

# The Tartan Telegraph

## Farewell to Alex Sutherland



### *From the Editor*

The Missouri Scottish community lost a wonderful vocalist, entertainer and person on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 when Alex Sutherland passed away suddenly from a heart attack.

I had the privilege and opportunity of performing with Alex and Carrie Sutherland for the past few years at various events sponsored by the Springfield St. Andrew's Society and the Buffalo Highland games.

While my time with Alex was short, he always impressed me with his enthusiasm, graciousness and professionalism. Alex was generous about sharing the spotlight both onstage and off the stage: his warmth was truly radiant

and he had a natural gift for making people feel comfortable and at ease. And even though I am not Scottish, Alex seemed like a long, lost uncle in his encouragement of my piping and music.

Alex was even partly responsible in helping me to contact Roy Gullane in preparation for an interview, which took place at the 2007 St. Louis Highland Games of which Alex was the entertainment director.

He will be sorely missed by everyone for his gentle spirit, good humor and love. His absence will leave an hole in our lives and hearts that only Alex could fill. Our prayers and best wishes of love, healing and comfort go to Carrie and his family.

### Alex Sutherland

#### Memorial service:

December 15, 2007, 2pm.  
New Community Church  
16801 Manchester Rd.  
Wildwood, MO 63040

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar Now!

#### Monday Nights

Galloway Station, Celtic music with *Galloway Crossing*, 7-9 pm

#### January 12th, 2008

Springfield Burns Supper

#### January 25-26th, 2008

Celtic Connections Eureka  
Eureka Springs, AR

#### February 2, 2008

Natalie MacMaster  
Juanita K. Hammons Hall

#### Feb. 28-May 1st, 2008

Beginning the Bagpipe  
Battlefield Community Room

#### March 14th, 2008

Library Center Auditorium  
*Galloway Crossing*, 7-9 pm

### Bagpipe Class

A beginners and intermediate bagpipe class will be taught by Beau Buffington at the Battlefield Community Room from Feb. 28-May 1, 2008. Contact OTC Continuing Education at 447-8888 or Beau Buffington at 881-4138 for more information.

## In Honor of Alex

If you would like to give to the support of the Sutherland family, and in lieu of sending flowers, donations can be made by sending a check payable to New Community Church at the address on page 1. Include in the memo line "Benevolence-Sutherland." Please attach a note with your check specifying the check is for the support of the Sutherland family through the benevolence fund at New Community Church.

You can also support some of the non-profit organizations Alex himself supported and believed in.

- \* New Community Church Benevolent Fund
- \* Stand to Reason
- \* St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis

Condolences can be sent to Carrie Sutherland at [csutherland1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:csutherland1@sbcglobal.net).

Messages of remembrance can be posted on The Scotsman at <http://announce.jpress.co.uk/296836>.

## Springfield 2008 Burns Supper

Tickets are now available for The Scottish Saint Andrew's Society of Springfield's annual Robert Burns Supper on Saturday, January 12 2008, at The Hawthorn Park Hotel, 2431 North Glenstone, Springfield. Cocktails/social hour begins at 6.00 pm, and the program will begin at 6.45 pm and will last approximately 2 – 2 1/2 hours.

This year's Burns Supper will feature a special tribute to Alex Sutherland, who passed away on December 3rd. Alex had performed at our Burns Supper since 2000, and he & Carrie were more than just the "featured entertainment" -- they were part of our family. Please join us as we remember our good friend Alex, who brought Scotland to us with music, dance and story.

A cash bar will be available for those wishing wine, beer or spirits with their meals. Haggis will be served. Formal/business or Scottish dress is requested, but not required. Medals & Decorations are appropriate.

Tickets are \$37.50 per person. To order tickets, send a check, along with number and names of persons attending, and entrée choice (beef, chicken or vegetarian) to:

Mrs. Beth Wiese  
 Attn: Robert Burns Supper  
 Tickets  
 3033-B South Manley Ave.  
 Springfield MO 65807

Please make checks payable to "The Scottish St. Andrew's Society of Springfield". Ticket orders must be received no later than January 10, 2008.

**Merry Christmas & Happy Hogmany!!**



*Season's Greetings*

*On behalf of the St. Andrew's  
 Society of Springfield*



## CELEBRATING ROBERT BURNS IN ARKANSAS

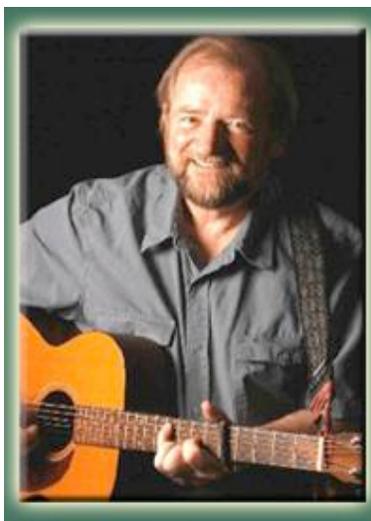
**EUREKA SPRINGS, Ark.** – Celtic Connections Eureka, a two-day celebration of Scottish heritage, music, poetry, food and drink, celebrates the 249th birthday of the great Robert Burns, the "Bard of Scotland", in Eureka Springs January 25 and 26, 2008. It's the 10th year of this event locally, and Celtic Connections Eureka calls to the clans and celto-philes from the seven nations hither and yon to gather at Eureka Springs' most-famous castle, the 1886 Crescent Hotel for the occasion.

