

SCOTTISH NEWSLETTER

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LARRY SCOTT

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kitimatlarry@gmail.com



Scottish Immigration to Canada

Article abridged from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Canadians



Photo — <https://torontofamilyhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Montreal-Harbour-1830-TPL-JRR111.jpg>

SCOTTISH CANADIANS (*Scottish Gaelic: Canèidianaich Albannach*) are people of Scottish descent or heritage living in Canada. As the third-largest ethnic group in Canada and amongst the first Europeans to settle in the country, Scottish people have made a large impact on Canadian culture since colonial times. According to the 2016 Census of Canada, the number of Canadians claiming full or partial Scottish descent is 4,799,010, or 13.93% of the nation's total population. Prince Edward Island has the highest proportion of its population being Scottish, with 41% claiming that origin.

The Scots-Irish Canadians are a similar ethnic group. They descended from Lowland Scots and Northern English people via Ulster, and so some observe many of the same traditions as Scots. Scottish Canadians comprise a subgroup of British Canadians which is a further subgroup of European Canadians.

...Scottish people have a long history in Canada, dating back several centuries. Many towns, rivers, and mountains have been named in honour of Scottish explorers and traders such as Mackenzie Bay in the Yukon (named for Sir Alexander Mackenzie), and others are named after locations in Scotland, such as Calgary (named after a Scottish beach), or Banff, Alberta (named after Banff, in Aberdeenshire.) Most notably, the Atlantic province of Nova Scotia is Latin for "New Scotland".

Once Scots formed the vanguard of the movement of Europeans across the continent. In more modern times, immigrants from Scotland have played a leading role in the social, political, and economic history of Canada, being prominent in banking, labour unions, and politics.

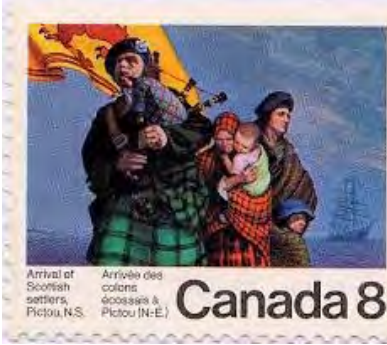
The first documented source of Scots in what would become Canada comes from the Saga of Eric the Red and the Viking expedition of 1010 AD to Vinland — literally, the land of meadows — which is believed to refer to the island of Newfoundland. The Viking prince Thorfinn Karlsefni took two Scottish slaves to Vinland. When the longships moored along the coast, they sent the slaves ashore to run along the waterfront to gauge whether it was safe for the rest of the crew to follow. After the Scots survived a day without being attacked, by either human or animal, the Vikings deemed it safe to spend the night ashore. The expedition was abandoned three years later; the original sagas were passed on in an oral tradition and then written down some 250 years later.

Self-identified Scottish Canadians are a plurality in parts of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. [See *Scots Gaelic map in illustration below.*] An apocryphal voyage in 1398 by a captain named Zichmni, believed to be Henry I Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, is also claimed to have reached Atlantic Canada as well as New England. [Historians generally dismiss this Sichmni tradition as unproven.]



Map of Nova Scotia and PEI in Gaelic. Wikipedia.

Scottish Immigration... *Continued from page 1*



Canada 8

Arrival of Scottish settlers, Pictou, NS.
Date of issue by Canada Post was on 20
July 1973. Quantity made: 27,487,500.

who arrived after 1759 were mainly Highland farmers who had been forced off their crofts (rented land) during the Highland and Lowland Clearances to make way for sheep grazing due to the British Agricultural Revolution.

Others came as a result of famine. In 1846, potato crops were blighted by the same fungal disease responsible for the Great Irish Famine, and most Highland crofters were very dependent on potatoes as a source of food. The Crofters were expected to work in appalling conditions, and although some landlords worked to lessen the effects of the famine on their tenants, many landlords simply resorted to eviction. In particular, John Gordon of Cluny became the target of criticism in newspapers when many of his crofters were reduced to living on the streets of Inverness. Gordon resorted to hiring a fleet of ships and forcibly transporting his Hebridean crofters to Canada, where they were conveniently abandoned on Canadian authorities. Some more sympathetic landlords supplied a free passage to what was hoped to be a better life. Crop failures continued into the 1850s and famine relief programmes became semi-permanent operations. During the ten years following 1847, from throughout the Highlands, over 16,000 crofters were shipped overseas to Canada and Australia.



