

# THE SCOTS CANADIAN

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Spring 2013

## Lewis MacKinnon, Poet Laureate of Scotland, named Scot of the Year

We are delighted to announce that on Wednesday April 10, Lewis MacKinnon, Poet Laureate of Scotland will be presented with our annual Scot of the Year Award at our Tartan Day Dinner event to be held in Toronto's historic Arts & Letters Club, which for more than a century has been an important presence in Canada's cultural scene.

Of course, one might expect the poet laureate of Scotland to be a Scot, but in 2011, for the first time in the 122-year history of the Royal National Mòd, Scotland's annual Gaelic cultural festival, Nova Scotia poet Lewis MacKinnon was given the honour.

The poet laureate position, as the organizers of the international festival describe, is "bestowed on an individual who has contributed significantly to the Gaelic literary world and it carries an ambassadorial role for the language and culture."

He expects his poet laureate role to provide a tremendous learning and growth experience, including more about the Mòd and its events.

"It will be great to work and learn with others in terms of Gaelic development," MacKinnon noted.

He said his appointment also "recognizes the efforts that have been going on in Nova Scotia in terms of Gaelic language and culture development over the last couple of decades.

"We do have a living language and culture that can make meaningful contributions to the whole discussion around Gaelic today."

MacKinnon is better known as the executive director of Gaelic Affairs for the Province of Nova Scotia, though some still know him as the young fellow from Antigonish County's Dunmore Road who speaks the Gaelic and sings it, too.

When he was crowned last fall in Scotland's western isles he was introduced as the festival's first-ever transatlantic bard. He is not exactly a stranger to Scotland, but it is

more than two centuries since his people left Moidart and the Isle of Muck on Scotland's rugged west coast.

"I guess the people involved with The Mòd found something in my Gaelic poems that spoke to them," says MacKinnon. "Nova Scotia is the last living Gaelic community outside Scotland. It is the same language, just more than 200 years removed."

In 2008, MacKinnon published a volume of poetry entitled *Famhair: dain ghaidhlig eile* or in English, *Giant and Other Gaelic Poems*. It is a collection of almost 100 poems printed on facing pages in Gaelic and English. The title piece portrays the Gaelic language as a sleeping but restless giant, stretched out beneath the province.

"The Gaelic language went to sleep in this province, it went to sleep in times past, living under the earth, like a great giant, stretched out," MacKinnon wrote, suggesting the language, while infrequently spoken, remained intrinsic.

"This giant went to bed when our province was young, but now wishes to rise up, to prove that he isn't so frightful, that he is of use, for those who now tread upon him."

MacKinnon's father, Joe, acquired Gaelic as a child growing up in the town of Inverness on Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island, but MacKinnon learned his Gaelic first from a great-uncle who spent the last 15 years of his life with the MacKinnons. Well beyond teaching the mechanics of the language, Dougald MacDougall managed to instill a great passion for the Gaelic.

"He loved his language and one day I asked him to teach it to me. We started with simple, everyday phrases like "close the door" and "open the window." It was something special between my father and my great-uncle. It appealed to me, so little by little, I learned. By the time Dougald was



Lewis MacKinnon wearing ceremonial robe and crown

dying we could carry on a pretty good conversation."

As a performer, he has sung in English, Scottish Gaelic and Irish, performing in coffee shops, pubs, convention centres, theatres and concert halls in every Atlantic Canadian province, Ontario as well as in Scotland and Ireland.

In the fall of 2007 he was a featured performer at the Féile Ámhránaíochta (The Irish Song Festival in Belfast) and also in the internationally acclaimed Celtic Colours Festival, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. In 2008 his performances included the Blas Festival in Scotland and the Celtic Colours Festival again.

His all-Gaelic CD entitled *A' Seo - Here* earned him an East Coast Music Award nomination and the song *Ailein Duinn* a traditional Gaelic song was selected to be included in the Celtic Colours Festival's 2007 compilation CD.

MacKinnon is a vocal artist who combines passion and perspective along with powerful baritone vocals in his songs. His most recent effort offers interpretations of traditional material to inspire present and future generations of learners, singers and composers.

We do hope you will be able to join us on April 10 for a memorable evening, so please keep your eye on our website ([www.scottishstudies.com](http://www.scottishstudies.com)) as we get closer to that date for up-to-date information. Or feel free to call David Hunter at 416-699-9942 ([davidhunter@scottishstudies.com](mailto:davidhunter@scottishstudies.com)) for more information. We look forward to seeing as many of our supporters as possible at the event.

