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Scotland at the Centre

By Dr. Graeme Morton

You may be wondering what's been going on recently at the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph?

Well, typical of Scots everywhere, we've been busy trying to broker deals. The Centre is having on-going discussions with several Scottish universities about student exchanges, research collaboration and academic visits. We think these agreements are a great way to expand the opportunities for our students, as well as helping those in Scotland learn more about their Canadian connections.

Our contribution to Scotland Week last April was particularly hectic and an example of how we look to work with others. We joined the SSF in celebrating Tartan Day and in anointing John Fraser as a much-deserved Scot of the Year. The Tartan Day Dinner was a sumptuous affair enjoyed by all, the festivities helped greatly by the smooth wit of MC Douglas Gibson.

The Centre then hosted a one-day conference exploring the life and contributions of John Galt, Scottish novelist, founder of the city of Guelph, and the first Commissioner of the Canada Company (1826 to 1829). Diplomat, historian, and author Robert Lee was the driving force behind this well-attended event. We were treated with family stories from Suzanne Evans, a descendant of Galt, and the conference featured contributions from Dr. Kathryn Harvey, Head of Special Collections, and retired librarian Tim Sauer, whose many years of tenacious treasure-hunting has resulted in one of the world's largest collections of Galt materials now being housed at the U of G.

Another who has spent a career in the company of Galt's legacy is Emeritus Professor Gil Stelter. Gil talked about the research behind his forthcoming biography and his planned visits to Galt's homes in Scotland (including one now owned by former Scottish Secretary for State Sir Malcolm Rifkind). And putting it all in context was Cairns Craig, Glucksman Professor of Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen. Professor Craig's participation was made possible through the generous support of the St Andrew's Society

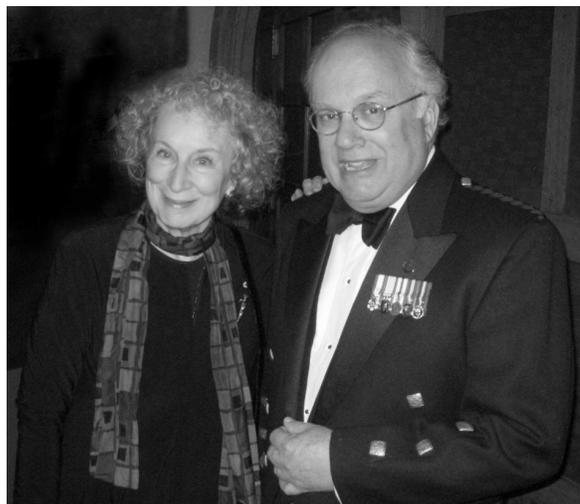
of Toronto, another excellent and most valued collaboration.

Our action-packed Scotland Week also featured the Spring Colloquium, graced this year by a number of Fulbright Scholars. This long-established and prestigious scholarship scheme has been given a kilted twist by the Scottish government, and these bright young people wowed Knox College in Toronto. Dr. Amy Blakeway (Westminster College), Dr. Steven Reid (Yale University) and Dr. Valerie Wallace (Harvard University) all came north to join us. They contributed to a great lineup that also included Sarah McCaslin (University of Edinburgh) and the sound of the early Scottish lute by John Edwards (Musician in Ordinary) with the lute's history explained by Dr. Mairi Cowan (University of Toronto). As I write, the 2012 Fall Colloquium is just around the corner with a superb mix of history and literature covering all periods of Scotland's past, plus our biggest selection in years of books for sale.

As well as continuing to see Kevin James on *Ancestors in the Attic*, the media and research activities of the Scottish Studies faculty bounds with energy. Elizabeth Ewan was interviewed by BBC Scotland on women murderers and for a PBS documentary on the Highland Clearances, providing insight into how women experienced this traumatic period of history.

Graeme Morton published his latest book, *Ourselves and Others: Scotland, 1832-1914* (Edinburgh, 2012), and Linda Mahood spent part of her research leave attached to the University of Edinburgh. SSF members can secure a special offer on Graeme's book at: www.scottishstudies.com.

Our students continue to prove how dynamic they are. New PhD student Alice Glaze had her article *Sex and the (early*



John Fraser, one of Canada's most accomplished academics in the field of journalism, was presented with our 2012 Scot of the Year Award at our Annual Tartan Day Dinner event on April 12. John is pictured here at the event with Margaret Atwood.

modern) City published in History Scotland (July/Aug 2012). Kate Zubczyk spent part of the summer in the Shetland archives, and many other students were to be found in Scotland for the summer thanks to the generosity of Scottish Studies' scholarships.