Crofters' cruel harvest of 'poverty and despair'.

Photo: Stornoway Gazette.

Canada had plenty of land and jobs and new opportunities, which created a pull factor. The government made certain potential immigrants know of the advantages, sending agents to recruit Irish and Scottish emigrants to settle in western Canada between 1867 and the 1920s. The Canadian government hoped to develop the economy in the sparsely populated western part of the country. It set up

Troubles back in Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries generated a steady flow of emigrants. Some sought political asylum following the failed Jacobite risings in 1688, 1715, and 1745. The Gàidhealtachd was traditionally Roman Catholic, and many Gaels came to Canada after facing eviction for their religious beliefs. Those immigrants

offices in towns in Ireland and Scotland, and agents went up and down the land pasting up attractive posters, giving lectures, handing out pamphlets and trying one-on-one to persuade farmers and laborers of the virtues of life in Canada. Although many people agreed to emigrate, the agents faced competition from the United States, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa, and opponents of emigration warned of hardship in Canada. The agents did not create 'emigration fever,' but they did tap into a sense of restlessness that, if nurtured, could result in a decision to emigrate....Between 1760 and 1860, millions of people emigrated from Great Britain.

Before 1815, emigration was discouraged, but emigration from Scotland to the Maritime Provinces constituted one of the principal components of the exodus; by 1815, Scots formed one of the three major ethnic groups there. Most of the emigrants were unskilled Gaelic-speaking farmers, who gathered in isolated communities. The Maritimes attracted them because there was an opportunity to be left alone to pursue a traditional way of life.



Immigration poster in UK.

Photo: DiscoverUlsterScots

A large group of Ulster Scots, many of whom had first settled in New Hampshire, moved to Truro, Nova Scotia in 1761. In 1772, a wave of Gaels began to arrive in Prince Edward Island, and in 1773 the ship Hector brought 200 Gaels to Pictou, beginning a new stream of Highland emigration — the town's slogan is "The Birthplace of New Scotland". At the end of the 18th century, Cape Breton Island had become a centre of Scottish Gaelic settlement, where only Scottish Gaelic was spoken.

A few Scottish loyalists to the British crown, who had fled the United States in 1783, arrived in Glengarry County (eastern Ontario) and Nova Scotia. In 1803, Lord Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk, who was sympathetic to the



plight of the dispossessed crofters — tenant farmers in the Highlands — brought 800 colonists to Prince Edward Island. In 1811, he founded the Red River Colony as a Scottish colonization project on an area of 300,000 square kilometres (120,000 sq mi) in what would later be the province of Manitoba — land that was granted by the Hudson's Bay Company, in what is referred to as the Selkirk Concession.....A continual influx of immigrants from Scotland and Ulster meant that by 1843, there were over 30,000 Scots in New Brunswick..... Ω

UPCOMING EVENTS

VHGA Photos by editor.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

Spring Classes Have Started

Thursdays, 24 April - 29 May
7:30 to 9:30 pm

City Light Church Hall
550 Obed Avenue

Cost is \$60. Visit our website: <https://viscds.ca/>



Tartan Parade — 10 May 2025

At 11:00 am on 10 May 2025
parade leaves Centennial Square
and proceeds down Government St.



Parade ends up on the Legislature grounds for a brief program. Wear your tartan and join in the parade!



Vancouver Island Pipers Club



Rene Cusson & Glengarry Dancers

Rene is a piping judge and a composer of pipe music.

8:00 pm — 10 May 2025
Bay Street Armouries

Non-Members Drop In Fee \$15.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115082409870/>

Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival on May 17-18, 2025



Massed Bands play at opening and closing ceremonies.



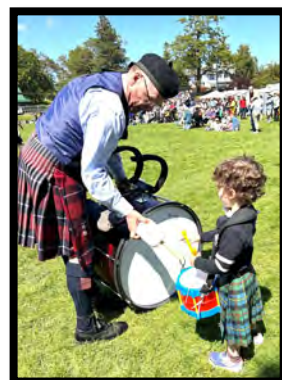
Highland Dancing by all ages.



Crowd watches Heavy Events.



Throwing the hammer.



Drummers trade secrets.