# Digitizing Scotland

By Dr. Graeme Morton  
Chair of Scottish Studies  
University of Guelph

We have all come across some wonderful things when we start to search the internet. It's truly amazing what some people put out there, although thankfully most of it (but not all!) is the "good stuff". Our students are certainly lost without the digital world around them. My colleagues and I in the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph get the picture now: if its not available after a couple of searches on Google, then our students are going to lose interest pretty quickly. Thankfully, though, we can still entice most of them to visit the archives when they know they are going to see something unique. Textbooks they want on their iPads, but primary documents are allowed to be old and musty, although preferably the handwriting is something they can read.

Not everyone can get to our world-class archives, however, so increasingly we have begun to digitize our treasures to make them available at the end of a few clicks. Thanks to the generosity of the Scottish Studies Foundation and its donation of \$10,000 to the project, we have been able to get yet more of our collection scanned and available to read - free of charge - from the Internet Archive. The first 66 Scottish studies books of this latest project are now available to read, and more are on their way in the next few weeks. There are some real gems, and you are encouraged to give them a browse at our own section of the Internet Archive:

<http://archive.org/details/guelphscottishstudies>

U of G Information Resources Librarian Helen Salmon has been in charge of the project, aided by Scottish Studies graduate student Emily Pauw. Helen writes: "We have created a 'sub-collection' for the University of Guelph, so that this collection can be searched and identified separately from other things that Guelph has contributed to the Internet Archive. In addition to the 300 or so books that we will be scanning as part of the current project, I have requested that all of the U of G Scottish books digitized a few years ago be moved into this new sub-collection. Hopefully, having a recognizable sub-collection will help to make these materials and Guelph's Scottish Studies curriculum and research more visible." This is a wonderful development thanks to the Scottish Studies Foundation so please check out the website, and enjoy.

In addition to the digitization project and the day-to-day activities at the university we

have organized some great talks recently at the Centre. Dr Kevin James spoke on Victorian Travellers on their Highland Tour and Katie McCullough analyzed the London branch of the Highland Society of Scotland in the eighteenth century. The highlight for me, and I'm sure for many, was Mr. Jack Ross who gave us the benefit of 50 years of research into the characters in Burns's classic "Tam O' Shanter." Reciting an illustrated version of the poem, Jack then gave a tour de force performance on all the details in Burns's life that worked their way into the characters and settings for what for many people is their favourite piece of Burns. Thanks Jack, it was a performance to remember and it will be a tall act to follow.

But still do please join us for forthcoming talks by Kate Zubczyk on "Laurence Bruce: Scottish Tyrant or Shetland hero" (March 11th, 3pm, room 132 Mackinnon, U of G) and Alec Follett, "Outlaws, Heroes and Fathers: Scottish Chapbook Masculinities" (March 16th, 3pm, room 132 Mackinnon, U of G). Coffee and cake are always on offer and entry is free. Further details from our website, Facebook and Twitter feed (my that sounds modern!):

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/scottish/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/scottishstudies>  
<https://twitter.com/ScottishStudies>

Also, the 2013 Scottish Studies Spring Colloquium will be held on 6 April 2012 at Knox College, University of Toronto, from 10:30 am to 3 pm (registration opens at 10 am). We have some great talks to present to you, plus a brand new documentary directed by Dr Michael Newton on teaching Gaelic in Canada. Here are the details - and I look forward to welcoming you there:

- Dr. Kevin James (University of Guelph, History), "The McAutocrat of the Victorian Highland Inn"
- Dr. J. Andrew Ross (University of Guelph, History) and Melissa McAfee (University of Guelph, Archives & Special Collections), "Digitizing Guelph's Scottish Chapbook Collection"
- Rachel Redshaw (Independent Scholar), "The Virtual Voice of the Past: The Use of Online Oral Accounts for a Holistic Understanding of History"
- Movie Screening: *Singing Against the Silence* (2012) Directed by Dr. Michael Newton (St. Francis Xavier)

Registration is \$25 for Scottish Studies Foundation members and for early-bird registrants on or before March 29, 2013; the price increases to \$30 for registrants after



March 29, 2013. A student rate of \$10 is available. As always, lunch and coffee breaks are included.

As in the past, the Scottish Studies Foundation's Annual Meeting will take place during the lunch break (from 12 to 1:30 pm) and it is important to note that a change in the law governing registered charitable organizations requires them to transition to the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (NFP Act).

Registered charities that are currently incorporated under Part II of the Canada Corporations Act (such as the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Society) must apply for a certificate of continuance to transition to the NFP Act by October 17, 2014.

The Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (NFP Act) - which came into force on October 17, 2011 - is the law that governs the internal affairs of federal not-for-profit corporations. Note that Part II of the Canada Corporations Act (CCA Part II) will continue to govern federal not-for-profit corporations until they make the transition to the NFP Act. Such transitions must be completed by October 17, 2014.

The transition process involves replacing the corporation's letters patent, supplementary letters patent (if any) and by-laws with new charter documents. All by-laws, by-law amendments and repeals of by-laws must be filed with Corporations Canada within one year after the members have approved them.

In accordance with this, we have prepared a new set of by-laws, which comply with the NFP Act, and these have been mailed to members for approval and must be returned for receipt at the SSF office by March 15, 2013. To complete the process, these by-laws must be approved by a two-thirds majority of voting members. So if you have not already done so, please mail your response in order for the Foundation's charitable status to be maintained. More information is available on the Foundation's website: [www.scottishstudies.com](http://www.scottishstudies.com).

To register for the Spring Colloquium, please email us at [scottish@uoguelph.ca](mailto:scottish@uoguelph.ca). Payment can be made at the door or mailed to:

Centre for Scottish Studies  
University of Guelph  
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

# Cosmic coincidence on the road to Glenelg

By Jonathan Amos

This is a tale of a wonderful coincidence that ties together Mars, the Canadian north-west, Scotland and 100 years of geology. Bear with me because it takes a little while to pull all the threads together, but it's worth it, I promise.

It starts with an object that had just been investigated by Nasa's Curiosity rover and the object in question, now known as "Jake," was a dark, pyramid-shaped 25cm-high igneous rock sitting in a crater on the Red Planet. When Curiosity first approached it, there was never really any expectation that it would pique great excitement. It looked like just another dull piece of basalt, so much of which litters the Martian surface. But the science team on Curiosity needed a target to try out the first close-contact work using the rover's arm-held X-ray-spectrometer, APXS. So the dark pyramid was chosen and informally given the name Jake Matijevic in honour of a recently deceased rover engineer.

The results of the investigation by APXS, and the rover's laser instrument, ChemCam, revealed the rock to be anything but dull. The science team likened its chemistry to some relatively rare but well-studied alkaline rocks on Earth found on oceanic islands such as Hawaii and the Azores, and also in rift zones like the Rio Grande. On Earth, such rocks typically form from relatively water-rich magmas that have cooled slowly at raised pressures.

The Curiosity team compared their formation to the fractionation that occurred in the old colonial method of making

applejack liquor. This process used barrels of cider left outside in winter to partially freeze. As the barrels iced up, they would concentrate the apple-flavoured liquor. Likewise, cooling magmas under pressure will crystallize and concentrate residual fluids. "Jake" was a consequence of those residual fluids, eventually solidifying just inside a Martian volcano or in a lava flow.

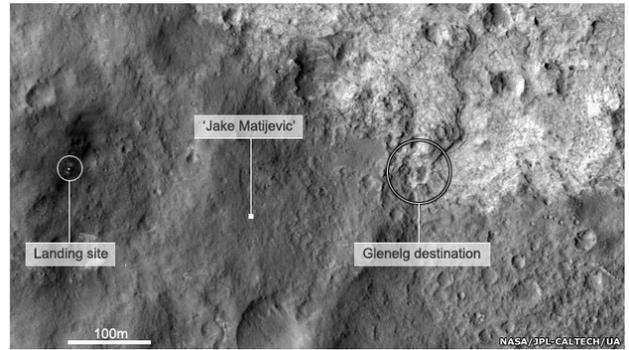
Coming up with an exact classification of the rock was not straightforward for although APXS and ChemCam will tell you which chemical elements are present, they don't tell you how precisely those atoms are arranged into the crystalline structures that make up the rock, and both this mineralogy and the chemical composition are ideally needed to assign a rock name. So there's a bit of guesstimation going on here. From the chemical composition, you have to work out the most likely mineralogy.

As mentioned, Jake has much higher amounts of alkali elements, metals such as sodium and potassium, than previously analyzed Martian rocks. And that has the rest of the rover science team leaning (with a lot of caveats) towards a classification that sits on a well-established sequence of alkaline igneous rocks - one that goes by the name "mugearite."

And this is where we come to the great coincidence.

If you've been following the Curiosity rover story closely, you'll know that scientists on the mission have been using names taken from Canada's Northwest Territories to label the places the rover is visiting. The Canadian north-west has some ancient rock formations, similar in age, we think, to those found in Gale Crater, Curiosity's landing site.

The naming system makes it easy for everyone to understand what's being discussed when a particular location comes up in conversation. So, for example, the rover is currently making its way to a place everyone is referring to as Glenelg. This name is taken from a particular rock unit in the



The rover landed in Gale Crater and started moving towards Glenelg. During the trek, on the 43rd Martian day of the mission, Curiosity came across the pyramidal rock.

