



The British Isles

Historic Society

Heritage, History, Traditions & Customs

Good Morning:

The news media have been very supportive of community and ethnic events as they occur in B.C. British Columbia's History has a very strong tie to the countries of the British Isles. Examples are "British Columbia" (Queen Victoria), Victoria B.C. (Queen Victoria), Vancouver (Captain George Vancouver, **Eng.**), Burnaby (Robert Burnaby, **Eng.**), New Westminster (Richard Moody, **Eng.**), Surrey (N. J. Brewer, **Eng.**), Richmond (John Sexsmith, **Eng.**) Maple Ridge (John McIvor, **Scot.**), Stanley Park (Lord Stanley, **Eng.**), West Vancouver, British Properties (Guinness family, **Ire.**) as well as many Historic sites, streets and landmarks. Etc. Etc.

Robert James Cromie (July 4, 1887 – May 11, 1936) was a Canadian newspaper publisher. He published the Vancouver Sun from 1917 until his death. Cromie was born on July 4, 1887 to Henry James Cromie of **Ireland** and Sarah Ann Guy of Australia. Originally The Vancouver Daily World (also known as The Vancouver World or simply The World) was a newspaper once published in Vancouver, British Columbia. It was founded in 1888 by John McLagan a newspaper publisher born in **Strathardle, Scotland**.

It would be greatly appreciated if the news media in British Columbia would give recognition to these special historic events that are part of British Columbia's History, and have a tie with those residents that have a Historic and Accessorial tie to the British Isles.

January 25th. Robbie Burn's Day, is a Burns supper in celebration of the life and poetry of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide.

March 1st. St. David's Day, is the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales. Saint David was a Welsh bishop of Mynyw during the 6th century.

March 5th. St. Piran's Day and is the Patron Saint of Cornwall. St. Piranas was a 5th-century Cornish abbot and saint, of Irish origin.

March 8th. Commonwealth Day, replacing the former Empire Day, is the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations, often held on the second Monday in March.

March 17th. St. Patrick's Day, the Feast of Saint Patrick is a cultural and religious celebration celebrated by the Irish. Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland".

March 20th. Equinox, An equinox is commonly regarded as the instant of time when the plane of Earth's equator passes through the geometric center of the Sun's disk.

April 6th. National Tartan Day, Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320.

April 21st. Elizabeth II Birthday (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926) Queen of the United Kingdom.

April 23rd. St. George's Day is the feast day of Saint George as celebrated by various Christian Churches and the English / British. St. George was a Christian who is accepted as a saint in Christianity it is thought he was a Roman officer of Greek descent.

May 1st. May Day, "Beltane" Traditional English May Day celebrations include Morris dancing, crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole.

May 24th. Victoria Day When Queen Victoria died in 1901, Canada's parliament officially named the holiday Victoria Day.

June 6th. D-Day, 1944, Battle of Normandy

June 12th. Queen Elizabeth's II, Official Birthday The Sovereign's birthday was first officially marked in the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1748, for King George II.

June 21st. Summer Solstice, also known as estival solstice or midsummer, occurs when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt toward the Sun. Since prehistory, the summer solstice has been seen as a significant time of year in many cultures and has been marked by festivals and rituals.

July 15th. St. Swithun's Day, St Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon bishop of Winchester and subsequently patron saint of Winchester Cathedral.

July 5th. Tynwald Day (Manx: Laa Tinvaal) is the National Day of the Isle of Man. Tynwald, or more formally, the High Court of Tynwald or Tynwald Court, is the legislature of the Isle of Man. It claims to be the oldest continuous parliamentary body in the world.

October 31 to November 1st. Samhain, Mumming and guising were part of the Harvest Festivals. Samhain is believed to have Celtic pagan origins and there is evidence it has been an important date since ancient times.

November 5th. Guy Fawkes Night, Bonfire night, the fireworks are a reminder of the gunpowder Guy Fawkes hid in the cellar of Parliament. The traditional cake eaten on bonfire night is Parkin Cake, a sticky cake containing a mix of oatmeal, ginger, treacle, and syrup. Other foods include sausages cooked over the flames and marshmallows toasted in the fire.

November 30th. St. Andrew's Day is the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle celebrated by the Scottish. Andrew the Apostle, also called Saint Andrew, was an apostle of Jesus according to the New Testament. He is the brother of Saint Peter. He is referred to in the Orthodox tradition as the First-Called.

December 21st. Winter Solstice, the winter solstice, hiemal solstice or hibernal solstice, also known as midwinter,

December 25th. Christmas Day, a proper full English Dinner with all the trimmings. Wassailing has been associated with Christmas and New Year as far back as the 1400s.

December 31st. Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner.



Regards

Steve McVittie

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