



# THE GORDON TARTAN

OCTOBER 2005  
NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
HOUSE OF GORDON, VIRGINIA DIVISION



Mottoes: Bydand (Abiding); Anim o Non Astutia (By courage not craft)

WAR CRY: A Gordon! A Gordon!

MORRIS GORDON, Convener

WEBSITE: <http://www.houseofgordonva.com>

JAMES GORDON, Editor

## Convener's Corner

We have been very busy since the last news letter. This year has been very good. We have had many members to renew their dues, and we have had over 20 new members to join the Virginia Chapter. I have a great story to tell about my trip to the Alexandria games.

Going up to the games in the Highlander Hut, the front right tire blew while I was on Interstate 95. I was able to get the tire changed with the help of a nice truck driver who stopped to help me. I was able to put on the spare tire, and so I made my way to Alexandria, Virginia.

The game was a success. We got several renewals and five new members. On the way home from the games that Sunday afternoon and night, I had more tire trouble. I was on I-95 around Fredericksburg when the front left tire blew. Having no spare to put on the RV, I was in a bit of a bind. I called my insurance company and got road service to come to me. I bought a new tire and had it put on the RV on the I-95 highway.

I had to pay a BIG bill, but I was happy to be on the road home. I finally got home around 2 a.m. Now I have six new tires on the RV and hope I will not have any tire trouble any time soon.

We have traveled to Ligonier, Penn. for the games and Williamsburg. The little trailer has really been a blessing. Having all the tent items inside is great, and we can lock the items up overnight when we have two days at the games.

I took the trailer to Radford with my truck and this was very helpful in setting up the tent site. We now have two signs that I hang on each side of the trailer when we set up. That way it is part of our tent display, and I can keep it at the site.

I want to thank the members who have given me their donations toward the cost of the trailer. I have a little more money needed to complete the \$700 I need to collect. If I reach the dollar amount to pay off the loan and have extra money, I will put it in the treasury to help pay for HOG tent site activities.

Thank you again for your donations. I have made arrangements for all of the remaining games and the Christmas Walk in Alexandria in early December.

Ed and Sallie Gordon have agreed to let me store the RV and trailer at their farm. This put them closer to my new house that Sara and I will be moving to by the middle of October. We are packing and getting ready to have the movers come to move the furniture and stuff earlier this week. I have been running around in circles trying to get ready for the move. WHAT A JOB!!! I am happy I am retired so I have the time to do

this.

We had 25 members attend the HOG picnic. The food was great. David Todd prepared the food and did a great job. It was HOT. We will have the picnic next year in the Spring. I hope it will not be so hot then. I want to thank all the members for your support toward The House of Gordon-Virginia.

I want to thank the Todds for their help with the Leesburg games. They took the RV and trailer and set up the tent site for me. I had to be with my mother-in-law at the hospital that weekend. She is doing much better now and was able to travel with me and Sara to the recent Radford Highlander Games.

I hope to see you at the Richmond Games this weekend. Don't forget!! We will have our annual HOG meeting at the games on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Bring a chair to sit in and join us for the meeting.

BYDAND, Morris Gordon, Convener

**Christmas Walk is Up Next** - Although we have not received any official announcement yet, the Scottish Christmas Walk in Alexandria should be coming on Saturday, December 3, if they follow form from the past. Check with the Virginia House of Gordon web page around Thanksgiving for the specifics.



Morris Gordon (left) Virginia Chapter Convener for the House of Gordon, is greeted by one of those Scottish warriors who showed up at the 2005 National Highland Games this past summer on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, North Carolina. The ancient way to shake hands was reportedly taught to the man by his grandfather. The old rogue is actually Tim Morris of Johnson City, Tennessee.