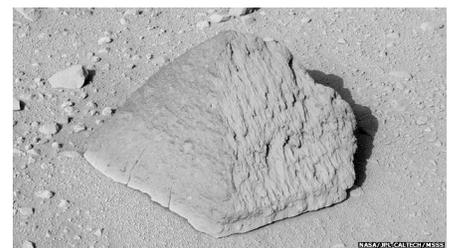
Northwest Territories, but it has an even older lineage - one that goes back to a small Highland settlement in Scotland.

This Scottish Glenelg is located on the western edge of the mainland, right by the water channel separating the Isle of Skye from the rest of Scotland.

According to rover scientist and petrologist Prof Ed Stolper, the 'type locality' for mugearite, i.e. the place the rock was first discovered, or at least defined as a distinctive rock type is Mugeary, which turns out to be on Skye only 25 miles west of Glenelg. (See map.) "The fellow who named the rock type (in 1904) was Alfred Harker, the most influential British petrographer/petrologist of the first third of the 20th Century. Given the nearness of Mugeary and Glenelg, I consider it to be a great cosmic coincidence that on its way to Glenelg, the Curiosity rover found a rock that can legitimately be called a mugearite!"

Life has a habit of throwing up such remarkable connections. Glenelg was identified and named on Mars four weeks before Jake was even seen.

Curiosity only landed on the Red Planet last August but already it has returned some truly exciting science. And to think we have another couple of years at least to go on this mission. ■



The rock known as Jake Matijevic:  
Anything but dull



# Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill

*A proud heritage, a vibrant future*

James McGill, the man whose vision would lead to the creation of the university that bears his name, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on October 6, 1744, the eldest son of an ironsmith.

During his studies at Glasgow University, McGill was shaped by the values of the Scottish Enlightenment. Although he left university without completing a degree—a fact likely due to his family's poor fortunes—his education instilled in him a lifelong love of new ideas, and a commitment to give serious thought to the beliefs and opinions of others, no matter how at odds they were with his own worldview.

Sometime before 1766, McGill immigrated to North America and entered the rough-and-tumble world of the fur trade. His hard work and French fluency served him well as he spent much of the following nine years in almost constant danger, navigating the rivers and lakes of the Great Lakes frontier, wintering in unmapped wilderness and living off the land.

By 1775, McGill had established himself as a successful merchant, trading in furs, ammunition and general goods. He said goodbye to bush life and used his fortune to settle in Montreal. There he married an industrious francophone widow, Charlotte, and became stepfather to her young sons.

McGill's dedication to public service distinguished him from many of his fur-trading contemporaries. A volunteer Colonel with the Montreal militia, he led the defence of Montreal during the War of 1812. He served as a city magistrate for many years, making him part of a council that was the de facto government of Montreal at the time. He was also a member of a committee that reported on the need for a Legislative Assembly for the colony of Lower Canada, to which he would be elected three times.

Always a visionary, McGill was determined to create a rigorous system of education for Lower Canada. During his time as a legislator, he participated in the debates that would lead to the establishment of the Royal Institute for the Advancement of Learning (RIAL), a body designed to establish a formal educational system in the colony.

McGill took great care of the welfare of others, including his stepchildren and the orphan daughter of a friend. This ecumenical and generous spirit manifested itself in his final will, which, after his death in 1813, revealed a bequest to the RIAL for the founding of a college.

Spurred on by the gift, the RIAL became the governing body for McGill College, which was officially established in 1821.

With this heritage in mind, the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation are seeking philanthropic support to create a Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University.

This exciting initiative will ensure that the role of the Scots in Montreal, Quebec and Canada will be a focus of academic work for years to come, and that the objectives of the St. Andrew's Society to promote Scottish traditions and identity and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation's objective to recognize Canada's shared history with Scotland will be enhanced and secured.

Some of the Chair's key responsibilities will be to enrich ties with Scottish academic and cultural institutions. The Chair will undertake new research on Canadian-Scottish heritage, history and culture, create outreach activities that promote education and dialogue on the role of the Scots in Canada, and will train the next generation of Canadian-Scottish scholars.

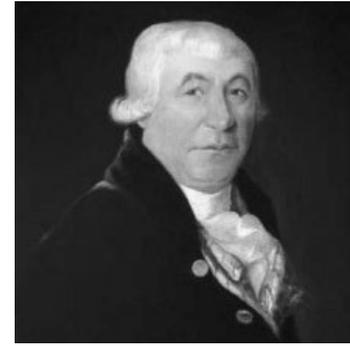
Most importantly, the Chair will help give Canadian-Scottish studies a new prominence in academia and beyond, and will provide a valuable new avenue through which the St. Andrew's Society and the McEuen Scholarship Foundation can pursue their missions and objectives.