The latest of our students to find employment is PhD candidate Jodi Campbell who has been hired as a full-time adjunct instructor at Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. While closer to home, five of our students are presenting papers at the Midwestern Conference on British Studies, which is being held at the University of Toronto (11-13 October 2012).

You are encouraged, always, to visit our revamped website for up-to-date information on the Centre for Scottish Studies: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/scottish>. And you can now follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Future news will include the return of an old friend (who is still so young!): Dr. Catherine Spence will join us for post-doctoral work. Look out for the latest issue of the *International Review of Scottish Studies* (vol. 37, 2012), and for our on-going series of Roundtable Talks, with new scholars joining some more established researchers to explore Scotland's history and literature. The Roundtables at the U of G are free and open to all – we provide coffee and, if you're lucky, Caitlin Holton bakes a cake!

From strength to strength – Scotland and Canada

Helen Webster, Scotland's Diplomatic representative in Canada – shares her thoughts on the ties that bind Scotland and Canada together, and the opportunities to grow this relationship in future.

It never fails to impress me when speaking to international audiences about how much interest there is in Scotland and in being Scottish – never more so than here in Canada. Today there are more than five million Canadians who proudly claim Scottish ancestry, and Canada shares inextricable and treasured ties with Scotland. For generations Scots have ventured to Canada's shores, playing an enormous part in making Canada what it is today.

Scottish settlers carved Nova Scotia from harsh northern lands, where they built farms and schools, towns and cities, and where they endured and thrived. I have no doubt that the Canadian landscape reminded them of home.

Scots went on to establish businesses, open the New World, and lead their communities, to which they gave familiar names like Dunedin, Perth, Hamilton and St Andrews. Glasgow-born Sir John A. McDonald, Canada's first Prime Minister, united Canada with his national vision and the construction of the world's longest railway.

Today in the second decade of the 21st century, modern Canada and modern Scotland face unprecedented economic, environmental and social challenges. Both countries understand that in order to succeed, they must build knowledge economies. We share common strengths - world-class education systems, internationally recognized research communities, highly skilled workforces, and thriving creative industries - which we should continue to develop.

Scotland's engagement with Canada has continued to flourish in recent years. The Scottish Government's *Plan for Engagement in Canada*, published on St Andrew's Day in 2010, brings a more focused approach to our activity here, building and strengthening this relationship further, and maximizing opportunities for mutual engagement. The opportunity is Canada's for the taking, with the Scottish Government having put their money where their mouth is. 2011 saw the establishment of our multi agency office in Toronto, representing Scotland's trade and investment agency *Scottish Development International*, our national tourism agency *VisitScotland*, and the diplomatic interests of the Scottish Government. 2012 has seen an expanded presence in the west with the opening of Scottish Development International's Calgary office in March.

Our work here in Canada also recognizes the tremendous role that other interested individuals can play in helping to shape and deliver increased engagement. We want to do more to promote and support diaspora connections and work with organizations here and in Scotland to build on the strong personal bonds that tie us together.

The message is clear: Scotland is open for business. Scotland and Canada have, of course, been trading partners for centuries. Where once it was furs, now our business relationships are based on science and technology and, of course, energy. Scotland remains an ideal location for international business and the international opportunities for Scottish businesses have never been better. Currently more than 5000 jobs are provided by Canadian companies located in Scotland. Canada is one of Scotland's biggest inward investors. Close to 30 percent of the oil and gas produced in the North Sea is by Canadian companies based in Aberdeen – among them Nexen, Suncor and Talisman. Meanwhile, Vector Aerospace – a Canadian company that maintains and services helicopters for the Royal Navy and the British Army – has a strong presence in Almondbank, Perthshire.

But it's not a one-way street. Canada is one of Scotland's largest export markets and among those companies enjoying success here across the Atlantic is the Glasgow-based company Aggreko, which supplied power to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and Baxter's Canada, a subsidiary of Baxter's Foods, one of Scotland's most iconic brands. I can also vouch for the growing partnerships between Canadian and Scottish companies and universities in helping to develop renewable energy resources, especially wind, wave and tidal where our two countries share the advantages of natural assets. There is much that we can learn from each other in tackling the challenges of energy security and environmental sustainability.

Canada is also one of Scotland's most valuable international tourism markets, with over 100,000 visitors coming to Scotland each year who spend nearly £60m annually. With the pound weak against the dollar, Scotland is more affordable than ever. Combine this with plentiful direct flights and some great value deals on the ground in Scotland and we have some truly exceptional potential for both the Canadian travel trade and consumers.