Tickets can be ordered
online from Eventbrite:

[tps://www.eventbrite.ca/
e/162nd-victoria-highland-
games-celtic-festival-tickets-
920452747947?
aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/162nd-victoria-highland-games-celtic-festival-tickets-920452747947?aff=oddtcreator)

For general information re.
the Highland Games go to:

<https://victoriahighlandgames.com/vhga-association/>



Highlands of Scotland



Buachaille Etive Mòr mountain at head of Glen Etive, Highlands.
Photo: @alextrowskiphotography



Vale of Glencoe, Lochaber Geopark, Highlands. Massacre of Glencoe took place here in 1692. *Photo: Alan R. Howe*

At Loch Torridon, Ross & Cromarty
@rossdavidsonphotography →



Jacobite Steam Train on Glenfinnan Viaduct, Lochaber, of Hogwart Express fame in *Harry Potter* movies. *Photo: B8*



Ben Nevis, Inverness-shire, Lochaber, lies just south of Inverness. *@ILoveMyScotland, Facebook.*

Who were the Picts, the early inhabitants of Scotland?

Abridged from <https://www.livescience.com/who-were-picts-scotland>



THE PICTS were an Iron Age people who lived in the northern and eastern parts of what is now Scotland, flourishing from approximately the fourth century A.D. to the ninth century. Originally, the Picts were tribal peoples organized into loose confederations, but they later created two politically and militarily powerful kingdoms and dominated a large part of Scotland.

"Picti is a Latin term that literally means 'painted people,'" said Alex Woolf, a medieval historian at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. The term is likely a reference to the prevalent Pictish custom of body painting or tattooing. "At first, Picti is a pejorative term used by Romans," Woolf told Live Science. "But when you get to the 'Dark Ages,' perhaps around 600 or 700, it's clear that something has happened, and those tribes have now come to self-identify as Picti." Roman writers depicted the Picts as fearsome warriors — savage, barbarous, troublesome and backward. While the Celtic people south of modern-day Scotland became Romanized following the Roman conquest of much of Britain in A.D. 43, the people in Scotland remained on the periphery of the Roman Empire, frequently clashing with Roman legions but never entirely succumbing to Roman rule. The Romans, after several failed attempts to conquer the peoples of Scotland, eventually erected barriers — Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall — as ways of keeping the Picts, and their sometime allies, the Scots, out of the south.



Hadrian's Wall, built by the Romans in A.D. 122 to protect them from the Picts. Roy James Shakespeare, Getty Images.

The Picts flourished following the Roman withdrawal from Britain around A.D. 400, but by the end of the tenth century A.D., the Picts had seemingly vanished, after merging with the Scots and Gaels, who originally came from Ireland. Recent scholarship is painting a fuller, more realistic picture of the Picts than the one presented by the Romans, and is shedding light on their unique culture and society. "The Picts are Celtic peoples," Woolf said, "and although there would have been a lot of regional differences, they would have been broadly the same as the other Britons. When we look at the evidence for the Pictish language, which albeit is meager, it is very similar to early Welsh."

There have been few DNA studies of Pictish people, said Woolf. "We only have a few good samples from the Pictish heartland," he said. "So far, there's no suggestion that the Picts are different from the other Britons, but we've only got a handful, probably less than a dozen ancient DNA samples that have been processed and published." Prior to the current scholarly consensus, the Picts were the subject of much speculation and there was limited evidence about their existence — so much so that for a long time the Picts were known as the "lost people of Europe." Past scholars disagreed about where the Picts originated, how their society was organized and the roots of their language, among other topics.



Image: TheHeartOfScotland

Except for largely enigmatic carved symbols that may represent a written language, the Picts left no written records. So most information comes from their adversaries, the Romans, though later sources, such as the Pictish Chronicle and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, also mention them. The former is a Pictish king list supposedly written in the tenth century, though most scholars have dismissed it as pseudo-history. The latter was written in the ninth century during the reign of Alfred the Great and is a year-by-year chronicle of events that historians claim is a mix of both history and fantasy. The first recorded reference, by the Roman orator Eumenius in A.D. 297, briefly mentioned the Picts in a poem dedicated to the emperor Constantius II, who ruled A.D. 337 to 361. Eumenius referred to the "Picts and Hiberni [Irish]," as intractable enemies of the Romans. According to *World History Encyclopedia*, the Roman writer Tacitus (A.D. 56 to circa 120) also mentioned the Picts in his historical writings, though he used the term "Caledonians" rather than Picts. He described them as "red-haired" and "large-limbed," and wrote that they were possibly of Germanic origin.....

