

# The 17th Annual Scottish North American Community Conference will take place virtually this year on Zoom December 4th-6th

The Scottish North American Community Conference (SNACC) was formed by the Chicago Scots and American Scottish Foundation (ASF) with The Detroit St Andrews, COSCA, CASSOC and Scottish Studies Guelph completing the SNACC organization. Held annually the organizers look for it to be a way to bring organizations, clans and groups together to share best practices, ideas and practises and benefit from their shared goals and experiences. This year with nearly all heritage programming cancelled SNACC hopes to make the weekend a key focus of celebrating the Scottish North American community's heritage, culture and most of all our love of Scotland.

## How can we ensure the ongoing bonds of Scottish NA friendship- The relevance of the Scottish identity in a globalised world

The American-Scottish Foundation is leading on the planning of this year's conference - ASF had hoped to welcome guests to New York, but that is not to be, instead the weekend will be virtual, being divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The committee have been taking up various elements of the programming and John Bellassai, President, COSCA noted how Friday afternoon opens with *Exploring what*

This will be followed by a panel of leading experts on genetic genealogy affiliated with Family Tree DNA of Houston, TX on their 300+ Scottish surname projects:

- Keith MacGregor, U.S. Board Member for the Clan Gregor Society, Scotland
- Prof. Rob Spencer of MIT
- Prof. Maurice Gleeson of Dublin
- And Susan Millar of the NY Genealogical & Biographical Society

They will present a half dozen case studies exploring the different ethnic roots of real Scottish-Americans, tracing their respective DNA signatures back to their Pictish, Gaelic, Saxon and Norse roots.

The day will conclude with well-known Scottish professional genealogist Dr. Bruce Durie, who will continue the conversation on how DNA research can and does complement traditional genealogy, and about how to use all the new online data sources, including Scotland's People, to facilitate genealogical research.

## Gather virtually and share ideas and hear news

The schedule on Saturday morning begins with Joni Smith, Scottish Affairs Councillor to North America, bringing greetings and sharing thoughts on where we are today.

Lord Charles Bruce will then lead on the first panel discussion: *The Enduring*



**SCOTTISH NORTH AMERICAN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**  
**DECEMBER 4,5,6 ONLINE**

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Rt Hon. Henry Macleish will then introduce the second panel which will explore:

- *Scotland influence on North America*, to be followed by a panel discussion.

The afternoon will then explore where we are today in this time of Covid, the new *Our virtual presence-The new normal for the Scottish NA community* exploring in three panels:

- Impact on Clans, Highland Games, organ. and the way forward - new opportunity within the challenges
- Cultural Impact of Scotland on NA - Music and the Arts in the New Normal
- Impact of Scotland on NA - Scottish Studies - on line engagement

*open to the world* - which will be followed by film clips of leading sites in Scotland and a panel discussion.

"I really wish we were able to welcome everyone to New York for the 2020 Scottish NA Community Conference - but just because we cannot meet in person does not mean SNACC important messaging and the opportunity for us to gather virtually and share ideas and hear news and move ideas and plan for this new normal going forward. And do hope you will join us and lend your voice to the conversation, share your ideas." noted Camilla Hellman, President, American-Scottish Foundation.