There are lots of ways to start. Visit one of Scotland's family history centres, local registrars' offices or libraries where you can access fascinating archives. Glasgow's Mitchell Library has trade directories and newspapers back to the 18th Century – and 5,000 volumes of Poor Law records, a reminder that not everyone's ancestors lived in grand castles! At Edinburgh's *Scottlands*

Peoples Centre, Scotland's largest family history centre, you can browse records online or spend time with genealogical specialists offering assisted search services.

Visit AncestralScotland.com and start planning your own personal ancestral journey. This unique online resource provides a wealth of information for ancestral travelers from how to start researching your roots to signposting Scotland's rich sources of ancestral information; insights about Scotland's clans and tartans, and practical information about visiting and traveling to Scotland including tips and offers on where to stay.

Start planning now and be there in time to mark St Andrew's Day! You can also sign up for updates so that you can be the first to know the latest news about the yearlong program of events to take place across Scotland during Homecoming 2014. Registration also entitles you to receive ten free credits to use on scotlandspeople.gov.uk – Scotland's leading online source of genealogical information.

Scotland is the ideal destination for 'homecoming' visitors to the UK and there are many fantastic direct routes on offer to both Glasgow and Edinburgh. Visitors can take advantage of the fantastic direct routes to Scotland from Canada, with Canadian Air, Air Transat and Sunwing flights from Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver to Glasgow. Fly direct to Scotland with Sunwing's newly launched route for 2012; flights from \$79 + taxes making Scotland incredible value for money.

I feel tremendously fortunate in my work and never lose my sense of awe and excitement at all Canada is and has to offer. But I am a fiercely proud Scot and hope I never need stay away too long. Scotland is a progressive nation with global reach; a welcoming nation - world-renowned for our hospitality; creative; a country of rich natural and built environments and of course we are the home of golf and whisky. I know that Scotland's great glens, mist-covered mountains and thriving cities will continue to beckon thousands and thousands of Canadians in the coming years. 2014 sees Scotland stage two truly world class events with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles - hot on the heels of Europe's incredible victory in Medinah!

Be it cultural, economic, historical or political, there's so much to be excited about and no end of opportunities to be seized.

For more information please contact Helen Webster, Second Secretary for Scotland and Vice President, Scottish Development International in Canada at Helen.Webster@scotent.co.uk

Scottish schoolgirl creates 2014 Commonwealth Games mascot

For weeks, 12-year-old Scottish schoolgirl Beth Gilmour kept the biggest secret in Scotland.

She knew her drawing of a sports-mad thistle had been chosen as the official mascot for Glasgow's Commonwealth Games but

The Thistle as a Symbol of Scotland

The thistle may only be a humble weed, but it is the emblem of the Scottish nation. The prickly-leaved, pink or purple-flowered 'Scotch' thistle is, along with tartan, perhaps the most identifiable symbol of all things Scottish. But how did the thistle earn its place in the heart of the Scots?

According to legend, an invading Norse army was attempting to sneak up at night upon a Scottish army's encampment. During this operation one barefoot Norseman had the misfortune to step upon a thistle, causing him to cry out in pain, thus alerting Scots to the presence of the Norse invaders.

Some sources suggest the specific occasion was the Battle of Largs, which marked the beginning of the departure of King Haakon IV (Haakon the Elder) of Norway who, having control of the Northern Isles and Hebrides, had harried the coast of the Kingdom of Scotland for some years.

Which species of thistle is referred to in the original legend is disputed. Popular modern usage favours Cotton Thistle *Onopordum Acanthium*, perhaps because of its more imposing appearance, though it is unlikely to have occurred in Scotland in mediaeval times; the Spear Thistle *Cirsium Vulgare*, an abundant native species in Scotland, is a more likely candidate. Other species, including Dwarf Thistle *Cirsium Acaule*, Musk Thistle *Carduus Nutans*, and Melancholy Thistle *Cirsium Heterophyllum* have also been suggested.

The Order of the Thistle was founded in 1540 by King James V, who made this Order for himself and his twelve knights. The common badge worn by the knights is a cross, surmounted by a star of four silver points, and over this a green circle bordered and lettered with gold, containing the motto "Nemo me impune lacessit," "No-one harms me without punishment," but more commonly translated in Scots as "Wha daurs meddle wi me," in the centre is the Thistle. The badge is normally worn over the left breast.

couldn't tell anybody.

She had found out when a BBC children's program presenter turned up at her home in Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, to tell her she had won the contest to design the mascot. But she couldn't tell anyone about that either.

She was also sworn to secrecy that Billy Connolly was the narrator and that Paolo Nutini had written the music to accompany the movie about her thistle character, named Clyde.

At the launch last September, Beth was there with her classmates from Lenzie Academy. They were stunned when it was revealed she had created the winning design and she stepped into the spotlight with Olympic swimmers Rebecca Adlington and Michael Jamieson.