A Gordon, A Gordon! From left, Ginny Gordon, co-convenor of the North Carolina Chapter of the House of Gordon, and Lois Todd, a member of the Virginia Chapter Board of Directors, carry the banner leading the Gordons during the Parade of Tartans at the National Games on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, North Carolina this past July. The young man in the middle of the trio of pipers is Lois' son, Aaron, who has earned numerous awards for piping during the past few years. The other two pipers are from the newly formed Maryland Chapter. Behind the pipers are National Convenor Lou Gordon (left) and her mother Evelyn, wife of the late Charles Gordon, National Convenor from Johnson City, Tennessee.

## Richmond Games Cap Celtic Festival Season

By Jim Gordon — Gordon Tartan Editor

The 2005 Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival, traditionally the largest Celtic festival in Virginia, will be held this coming Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22 & 23, back at the Richmond Raceway Complex, formerly known as the Virginia State Fairgrounds.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 1-800-588-3247. Adult passes this year will cost \$24 for the weekend or \$17 for one day. Children 10 years old and under will be admitted free of charge. There will be a \$5 daily charge for dogs.

All dog owners must bring a certificate as proof of rabies shots and each dog must be on a non-retractable leash. Only one dog per person will be admitted to the festival. Adults can save several dollars off one-day tickets with advance purchase at Fas Mart.

Profits made by the State Fair of Virginia will benefit the State Fair Scholarship Program which has awarded 1,431 youngsters with educational grants since 1989.

This year's festival features the traditional Scottish dancing competition, where one can dance and sing on two entertainment stages featuring the best of Celtic folk, rock and traditional music, along with Scottish and Irish fiddle, harp, drumming, piping and massed band competition.

Saturday, the Kissers from Madison, Wis., deliver a rollicking stage show of traditional Celtic melodies blended with American roots along with a big wet smack on the cheek to the British Punk. The Kissers are a favorite everywhere from festivals to NYC rock clubs, and they have just released their second CD, "Fire in the Belly".

Then on Sunday, the group known as Searson brings raw power to the stage. The contingent from Ontario combines an energy and chemistry that serves to ignite and unite this multi-talented group.

Known for fusing traditional instruments with a fresh contemporary sound, two lead female fiddlers, strong vocalists, acoustic and electric guitars, a base, piano, mandolin, bodhran and four female step dancers complete the package of this dynamic quintet.

Other performers appearing on the stages include Charlie Zahn, a master of the guitar with a baritone voice described by some as heard only once in a generation.

Then there is Uisce Beatha who sings a broad mix of Irish American Pub music, along with Tinker's Damn, a group which

offers a blend of Celtic music, American folk and Blue Grass arrangements. Robin Ride's selections include those from the British Isles and American folk music.

The Dance Troupers include the rhythm of Ireland, Scottish country dancers, Crossroads Irish Dance Troupe and An Cor Rud, whatever that is?!

There will also be a huge Celtic Market at which one can start their Christmas shopping early by browsing through one of at least 60 vendor and artisan tents which feature fine clothing, jewelry, crafts, collectibles and numerous authentic Celtic wares.

There are also plenty of vendors selling delicious varieties of food and cold beverages including authentic beers, ales and stouts to quench your thirst. You can also try some fish and chips, Cornish pastries, scotch eggs and sausage rolls, not to mention the traditional scones.

There will also be the heavy Scottish athletics, featuring huge muscular men competing in the U.S. Celtic Nationals Heavy Athletic Championships. This year for the first time, there will also be the Women's Heavy Athletics on Saturday.

And don't forget the rugby match on Sunday afternoon between the Virginia Gentlemen and the Wild Geese.

Of course you can hear and watch those colorful marching Pipe Bands all weekend. One of the massed bands will also lead the parade of over 60 clans and societies.

There will also be a Living History Encampment and a parade of dogs of the British Isles, plus genealogy information at a tent where one can look up their family history.

And if none of this tickles your fancy, one will surely get a kick out of watching the Ferret Legging, a contest where one of those furry little creatures is dropped down the front of a man's trousers to see how long the male can stand it before the small animal wiggles his way down to the bottom of one of his pant-legs.

Ferret Legging is reportedly a centuries-old Celtic sport which will be revitalized in Richmond. The person who keeps the Ferret in his trousers the longest wins the contest.

