



# The Caledonian

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THE SCOTTISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, INC.



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## HALÒ, A H-UILE DUINE:

We note with sadness the passing of a steadfast member, Editor Emeritus, and Society Keeper of the Jokes. Herb MacDonell passed away on April 11 at 90 years of age. In his own words, he 'took the low road to Scotland,' and will be greatly missed, but we hope that wherever he is, they are laughing at his Scottish jokes.

On a lighter note, we hope to have a good turnout for our annual picnic and scholarship award ceremony at Mossy Bank Park in Bath. If you haven't attended one of these picnics in the past, do try to join us—Chief Rick will be presiding over the charcoal grill cooking hamburgers and hot dogs, the traditional chief's duty...

We were pleased to hear about the Caledonian Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band's trip to New York City to march in the Tartan Day Parade on April 6. It was an exciting experience for 'our' band, whose skills seem to grow every time they appear. This busy and talented group, is anticipating the summer parade season, and we hope to catch them here or there.

And, remembering Herb, a little Scottish humor:

Have you heard about the lecherous Scotsman who lured a girl up to his attic to see his etchings? .... He sold her four of them.

A Scotsman took a girl for a romantic ride in his taxi...She was so beautiful he could hardly keep his eye on the meter.

Golfer: "That can't be my ball, it's too old."

Scottish Caddie: "It's been a long time since we teed off, sir."

An elderly Scotsman goes into a Chemists shop. He says to the assistant - I have a headache, have you any aspirin?

Certainly sir, she replies. Would you like 50 or 100?

No, the Scotsman says, just the one. I've only got one headache.

**REST IN PEACE, HERB**  
You got there a'fore us...



### BURNS RECAP:

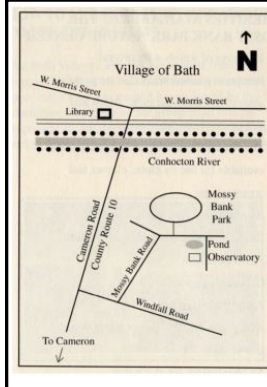
The 2019 dinner is in our history book, and it appeared that a good time was had by all attending. The new venue, the Horseheads Elks Club, worked out very well, and we were able to add money to our scholarship fund, assuring funding of our scholarships this year. Thanks to all who supported the silent auction!



### THE PICNIC

We will gather once again on July 13 at noon at Mossy Bank Park Pond Pavilion for our annual acknowledgement of the winners of this year's scholarships and feasting and fellowship. Bring a dish to pass and an appetite for those hotdogs and hamburgers the chief will be cooking. We hope to see and hear some pipes and stories and to congratulate the three

upstanding young people who have won our scholarships this year.



From Rte 86, exit 38, turn right at the first light, onto W. Morris St; go past Tops.  
Stay right at the fork; go past the library.  
Right on Cameron St.  
Over Cohocton River  
Continue about 1.6 mi.  
Watch for small Mossy Bank Park signs.  
Fork to the left onto Windfall Rd.  
Go about .4 mi.  
Left onto Mossy Bank Park Rd.  
**Right onto Davenport Hill Road.**  
**Next right: Pond Pavilion is in view.**

Call Jan Kostolansky (368-8385) now and tell her you're coming with a dish to pass and your table service. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks will be provided. See you there!

### THE GAMES

Scottish Festivals are among the highlights of the activities we enjoy. If you've never attended one, we would recommend your checking out the Dundee Scottish Festival, at which we hope to make an official appearance with our booth. You will enjoy watching the heavies: kilt-clad burly lads and lassies competing in their strange athletic events including tossing the caber and heaving the sheep...there will also be pipe bands, vendors of celtic goods and goodies, and lots of tartans in various iterations... wonderful fun for all

The date for the Dundee Scottish Games, has been changed from July to September 7. It will be held at the Dundee VFW Post #8649 125 Seneca St. Extension, Dundee, NY. This is a fun event, and the change in date should alleviate the problems we had last year with the beastly heat...please do try to attend, to say hello, to sit in the booth for a bit, to listen to the pipes, to take in the vendors. If you've never attended a celtic festival, this is the one for you. Spread the word, and do let us know if you'd like to help! Further details: [dundeescottishfestival.com](http://dundeescottishfestival.com).