Beth said: "I'm so glad I don't have to keep it a secret any more. It was so tricky.

"My class were told we'd been picked from a hat to see the mascot unveiling and they were excited, wondering if anyone famous would be there. I couldn't say a word and it was really hard."

It was big sister Erin, 14, who suggested that Beth enter the nationwide competition to create a mascot for the 2014 Games. Her design of a winking thistle, in Commonwealth colours, was chosen from 4000 entries.

Proud mum Christine, a pharmacist, said: "She only had her character winking because she couldn't draw eyes." And civil servant dad Philip added: "We are all surprised and delighted that she won. Beth is determined and when she does something, she puts a lot of effort in."

Now Clyde will be turned into a cuddly toy in time for Christmas and will feature on all sorts of Commonwealth merchandise. The organizing committee needs to raise £100 million in commercial revenue as a legacy of the Games and Beth's mascot will be an important part of that.

Organizers insist it is coincidence that a Scottish child won the contest and, even better, that's she's sporty. A keen swimmer and badminton player, it was a dream come true for Beth to meet the two Olympic medallists at the launch ceremony.

Like Glaswegian swimmer Michael, who brought home a silver medal, Beth wakes at 5.30am three days a week to train before school. She said: "I get so tired from club swimming so I can't imagine how much the Olympians train. It was amazing to



Beth Gilmour with "Clyde" in person

meet Rebecca and Michael. I think they're so cool and I loved watching them during the Olympics. It would be nice to compete like them but I'm not at that level."

Clyde is the first non-animal mascot chosen for a Commonwealth Games, and will be used in promotional activities to raise awareness of the games across Scotland.

"It is important that young people are at the heart of the games - Beth's design captured the imagination and the spirit of not only the games, but also of Glasgow and Scotland," said Glasgow 2014 chairman Lord Smith.

Games ambassador Billy Connolly, who supplied the voice for the animated film which unveiled Clyde, said, "It's a very, very good idea and a fantastic design by Beth. "The thistle is the perfect choice and has a great history and meaning in Scotland, plus Clyde's got a smashing haircut that makes him very modern and gives him a lovely edge. The River Clyde is unbelievably special to the people of Glasgow. It's one of the sole reasons for Glasgow being here and I personally believe the thistle is a brilliant plant, it really is rather special."



Eric Liddell's Canadian Family

By GINA DAVIDSON

On 11th July 2012, 88 years to the day since Eric Liddell won his Olympic gold medal, a new exhibition opened in Edinburgh celebrating his life, from his early years in China and his fantastic Gold Medal victory at the 1924 Paris Olympics to his missionary work in China.

At the event was Eric's eldest daughter Patricia Liddell Russell, who talked about her father -- the inspiration behind the movie *Chariots of Fire*.

Back at a university track in Toronto, a young woman is running laps, clocking her time as she goes. Those coaching, others watching, are only interested in whether she's good enough for the next athletics meeting.

They are unlikely to know her background -- that she is the great-granddaughter of an Olympic legend and that, linked to her inherited talent, is a story which can bring people close to tears.

"She's fast," says her grandmother Patricia Russell in a soft Canadian accent. "She's got a scholarship because of her ability and is in her fourth year studying radiography, but we'll see if she takes the running any further. We were all swift when we were young, you know, but we didn't really go into athletics properly, girls weren't really pushed then. And we don't use the Liddell name, we don't boast, even if my grandmother always said 'remember who you are!'"

Patricia laughs and settles back into the sofa in her cousin Joan Nicol's Edinburgh home. The eldest daughter of Eric Liddell, the athlete and missionary, she's just arrived



Eric Liddell at the 1924 Paris Olympics

in Edinburgh on a whirlwind visit to open the newly-refurbished cafe, reception and disabled ramp at the Eric Liddell Centre in Morningside as well as launch a sports scholarship in his name at Edinburgh University, where he studied pure science and where his medals are held. Then she and her husband will head south to his alma mater Eltham College in London for its sports day and 100th anniversary celebrations.

There can be few in Edinburgh or in the UK who don't know the story of the deeply religious Liddell, especially as it was captured, if a little fictionalized, in the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*. That movie, now 31 years old, has been digitally remastered and is being re-released, and so the tale of how the young Scottish sprinter refused to run the 100m on a Sunday but instead won gold in the 400m in the 1924 Paris Olympics will affect a whole new generation.

The story has also recently made it to the stages of London's West End, where Liddell is portrayed by Scottish actor Jack Loudon. "Oh it's marvelous," says Patricia. "We went to see it and I met the young man who plays my father and he is wonderful. He hardly knew the story really, especially what happened after the Olympics, so I've promised to send him a book."

