

# THE GREAT SCOT

NOVEMBER, 2011

dcscots@dcscots.org

*Official Newsletter of the Douglas County  
Scottish Society*



Maireann croí éadrom i bhfad. - A light heart lives longest.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

THE HOLIDAYS ARE SUDDENLY UPON US AND THE WEATHER IS COOLING AS WELL. IT'S A GREAT TIME OF THE YEAR. THE LEAVES ARE TURNING AND FALL COLOR IS EVERYWHERE TO ENJOY.

WE HELD OUR OCTOBER MEETING AT THE EVERGREEN GRANGE IN WINSTON ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF OCTOBER. THE 2012 NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS WERE HELD AND THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING.

MOST OF THE ELECTED POSITIONS HAVE AT LEAST ONE CANDIDATE BUT THE POSITION OF TREASURER IS STILL WIDE OPEN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE VOLUNTEER POSITION OF MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON IS ALSO AVAILABLE. SO PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING AND/OR FILLING A VOLUNTEER POSITION. THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOU AND YOUR CONSIDERABLE SKILLS!

MEANWHILE, WE HAVE A **VERY IMPORTANT** PARADE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>. IT'S THE VETERANS DAY PARADE AND WE WILL BE ASSEMBLING AT THE COURTHOUSE IN ROSEBURG AT 9:30 AM. SO WEAR ALL YOUR FINERY AND STURDY SHOES TOO! (*Editor's Note, it would be appropriate for Veterans to wear their medals or ribbons.*) WE WILL HAVE THE PARADE TRAILER THERE.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS THE ANNUAL 'SOUP AND BREAD' SUPPER. PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE CULINARY SURPRISE AND JOIN US AT 6:00 PM ON NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE MYRTLE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AKA TRI-CITY PRESBYTERIAN. IT'S THE CHURCH UP ON THE HILL AT 335 MEADOW CREEK LANE, MYRTLE CREEK, OR 97457 (FOR THOSE WITH GPS).

I HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AS WELL AS THE 18<sup>TH</sup>!

Email: [lsjblack@gmail.com](mailto:lsjblack@gmail.com)

Phone: 541 315-2172

*President Lois Black*

## **Douglas County Scottish Society - Calendar of Events**

Nov. 11 9:30 am– Veteran's Day Parade, gather behind the Courthouse in Roseburg  
Nov. 18 6:00 pm Election meeting of the Scottish Society – Tri City Presbyterian Church – Soup and Bread dinner  
Dec. 16 6:00 pm Christmas Dinner – Tom Tom Restaurant, Roseburg. Cost around \$12 to \$14 plus gratuity  
Jan. 20 5:00pm – Rob't Burns Dinner, Seven Feathers Resort Note that this is a Friday night.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

So far we have the following members volunteering to run for office-----

**President=Ray Edwards**

**Vice-President=Therese Kaiser**

**Treasurer=Heidi Wood (she says she will stand for Treasurer if we cannot find anyone else for the job)**

**Recording Secretary=Josh Parker**

**Corresponding Secretary= (If someone steps forward for the Treasurer position Heidi will be our Corresponding Secretary again)**

**We desperately need a warm body for one of these offices; President Lois states that the position of Treasurer comes with a brand new lap-top computer, however if you want to do the books by hand that's fine too!!!**

**Please contact the nominating committee if you wish to serve in one of these positions-----**

**Norm Nelson at [541-637-5334](tel:541-637-5334) [norm.n49er@yahoo.com](mailto:norm.n49er@yahoo.com)**

**or**

**Dennis R. Smith at [541-839-6666](tel:541-839-6666) cell [541-530-2558](tel:541-530-2558) [cadimanden@frontiernet.net](mailto:cadimanden@frontiernet.net)**

***PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING!!!***

### KILTIED SKIRT RAFFLE

We have sold a couple hundred raffle tickets for the Kiltied Skirt, so far, but we really need to get going on it. Lois has lots of ticket packets available, so get hold of her if you would like some. Come on, guys! How often do you get a chance to buy a skirt for your Lassie for only a buck! At that price, you could buy 2 tickets. Remember, this purchase is being done through the Scottish Country Shop, so almost all tartan patterns are available.



### Celtic Classifieds

**T-SHIRTS FOR SALE** – These are this year's T-Shirts from the Games. Great looking shirts this year.

Heather Grey, and with the flags of all the Celtic nations. \$25 each, sizes L, XL and XXL.