To date, over \$1,800,000 of the \$3,000,000 needed to fully endow the Chair has been raised and it is hoped that by April 2013 the full amount will have been reached.

Just a short walk through Montreal's downtown core reveals the enduring role the Scots have played in the growth and evolution of Montreal, Quebec and Canada. From national institutions like the Hudson's Bay Company, the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal and the Black Watch, to Montreal landmarks such as the Royal Montreal Golf Club and the Royal Montreal Curling Club, our history, culture and identity are inextricably linked to the vibrant and diverse contributions of our Scottish countrymen.

The new Chair, which will be housed within the world-renowned McGill Institute for the Study of Canada and jointly appointed with the Department of History, will advance the Society and Foundation's missions of celebrating and promoting Canadian-Scottish history and culture, while making an invaluable contribution to Canadian-Scottish studies at McGill.

"It is timely that a Canadian-Scottish chair be created on the 190th anniversary of the founding of McGill, this most Scottish of institutions founded when Montreal was a small Scottish bastion and the beaver was



James McGill

king," said Peter McAuslan, President & CEO of McAuslan Brewing and past president of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. "Scotland itself was entering an intellectual renaissance that changed the world. To understand the impact of the Scots on Canada is to give insight into the nature of our past and perspective on our future."

This exciting initiative will adopt a uniquely broad and interdisciplinary approach to Canadian-Scottish studies, bringing to bear expertise from a wide range of faculties, departments and scholarly disciplines to illuminate the unique impact of the Scottish antecedent on Quebec and Canada from multiple perspectives. It will also be a unique opportunity for outreach, and one of the goals of the Chair will be to reach beyond small academic circles and engage the community by hosting visiting speakers and organizing events and conferences that will be open to the public.

Canadians, Quebecers and Montrealers, enjoy a unique and enduring bond with Scotland, encompassing both our rich history and our dynamic present.

McGill already enjoys a strong network of collaborative ties with Scottish universities, including bilateral exchange, research and internship agreements with the University of Glasgow, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of St. Andrew's. The Chair will allow us to expand and enrich those partnerships, while creating new ties with institutions across Canada and around the world in a variety of complementary disciplines.

Your gift in support of the Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies will help ensure that this bond is nurtured in perpetuity and that Scottish-Canadian studies take their rightful place at the heart of McGill, a University recognized for its world-class teaching, research and community engagement.

*To learn more, please contact Nicholas Synnott at 514-398-5054 or by email at [Nicholas.synnott@mcgill.ca](mailto:Nicholas.synnott@mcgill.ca)*

## John Law and the Mississippi Bubble: 1718-1720

By Jon Moen, University of Mississippi

In the early 18th century the economy of France was depressed with its government deeply in debt and taxes at an all-time high. In addition, since 1699, the French controlled the colony of Louisiana, a vast settlement in the interior of North America, which included the Natchez district and the area along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in present-day Mississippi.

Although much larger than France, the French knew very little about French America with few being able to pinpoint where it was, many believed it to be rich in silver and gold, the de facto currency of France.

And so it was that the depressed French economic environment became fertile ground for the monetary and economic ideas of Scottish financier John Law, a gambler and a brilliant mental calculator. He was known to win card games by mentally calculating the odds and originated economic ideas such as "The Scarcity Theory of Value" and the "Real bills doctrine." Law's views held that money creation would stimulate the economy, that paper money was preferable to metallic money, which should be banned, and that shares were a superior form of money since they paid dividends.

When Law came to France in 1714, he cultivated an acquaintance with the nephew of King Louis XIV, the Duke of Orleans who had become regent of France after the king's death in 1715. The duke was impressed with Law's apparent financial expertise and sought his advice and assistance in an attempt to straighten out France's financial difficulties left over from years of reckless spending under Louis XIV.

It was this association with the Duke of Orleans that would ensure Law's place in history.

In 1716 Law convinced the French government to let him open a bank, the *Bank Generale*, that could issue paper money in the form of bank notes. These would be supported by the bank's assets of gold and silver and would be circulated as a means of exchange. Prior to this, paper money was a new concept for the French; money to them meant silver and gold. Law believed that paper notes would increase the money in circulation, which, in turn, would increase commerce and help revitalize and stabilize the finances of the French government.

In August 1717, he organized the *Compagnie d'Occident* to which the French government gave control of trade between France and its Louisiana and Canadian colonies.