Of course the Eric Liddell story is making waves again thanks to the London 2012 Olympics, and Patricia admits that her phone rings with enquiries from the media every four years about just what her father, the man the world knew as the athlete who refused to run on a Sunday, would make of the modern-day Olympics with all its drugs controversies and big money.

"I think he would be quite appalled really," says the 77-year-old. "Of course I've no real idea what he would say, but going by what my mother has told us and how we were raised, I believe he wouldn't have been very impressed at all by modern athletics. Those that use drugs to win, he would ask 'Have you really won? Were you really the best on the day if you did?'"

"I also think he wouldn't like such a focus on gold all the time. Just to get there, to compete in the Olympics, all those athletes have to be wonderful. I think he would just be glad if they did their utmost without compromising themselves, and if they didn't win, then at least they were still winners from doing their best."

Being the daughter of a man with such high ideals, and of world renown, seems as though it could have been a burden. After all, not only did he win Olympic gold - and bronze in the 200m -- but he went on to win the hearts and minds of thousands of Chinese people as a missionary, ultimately dying of a brain hemorrhage in a Japanese prisoner-of-



Patricia Liddell Russell with a picture of her father's graduation

war camp. It's a story which has so many heroic moments that living up to the Liddell name seems a strain.

"You know sometimes I think it's as well we grew up in Canada," she says. "I think if we'd been in Scotland rather than Canada, where my mother was from, our lives would have been very different. He went to the Olympics and did well, and that was nice, but it was just a small part of his life and he then went on to do what he thought was important. He very seldom spoke about the Olympics and he wouldn't have wanted us to sit around and bask in his glory. That would be no life."

"He would hate the idea that he was idolized in any way. To me he was daddy, always daddy, as I was just six when I last saw him so wasn't old enough to grow out of using that word. Canada doesn't make a huge fuss about him and our family, so we got to grow up doing our own thing and being ourselves."

She adds: "The Eric Liddell Centre though is something which I think he would be very pleased with. He would have been proud of the work it does. It's the same with the scholarship at Edinburgh University. They are useful and can really change a person's life. I think he would be embarrassed by some of the fuss made about what he did, but if it can create something wonderful, then that's good."

Liddell was born in Tianjin, China to Scottish parents, and after boarding at Eltham College came to Edinburgh to study. He was a Scottish rugby internationalist as well as an athlete, and it was during his time as a student that he took part in the Olympics. In 1925, he went back to Tianjin and worked as a middle school teacher. He was detained in the concentration camp built by the Japanese for foreign residents in Weifang until 1945 when he died there.

"He had a wicked sense of humour," she says. "He liked making jokes and was very light-hearted with a dazzling smile. And even though he didn't want to run on a Sunday he never tried to stop other people from doing so, he just wouldn't give up his principles for a medal."



*The Liddell Family in 1920.
Back Row: Eric, Rob
Front Row: Jenny, Ernest, Mrs Liddell*

"But he was a liberal really. I was told a story that when he was in the POW camp he helped a prostitute put up some shelves in her room and she told him it was the first time a man had done something for her without asking for anything in return. But to him she was a person, a human being in need of a helping hand. He was never judgmental; in fact he was ahead of his time.

"I'm not sure that really comes across in the film, even though it was a wonderful film. My aunt Jenny [cousin Joan's mother] was also different to the way she comes across in the film. In fact she was in China when daddy was in the Olympics, so her part is totally made up, and she wasn't happy as she felt it made her appear priggish, when she was anything but -- they all really supported his running."

She adds: "I remember being devastated that I couldn't come to Edinburgh for the premiere as mother was ill. She'd been over to the UK before and had seen some of the rushes and met Ian Charleson, who played daddy. But for the premiere my sisters Heather and Maureen came instead -- and for Maureen it was wonderful as she'd never met daddy."

When Liddell was interred during the Second World War, he sent his family back to his wife Florence's native country of Canada. "I think if it had just been Heather and I we would have stayed with him," says Patricia. "But my mother was pregnant so we were sent away. We kept thinking he would soon be coming to join us, but we never saw him again. I was ten when we were told that he had died.

"It's hard to remember much about him, but what I do recall is a summer spent just outside Edinburgh with family. It was glorious. It was 1940 and he was on furlough back to Scotland and we'd sailed

here from China. We had a wonderful time with all the cousins and grandparents and just being with mummy and daddy.

"Then I remember when we were sailing back across the Atlantic, and the war was on so it was dangerous. We were in a convoy of ships and some of them were torpedoed. We saw ships going down. We were actually hit as well but the torpedo didn't detonate. To this day I can hear the motor of that ship going as fast as it could go to get out of there.