The Sterling Swordplayers will host the humorous event at the theater-in-the-round enclosure, but they did not reveal the prize which goes to the winner.

For more detailed information, go to your Web site and type in [www.richmondceltic.com](http://www.richmondceltic.com)

# Our Condolences to the Todds

All of us in the Virginia Chapter of the House of Gordon would like to express our sincere condolences to David Todd and the members of his family after the death of David's father, Robert Todd, who suffered a fatal accident recently when a brick wall collapsed on him a few weeks ago.

It is always particularly painful to lose one of the two people who cared for us and loved us from birth.

The Board of Directors join with all the members of the Virginia Chapter in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to David and Lois who have supported the Virginia Chapter in many ways for close to a decade. Robert Todd was a retired school teacher and scout leader who lived in Utah.

Those who would like to send the Todds a sympathy card expressing your personal words of comfort during the family's time of grief may write to them at: 1811 Aeronca Ave., Richmond, Virginia 23228. Their phones have been temporarily disconnected during their time of mourning.



Members of the Virginia Chapter of the House of Gordon gather in front of the Gordon tent with National Convener Lou Gordon (second from right) before attacking the table of food and beverage inside. The members of the Board of Directors who made the trip to the National Games at Grandfather Mountain near Linville, North Carolina this past summer included (from left) Barbara Wray, Lois and David Todd, Morris Gordon and Jim Gordon.

## House of Gordon Order Blank

ITEMS	CIRCLE COLOR	Sm	Med	2X	3X	Indicate Size	Quantity	\$ Amount
		Lg	XL					
GOLF SHIRT - with embroidered crest	forest green navy sand white yellow		\$22.00	\$25.00	\$25.00			
	forest green navy sand white yellow							
TEES - with embroidered crest	forest green navy black white gray		\$12.00	\$13.00	\$14.00			
	forest green navy black white gray							
LONG SLEEVE TEES - with embroidered crest	forest green navy black white gray		\$13.00	\$14.00	\$15.00			
	forest green navy black white gray							
SWEAT SHIRT - with embroidered crest	forest green navy black white natural		\$23.00	\$25.00	\$25.00			
	forest green navy black white natural							
BALL CAP - with embroidered crest	navy w/natural bill or forest green w/natural bill		\$15.00					
SUN VISOR - with "Gordon Highlanders"	forest green navy black natural		\$10.00					
GORDON FLANNEL SHORTS with embroidered initials	put initials here: _____		\$12.00					
			\$15.00					
GORDON FLANNEL WOMEN'S NIGHT SHIRT with embroidered initials	put initials here: _____		\$25.00					
			\$28.00					
TOTE BAG with embroidered crest	natural		\$15.00					
16 x 9 x 9" BACKPACK with embroidered crest			\$36.00					
18 x 10 GYN BAG with embroidered crest			\$14.00					

Jim Gordon of Waynesboro, Va. Has made arrangements with Shenandoah Tees to provide us with the capability to do single item orders. This service allows us to not have to stock a large quantity of these items at the tent or maintain an inventory. Please fill out the order form provided and make a copy for your records. Please include payment with the order and make checks payable to: **Jim Gordon**

**SUB TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADD SHIPPING & HANDLING:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out your name, address and phone number if we need to contact you to verify an order.

### Mail to:

**Jim Gordon**  
 1132 Jefferson Avenue  
 Waynesboro, Va. 23188

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

# 2005 Membership Dues

Member status \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Remit to: House of Gordon  
Morris Gordon, Convener  
501 Greenside Court  
Chester, VA 23836-2639

Dues break down  
House of Gordon Scotland \$5.00  
House of Gordon, USA \$10.00  
House of Gordon, Virginia \$10.00  
Total \$25.00

Don't miss out on anything. Renew now and help keep  
the House of Gordon strong, vitalized and growing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you are moving so that we can keep in touch.

HOUSE OF GORDON  
MORRIS A GORDON, CONVENER

CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 229

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