Continued on page 6

Who were the Picts? ...continued from p. 5

An important legacy of Pictish culture are the large standing stones, called symbol stones, that dot the Pictish heartland. These are typically carved or incised with distinctive symbols or designs representative of Pictish art, and include pictures of animals, warriors or mythic beasts. Most of the symbol stones date from the seventh to the ninth centuries, said Woolf, though a few might date earlier, perhaps to the sixth century."



www.livescience.com

They are found in pairs scattered across the region that we think politically was controlled by the Picts, north of the Forth and the eastern side of Scotland," Woolf said. "Some scholars think they may have represented a kin group, or maybe a tribal identity or something of that sort. I tend to think we're never going to know unless we find some written reference to them in a medieval document."

.....The various Scottish chronicles do not mention the Picts after the A.D. 870s, Woolf said. Instead, the term "Scots," which previously referred solely to the people of Argyll, is used to refer to the people of Scotland. This was probably the result of two developments: the loss of the Pictish language and the increasing influence of the Irish church, which emphasized Scots culture.

"In Scotland, the Pictish language disappeared completely and the Gaelic language, which is a dialect of Irish, became the dominant language," Woolf said. The increasing cultural influence of the Irish church, Woolf added, likely played a role as well. The Irish church emphasized Scots and Gaelic culture rather than Pictish culture, and this likely had an influence on the Pictish people, perhaps the aristocracy first and then the common people, who gradually adopted Scots' culture.

But the Picts did not simply vanish, Woolf noted. What occurred was a gradual assimilation. Pictish kingdoms became Gaelic, and their people adopted the Scots/Gaelic language and culture. Ω

The original article is much longer and can be read at:
<https://www.livescience.com/who-were-picts-scotland>



Bruce Knight Memorial Piobaireachd — 5 April 2025



Kevan Dougan won the prize Former Winners category — i.e. competitors who have won the event in previous years.



Joseph Williamson was the winner of Novice Piobaireachd. Judge JP Troy is seated at left. Scottish Community Centre.

Photos by Cecily Grant.

Scottish folk duo on tour — Finlay Macdonald & Al Hutton

TALENTED SCOTTISH folk musicians Finlay Macdonald and Al Hutton will be on Vancouver Island and in Vancouver from June 13-22, 2025 giving workshops, concerts and private lessons for Highland pipes, Smallpipes, whistle or guitar accompaniment. To receive further info or to register or obtain tickets for any of the events, you can contact gordpollock1@gmail.com or 250-732-8250.

Schedule for Tour Events

- Saturday, June 14: Duncan Workshop, 9:00-4:00
 *2080 Hampton Rd (site of all Duncan workshops)
 - Saturday, June 14: **Duncan Concert**, 7:00 pm. \$25.
 Valley Seniors Centre, 198 Government St
 - Sunday, June 15: Duncan Workshop*, 9:00-4:00
 - Monday/Tuesday, June 16-17: Private Workshop* Duncan
 - Tuesday, June 17; **Victoria Concert**, 7:00 pm. \$25.
 Scottish Community Centre, 1803 Admirals Rd
 - Wednesday, June 18: Duncan Culinary Night and Session
 *2080 Hampton Rd (same venue as workshops)
 - Thursday, June 19: **Qualicum Concert**, 7:00 at Rotary House,
 211 Fern St, Qualicum. \$25.
 - Friday, June 20: Workshop Comox,
 9:00-4:00, Merville Hall,
 1245 Fenwick Rd.
 - Saturday, June 21: **BC Highland Games**, judging & performing
 at Town Centre - Coquitlam.
 - Sunday, June 22: Workshop in
 North Vancouver 9:00-4:00
 at Brockton School.
 - Sunday, June 22: **Langley Concert**
 at Murrayville Hall, \$25.
 21667 48th Ave, Langley.
- All-day workshops are \$75.