"It became very dangerous in China as well and people were told to leave. My father though felt he had responsibilities. So we went and he stayed."

Part of the Liddell legend goes that he was later offered a place on a ship out of China, but turned it down so it could be given to a pregnant lady. Patricia is unsure of the truth of the story, but says it sounds like the actions of her dad. "But he always said to my mother that there were many remarkable people in China doing amazing things."

It has been 88 years since Eric Liddell breached the tape and took gold in the 400 metres at the Paris Olympics, but for the last 32 of them his name has lived on in Edinburgh, his home from home, at the eponymous centre at Holy Corner.

The athlete and missionary, who had once lived close by and attended the building when it was the Morningside North Parish Church, is celebrated inside with a gallery of photos.

However, Patricia believes it is the work done at the Eric Liddell Centre since 1980, when it became a place where the elderly and vulnerable could seek support, which would most please her father.

"He would hate to think he was idolized because of the Olympics. Daddy had a strong



Tracey Ferguson is pictured here with Hugh Robertson, the UK government minister responsible for the London Olympics, at a Diamond Jubilee gala evening in Toronto last May

belief in service to his local community and was always doing things for other people," she says. "He would have been proud of this place. It's great to see it go from strength to strength as a living memorial to his life and work."

Last June, the centre opened a new reception and cafe, as well as a new ramp for the disabled, as part of a £248,000 appeal to transform the facilities which deal with hundreds of people every week, in particular offering support to those with dementia.

The tartan ribbon was cut by Patricia, who later attended the launch of a new sports scholarship in her father's name at Edinburgh University.

The Scots determination of Paralympic Champion Tracey Ferguson

Tracey Ferguson knows what it takes to reach the podium. She has been a member of five Paralympic teams, helping Canada win gold medals in 1992, 1996 and 2000 and a bronze in 2004. She also was a member of the team that won a silver medal at the 2011 Parapan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Ferguson won World Championships in 1994, 1998, 2002, and bronze in 2010.

Unashamedly proud of her Scots ancestry, Ferguson grew up playing street hockey and dreamed of one day representing Canada on the Olympic podium. As a child she aspired to be an Olympic swimmer, but surgery to correct a spinal problem left her paralyzed from the chest down.

When she was 12 years old she tried out for a wheelchair basketball team. She was the only female and the smallest player at the tryouts, and didn't make the team, but her positive attitude, willingness to work hard, and refusal to quit earned her an invitation to practice with the team, and by the time she was 21 she was recruited to the National team.

Tracey competed in track events in the Beijing Olympics in 2008 and came close to a third place finish before crashing, breaking several ribs and injuring her shoulder.

Her message to young athletes? -- "The true measure and true test of ourselves is that we pick ourselves back up."

Tracey hails from Holland Landing, Ontario, and is a member of FitSpirit, which promotes active, healthy and balanced lifestyles for young women. A four-time recipient of the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association's Female Athlete of the Year award, Ferguson also has been honoured by the YMCA's Young Women of Distinction Award and the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award.

The Kidnapping and Exile of Lady Grange

A few years ago, archaeologists excavating the grounds of a modern community centre in the Scottish town of Prestonpans in the hope of finding the remains of a 16th century mansion, unearthed the story of the tempestuous relationship between James Erskine and Rachel Chiesley, Lord and Lady Grange, who once occupied the house.

Located in the vicinity of the 1745 Battle of Prestonpans, Bonnie Prince Charlie's most significant victory, the house was the haunt of Jacobite plotters going back to 1715 and, according to Dr. Tony Pollard, of Glasgow University's Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, the grand building was home to the couple who were the cause célèbre of Edinburgh for almost 20 years.

Although James Erskine was a respected judge and a high-flying figure on the Edinburgh scene, he was a closet Jacobean – a position seen as verging on treason by the authorities. "It's clear his home welcomed sympathizers to the Jacobite cause. If you are looking for the roots of the '45 rebellion, look no further than Preston House," Dr. Pollard said.

Rachel Chiesley was a socialite, had the reputation of being a strong-willed beauty who married her husband only after he got

Upon the 22d of Jan 1732, I lodged in Margaret M'Lean house and a little before twelve at night Mrs M'Lean being on the plot opened the door and there rush'd in to my room some servants of Lovats and his Couson Roderick Macleod he is a writer to the Signet they threw me down upon the floor in a Barbarous manner I cri'd murther murther then they stopp'd my mouth I puled out the cloth and told Rod: Macleod I knew him their hard rude hands bleed and abassed my face all below my eyes they dung out some of my teeth and toere the cloth of my head and toere out some of my hair I wrestled and defend'd -my self with my hands then Rod: order'd to tye down my hands and cover my face most pity-fully there was no skin left on my face with a cloath and stopp'd my mouth again they had wrestl'd so long with me that it was all that I could breath, then they carry'd me down stairs as a corps.

