always wanted to play drums even though my father wanted me to be a piper. He would take me to pipe lessons but I always ended up with the drummers. I was around 9 when I started to play with the Kinning Park Pipes and Drums and we played really quite well for a bunch of kids, picking up some trophies as we went along the way. After playing for a few years I tried something different and played with an accordion band. The drumming was totally different and a lot easier, so it was not long before I took over as lead drummer and stayed with them, on and off, until I was 18.

But my passion was always to be a Scottish Soldier and I always wanted to drive a tank, so I joined the Royal Armour Corps as a tank driver. Whilst I was in training I was asked if I would like to join the RSDG's Pipes and Drums, as they were the training regiment at the time, but I was not really interested in drumming anymore. After completing training I joined my regiment "Scotlands own" 4th Royal Tank Regiment in Germany. I was working one day on my tank when 2 guys wearing tartan trews (*Editor's Note: trews = Scottish's pants*) turned up and informed me that the Pipe Major wanted to see me. I went to see him and the Band President and was asked if I could help out playing, as they had most of the drummers back in the UK on training and there was a big show being put together in the town where we were stationed.

I agreed to help out and was sent to get my uniform from the tailor shop. The show was a success and I duly returned to the tailor on Monday morning only to be told that the Commanding Officer had transferred me to the P's & D's !!

As much I was not wanting anything to do with being in the band, I must admit it was the start of a great career. I got to play all over the world, in places like Denmark, Sweden, Germany, USA, Canada, Italy, Belgium, France, Venezuela South America, Cyprus, Russia and of course then the Edinburgh tattoo in Scotland a few times. It must have been fate that I come all the way to Ellsworth, Maine and find a Pipe band! This duly rekindled the spark and I returned to playing as lead drummer with the Maine Saint Andrews Pipes and Drums and also as their Drum Major. It is now an honour and a privilege to be Drum Major for the Saint Andrews Society of Maine at their Highland Games for the last 3 years and hopefully do so for as long as they would want me to. As a Scot, I am proud that there are so many people who keep the traditions of their clans going, and I feel at home when I am amongst all the Tartan even though it is just for a day.



**The St. Andrews Society of Maine**

**Invites you to:**

**The Kirkin' o' the Tartan**

**Sunday, November 10, 2019**

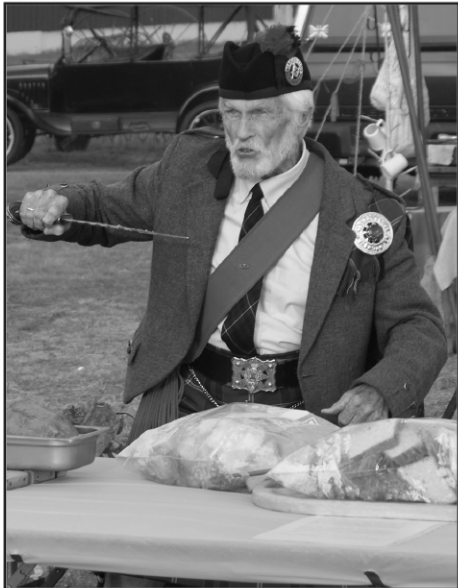
**10:10 am**

**Mid Coast Presbyterian Church**

**84 Main Street Topsham, Maine**



**2019 Games  
and Ceilidh  
Photos by  
Steve and  
Dottie  
Edmondson**





## Harp Performances at the Games



Celtic Harper Jo Morrison led a harp ensemble workshop at the Maine Highland Games. The group worked on traditional tunes arranged for ensembles, as well as some of her original compositions inspired by her travels in Scotland.

A Harp Circle Performance followed the workshop. Members of the audience were invited to come up and “try a harp” at the end of the performance.

Jo, and her husband Wayne, left, performed at Fiddler’s Glen later in the afternoon.

# NHSCOT FUND

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*The Maine Highland Games and  
Scottish Festival would like to acknowledge,  
with thanks, the kind support of the*

**NHSCOT FUND**

*<https://nhscot.org/nhscotfund>*

# SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 30, 2019

## Saint Andrew's Day Scottish Festival

2:00 - 4:00 pm

**First Parish Federated Church**

150 Main Street, South Berwick, ME 03908

featuring: "A,B,D"

*(this is not the name of a group, simply the initials of the performing artists' last names.)*

**Elizabeth & Ben Anderson, Fiddle and Cello**, a Boston-based Scottish duo, has an enthusiastic following in the U.S. and internationally. Elizabeth, a Berklee School of Music graduate, is the 2016 All-Scotland Fiddle Champion. Ben studies computer science and music at WPI. Their CD "*Over the Isles*" is critically acclaimed.



**Ursa Beckford, Highland Pipes.**

Generally regarded as Maine's best-ever piper, Ursa has competed successfully in the US and abroad. He is pictured here holding an armful of trophies earned in one day's competition at the prestigious Cowal Gathering in Dunoon, Scotland.

**Dominique Dodge, Harp**, a former Fulbright Scholar, is a 2012 Graduate of the University of Limerick and also holds a BA Honours in Scottish Music from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.



**Reserved Donation in advance \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors and Students.**

**Make checks payable to North Berwick Historical Society and send to: 4 Bridge St., Berwick, ME 03901**

***Donation at the Door on Nov. 30 will be \$20 Adults, \$15 Seniors and Students***

SAINT ANDREWS SOCIETY OF MAINE  
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...TELL YOUR FRIENDS**

*St. Andrews Society of Maine*  
*2020 Robert Burns Luncheon*



**12 Noon, Saturday, 25 January...On the  
261st Anniversary of the great bard's birth**

***Outstanding program being put together;  
details will be forthcoming.***