### THE BEHEADING STONE

High up on a hill, overlooking the River Forth with views of the Wallace Monument and surrounding vistas, stands a chunk of stone with a dark past. According to local legend, the stone was used for beheadings in the 15th century.

The stone stands atop a place in Stirling, Scotland, that's also called "Mote Hill" or "The Heading Hill,"



a spot where an ancient Pictish Fort once stood. Over time, this area became the place where King James I would have his enemies dispatched. Most notably was that of Murdoch, Duke of Albany in 1425, the grandson of King Robert II, founder of the Stewart Dynasty.

Today, the stone no longer serves as a chopping block. It's covered by a metal cage and rests on a large, white, circular pillar with a metal plaque reading; "Beheading Stone, Protected by the Public at the Insistence of the Stirling National History &



Archaeological Society 1887." There is an information placard nearby, as well as a couple of cannons. Some say the marks on the stone are those from the executioner's ax. Retributive justice was eventually moved to Mercat Cross and the Tolbooth, Broad Street.

### AND SPEAKING OF STONES:

The Ardblair Stones are nine reinforced concrete spheres ranging in weight from 18-152kg (40-335 lbs). The Ardblair Stones Challenge involves lifting the stones sequentially from lightest to heaviest onto whisky butts (132cm or 52 inches in height). The event is judged on both time and the number of stones successfully completed. The Ardblair Stones have been a feature at the Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games since 2013 and have proven to be a highlight of the Games for many. Participation in the event is free and open to all. The results of the event are recorded each year and these can be found in the drop down menu above. 72 individual recorded attempts were made at The Stones in 2013 and this number jumped to 98 in 2014. In 2015 this number increased to over 105. 2016 was looking to be a record breaking year, but unfortunately due to extremely poor weather the event had to be abandoned in the early afternoon for safety reasons. As The Stones are in their 5th year I thought it might be interesting to list some of the achievements that have been made by individuals up to this point. The first thing to note is that the

current "King of the Stones" is John Pollock from Ayrshire. In 2015 he managed all of the 9 Stones in a time of 58.55s. It should also be noted that there have been two successful "exhibition lifts" made of the 9th Ardblair Stone which weighs a total of 152kg.(335lbs) The first of these was Lorne Colthart, Blair Atholl, Perthshire, who with the aid of tacky, (a grip aid forbidden when attempting The Ardblair Stones) managed this tremendous feat in 2013. The second successful "exhibition lift" of the 9th Ardblair Stone was made by Craig Reid from NSW Australia in 2014. This feat was made all the more remarkable because he achieved this using only chalk as a grip aid - which is still within the rules of The Ardblair Stones.



The greatest number of Stones ever lifted by a woman, and in the fastest time was managed by Mary Anderson (Scotland's Strongest Woman). In 2016 she completed 5 Stones in a time of 20.04 seconds. To date no woman has ever managed to successfully lift the 6th Stone at 107Kg (236lbs) onto its barrel. Ones to watch: Here are a few individuals (regulars to the Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games) worth looking out for. Any of these people stand a good chance of winning The Ardblair Stones and at the very least are guaranteed to put on a good show.

RELATED: <http://www.thedinnistones.com/>

### PAY YOUR DUES!

Look at your mailing label. If it says "lifetime," or "benefactor", "fellow", or "comp," you are current in your membership and will remain so. If there is a year above your name, and it is not **2019** or later, you are in arrears. If you are not current with your dues (Single \$10, Family \$15, Patron \$25, Benefactor \$50 or more, Life \$250) please remit them to Nedra McElroy, 4 Lackawanna Ave., Bath NY 14810 straight away, or tell her <mscrayola@stny.rr.com> if you want to be removed from the membership database.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter! By the same token, if your e-mail or telephone or mailing address has changed, please keep us in the loop. Tell Nedra!

### Address Service Requested

Illustration of a rooster wearing a red cap, a blue and green plaid skirt, and white socks, holding a broom and standing on a pile of straw.