

St. Andrews Society of NW Michigan
Northern Thistle
May 2018



Booth at the Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums Concert on the Lawn; The Pavilions - Thursday, June 21, 7pm Free.

Annual Picnic – Sunday, August 26, 1-4pm, Silver Lake Recreation Area

Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner – Sunday, October 7

Reformation Sunday – October 28 – The Presbyterian Church

St Andrews Dinner – Friday, November 30 @ Grace Episcopal

What an interesting talk Donald Kinloch gave at the April dinner! We learned about the Battle of Culloden, the *Darien Scheme* and Flodden Field. Next time he speaks, don't miss it!

Shortbread Needed! At the June 21st concert we give out samples of homemade shortbread. If you bake, we can use your shortbread! Please wrap 1 or 2 pieces together. We provide labels that say 'Compliments of the St. Andrews Society of NW Michigan.' Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums schedule:

Sun, May 20 – Kalkaska: Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall

Sat-Sun May 26-27 – Alma Highland Games

Sat, June 9 – American Cancer Society's Relay For Life

Thurs, June 21 – Concert at The Pavilions



Donald Kinloch

Laird of Ellsworth



Cute (and tasty) Door Prizes



Lending Library

The Highland Dress by **Bill Smith, Windsor, Ontario**

When I was first asked to say a few words at a Scottish ceilidh, I wondered what in blazes I could talk about for a few minutes that might be mildly amusing or interesting and at least a little bit Scottish. Then, suddenly I remembered a nightmare I once had.

I'm driving along the freeway on my way to a Scottish Country Dance Ball, dressed to the hilt in my kilt, secure behind the protective camouflage of the car, when suddenly – BANG! A tire blew out! On the freeway in downtown Detroit yet! And I'm not even a member of the Black Watch! Well, since I couldn't talk my liberated wife into getting out and changing the tire, there was nothing for it but to BITE THE BULLET and change it myself . . . who said the age of chivalry is dead? Several men slowed down long enough to ascertain that I was definitely no lady, and one of them had the unmitigated gall to whistle at me. How humiliating! The crowning indignity comes when State Police arrive, as I think to the rescue, but instead, arrest me for indecent exposure! Fortunately, I woke up about that time, crying for my old Highland nanny!

However, from that dream of deep mortification was born the idea to deliver a wee dissertation on the kilt. So I'll start by giving you a brief description of the less familiar articles of Highland Dress.

First, the feet are tastefully encased not in ordinary shoes, but ghillie brogues, which tie around the ankles, all the better for tramping through the heather. The first one to call them "Shirley Temples" gets crowned wi' a frozen haggis!

Next come the white hand-knit wool knee stockings. Although made from virgin wool, it is no true indication of the wearer's marital status or love life.

We then come to the sghian dubh or black knife, a little dagger tucked in the top of the hose, used to threaten anyone who asks if my sporran is a purse. This then, as you will have guessed, is the sporran, and in point of fact is a purse. You may or may not know a kilt, like a shroud, has no pockets.

Then we come to the tunic, a sort of pseudo military mess jacket called a Prince Charlie since it is supposed to have originated with that ill-fated monarch.

And finally for those who come from another planet, or worse, who may be English, the colorful garment which gracefully girds my spindly auld shanks is called a kilt. It is never, never called a SKIRT. Kilts are worn only by the male of the species, NEVER by the distaff side. Ah yes, you will often see ladies stylishly attired in beautiful tartan skirts and they look bonnier than ony man I ever saw. And sometimes you will see young girls wearing what look like kilts in Highland Dancing competition. Comely and graceful though they may be, you and I know that their pretty garments are called skirts.

*Glaikit: Scottish for foolish, giddy, thoughtless, stupid, flighty. And *ony* is any.

From Prior Newsletters, but worth repeating:

Needed: A meeting place! Required: Room for 35 to move about, (not elbow-to-elbow) and reasonable rent. A bar is a plus. We just can't find an ideal place! Either the rent is a few hundred or the space too mall for our needs. And for the comfort of our mature members, few or no stairs & convenient parking are best. (Sep 2016)

'Ask not what your St Andrews Society can do for you, but what you can do for your St Andrews Society.' (Multiple past editions)

2017 Officers and Directors:

President	Jim Mills	jfills@mhc.net
Vice President	Donald Kinloch	dekinloch@msn.com
Treasurer	Alan McColl	amccoll@charter.net
Secretary	Gloria Veltman	smbt@charter.net
Member-At-Large	Cindy Fricke	cindyfricke@sbcglobal.net
Member-At-Large	Jane Arney	janellena@yahoo.com
Margaret Sarna	Publicity & Newsletter	dssarna@sprintmail.com
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St Andrews Society of NW Michigan Membership Form

The SASNM is a non-profit organization founded in 1997. Annual dues are \$20 per household. Please send checks to SASNM, PO Box 2303, TC 49685.

Name(s) _____ Clan if any _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell _____

Address if new _____

Email address (if new) _____

We look forward to your participation. Renewing? A big thank you as well. Hope to see you at a gathering. We'll alert you of events through our newsletter & Emails. Donations above annual dues are welcomed. Dues & donations are our only support.

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