Y Bwletin

TTAWA
WELSH SOCIETY

Gwasg y Nant - Valley Press Gwanwyn 2019- Spring 2019

www.ottawawelsh.com

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If you have news or contributions to make to the next newsletter, please contact:

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Please note: the Ottawa Welsh Society has a new web site. See the new URL below.

Y Gymdeithas ar y We / The Society on the Net:

www.ottawawelsh.org



Ottawa Welsh Society/Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa Check out our web site and our Facebook page!

Y Bwletin Gwanwyn 2019

President's Message



Annwyl Gyfeillion,

So, two years as your President have just flown by. Cymdeithas Cymry Ottawa has been active on several fronts, with our involvement in our first Welsh Film Festival, and participation on the Board of OGGA. I'm slowly getting more confident in my baking of Welsh cakes. We have a linkage with the NAC as a resource for when Welsh artistes are performing, e.g. the forthcoming concert on May 11 by Martyn Joseph, and a linkage to Andrew Wagstaff the "Head of Canada" at the new Welsh Office in Montreal.

OGGA has decided on Ottawa as the venue for the 2020 Gymanfa, and North American Festival of Wales (NAFOW) has decided on Ottawa for the following year, so we're certainly on a lot of people's radar.

Awr Sgwrsio for Dysgwyr under the guidance of Alison Lawson and John Williams attracts a consistent group of enthusiastic learners practicing conversational Welsh, while the original Awr Sgwrsio continues to meet for erudite conversation and beer at The Clocktower pub on Bank Street. Topics of conversation have included selling up and downsizing, recent travels, children and grandchildren, but no Brexit.

Summer is rapidly approaching and I may or may not find it within me to hold a barbeque for the Society, but don't hold your collective breath.

Pob Hwyl,

Geraint

Llywydd

Ottawa Welsh Film Festival a huge success!

We are very pleased to report that the Ottawa Welsh Film Festival held in March at the Bytowne Cinema was very successful indeed. Several hundred people came to see the wonderful selection of films we were offering throughout the month. The event generated a great deal of publicity for the Society. In addition to the table we ran in the foyer promoting the society, the name of the society was well publicised throughout Ottawa for the month through the ByTowne publicity, and was even mentioned on CBC by Tom McSorley.

Many thanks to Ottawa Welsh Society members for agreeing to sponsor this important event and to the committee members who turned up each week in March to help organise the event. Shall we aim for a repeat performance in 2021?

- Alison Lawson

Official Notice:

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21.

6:00 p.m. for dinner, 7:00 p.m. for meeting.

at

Kristy's restaurant on Richmond Road.

Keep up to date by visiting the web site at www.ottawawelsh.org

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Tudalen 3

Colofn y Dysgwyr – Learners' Column Revision - Adolygu

Asking questions - Gofyn cwestiynau

Pwy? - Who?

Pwy wyt ti? Who are you?

Pwy ydy o/hi? Who is he/she?

Helo, pwy sydd yna? Hello, who's there?

Lle? - Where?

Lle wyt ti'n byw? Where do you live?

Lle mae o'n/hi'n byw? Where does he/she live?

Lle mae Aberystwyth? Where is Aberystwyth?

Beth? - What?

Beth wyt ti'n wneud? What are you doing?

Beth mae o'n/hi'n wneud? What is he/she doing

Beth yw'r dyddiad heddiw? What is the date today?

Ydy? – Is it (he, she)?

Ydy o'n gweithio? Is he working?

Ydy hi'n gweithio? Is she working?

Ydy Caerdyddd yn dref mawr? Is Cardiff a big city?

Wyt ti? - Are you?

Wyt ti'n gweithio? Are you working?

Wyt ti wedi blino? Are you tired?

Wyt ti'n mynd heno? Are you going tonight?

Sut? - How?

Sut wyt ti? How are you?

Sut bydd y tywydd yfory? How will the weather be tomorrow?

Pa Bryd? - When?

Pa bryd mae dy benblwydd? When is your birthday?

Pa bryd fydd yr AGM eleni? When will the AGM be this year?

Pa fath? – What kind?

Pa fath o dywydd sydd yn y Gaeaf? What kind of weather is

in winter?

Pa fath o ffrwythau sydd yn y farchnad? What kind of fruit

is in the market?

