

# The Gazette



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The Newsletter of The Sir John A. Macdonald Society of Hamilton  
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## A Word from The Chair

Welcome to our revised Sir John A. Macdonald Society newsletter!

We had a very successful 2013 Birthday party and looking forward to a better 2014 event! We are also planning a huge event for the Bi-Centennial of Sir John's birthday in 2015. We have a lot of plans that hinge on getting funds from grants we have applied for. We will still have a bigger and better event in 2015, but we also need your support to make it a significant Hamilton contribution to Sir John's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Please donate anything you can. We are also looking for volunteers to help at our planned events. If you wish to help, talk to any of our Volunteers or Executive, and sign up to help! We thank you in advance. It is people like you who we put the event together for and it is people like you who help put on the event!

**Robin McKee-Chair**

## The Sir John A. Macdonald Society in Hamilton – A History

**Sir John Alexander Macdonald**, GCB, KCMG, PC, PC (Can), QC (11 January 1815 – 6 June 1891), was the first Prime Minister of Canada (1867–1873, 1878–1891) and one of the Fathers of the Confederation of Canada. The dominant figure of Canadian Confederation, he had a political career which spanned almost half a century. Macdonald served 19 years as Canadian Prime Minister; only William Lyon Mackenzie King served longer.

Macdonald was born in Scotland; when he was a boy his family immigrated to Kingston, Upper Canada (today in eastern Ontario). He articulated with a local lawyer, who died before Macdonald qualified, and Macdonald opened his own practice, although not yet entitled to do so. He was involved in several high-profile cases and quickly became prominent in Kingston, which enabled him to seek and obtain a legislative seat in 1844. He served in the legislature of the colonial Province of Canada and by 1857 had become premier under the colony's unstable political system.

When in 1864 no party proved capable of governing for long, Macdonald agreed to a proposal from his political rival, George Brown, that the parties unite in a Great Coalition to seek federation and political reform. Macdonald was the leading figure in the subsequent discussions and conferences, which resulted in the British North America Act and the birth of Canada as a nation on 1 July 1867.

Macdonald was designated as the first Prime Minister of the new nation, and served in that capacity for most of the remainder of his life, losing office for five years in the 1870s over the Pacific Scandal (corruption in the financing of the Canadian Pacific Railway regaining his position, he saw the railroad through to completion in 1885, a means of transportation and freight conveyance that helped unite Canada as one nation. Macdonald is credited with creating a Canadian Confederation despite many obstacles, and expanding what was a relatively small colony to cover the northern half of North America. By the time of his death in 1891, Canada had secured most of the territory it occupies today.

## A Review of January 13, 2013



**It was a great event and party!!!**





**The Sir John A. Macdonald Society**

**Canada's First Prime Minister's Birthday Commemorated at His First Monument**

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**January 12, 2014 - 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration**

**MONUMENT CEREMONY-1:45PM**

-meet in Crowne Plaza hotel lobby-King St.East-pick up wreaths.

**Procession-2PM** - Flag Bearers, Dignitaries, Members and Guests.

**Assembly** - at Monument-King St E. & John St. N (E.Gore Park)

**Singing** - "O Canada!"

**Laying Of Wreaths:**

**Singing** - "God Save The Queen"

**Procession** – monument to "Slainte Irish Pub" 33 Bowen Street

**RECEPTION** - Slainte Irish Pub-upstairs-Bowen St. & Main St. E

**Registration Desk** - Donation \$10.00 or membership \$20

**Welcome** - Opening Remarks- Robin McKee-President of Society

**Keynote Speaker** –

**Declarations** – Historical Societies

**Presentation** - Cake and coffee

after singing "Happy Birthday" to Sir John!

**The Sir John A. Macdonald Society** thanks you for participating.

Our purpose is to inspire patriotism and appreciation for Canada's founding Prime Minister since 1967.

Robin McKee, Chair

The Sir John A. Macdonald Society

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**A Preview of January 11, 2015**

2015 is the Bi-Centennial of Sir John A's Birthday, and your Society is planning a 3 day event to commemorate the event. A Friday night dinner and speaker, Saturday, an all day informative and entertaining day of workshops and talks, and Sunday, his birthday celebration event at the statue.

Please help us and Hamilton celebrate our 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister, Father of Confederation, and the history of Canada!

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Nov. 1, 2013 - 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the unveiling of the Hamilton Statue (1893)
- January 12, 2014 - the 48<sup>th</sup> Sir John A. Macdonald Birthday Party!
- June 6, 2014 - the 123<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Sir John's death (1891)
- August 4, 2014 - Civic Holiday
- Nov. 1, 2014 - 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the unveiling of the Hamilton Statue (1893)
- January 11, 2015 - Bi-Centennial of Sir John A. Macdonald's Birth!
- January 9, 10 and 11, 2015 - The Bi-Centennial of Sir John A. Macdonald's Birthday Event in Hamilton!

### **The Executive of The Sir John A. Macdonald Society**

CHAIR  
Robin McKee

CO-CHAIR  
John Hawker

SECRETARY  
Susanne Noordyk

TREASURER  
Rouxanne Irving

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### **Membership and Benefits**

Get a personal invite to the Birthday party and all the other events. Learn about your City and Nation's history. Bring along a guest. Be the first to know about upcoming events. Feel that you have contributed to a worthy cause. Be proud to be a Canadian!

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### **Membership and Donation Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ / no. of memberships @ \$20.00 per year = \_\_\_\_\_ / Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_