

Welcome Clan Stewart

Duncan and Kathleen Stewart, along with six children, moved to Kincardine in 1965. The Sing-a-longs listening to Norm Dunsmoor and the Saturday night marches with the pipe band will forever be a significant memory for their family. Although their parents have passed on, they would be proud that this year Clan Stewart has been chosen as the Clan of Honour at the 11th Annual Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games.

Their family holds Highland Bagpipes originated from the early 1800's. These pipes were safely brought to Canada by Duncan Stewart and his wife Elizabeth McMillian around the 1850's. They are honoured to display them at this year's Kincardine Scottish Festival.

The Stewarts, Scotland's most noble Clan, have always played a pivotal role in the history of Scotland. It is through marriage with the daughter of Robert the Bruce that they can begin to trace the descent of the Royal House of Stewart. The royal line of male Stewarts continued uninterrupted until the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots. As a family, the Royal Stewarts held the throne of Scotland, and later that of England, in the direct line until the death of Queen Anne in 1714. The present Royal family still has Stewart blood links.

The House of Stewart not only provided all of Scotland's monarch from 1371 to 1603, and of the United Crowns of Scotland and England from 1603 to 1714, but held through time, 13 Dukedoms and 17 Earldoms in Great Britain. Stewarts also provided to British Prime Ministers and the House of Stewart held Dukedoms in Italy, France and Spain. Although the Royal Stewart tartan is worn by H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth II, the Chief of the Stewarts is Sir Randolph Stewart, 13th Earl of Galloway.

The Clan is active in most of Scotland's wars. A great number of the Clansmen were killed at the final Battle of Culloden fighting for the charismatic but ill fated leader, Charles Edward Stuart, - Bonnie Prince Charles.

Their ultimate reward was annihilation in 1746 on the Battlefield of Culloden Moor. For a time it looked as if the pride of the Highland Scot had been crushed forever, but as the British Empire expanded, and increasingly more Scots became pioneers in the New World of the Americas and Australasia, the brotherhood of the clans was re-born.

The Clan has developed several branches, including Stewart of Appin and Stuart of Bute, all of these descending from a common Stewart origin. The old Gaelic word "Clan" means "The Children of 'or Family' and although the Clan is now spread throughout the world, all should be aware of their roots and, in the words of the old Gaelic proverb "Remember the People whom whence you come".