French America stretched 3,000 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Canada and included the present-day states that hug the river: Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Louisiana's connection to the Mississippi River gave rise to the company's more popular name, The Mississippi Company.

Law's company had exclusive trading privileges in the territory for 25 years and could appoint its own governor and officers and make land grants to potential developers. In turn, the company accepted the responsibility of transporting 6,000 settlers and 3,000 slaves to the colony before expiration of its charter.

To finance the initial operations of the company, Law raised funds by selling shares in the company for cash and, more importantly, for state bonds, which helped French finances and provided the company with a more secure cash flow. The lure of gold and silver attracted many eager investors. But the Mississippi Company was a small part of a much grander empire Law was about to create. In September 1718 the company acquired the monopoly in tobacco trading with Africa.

In January 1719 Law's *Bank Generale* was taken over by the French government and renamed the *Bank Royale*. However, Law remained in charge and the crown continued to guarantee the bank's issue of notes. In May that year he obtained control of the companies trading with China and the East Indies and renamed his entire business interest the *Compagnie des Indes*. As a result, Law now controlled all trade with France and the rest of the world outside of Europe.

The company next purchased the right to mint new coins for France, and by October it had purchased the right to collect most French taxes. In January 1720, Law became the Controller General and Superintendent General of Finance giving him control of France's foreign trade and colonial development and thereby of all of France's finance and money creation.

By holding much of the French government's debt, not only had he secured a stable source of income for future business ventures, but had created Europe's most successful conglomerate, all paid for by issuing shares in his company.

As Law's empire expanded, the Mississippi Company's share price rose dramatically, seducing investors from across

France and Europe and for the first time members of the working class began investing whatever small sums they could scrape together. The creation of new millionaires was now commonplace.

In January 1719, the share price stood at 500 livres; by December 1719 it soared to 10,000 livres, an increase of 1900 percent in just under a year.

Law's scheme was based on his willingness to issue more and more bank notes to fund the purchase of shares but by January 1720, as investors sold shares to turn capital gains into gold coin, the share price started to fall.

In an attempt to stop the sell-off, Law restricted any payment in gold to fewer than 100 livres. The paper notes of the *Bank Royale* were then made legal tender, meaning that they could be used to pay taxes and



John Law (1671-1729)

settle most debts. In desperation, the company agreed to exchange notes for shares in the company at the going market price of 10,000 livres. This resulted in a sudden doubling of the money supply in France and the resulting inflation reached a monthly rate of 23 percent in January 1720.

Law devalued shares in the company in several stages during 1720, and by September that year the share price had fallen to 2,000 livres and to 1,000 by December.

Law's enemies then proceeded to take control of the company by confiscating shares of investors who were unable to prove they had actually paid for their shares with real assets rather than credit. This reduced investor shares, or shares outstanding, by two-thirds. By September 1721 share prices had dropped to 500 livres, back to where they had been at the start.

The meteoric rise and fall of the Mississippi Company laughingly became known as the "Mississippi Bubble" and, understandably, Law's reputation never recovered from his involvement in this total financial disaster. Viewed as a scam-artist, he was exiled from France and returned to his gambling roots in mainland Europe to die in poverty.

The story of John Law and the Mississippi Company is as intriguing as any modern financial disaster. In the end, many of the new millionaires were financially damaged as was the French economy and it would be eighty years before France would again risk introducing paper money into its economy. ■

## The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

The team behind the magnificent Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry is now planning a new tapestry, to be created by volunteers in communities around the globe.

The project will involve communities around the world in the celebration of Scottish heritage and culture and will be assembled and displayed in Scotland as part of the 2014 Homecoming celebrations.

Scots have migrated all over the world and have often had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. This project will see 25 such communities documenting their Scottish connections on a series of embroidered panels, their combined stories paying homage to the incredible determination and courage of Scots over the centuries.

Whilst the Tapestry is being launched in Scotland, stitching continues apace in both Gothenburg in Sweden and Barga in the Province of Lucca, Italy. Both communities there have already completed the first of their panels, which were displayed at the launch of the project in Edinburgh on June 28th.

Last October, two members of the Diaspora Tapestry team, Gillian Hart and Yvonne Murphy returned from a whistle-stop research trip to Canada, meeting with Scots and the descendants of Scots in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia. And wherever they went they found people, from taxi drivers to waiters and everything in between, who proudly proclaimed: "Oh you're from Scotland? My grandmother/father etc. came from Scotland too!"