The traditional Robert Burns Night Suppers are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings at 5:30 PM, and feature musical guest host Ed Miller, modern bard of Scotland and Scottish folksong preservationist, Highland bagpipe music by Pipe Major Mark Stanfield, and special appearance on Saturday by the Tullintrain West Pipe Band.

Both evenings' dinners are hosted by the Crescent Hotel's Crystal Dining Room where the setting provides the castle-like backdrop for all the pomp and circumstance.

This annual, around-the-world birthday tribute to the life, works and spirit of Robert Burns is the 10th year for this event in Eureka Springs. The evening promises highland pipes, poetry and pride, the traditional Scottish dinner with roast beef and haggis, the drinking of Scotch whiskey and the recitation of Burns works, along with general merry-making and song-singing. Cash bar is open at 5:30 PM, and the grand march to dinner escorted by Pipe Major Mark Stanfield is at 6:00 PM.

Ed Miller, Scottish Folk Preservationist and Host of the evening, is an expert on Robert Burns. He is also a gifted musician who has learned his craft in musical venues on both sides of the Atlantic and a folklorist who brings his love of Scotland to every performance.



Ed Miller

A native of Edinburgh, Scotland now living in Austin, Texas, Ed Miller is a product of the 1960s folk revival in Scotland. He moved to the United States in 1968 to complete his graduate work in Geography, and later Folklore, at the University of Texas at Austin. In addition

to his singing career, Ed is the host of a folk music program on Austin's NPR station, KUT-FM. "All this wonderful music, Burns lore and story-telling from a Scotsman who sure looks mighty fetchin' in his kilt!", says an appreciative female fan from last year's Celtic Connections Eureka event.

"Robert Burns was truly the voice of the Scots. Any ethnic group will collect around a cultural voice and for the Scots who endured British oppression for centuries, Burns covered the whole spectrum of life in those ages," says Bruce Crabtree, local author and historian. Crabtree will perform a dramatic interpretation of "Robert Bruce's March to Bannockburn" in traditional attire and full brogue with piper Mark Stanfield. Dinner guests will also have a chance to learn more about the life and times of Robert Burns in a special Saturday workshop presented by Ed Miller. This and other Scottish heritage workshops will be presented Saturday at the Crescent Hotel.

Also joining the event will be Arkansas Celts, award-winning Celtic Heartstrings Linda Brockinton, Brenda Ramsey and Kay Martin playing traditional music on mountain dulcimer and flute and Irish harp. Celtic Heartstrings will perform each evening at 9:00 PM in Dr. Barker's Lounge and at the Crescent Hotel Sunday Brunch on January 27th.

Advance reservations are required. Dinner tickets, which include the Saturday workshops, are \$40 for Friday and \$45 for Saturday. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.EurekaCelts.com](http://www.EurekaCelts.com) or by calling PaperMoon Attractions at 888-363-9545.

## THE TANNAHILL WEAVERS AT THE 2007 ST. LOUIS GAMES

by J. Beau Buffington

The St. Louis Highland Games took place on October 5-6th, 2007 in Forest Park, St. Louis, MO. Headlining the entertainment were the Tannahill Weavers, Ed Miller, John Taylor, and Brian McNeill with students from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) in Glasgow, Scotland. I contacted Alex Sutherland, the director of entertainment, prior to the events to see about arranging an interview with the Tannies frontman Roy Gullane.

### The Fan

I've seen Bob Dylan perform live twice in my life: once at Memphis in May on Cinco de Mayo on Beale Street along the Mississippi River in 2002 and the other at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia



along the dirt racing track a few weeks later. Now, I've seen Roy Gullane twice in my life also: once in Tulsa at the performing arts center years ago and then in Forest Park in St. Louis at the 2007 St. Louis Highland Games. For me, both Dylan and Gullane have voices that have become symbols of two distinct genres of music: the

American Folk and the Scottish Folk scenes. Both voices have been instrumental in my perception of what it takes to make a brilliant songwriter and vocalist.

My perception of songwriting and singing has, no doubt, become biased by many years of listening to the music of the Tannahill Weavers, who were formed almost forty years ago in Paisley, Scotland. (Paisley is a district know for weaving - think "Paisley Pattern" - and the Tannies take their first name from the Scottish Romantic poet Robert Tannahill.) I have learned many more of the songs performed by Roy Gullane over years of listening and singing along, but have only recently begun to appreciate Bob Dylan after seeing him live. Furthermore, Gullane's fantastic vocal range, powerful ethos and tender pathos would be enough to make Dylan envious even on his best days. Yet, both singers share the unique gift of being able to make a personal connection with the entire audience.

### The Concert

The Tannies' first performance of the highland games was a wonderful cross section of 40 years of music together: at least one sing along ("The Final Trawl"), lots of excellent piping, flute, fiddle and bouzouki instrumentals PLUS those fantastic bass pedals! I realize now how much Les Wilson's use of the drone-like bass pedals has influenced my idea of how a perfect folk-rock song is brought to a dramatic crescendo.

When I approached Gullane after the set, I fumbled with words – where do I begin to converse with a person whose songs have taught me more about Scottish history



than my 20+ years of playing highland bagpipes? Finally, I was able to carefully enunciate words between mumbles "I would like to talk to you between sets tomorrow. Did you get the email from your manager?" He nodded and seemed agreeable to the idea. "See you tomorrow," he affirmed.

"I'll be here," I enthusiastically replied, and then I was compelled for some reason to add, "the hair really makes you look like Dylan!"

"We have the same hairdresser," he piped without missing a beat.

**In the Next Issue:**  
The Conversation