From a letter written by Lady Grange

her pregnant and was not at all well disposed to the Jacobites.

The couple had dubious family connections. Lady Grange's father was the infamous Chiesley of Dalry, who murdered the president of the Court of Session.

James Erskine, who was educated as a lawyer and became lord justice clerk of the Court of Session and Lord Grange in 1710, was the younger brother of "Bobbing John," the Earl of Mar, whose military ineptitude was instrumental in the failure of the Jacobite rising of 1715.

The couple had four children, but according to Lord Grange's friends, his wife's temper and indulgence in alcohol made the marriage insufferable for him. Rumours abounded of Lady Grange's insanity but those could just have been the invention of her enemies. "Her husband's friends probably did not appreciate uppity women. She knew what she liked," Dr Pollard said. "But it is clear that her husband was constantly in fear that his wife's loose mouth might spill the beans on his Jacobite sympathies. Her discovery that her husband was conducting an affair with one Fanny Lindsay can only have made matters worse."

By 1730 they were separated, with the attendant shame brought upon Lady Grange. But as her husband continued to fear that she would betray his plotting, on his orders, on a January night in 1732, a group of his cronies broke into her lodgings on Niddry's Wynd, Edinburgh, beating her and knocking out some of her teeth. According to one account, they tied her up and carried her out as a corpse.

She was smuggled out of the city in a sedan chair and taken west by Peter Fraser (a page of Lord Lovat) and his men to Balquhider. Her captors could have used the excuse – based on a widely held superstition at the time – that she was being taken to St Fillan's Pool near Tyndrum to be cured of insanity.

Details of the onward route from there are not clear but she was eventually put on board ship and taken to the Monach Isles west of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

She lived in isolation there, not even being told the name of the island where she was living, and it took her some time to find out who her landlord was. Then in June 1734, she was taken to the isolated island of St Kilda, some 40 miles out in the Atlantic.

In the meantime, with his wife securely out of the way, Lord Grange announced her death and Preston House was sold. He resigned from the bar and became an MP, keeping at least one mistress in his London apartments. Although perhaps apocryphal, a story appeared in 1845 suggesting that shortly after her kidnapping, Lord Grange had actually faked her funeral.



Lady Grange

One of the more poignant ruins on the island of Hirta in the St Kilda archipelago is the site of Lady Grange's "house" – a large cleit or stone storage hut. She described Hirta as "a viled neasty, stinking poor Isle" and insisted that, "I was in great miserie in the Husker but I'm ten times worse and worse here." Her lodgings were grim. An earthen floor, rain running down the walls and in winter, snow had to be scooped out in handfuls from behind the bed. She spent her days asleep, drinking as much whisky as was available to her, and wandered the shore at night bemoaning her fate.

During her sojourn there she wrote two letters relating her story, which eventually reached Edinburgh. One, dated January 20, 1738, found its way to Thomas Hope of Rankeillor, her lawyer, in December 1740. The letter caused a sensation in Edinburgh but her husband's friends managed to block attempts by Hope to obtain a warrant to search St Kilda.

By 1740 Lady Grange was 61 years old. Removed from St Kilda in haste, she was transported to various locations in the north west mainland Scotland and the Outer Hebrides before arriving at Waternish on Skye in 1742.

Local folklore suggests she may have been kept for 18 months in a cave either at Idrigill on Skye's Trotternish peninsula or on the Duirinish coast near the stacks known as a "Macleod's Maidens." She was later housed with Rory MacNeil at Trumpan in Waternish and died there on May 12, 1745.

MacNeil had her "decently interred" the following week in the local churchyard but for reasons unknown a second funeral was held at nearby Duirinish some time thereafter, where a large crowd gathered to watch the burial of a coffin filled with turf and stones. ■

Glenfiddich selects Canadian artist Jillian McDonald to be its 2012 Artist-in-Residence

Jillian McDonald, an artist who specializes in haunting horror films that carefully avoid extreme gore and violence, has been named the 2012 Canadian Glenfiddich Artist-in-Residence.

The program, now in its 10th year, was established by Peter Gordon, the great-great-grandson of Glenfiddich founder, William Grant. The brand, known for its single malt Scotch whisky, welcomes up to eight artists from around the world to live at its distillery in Dufftown, Scotland, for three months. The artists are given free rein to absorb, be inspired by their surroundings and create, and are chosen from China, Taiwan, South Africa, United States, Spain, Scotland and Canada.