Seasons and Months

Y Gaeaf - Winter

Rhagfyr, Ionawr, Chwefror December, January, February

Y Gwanwyn Spring

Mawrth, Ebrill, Mai March, April, May

Yr Haf - Summer

Mehefin, Gorffenaf, Awst June, July, August

Yr Hydref – Autumn/Fall

Medi, Hydref, Tachwedd, September, October, November

The weather - Y tywydd

Bwrw glaw raining

Bwrw eira snowing

Braf fine

Heulog sunny



Niwlog foggy

Gwyntog windy

Rhewi freezing

Oer cold

Poeth hot

Cynnes warm

Gwlyb wet

(Continued on page 6)

If you are interested in joining the Welsh learners' group, please contact Alison Lawson:

alisonlawsonca@gmail.com

613-725-2704

St. David's Day 2019

As has become our custom in the OWS, we started the St. David's Day celebrations on March 1 with a reception at the British High Commission. The turnout was gratifying and included a few students from Paul Birt's U of O Welsh class. Some of the Awr Sgwrsio students attempted to converse with them in Welsh with mixed success.

The highlight of the reception, other than the stimulating company, was the kick-off to the first ever Ottawa Welsh Film Festival (See Alison's report on page 2). Geraint Lewis, our President, welcomed the crowd with warmth and humour, then called on Alison Lawson to introduce the concept and the selected films. The films were selected by a committee comprised of Alison, David Jeanes, John Williams and Christine Langham. After watching many, many films, the selection was made and Alison went to work arranging to rent the films and finding a venue. For the kick-off, David Jeanes had lined up clips from each of the four films to be featured: *Hedd Wyn*, Y *Streic a fi*, Y *Syrcas and Under Milkwood*. The choices were excellent and whetted our appetites for the coming festival, starting in just four days.



Photos courtesy of Ron Pepper

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On Saturday, March 2, a large group of members met at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club for a tasty luncheon/dinner, an entertaining speech by Andrew Wagstaff of the Welsh office in Montreal and a lovely recital by soprano Sheryl Clay Newell. Also included was the semi-annual quiz on all things Welsh prepared by John Price, who presented his questions and answers with his usual wit and charm.



Photos by Ron Pepper

The highlight of the celebration, as always, was the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, led by Sheryl Clay Newell of Toronto. Her enthusiasm and good humour charmed the assembled crowd and a good sing was enjoyed by all. At the organ was the talented Alan Thomas who has supported the Gymanfoedd Ganu for many years, in Ottawa, at the Ontario Welsh Festival and at the North American Festival of Wales. A very sweet moment occurred when Sheryl invited long-time conductor Roy Morris to conduct a favourite hymn. He still has it! The afternoon of singing together was concluded with a Te bach provided by members and served by members of the executive and friends, led by Lezlie Wood.

See photos on page 6.

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Tudalen 5

Ontario Welsh Festival 2019

On Friday, April 26, a cheery crowd of Welsh folk descended on the Doubletree by Hilton hotel in London, looking forward to a crammed weekend of Welsh culture. We were not disappointed.

As we arrived, we were invited to have tea and Welshcakes with the dulcet tones of Mary Muckle's Celtic lever harp providing a lovely backdrop to conversation with friends old and new. Everyone scattered for a quick supper, then reconvened at 7:30 for the annual Noson lawen.



Mary Muckle at the Daffodil Tea

The MC, one of four Aleds from the visiting choir (Côr Machynlleth) was charming and very funny. He did a fine job of introducing the various acts from members of the OWF and from "the lads" of the choir. Ottawa was proudly represented by a Penillion group, a Merched Ottawa ladies group, Mary Muckle on the harp and Myfanwy Davies, who reprised her hilarious rendition of "How to bath your cat"!



Penillion Group from Ottawa

Marilyn Jenkins "Unwaith eto'n Gymru Annwl"







Other highlights included a singalong version of "We'll Keep a Welcome" led by Sheryl Clay-Newell, who we remember from the St. David's Day weekend, and a hilariously out-of-tune duet, sung by another old friend, Aled Wyn Davies and the

MC himself! We all laughed heartily as we watched the antics of the "drunken sailor" while the choir sang "What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor".



Saturday started at 9:30 with the AGM, which was reasonably well-attended. Important items include the plea for new members on the board. Without new blood, the 50th anniversary weekend in 2021 could be the last. Our own President, Geraint Lewis agreed to serve as Vice President for two years.

Next year's dates are April 17-19. Mark your calendars!

Hefina Phillips reprised her tremendously popular "Let's Speak Welsh". Participants learned how to introduce themselves by name, place of residence and place of origin, as well as how to express likes and dislikes (Dw i'n hoffi...) There was much trepidation, but everyone had fun trying!