The team's ambitious tour began in Guelph, a city in Southwestern Ontario, where they met with Graeme Morton, Chair of the Scottish Studies Foundation at Guelph University (who hails from Haddington in East Lothian). He described the story of John Galt (1779-1839) born in Irvine,

Ayrshire, and recognized in Scotland as a novelist, is well known in Canada for planning the city of Guelph as a town based on an agricultural settlement with generous space provided for a market. John Galt Day has been celebrated each August in Guelph since 2006 with the raising of the "John Galt Flag", a "Kirkin" ceremony, and other community activities. Scots were also responsible for establishing the Ontario Agricultural and Veterinary colleges in Guelph.

Travelling on to Ottawa, the team discovered that the parliament buildings are sited on "The Hill", the former position of the fort known as Barrack Hill. Bytown, as Ottawa was originally known, was named in honour of Lieutenant-Colonel John By, the man who was responsible for the Rideau Canal. In 1832 the canal was constructed as a secure route between Montreal and the British naval base at Kingston which allowed shipping to avoid a stretch of the St Lawrence River along the New York border which was vulnerable to attack in the event of another war with the United States. It became a major trading route, especially for the lumber industry.

Gillian and Yvonne were invited to enjoy an iced lemon drink with Robin Etherington, Executive Director of the Bytown Museum, during which they heard about the humid conditions and the threat of cholera endured by the early settlers of Bytown. Robin highlighted the role of Scottish stonemasons in the construction of the canal.

The Commissariat erected in 1827 as a storehouse and military depot during the construction of the Rideau Canal, houses the museum and is situated a few steps away from the canal, before it reaches the Ottawa River. This stone building was designed by Thomas McKay of McKay and Redpath, Architects. McKay and Redpath were both trained stonemasons appointed by John By. McKay built his own settlement with thriving industries, known as New Edinburgh, on the eastern side of the Rideau Falls. Earncliffe, a Victorian manor built by McKay, became the official residence of John A MacDonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada in 1867.



*Work in progress*

Today it is the residence of the British High Commissioner to Canada.

Bethany Basaillon, Executive Director of the Scottish Society of Ottawa and Director of the Ottawa City Piping College arrived a little later and showed great enthusiasm for the Tapestry project. Having just recently been present at Piping Live 2012 in Glasgow, she is a regular visitor to Scotland with her Sons of Scotland Pipe Band (Camp Argyll Number 26) and promised to join us in 2014 for the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Homecoming events. The Sons of Scotland Benevolent Society was set up in Canada in 1876 to support Scottish immigrants. The Society continues today to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage. A list of stitchers and stories will no doubt follow from this important connection!

In search of ever more Diaspora stories, the team found time for a boat ride up the Ottawa River under the Alexandra Bridge and past the Rideau Falls, Earncliffe House, and McKay's New Edinburgh, before clambering aboard another greyhound bus headed towards Quebec.

They made their way to the Lachine National Historic Park: although Lachine is a borough of Montreal today, it was a separate settlement in the days of the fur trade. Alongside the canal, the team visited a stone storage shed, built in 1803 by Scotsman Alexander Gordon. Here trade goods and furs were stored for the North West Company, which was established by Scottish fur merchants in 1779 with its headquarters in Montreal. After 1804 the company amalgamated with its main rival, the Hudson Bay Company. The Golden Square Mile or "Square Mile" developed at the foot of Mount Royal in Montreal and was home to the industrialists and financiers of the second half of the 19th century - shipping, timber, mining, rail, fur and banking.

The current President of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal kindly collected Gillian and Yvonne from Lachine, who were then treated to tea and an array of home-baking at the Montreal home of Moira Barclay-Fernie. Moira was keen to emphasize the sense of welfare and the importance of education which the Scots and the St Andrew's Society



*A scene from the Prestonpans Tapestry*



*The Barga Tapestry*

brought to Montreal, a legacy which continues today.

Moira is an elder commissioner from the Presbytery of Montreal and she pointed out that the Presbyterian Church has always played an important role in Diaspora communities since the days of the first settlers: the church introduced pastoral care for the settlers, with ministers travelling on horseback to the six or seven parishes in their care. The team left Moira's house confident that there would be a group of keen stitchers and storytellers in this community.

It was soon time to head to Nova Scotia, beginning with a stop in Halifax. From 1869-1871, Citadel Hill or Fort George was home to the 78th (Highlanders) Regiment of Foot and the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Pipe Band. Halifax's annual Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo was established by Colonel Ian S Fraser in 1979 and marked the first International Gathering of the Clans outside Scotland.

Meeting the team at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 was chief curator Tanya Bouchard and Carrie-Ann Smith, Chief of Audience Engagement. They were guided through the museum's site, where from 1928 to 1971 immigration facilities catered for immigrants, refugees and Canadian soldiers leaving for WWII. Of particular interest - but requiring further research - will be the stories relating to Scottish war brides and child evacuees.