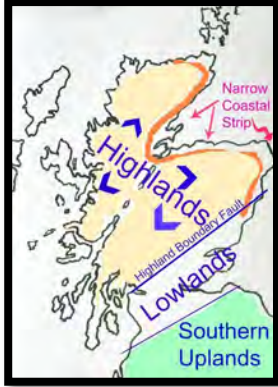


Finlay Macdonald & Al Hutton

Lowlands of Scotland



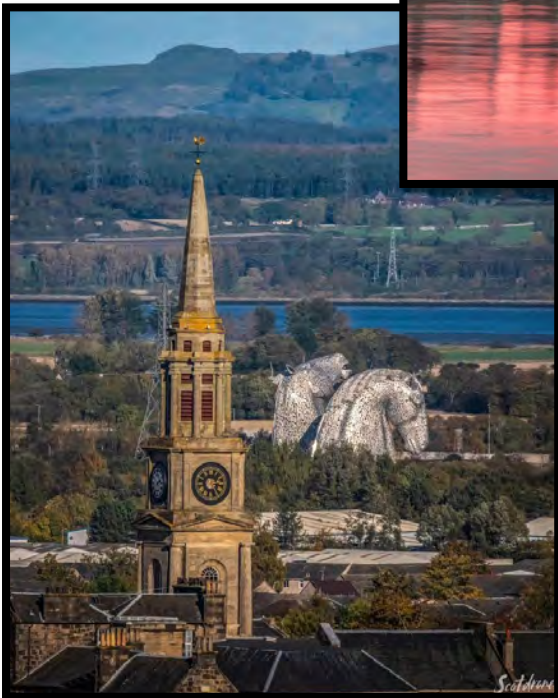
East Lothian at sunrise, i.e. North Sea coast east of Edinburgh.
Photo: Ross Shiro



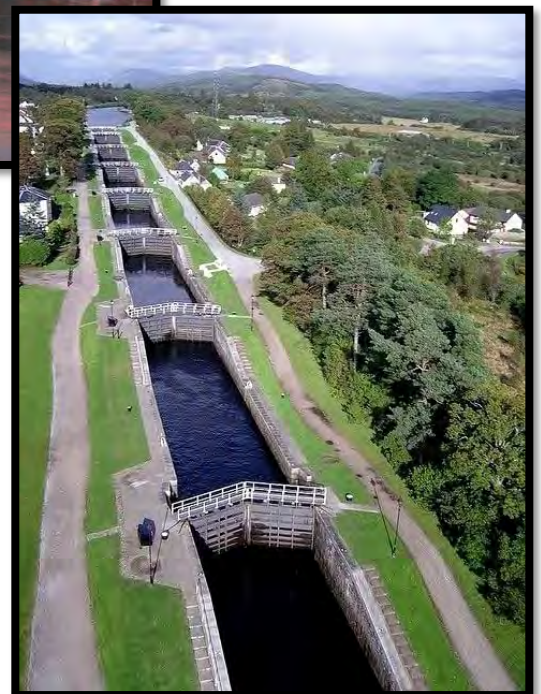
The Wallace Monument, Stirlingshire, where lowlands meet the highlands.

Photo Credit:
Stuart Mackay Photography.

St Monan's Harbour →
East Neuk of Fife. Monan was a 6th C. missionary, probably a Gael, living nearby. @ScottMurrayJnr



Falkirk Steeple (1814) and the Kelpies (2013). The steeple was not part of a church; today it houses a heritage centre. Photo: @Scotdrone.



Caledonian Canal was completed in 1822.
Photo: ScottishCanals.co.uk

Scottish humour!

WHADG* = Wild Haggis Animal Discovery Group



@topfans AnythingScottish.



Haggis With a Pearl Earring. ScottishAye.
Editor: a parody of work by Johannes Vermeer 1665.



Here's to ya!
CelticLifeInternational.



Is Archie listening to Metallica?
Arden Walker - WHADG*



Tartan paint for that Celtic look.
AnythingScottish.



The Daily Toon. By Mark Lynch.



Midge trophy. ScottishAye.



When Haggis were plentiful. ScottishScenery.

For many of the websites listed, you will need to copy them into your browser, as the PDF format of the newsletter does not preserve the original link. The web address or email is correct but sometimes the automatic link is broken. Sorry for inconvenience. Editor.

Scottish Culture:

Saltire Society of Victoria: The current Provost is Bob Williamson. saltireofvictoria@gmail.com

Victoria Gaelic Choir: The group sings in both Gaelic and English. vicgaelicchoir@gmail.com

Victoria Highland Games Association: President is Jim Maxwell. www.victoriahighlandgames.com

Victoria Scottish Community Centre is available for use: <https://vicscotcentre.ca/bookevent>

Websites:

The Celtic Connection: Burnaby-based tabloid, publishing since 1991. Online at celtic-connection.com

The Scottish Banner is a digital download subscription service. View at: www.scottishbanner.com

