



# FLAGS FLY IN NORTH AMERICA

There are a great number of Scottish Societies in North America, such as the Clan Campbell Society (NA), whose many thousands of members take enormous pride in their Scottish heritage. This is manifested in particular at the well-established Highland Games circuit across the continent, Tartan Day events, Burns Suppers, St Andrew's Dinners and various Celtic Festivals, which allow members of these Societies to participate in traditional Scottish events and to parade with pipe bands and fly the St Andrew's Cross.

National flags are held in high regard in North America, with for example the Stars and Stripes widely flown in all US public buildings, schools and in many homes. In the US, flags that have been specifically flown at the capital, Washington DC, are particularly sought after by patriotic Americans. Similarly, the waiting period for one of the national flags of Canada, popularly known as the Maple Leaf, that has been flown over the Peace Tower at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, can be as long as ten years.

Last year, the Clan Campbell Society (NA) approached the Scottish Flag Trust to explore the possibilities of promoting in North America Saltires that had been flown at Athelstaneford – birthplace of Scotland's national flag. This proposal was enthusiastically received by the Trust, as well as by its parent body – the St Andrew Society.

The outcome is that the first batch of 20 Athelstaneford-flown Saltires have been dispatched to the US to arrive in time for display on St Andrew's Day, 30 November 2007. Each of



Trustees Robert McAlpine, Rina Moore and Krystina Campbell, together with Robert MacCormick, Malcolm Duncan and Charlie Blair at the Saltire Memorial.

the flags has been hoisted and flown briefly at the main flagpole attached to the Saltire Memorial in the Churchyard, and has a special logo sewn onto the hoist confirming it has been flown at Athelstaneford

together with a signed Certificate stating the date on which the flag was flown. As a further mark of authenticity, the packaging of each flag is likely to contain a few blades of Athelstaneford grass, as the grasscutters had been out in the churchyard that day! The flags are of woven polyester and 5ft x 4ft in size, as these are considered to be the proper dimensions endorsed in the Scottish Flag Code, compared to the 6ft x 3ft dimensions which derive from naval use. The flags are available exclusively in North America from CCSNA for \$199.99 USD plus shipping (Contact: , , )



Randy Seale, Special Projects Co-ordinator for CCSNA, is enthusiastic: "You can't get more Scottish than the Athelstaneford Saltire, and the use of the flag pre-dates any other national flag by centuries. We

already have a great deal of interest and orders, and are confident that as words spread about the availability of the Athelstaneford Saltire many more fellow Scots in the US and Canada will want to own, display and/or fly one of these historic flags".

Trust Chairman, David Williamson, said: "We know from the visitors book at the Flag Heritage Centre that Athelstaneford is much visited each year by Americans of Scottish descent. The Trust is delighted therefore to work with CCSNA on this joint initiative, as it allows us to further raise the profile of Athelstaneford an Scotland's national flag in the US and Canada". ❖

**Magnifique!**  
 Treasurer Malcolm Duncan reports that the following entry was made in the Flag Heritage Centre visitors book early in September: "Here to get some inspiration before going to Paris for the game on Wednesday – Tartan Army Edinburgh". This clearly worked as Scotland went on to record a historic 1 – 0 victory over France in the Parc des Princes on 12 September in the European Football Championship! Perhaps this will catch on and boost Athelstaneford's visitor numbers.