Contact Lois Black: 541-315-2172

**FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.**

8 years old,  
Hateful little bastard.  
Bites!

10 Rooms have been reserved at Seven Feathers Resort for the night of our Burn's Dinner. \$99/night.

Remember, if you have anything you need advertized in the Celtic Classifieds, a small donation to the Society will see it here.

### Scotland-Ireland undersea rail link plan 'a surprise'

A rail consultant has told of his surprise at finding a Victorian engineer's proposals for a rail link between Scotland and Ireland. Edinburgh-based David Spaven believed the plans for a tunnel, causeway or an undersea bridge between Stranraer and Belfast were not widely known today. The plans feature in a new book, Mapping the Railways, Mr Spaven has co-written with author Julian Holland. It also includes abandoned ideas for light railways on Skye and Lewis.

Published for the The Times by Collins, the book has been described as the most comprehensive collection of British railway maps dating from 1819 to the present day. The book is his latest collaboration with Mr. Holland, a railway writer and photographer.

Much of the Scottish material was drawn from maps held by the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. The undersea rail link, proposed by engineer Luke Livingston Macassey, came to light during Mr. Spaven's research of Victorian-era railway maps and plans. He said: "The book has been a fantastic journey of discovery for me.

"One of the big surprises was a prospectus for a tunnel under the North Channel between Stranraer and Belfast. "At first I thought it was a Victorian spoof, but through more research I found the person behind the idea was a competent and well regarded engineer."

According to Mapping the Railways, the proposals published in 1890 were for a rail link using either a tunnel, a submerged "tubular bridge" or a solid causeway. The engineer said the rail connection would quicken travel between Scotland and Ireland and would also spare people "the horrors of 20 miles in rough seas". "After the First World War lorries were more readily available and that closed the window on the light railways."

### **Treasurer's Note**

Kilted Skirt raffle tickets are still available. The Douglas County Scottish Society t-shirts are also available. Please contact the Acting Treasurer (Lois Black) for either or both if you come to the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th or the next scheduled meeting on November 18th. Remember that Christmas is just around the corner and you can't beat the convenience!!

### **December Newsletter**

If you have items for the December DCSS newsletter, please get them to me early.... I have some surgery scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving, and I will be moving a little slow and may be sitting very lightly. Items sent electronically are preferred, I hate to type. As for the surgery, not to worry, they are just going to remove all the English parts so I'll be even more Celtic. I work on the newsletter all through the month, so if you have a big huge article for the newsletter, you may get it in, but be assured I'll be issuing some wild Irish curses at you.

### **Celtic Brittany**

During the Dark Ages after the fall of the Roman Empire, the Angles and Saxons invaded Britain, forcing the British who previously inhabited the whole island, to retreat again to their western strongholds; a considerable number of them decided to do so by emigrating south across the sea, to join their cousins in the northwest part of Gaul; and so it was that Armorica, as the area had been known until then, became the land of the Britons, or as we now know it, Brittany. The Bretons are thus the cousins of the Britons, and to this day Brittany and the Celtic parts of the UK share much in common, including similar languages. If you happen to speak Welsh, you may get on well with Brittany's Breton speakers. Indeed, about 250,000 people in Brittany speak or understand Breton - generally as a second language, and Breton culture and language have undergone a massive revival in the last thirty years, even if they have not acquired the force and status that the Welsh language has regained in Wales.

Bretons are proud of their identity, and many think of themselves as Bretons before calling themselves French. However, in centralized France, devolution has not occurred to the same extent as in Britain, and while the Breton language is taught in many schools, there is no official Breton parliament

The most important event in the annual calendar is however the annual InterCeltique festival, which takes place each year in the first half of August, in the port of Lorient. Started in 1971 on the tide of enthusiasm for the Celtic revival music, the Lorient festival is now one of France's great summer music festivals, and attracts performers from all over the Celtic regions of Europe

## **Upcoming Events**

Nov. 11 Veteran's Day Parade

Nov. 18 6:00pm Business Meeting of the Scottish Society – Tri City Presbyterian Church

Dec. 16 6:00pm Scottish Society Christmas Dinner Meeting – Tom Tom Restaurant, Roseburg

Jan. 20 – Friday - 5:00-11:00pm - Annual Burn's Night Dinner, Seven Feathers Resort

Douglas County Scottish Society  
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