Bruce Knight Memorial Piobaireachd Competition <https://www.facebook.com/bruceknightmemorial>

Rampant Scotland is a site begun in 1996 and written by Alan Scott www.RampantScotland.com/letter.htm

Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners. Did you ever work in the UK? You may be eligible for a pension. info@britishpensions.com or www.britishpensions.com

Dance Instruction:

Brentwood Scottish Country Dancers: Contact Janet Mitchell at mitchel5@telus.net for more detailed information. Classes happen at the Brentwood Centre.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society: www.viscds.ca Weekly classes for various levels of ability. Further information may be had from Kathryn Knowles, viscdspresident@shaw.ca

Bon Accord Highland Dancers: Lynne Griffiths. Tel. 250 479-7804 BonAccordDancers@shaw.ca

Glengarry Highland Dancers: Carolyn Phillips-Cusson. Tel. 250 758-0208 or email for information to info@celticperformingarts.com

Kathleen Laurie School of Highland Dance: Tel. 250 213-9627 dancehighland@gmail.com

Kathy White's Island Highland Dance Academy: kathywhitedance@hotmail.com Cell 250-710-0837

Katie Dean School of Highland Dance: H 250-920-3513 cell 250-514-8110 kdean@shaw.ca

O'Brien School of Irish Dancing: Teachers — Mairead O'Brien/Crystal van Boven. www.obrienirishdance.com Tel. 604 340-2370.

Victoria Highland Dance Association. Sponsors competitions, etc. Contact at www.vhda.weebly.com

Victoria School of Irish Dance: www.victoriairishdancers.com Contact Alison Paladini at 250 888-9421 or alisonpaladini@icloud.com

Mary Ross — Accordionist, Instructor, Scottish Country Dance Musician. Tel. 250 383-8877 or email midimaryross@gmail.com

Victoria Area Pipe Bands:

BC Pipers' Association serves solo Highland Bagpipers, Scottish Drummers and Pipe Bands in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. www.bcpipers.org

Canadian Scottish Regimental Association Pipe Band www.canadianscottishregiment.ca

Capital City Pipe Band for youth: www.vicscotcentre.ca

Castle Cary Pipes and Drums. For band info go to: www.castlecarypipesanddrums.ca

Cowichan Pipes and Drums. Contact Joel Bailey, band manager, at jo3@shaw.ca

443 Squadron RCAF Pipe Band. P/M Stephen Kelly Stephen.kelly@forces.gc.ca or stevekelly@live.ca

Greater Victoria Police Pipe Band. www.gvppb.com Pipe Major Warren Fells; Drum Major Randy Evans.

Pipe Band of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's). Drum Major Glen Ereat, contact at Glen.Ereat@forces.gc.ca

Saanich Peninsula Pipe Band. Pipe Major Doug Foster. <https://www.sppb.ca>

78th Fraser's Highlanders Pipe Band. Contact Pipe Major Dave Hjalmarson at nordicsword@hotmail.com

2136 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps Pipes and Drums. www.2136cadets.ca

VanIsle Caledonia Pipe Band. Contact Pipe Major Richard Findlay at www.vanislecaledonia.com

Local Businesses With Celtic Flavour:

Bard and Banker Scottish Pub, 1022 Government St, Victoria www.bardandbanker.com

Caledonia Meats. Haggis makers. colegriffiths11@gmail.com or 250 857-5260.

Craigdarroch Castle, 1050 Joan Cresc, Victoria. Built by Scottish coal baron Robert Dunsmuir. <https://thecastle.ca/>

Fraser Orr's Butcher and Deli, 108-1931 Mt. Newton Cross Rd., Saanichton. Haggis, Scotch pies, etc. www.fraserorr'sbutcher.com

Irish Linen Stores, 655 Fort St, Victoria www.irishlinenvictoria.com

Irish Times Pub, 1200 Government St, Victoria www.irishtimespub.ca

Lion Rampant Scottish Pub, 6777 Beaumont Avenue, Duncan. www.lionrampant.ca

Macaloney's Island Distillery & Twa Dogs Brewery does tours and events. www.victoriacaledonian.com

North of Hadrians Kilts and Celtic Clothing, 102-318 Wale Rd, Victoria. 778 406-2243 www.northofhadrians.com

Out of Ireland Irish Importers, 1000 Government St., Victoria www.outofireland.ca

The Tartan Guild: Tartan roses and other tartan touches at www.thetartanguild.com or 250 880-8484.