David Jeanes hosted a showing of a documentary depicting the restoration and re-creation of the first Welsh language "talkie", called *Y Chwareldwr* (the Quarryman). We found it fascinating, and could not distinguish the restored sections from the recreated section at the end. (The last reel of the original film has been missing for decades.)

The last event of the afternoon was the showing of *Y Streic a Fi* (The Strike and Me), about the Welsh miners strike in 1984-85, which Ottawa folk had a chance to see at the Bytowne Cinema during our Welsh Film Festival in March.

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The highlight, of course, was the concert at First St. Andrew's United Church, just five minutes walk from the hotel. The choir was enthusiastically received by everyone in attendance. Even those who are not fans of the male voice choir were stirred by the repertoire sung by the mostly young men of Machynlleth. It was exciting to hear new music from new composers. We were fortunate to hear this group at the Noson Lawen, the concert and four times during the Gymanfa ganu. A standing ovation at the end of the evening brought a popular encore.

Sunday was bright and sunny and we gathered early at the church, where we were joined by the choir of First St.

Andrews, along with their minister, the Reverend Michelle Down and choir director/organist Terry Head. The singing was hearty and enthusiastic as always. One unusual but lovely touch was the number performed during the collection of the offering, by the impressively large FSA choir.

The afternoon session was less well-attended, as many had to start for home after lunch. Another unusual note was the lunch provided free of charge by First St. Andrews. Everyone in attendance was invited.



The afternoon session had a smaller but no less enthusiastic crowd

At 3:00 we all sang "God Be With You" and gradually headed out in our various directions; some heading home immediately and others lingering in London for one more night. Certainly an OWF to remember! Many thanks to all the organizers and volunteers for making it run so smoothly.

- Marilyn Jenkins

St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu 2019 (continued)



Photos by Marilyn Jenkins

- Marilyn Jenkins

Colofn y Dysgwyr continued.....

Weather statements:

Yn y Gaeaf mae'n bwrw eira ac yn oer.

In winter it snows and is cold.

Yn y Gwanwyn mae'n bwrw glaw ac yn wyntog.

In spring it rains and is windy.

Yn yr Haf mae'n braf ac yn boeth.

In summer it is fine and hot.

Yn yr Hydref mae'n wlyb ac yn niwliog.

In Autumn it is wet and foggy.

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Tudalen 7

CANADA: THE WELSH CONNECTION An Historic Overview

A considerable amount has been written about the Welsh in America, but little has been documented about the Welsh north of the 49th parallel, in the land formerly known as British North America, but as Canada for over a century and a half. One can be grateful, however, for some research, as documented by Glenys James – "The Report on Welsh in Canada" – deposited in the National Library of Wales. Other important books include Carol Bennett's book "In Search of the Red Dragon" (1985) and Peter Thomas's "Strangers from a Secret Land" (an account of early Brig Albion voyages from Wales to the Maritimes and the founding of the first Welsh Settlements in Canada, Gomer Press, Llandysul 1986) depicting the severe hardship the earlier settlers endured, and the work of Professor Wayne Davies, a geographer, "The Welsh in Canada".

One of the earliest recorded expeditions to Newfoundland, in 1578, sailed on the *Red Lion*, commanded by Captain Miles Morgan. It included carpenter Richard Gwyn, purser Robert Gwyn and a cook named Richard Morgan. In 1611, Sir Thomas Button from Cardiff wintered at Hudson's Bay, and in 1631, an Artic voyage was made by Captain Thomas James from Bristol, who had Welshgrandparents, and whose name was given to the area known as "James Bay".

Early pioneers and hunters had Welsh-sounding names, such as Buffalo Jones, Thomas the Iroquois and Twelve Foot Davies, but sadly, none of these had Welsh roots. Place names have greater significance - Bowen Island (near Vancouver) Mount Rhondda in the Canadian Rockies, Williams Lake, Harlech, Alberta, Bangor Saskatchewan; Owen Sound, Pontypool, Brecon, Chepstow, Bala, Tenby Bay, Pembroke, Raglan, Denbigh, Dufferin County, all in the Province of Ontario; and Cardigan and Glansevern in New Brunswick.

In early Canadian maps, the lands west of Hudson Bay were called New Wales, and divided between New North and New South Wales. These were renamed in subsequent maps of the 19th Century. One of the early land explorers was David Thompson, son of a Welsh-speaking family. He toured the interior between 1791 and 1812, crossing the Rockies to discover the Colombia Route to the Pacific. A map called the "Thompson Map" was used well into the seconnd half of the 19th century. All Albertans today are familiar with the 'David Thompson Highway', but few realize the hardship suffered, and the determination of this Welshman to finally find a route to the Pacific basin. Sadly, Thompson died in poverty in 1857.

