

# CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY

## SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

### Thanksgiving Church Service

Sunday, October 1

3:30 p.m.

Welsh Chapel

2900 Cardigan Road, Route 620



**POTLUCK** Supper following the service. Bring your friends, neighbours and family!



### CARDIGAN 200



The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Cardigan will soon be upon us. In order to raise funds to help finance our celebration we are selling tickets for this beautiful stained glass Welsh Dragon.

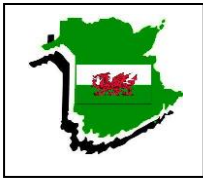
We are asking Welsh Society members to sell tickets to friends, neighbours and family. In addition, we will display this lovely stained glass at all events to encourage ticket sales. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn at our celebration in Cardigan in August 2019.



### WELSH WORDS



HWYL is a Welsh word that has no direct English translation. It describes an intangible quality of passion and a sense of belonging. It is said to sum up 'Welshness' in one word. To do something with hwyl is to do it with passion, excitement and fervour. Hwyl is also found in the Welsh pulpit in the rhythm of the preaching. In Wales a conversation is often ended with 'hwyl fawr' or 'pob hwyl' which means 'good-bye, all the best'. Hwyl fawr is pronounced 'hoil vowrr'.



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## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!



One way for the Society to attract new members is to become more visible in the community. Some of us have been very busy raising awareness about our Society and our Welsh heritage. We exhibited at the Fredericton North Heritage Fair again this year, speaking with many people interested in the Welsh presence in the province. In mid-July we spent a day at King's Landing where we were delighted to meet numerous

people from across Canada who were of Welsh descent or who were just interested in the history of the Welsh in New Brunswick. It was particularly enjoyable to talk with many young people who are so interested in the province's history.

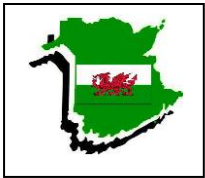
Thanks to Allison Wrynn who organized our participation in the New Brunswick Highland Games and who sent this report:

Our Society participated in this year's Highland Games!! We were invited to attend and we were welcomed with open arms and open hearts. We received assistance in getting organized by representatives of the Irish and Scottish Organizations. We had great participation by many of our members. Our President had the honor of carrying our Flag along with and beside the



Scottish and Irish Flags, truly a beautiful and inspiring Celtic portrayal!! We had tremendous help from Doug Ashfield in setting up the gazebo, and from he and Clifford Humble in taking it down; there was Helen Jones and Hank Williams who worked the Saturday afternoon; Cindy Jewett and Andrew Gunter who worked the Sunday afternoon; and Janet Thomas who included this report in our September Newsletter. It was indeed a real pleasure, and a source of pride to see all these fine and honorable Welsh men and women helping to make this event a tremendous success. A huge THANKS on behalf of our entire Central New Brunswick Welsh Society.

Finally, check out the Fredericton Museum's new Multicultural exhibit. We are included in the exhibit too!



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## MEANWHILE, IN WALES....

Kathleen Mitchell, our correspondent in Wales, recently attended the 260<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Thomas Telford who built

the suspension bridge over the Menai Strait which separates the Island of Anglesey from the Welsh mainland. She writes:

'To celebrate this event there was a small festival at a Heritage site in the village of Menai Bridge and a

banner was created with an

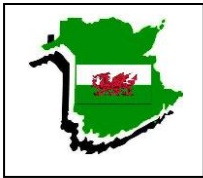
outline of the Bridge printed on it. The

public were asked to donate one pound coins that showed a picture of the

Menai Bridge. These were then used to form the outline of suspension structures on the banner. These coins are to be withdrawn from circulation by the beginning of October, so not many are still around. As it happened I had 2 of these coins so we went along to the event and I donated them to "Thomas Telford" himself telling him we were Founder Members of the New Brunswick Welsh Society in Canada and that we were bringing Greetings from Fredericton NB. This went over very well, the coins were gratefully received and a very nice little speech of Thanks in Welsh was given by 'Thomas Telford'!



Our on-line presence via Facebook has been increasing steadily with 110 persons currently following our Page. But our page posts reach many more than that due to the ability of our followers to SHARE. For example, the post on August 12<sup>th</sup> reached 314 people, with 65 people clicking on the photo to read the article, 15 people engaged in reacting or commenting. We post a couple of times per week so as not to overwhelm our followers but to keep their interest. Our followers are from across Canada and the US, from the United Kingdom, one is from Argentina and one from Morocco. They come from all age groups with the majority being younger than 65 years of age, so this is a great way to connect with younger people. That being said, 32% of our followers are seniors. There is a steady stream of interactions with our page, ranging from someone liking or commenting on something that we have posted to requests for information from individuals looking for more information about Cardigan, the Welsh in New Brunswick or their family genealogy. The people who follow us are not necessarily Society members, in fact, many are not so this is a way to encourage interest in our Welsh heritage. If you are on Facebook, join our page and encourage your family to join too!



# CENTRAL NEW BRUNSWICK WELSH SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

## DR. PETER THOMAS, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN



Much of what we know about the immigration of the Welsh immigrants who established the Cardigan settlement originates primarily from the research of Dr. Peter Thomas. His book, *Strangers from a Secret Land: The Voyages of the Brig Albion and the Founding of the First Welsh Settlements in Canada*, is a fascinating account of the story of the Welsh arrival in New Brunswick in 1819. It was nominated for the Governor General's Award in 1987 and won the Welsh Arts Council Annual Award for a work of non-fiction as well as the Canadian Historical Association

Regional History Award.

David Peter Thomas was born in Manchester, England in 1939. When he was 11 years old his family moved to South Wales where he completed his early education and earned both Bachelor and Master's degrees in English literature from the University of Cardiff. After teaching school for a few years, Dr. Thomas moved to the USA where he earned a PhD from New York State University in Binghamton, NY. A short stay in Vancouver was followed by a move to Fredericton in 1968 where he became a professor of English at the University of New Brunswick.

Dr. Thomas was an avid fly fisherman and it was upon returning from a fishing expedition that his interest was piqued by the Welsh Chapel in Cardigan. His meanderings through the cemetery led to a nearly decade-long search for the stories behind the establishment of the Cardigan settlement. His research continues to serve as the primary resource for the Welsh story in New Brunswick, and indeed, for much of the information shared in our newsletters.

In addition to being the authority on the Cardigan settlers, Dr. Thomas was the founding publisher of Goose Lane Editions, editor of the *Fiddlehead* magazine, and author of other works of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. He and his wife, Helen, were charter members of the Central New Brunswick Welsh Society, remaining active members until his death in 2007.



John Wesley preached often in Wales. Do you think that his cure for baldness was accepted by our ancestors?

*Rub the part morning and evening, with onions till it is red and rub it afterwards with honey. Or, wash it with a decoction of boxwood: Tried, Or, electrify it daily'*

Primitive Physic or An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases, 1828