Once in Dufftown, artists live in crofts and are given resources valued at roughly \$20,000 to produce new work inspired by the Scottish highlands, the community and the distillery. One of the special benefits is the opportunity to work in an international artists' community, to share a dialogue with one another and to foster cross-disciplinary ideas. To date, more than 76 international artists have taken part in the program, with eight hailing from Canada.

Jillian has been there since July 15th, spending time in Dufftown and other parts of Scotland shooting a new video called *Valley of the Deer*. She has been casting local residents and creating costumes and masks inspired by the local landscape, legends and folklore.

"The haunting remarkable romanticism of the landscape will figure prominently as the camera creeps across the valleys uncovering dales and knolls, fog, majestic views, animals such as live deer and masked actors," she said. "Viewers will be left with the suggestion that this valley has many hidden tales."

"I have never been to Scotland before and am thrilled to have the opportunity to be there this summer into fall," McDonald said. "In my recent work I am trying to tap into horror mythologies and archetypes, and relate them to iconic and haunting landscapes. In my mind, the Scottish highlands are a perfect setting for a new video work."

"Dufftown is dreamy. Enormous red mushrooms, giant purple lupins, secret lakes and covered bridges, coloured flags high on warm wind, stone houses, grey green lichen, black trees. The countryside in every direction is dotted with sheep. Even after one week of being here I felt fully settled. The highland games came to Dufftown

shortly after I arrived, along with rain and deep sunshine in equal measure. It is very quiet here, but then again never silent, there are always cars on the road into town outside my door, and sounds and smells from the distillery are constant.

"I am researching Scottish folklore and legends for a new video and in the meantime have shot and edited a short video titled *Ceremonial* (working title), inspired by the highland games and the 2012 London Olympics opening ceremony. Well not really, but they were on my mind, as was Ray Bradbury's (RIP) *Something Wicked This Way Comes*."

The Glenfiddich Artist-in-Residence program is the result of international efforts. According to the program's curator, Andy Fairgrieve, "The program's ethos is about encouraging artists to take inspiration from their experience living at the distillery, whether that be the pioneering heritage of Glenfiddich, the surrounding environment, of the daily life of the distillery and local community and to be as pioneering as possible — a mission our artists live and breathe during their residency. We are very proud that the program appeals to so many of Canada's leading and emerging artists. The range and scope of submissions is a true reflection of the creative exploration going on in Canada today."

While Fairgrieve ultimately has the final say over who wins, he works closely with the cultural organizations from each country that decide on the shortlist. In Canada, representatives from Toronto's OCAD University weed through the nearly 130 applicants each year.

"We've received applicants from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and up into the territories," said Charles Reeve, OCAD curator. "And they range from people who are still in art school to senior artists with international profiles."

Reeve said the organization looks for artists on the "leading edge of contemporary art." This year, McDonald's take on the horror film genre allowed her to stand out among the applicants.

"She does scary horror movies where nobody actually has their head cut off with a chainsaw," Reeve said. "There's something interesting about that exact idea — the idea of making a horror film, but removing that type of horror from it. It was something we



Jillian McDonald displaying her work at Toronto's OCAD University

had never seen before, and it was really well-thought-out and thought-provoking."

Originally from Canada, with roots in Winnipeg, McDonald is normally based in Brooklyn, New York. Her work is meant to be humorous and features references to popular films. She uses video art, net art, performance art, installations, and photography.

Her interests are the American cult of celebrity and the concept of fear as entertainment in horror films. In her best-known works she has digitally manipulated romantic scenes from Hollywood films starring actors such as Billy Bob Thornton, Vincent Gallo and Johnny Depp, investigating celebrity obsession. In *The Screaming*, she inserted herself into horror films such as *The Shining* and *Alien*, screaming at the monsters to scare them away or destroy them.

Her video *Horror Makeup* was inspired by observing the daily ritual of harried female business commuters on the New York subway painstakingly applying their makeup oblivious to any attention being paid by their fellow passengers. Filmed by a hidden camera, she starts by applying makeup normally which initially gets no reaction after which she slowly applies theatrical makeup to make her look more and more grotesque and zombie-like.

She has received grants from The Canada Council for the Arts, Soil New Media, Turbulence, The Gunk Foundation, NYSCA, The Experimental Television Center, Thirdplace.org, and Pace University.

She has lectured in North America and Europe about her work and has attended numerous residencies including DAIMON and La Chambre Blanche in Québec, Emmedia in Calgary, and Harvestworks in New York City.

McDonald has happily rediscovered playing the piano and camping, and is learning how to rock-climb. ■

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