

**St Andrews Society of NW Michigan**  
*Northern Thistle*  
February 2018



**Next SAS Dinner: Sun, April 8 at 5:30. Details soon!**

**Get *this!*** The New York Times recently recommended 52 places to see this year. #12 is Glasgow! Dear Old Glasgow Town (insert music here). Emphasis was on the newer distilleries and cafes.

**This summer**, why not consider hosting a picnic or other event for SASers? Most live within 20 miles of downtown Traverse City. With no official SAS gatherings from April to August, keep us in mind! We're a tidy, well-behaved group. 😊

**Dale Perin's new address:** 2700 Nashville Rd, Hastings, MI 49058.

**Ed Note:** A native-Scot friend suggested a Scottish sitcom, *Still Game*. It's very funny, and we highly recommend it, but you must be able to understand Glaswegian. (;) Half the dialogue Don misses so I try to interpret. But it's fast-paced and the laughs one after another, so it's hard to watch *and* translate into *American* without missing any dialogue myself. Find it on Netflix. I'd rate it PG-13 because of the bawdy but *funny* language. *mjs*

**Travels with the Sarnas:** A nice winter break is attending the Central Florida Games in January. We've gone the last 8 years, mainly because there's Scottish Country Dancing all day, plus a dance on Friday night.

They're huge Games! Vendors have all the Scottish food, gifts, apparel & paraphernalia you could want. Dancing outdoors in shorts is a dream. This year the weather hovered only around 60. But 60 degrees here in January would still mean grey and *ugly*. Florida, conversely, is green, there's a bright southern sun, flowers are in bloom, and you're surrounded by *unfrozen* water. 4 stars!

Winter Springs is one hour north of Orlando. There are *many* hotels in Altamonte Springs, and the Games are minutes away on Lake Jessup. Next year's games will be held Jan 19-20.

**Burns Night:** Allan Scott outdid himself with a *huge* number of great photos. (Wish he'd been around all 21 years.) Some are on Pages 3 and 4 but all photos will be at the April dinner. Thanks again, Allan!

**2017 Directors & Committees:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim Mills</b>	<b><a href="mailto:jmills@mhc.net">jmills@mhc.net</a></b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Donald Kinloch</b>	<b><a href="mailto:dekinloch@msn.com">dekinloch@msn.com</a></b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Alan McColl</b>	<b><a href="mailto:amccoll@charter.net">amccoll@charter.net</a></b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gloria Veltman</b>	<b><a href="mailto:smblt@charter.net">smblt@charter.net</a></b>
<b>Member-At-Large</b>	<b>Cindy Fricke</b>	<b><a href="mailto:cindyfricke@sbcglobal.net">cindyfricke@sbcglobal.net</a></b>
<b>Member-At-Large</b>	<b>Jane Arney</b>	<b><a href="mailto:janellena@yahoo.com">janellena@yahoo.com</a></b>
<b>Margaret Sarna</b>	<b>Publicity</b>	<b><a href="mailto:dssarna@sprintmail.com">dssarna@sprintmail.com</a></b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Don Sarna</b>	<b><a href="mailto:dssarna@comcast.net">dssarna@comcast.net</a></b>
<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Lee Gwyn</b>	<b><a href="mailto:leeellengwyn@charter.net">leeellengwyn@charter.net</a></b>

**St Andrews Society of NW Michigan Membership Form**

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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** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address (if new member)**

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**Email address (if new)**

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We look forward to your participation. Renewing? A big thank you as well. Hope to see you at the next gathering, and will alert you of upcoming events through our newsletter and Emails.

## Getting To Know You: William (Bill) and Sandra McNeil:

It's been a while since we had the pleasure of sharing about some of our members. Bill and Sandra joined us in September 2017, having made Traverse City their retirement home. They are a delightful couple.

Bill worked at Ford Motor in the fuel system department before being laid off April 1980. He was hired by American Motors in May 1980 in the same capacity and remained employed through the Chrysler buyout, the merger with Daimler, the bankruptcy of 2008, and the merger with Fiat.

At a wedding of mutual friends in 1983, Bill and Sandra met. After dating less than two years they knew they wanted to be husband and wife. On June 15, 1985, they were married at St. Mary's in Royal Oak. Bill and Sandra have two wonderful daughters; Maureen lives in Kirkland, Washington with her husband Chris, and Meghan lives in San Francisco. Maureen is a writer and Chris works for Microsoft. Meghan works for Square as a developer for the finance department.

Bill's dad Robert was born in Paisley, Scotland in 1923 to Alexander and Helen Stuart MacGregor McNeil. He emigrated to Dearborn in 1925. Bill's mother Pearl Chojnacki was from Detroit. Bill's grandfather, Alexander McNeil, was employed at Ford Motor as a pipefitter in the Rouge complex. He passed away in 1958. His grandmother Helen McNeil lived in Dearborn until her death in 1978. Bill's mother's parents were Martin and Mary Chojnacki.

In 1955 Robert (Bob) McNeil and Pearl Chojnacki married in Detroit, and lived there until moving to Farmington in 1977. Bill's dad worked for Michigan Bell, retiring in 1978. He passed away in 2000, and Pearl in 2015.

Sandra (Oliver) McNeil is an alumna of Michigan State University College of Nursing, and received her MSN and doctorate from Wayne State University. She's currently an Associate Professor at Wayne State University.

Bill and Sandra lived in Farmington from 1987 to the spring of 2013, when they bought a 1928 cottage on Silver Lake in Traverse City. Starting in October 2016, the cottage was transformed into their retirement home, with the work completed in 2017. They've made it their home since then.

Bill joined the St. Andrews Society of Detroit and the Clan McNeil Association after his father passed away. He was active in the Detroit St. Andrews Society until September of 2017, at which time he joined our St. Andrews Society of MW Michigan when they moved up here.

They're fortunate to have visited Scotland twice; first in 2007, and again with their daughters & son-in-law in 2013. They visited the Paisley home where Bill's father was born and his grandparents lived as young people. In 2007 they travelled to the Isle of Barra, seat of Clan McNeil, and toured the island as well as Kisimul Castle.

Each August, a Clan McNeil reunion is held on the island. Bill has enjoyed rediscovering his heritage and feels blessed that the documentation is readily at hand. We welcome them to our 'family' and look forward to hearing more about their trips to Scotland.

- Glad Remaly, Cheboygan







Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?  
*Chorus:*  
For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne,  
we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.



All Photos Courtesy of Allan Scott