

St. Andrews Society of NW Michigan
“Northern Thistle”
June 2017



SASNM 20th Anniversary Dinner
April 30, 2017
Music House Museum, Acme, MI



Ever see a nattier-dressed bunch at an SAS dinner? Me, neither! Check out the gents in kilts, the ladies in tartan skirts and sashes. The venue was a smash hit, the food and entertainment wonderful, and a good time was had by all. Glad Remaly's suggestion of a group photo was timely indeed! President Jim's remarks follow.

I would like to welcome you to the 20th Anniversary of the St. Andrews Society of Northwest Michigan. It all began in my childhood when my father mentioned that our strain of dominant red hair came from our Scottish ancestors. Fast forward to a Detroit St. Andrews Games at the Edsel Ford Estate in 1996. I stopped at a clan booth where a volunteer looked up my name and said Mills is a sept of Clan Gordon. I fell in love with the sound of the bagpipes, and was fascinated by the tossing of the caber and other Highland events.

After returning to Lake Ann, I explored local Scottish activities. There was of course the Grand Traverse Highlanders Pipe Band, but that was about it. I contacted the Detroit St. Andrews Society to get some information on the organization and how to start a Chapter. Long story short, I placed notices in the Record Eagle for a meeting to be held at the Civic Center pavilion on a Saturday afternoon.

I remember that my Medieval group was putting on a demonstration at the Grand Traverse Medical Cares Medieval Fundraiser on the lawn near Munson Hospital.

I would like to acknowledge attendees from that first meeting who are still active in our group besides myself. Don and Margaret Sarna, Joan Williams and Lee Gwyn come to mind. Am I missing anyone?

The second gathering was our organizational meeting at the VFW Hall on Old Mission Peninsula. Our first Board of Volunteers was established, with Dale Perin agreeing to

serve as our first president. Several committees were also organized, with Harry Ansorge, Don McIntyre, Scott McLeod and I making up the Bylaws Committee.

Our first regular *gatherin'* was held at the Almira Township Park. We had a great turnout, with 4-5 pipers in attendance. Our first fundraiser to start our treasury was my bringing a selection of home-brewed ales and bitters for sale by the bottle. I recall that Scott MacKay and I were the main customers. ☺

Friends and members have come and gone over the years. Some sadly passed on, some moved away. Others appeared to lose interest and did not continue with our group. We presently have a dedicated and concerned Board whom I'd like to recognize: Vice President Donald Kinloch, who could not be here today due to oral surgery; Secretary Gloria Veltman, Treasurer Alan McColl, and Trustee Cindy Fricke. Others to be acknowledged are Margaret Sarna, our publicist and newsletter editor, and her husband Don, who manages our website and is widely recognized as our photographer; and Lee Gwyn who maintains our Facebook page.

So, thank you all for joining us on this most special of occasions. I would like for us to now thank Margaret and Don for all the effort they put into organizing this evening. Could we please give them a round of applause?

Jim Mills, SASNM President, April 30th, 2017



Upcoming Events:

SAS booth at the Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums *Concert on the Lawn* – 7pm Thursday, August 3 at The Pavilions.

Picnic & Family Highland Games – Sunday, August 27; 1pm

Annual Membership Meeting – Sunday October 1

Annual Saint Andrews Day Dinner – Friday, December 1

Grand Traverse Pipes and Drums:

July 4 – Leland 4th of July Parade and Mini-concert

Sunday July 9 – Kirkin' of the Tartans, St. Andrews, Beulah

Thursday, August 3 – Outdoor concert at the Pavilions

Members, want to get together more? Then invite us over this summer! We enjoy catching up, so why not more often? Planning SAS *events* takes time & work, but a casual back yard gathering? Nothing to it. Remember, we don't meet as a group until Sunday August 27.

*An embarrassing question has often been asked
That has plagued mankind doon through the years.
This query's been known tae make Englishmen blush
And moved many a lassie tae tears.*

*It's a subject there's great speculation aboot,
And has even caused blood to be split.
It's still hotly debated to this very day,
Pray tell, what's worn under the kilt?*

*When you see the proud kilties march in a parade
Tae the skirl o' the pipe and the drum;
Are you seized by the urge just tae sneak a wee peek,
And see if he covers his bum?*

- Author unknown; likely Bill Smith of Windsor

“The human race is divided into two classes – those who do something, and those who sit and inquire ‘why wasn’t it done the other way?’” *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

2017 Officers & Committees:

President	Jim Mills	jmills@mhc.net
Vice President	Donald Kinloch	dekinloch@msn.com
Treasurer	Alan McColl	amccoll@charter.net
Secretary	Gloria Veltman	smbslt@charter.net
Member-At-Large	Cindy Fricke	cindyfricke@sbcglobal.net
Website	Don Sarna	dssarna@sprintmail.com
Newsletter/Publicity	Margaret Sarna	dssarna@sprintmail.com
Facebook	Lee Gwyn	leeellengwyn@charter.net

St. Andrews Society of Northern Michigan Membership Form

The SASNM is a non-profit organization founded in 1997.

Annual membership is \$20 per household.

Make checks out to SASNM and mail to P.O. Box 2303, Traverse City, MI 49685

Name(s) _____

Clan affiliation (if any) _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Address (if new member) _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email address (if new) _____

We look forward to your participation. {And if you are renewing, a big thank you as well.} We look forward to seeing you at the next gathering and will alert you of upcoming events through our newsletter and emails!