

Scottish Canadian History in Needlework

Tulip Tree Needlearts Guild has been going for 20 years creating embroidery and needlework in traditional and modern designs.

Tulip Tree Needlearts Guild



This year, to mark their anniversary members designed and stitched a panel that celebrates the Selkirk settlement at Baldoon which is located in Dover Township in Chatham-Kent.

From October 12 to 29, 2021, the guild display at the Rotary Lounge in the Capitol Theatre, 238 King St. W. Chatham, ON, will exhibit the Baldoon Tapestry and the 37 other tapestries from Scotland that tell the history of Canada through the exploration of the scots.

The Baldoon Tapestry

The tapestry is divided into 2 parts using the ship, the Oughton, that brought the people to Canada as the dividing line between the great expectations of a fertile land with many sheep envisioned by Lord Selkirk on the left and on the right the harsh reality represented by dense marsh.

Lord Selkirk is seen in profile looking left to his vision of a land of plenty for his settlement. Sheep and grass land with a small marsh to provide game for the tenants was his dream.

To the right is a larger marsh with 7 mosquitoes flying above it to represent the seven early settlers who died of malaria. Above the marsh flies a goose representing the Baldoon mystery, a curious piece of folklore involving shape changing and baffling events from the early days of the settlement.

Below the ship, in blue, the various bodies of water are represented. The darkest wedge of sea is reserved for the Atlantic crossing during which one death at occurred.

Around the circle are the names of the places that the settlers visited on their epic journey. The date 1804 was the beginning of the settlement and 1818 the date that the Selkirk estate of Baldoon was sold. Lord Selkirk died in 1820.

The local stitchers were honoured when the tapestry was accepted into the collection in Scotland. Before being sent to Scotland it will be on display at the Capitol Theatre at the guild's anniversary event in October 2021 and will be part of an exhibit at Guelph, Ontario in November.

Needlework done by club members will be on display for the anniversary celebration.

For more information on Tulip Tree Needlearts Guild go to:

<https://tuliptreeneedlearts.wordpress.com/>