Eager to cover yet more miles, Gillian and Yvonne hired a car and set off across Nova Scotia to Pictou, where in 1773 the Hector disembarked the first Scottish settlers at Brown's Point, Pictou Harbour. A replica of the vessel is moored alongside the Hector Quay where Troy MacCulloch, 2nd Vice President of the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia and Deputy Mayor of New Glasgow, as well as Karla MacFarlane from the Hector Heritage Quay Society, met them to discuss the Tapestry project. Members of the Prince Edward Island Scottish Settlers Historical Society, Mary

Gallant and Aggie-Rose Reddin also joined them and there was soon a clear sense of the passion Maritime Scots have for their Scots heritage.

Captain John MacDonald of Glenaladale transported Scottish immigrants in the brig Alexander in the early 1770s and they settled in the Tracadie Bay area.

Protestant lowlanders settled in the Malpeque Bay area in the 1770s and the Earl of Selkirk brought 800 Highland Scots to settle in the Belfast area in 1804.

Charlottetown is considered the birthplace of Confederation after initial discussions were held here in 1864.

On Troy MacCulloch's recommendation the team left the Hector Quay to visit the Dr. Thomas McCulloch House Museum. According to the guide there, the house was built for the Presbyterian minister from stone used as ballast in the ships sailing from Scotland. Dr McCulloch founded Pictou Academy in 1816, a non-sectarian college based on the University of Glasgow. He was also an avid collector of birds and although a display of mounted birds remains in the house, the majority of the collection is kept at Dalhousie Museum in Halifax.

Back on the road, the journey to Cape Breton Island saw our researchers passing along huge stretches of tree-lined roads. At intervals side roads disappear into the forest, many of them beginning with Mac/Mc.

The team stayed the night in Baddeck at The Telegraph House, once the home of David A Dunlop and still owned by the family. Dunlop was responsible for laying the first Atlantic telegraph cable from Newfoundland to Cape North. The Telegraph Hotel opened its doors in 1861 to travellers and also served as the first telegraph office, hence the name. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell retired to Baddeck in a house overlooking Baddeck Bay just a short walk away from the hotel. The house is now a Parks Canada Historic Site. The following day, in dreich weather similar to that back in Scotland, Gillian and Yvonne visited Rodney Chaisson, Director of the Highland Village Museum, and Rodney MacDonald, Chief Executive Officer of the Gaelic College. The college was founded in 1938 by Rev A W R MacKenzie as a school devoted to the study and preservation of the Gaelic language and Celtic arts and culture. The Cabot Trail abounds with crafters, and with kilt-makers and weavers amongst the staff at the college there should be no shortage of stitchers and interesting stories from Scottish descendants.

*More information about this project can be found at [www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org](http://www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org)*

## *Alice Munro Rules Scottish Rugby*

*By Douglas Gibson*

Alice Munro is renowned around the world for her superb short stories, and she has the prizes and the reviews to show why many claim her as the world's best. An American reviewer for The Atlantic magazine said simply, "She is the living writer most likely to be read in a hundred years."



To my delight, Alice wrote the introduction to my memoirs, *Stories About Storytellers*. In the book I talk proudly about our long association as author and editor, now amounting to fourteen story collections. I note that one of the happy coincidences that brought us together was the fact that Alice grew up in Huron County, Ontario, which is a landscape dominated by many branches of one river, the Maitland. Thanks to my mother, I bear that fairly uncommon family title as my middle name, as in Douglas Maitland Gibson.

Alice's own semi-fictional memoir, *The View From Castle Rock*, begins with the story of her own family, the Laidlaws, in the Scottish Borders. The earliest ancestor she found, Will Laidlaw, was born around 1700, and gained such local fame that his tombstone epitaph in Ettrick Kirkyard reads: "Here lyeth William Laidlaw, the far-fam'd Will o' Phaup, who for feats of frolic, agility and strength, had no equal in his day."

That epitaph was written by his prominent literary grandson, James Hogg.

Yes, yes, you say. We know that Alice's wonderfully perceptive short stories may range beyond her usual Huron County settings, sometimes as far as Australia, Albania, or even the world of a 19th century Russian female mathematician, as in *Too Much Happiness*. But what on earth does she have to do with the manly sporting world of Scottish rugby in 2013?

Last week the Scottish national rugby team played their annual grudge match against the English rugby team. They lost heavily. But every single Scottish point was scored by three men.

Their names were Maitland, Laidlaw and Hogg!

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