

# Clan get together

## Highlanders plan a big party for June 1

A new cry will be heard on the streets of Prince George on June 1. "Donald Where's Yer Troozers?!" Cart loads of kilts caperers will congregate at Massey Stadium for the first ever Gathering of the Clans. It will be a Celtic culturama with everything but haggis (well, maybe a little).

"This will be the first of what we hope will become an annual event," says co-organizer Marvin Hawke of the Prince George Pipers Association.

"We hope it will evolve into an event with full-blown highland games as the centre-piece, but right now it includes everything under the Celtic umbrella."

Rita Thomson of the Central Interior Highland Dance Association is amazed at how fast the gathering came together. "We only needed three initial meetings to see some real enthusiasm from various clubs. Right now we have a number of people in on the planning, from the Celtic Club, Sons of Scotland, the PG Pipers, and the Highland Dancers."

The celebration will have two stages, one at either end of Massey Stadium.

One stage will have a con-



Pipers will be one of the many featured attractions at Gathering of the Clans at Massey Stadium.

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stant flow of competing highland dancers, while the other will have music and other Irish/Scottish dancing.

On the field will be medieval lifestyle demonstrations by the Society for Creative Anachronism, including period costumes, ancient fighting exhibitions, and such. Around the field will be booths and vendors with every conceivable Celtic-related article: books stores, music shops, Tartan supplies, anything that relates to Celtic (Scottish, Irish, Welsh) culture or heritage.

"To help offset the cost of the stadium, and the promotion of the event, there will be a \$25 charge for vendors," says Rita. "There is no charge for demonstrations and no admission fee for spectators."

Adds Marvin: "The idea being that opening ceremonies will be around noon, but highland dancing will start in the early morning because there's so many to get through."

"Then at the end we'll have a mass fling. That night we'll hold a family ceilidh at the Legion Auditorium to bring everybody together under one roof."

The Gathering of the Clans will be one of the largest and most ornate Celtic demonstrations in Prince George's recent history. With pipers and cabor tossers everywhere, this touch o' heather could make June 1 a very colourful day indeed. Call Marvin at 964-6190 to book booths or find out information.

## Fundraisers plan united front

It seems like everybody is asking for money these days, and most of them have worthy causes. Traditional sources of charity money seem tapped out, while others are hardly approached at all. A group in Prince George is endeavouring to bring it all into perspective, and hopefully give both fundraisers and contributors an accurate picture of the Prince George area.

"What we're doing is forming a Prince George Fundraising Registry," says Mike Hamer, a spokesperson for the new association.

"We currently have 20 to 30 members from right across that sector. It's aimed at people and organizations who need to fundraise, or who's job it is to fundraise. We'll share resources, ideas, look at past examples, have

guest speakers, and generally do what we can to improve the fundraising community in this city."

The association's goal is to help donors feel appreciated for their contributions, and to find out from them how best to approach them for donations, what they look for in a cause and an application, and what their needs are.

"Another thing we're trying to do is create a city-wide calendar of events so groups know what other groups are doing, and can

schedule away from them," says Kim Checkley, another spokesperson and the fundraising co-ordinator for the Child Development Centre. "That will help avoid conflicts with other fundraising events. The idea behind the whole association is to help everyone do their jobs efficiently, so some donors aren't overwhelmed, so some fundraising campaigns aren't failures. Everyone can benefit by this."

Call 960-5751 for information.

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## ON THE BRINK OF SUICIDE

Czar Nicholas of Russia often wandered incognito around his military barracks to see what was going on. On one such night, after lights out, he noticed a light shining under the paymaster's door and quickly opened it, intending to have the offender punished. A young officer, son of an old friend, was asleep at the table. Intending to waken him, the Czar noticed a loaded revolver and a sheet of paper, complete with a pen which had fallen from the young man's hand.

The paper contained a long list of gambling and other evil debts, running into thousands of rubles. The officer had used army funds to pay these reckless debts, and now having worked late trying to get his accounts straight, discovered for the first time how hopeless was his case. On the sheet of paper, below the astounding total, was written this question: WHO CAN PAY SUCH A DEBT? Unable to face the disgrace, the officer contemplated suicide, but through sorrow, remorse, and exhaustion, fell asleep.

At first the Czar intended to have the man court-martialed. Justice must be done and such a crime could not be ignored. But as he remembered the long friendship with the officer's father, love overcame judgment and he devised a plan whereby he could be just toward the army and yet justify the guilty culprit. Taking up the fallen pen, the Czar answered the question

with one word: "NICHOLAS".

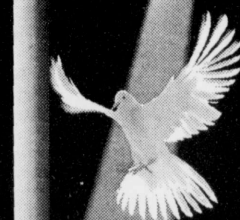
The young officer awoke soon after the Czar left and lifted the revolver. As he did so, his eye caught the answer to his most wretched question. Astonished, he gazed on that one word, "Nicholas". Surely such an answer was impossible! Checking the signature against some official papers, he discovered that it was true. To his intense joy, yet bitter humiliation, he realized that the Czar knew all about his sins, knew the utmost of his mighty debt and yet, instead of punishing him, had assumed the debt himself and justified the debtor.

Reader, you and I have a tremendous debt. We may well ask, "Who can pay it?" God's love has provided an answer. One word is sufficient: "JESUS". He knows all about our sins. He knows the cost of payment and yet He has undertaken full liability. This is the story of Calvary. Have you availed yourself of that name yet? It is the Name high above all other names and the ONLY name by which you can be saved. "Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven... whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12)

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