The first proposed settlement by the Welsh was the Cambriol Settlement in Newfoundland, organized by Sir William Vaughan of Golden Grove, Carmarthenshire. Vaughan had witnessed the poverty in Wales and sought to create a New Wales just as his friend William Alexandra was proposing a Nova Scotia for his fellow Celts. By1639, however, the colony was abandoned, due to insufficient resources, severe winters and the attraction of other earlier settlements farther south in New England.

The poverty in Wales was so great that, in 1790, the whole town of Newcastle Emlyn petitioned to leave for the colonies. The Owens family of Glansevern in Montgomeryshire were in possession of Campobella Island in the 18th century and another Welshman, John Matthews, founded the Williams District in 1821 in Upper Canada (now Ontario). Other Welsh settlements followed in New Cambria, Nova Scotia and Cardigan, New Brunswick, but these declined in the 19th century. Peter Thomas' book contains a detailed study of the perilous voyages from Wales and the suffering and discrimination endured by the early settlers at the Cardigan settlement in New Brunswick.

In1818 the brig Fanny left Carmarthen with some 112 passengers for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Most were farmers, carpenters, tradesmen, tanners and blacksmiths. Little did they know that the perilous journey would take 42 days. Conditions aboard were atrocious, and not surprisingly smallpox broke out and news of the infectious ship reached Canada beforehand. The small population in Halifax panicked and as a result the ship was guarantined near a naval hospital on Melville Island. The authorities attempted to confine the would-be Welsh settlers in one area and Shelbourne County was allocated. Strong opposition from the Micmac Indians soon resulted but eventually a compromise was reached. with the First Nations people being "granted " the prime land, which they already owned anyway! New Cambria was eventually established, but only eight families: 17 adults and 29 children stayed in the Welsh settlement.

In 1818 the brig *Albion* took 61 days to cross the Atlantic from Cardigan to Saint John. Some 181 passengers were on board, mostly from the Trelech area, with 60 from Newcastle Emlyn. After a religious service on the quay in Cardigan, the passengers embarked, believing there would be a better life in the new world. Many of the Albion passengers settled in a secluded wooded area near Frederiction, which they named Cardigan, with no links to the outside world.

The Welsh were ignored and little provision was provided in the virgin woodland and the winters were harsh. The small Welsh community became highly dependant on charitable donations for years, as a result of prejudice and

discrimination. Other ethnic groups were given priority for jobs. One prominent Englishman, Anthony Lockwood, who was at the time His Majesty's Surveyor General of Lands, described the Welsh as "sluggish, avaricious and petulant".

Other sailing ships left for Canada during the same period, including the *Active*, the *Fair Cambria*, and the *Triton*. Hundreds of Welsh families emigrated, but not surprisingly, without adequate clothing, food, work or proficiency in the English language, many encountered severe hardship for years. On the other hand, most could not sustain a living in Wales. The Napoleonic years were expensive for England and English landlords kept increasing rents and tithes. On average, the Welsh lived in small cottages with large unsustainable families. This reality, coupled with a simple belief that America would be a better place led many to risk the voyage across the Atlantic.

In Upper Canada, by 1851, 200 Welsh immigrants joined the Middlesex settlement. This endeavour was led by Colonel Talbot, who was aide to General Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Lord Simcoe had witnessed the poverty and was distressed by the situation in South Wales. His wife, Elizabeth Gwillim Simcoe, was a native Welshspeaker. In Wales, the Reverend Michael D. Jones, in a quest for religious and cultural freedom, even asked Queen Victoria for a Welsh colony to be established on Vancouver Island, before deciding on Patagonia. Sadly, the Queen denied the request. How would Welsh history would have been re-shaped had the request been successful? For long periods, the Welsh have managed to retain their communal identity, particularly in the prairie provinces, such as the Wood River settlement at Ponoka, Alberta, and another near Bangor, Saskatchewan.

The Bangor settlement was an extension of the Patagonian experimental colony. In 1865, a party of 153 Welsh people boarded the Mimosa, eager to establish a Welsh colony. Despite the hardship, most settled in two regions in Patagonia, but by 1891 a few had moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba. By 1902, about 30 Welsh Patagonians arrived. In May of that year, another 320 returned to Liverpool from Argentina, only twenty of whom stayed in Britain whilst the others sailed for Canada on the Numudian to settle on homesteads (160 acres), near Bangor, Saskatchewan. For years, this was a flourishing Welsh community in the heart of Prairie Canada. Welsh was the main language until about 1937. The districts were called Llywelyn, St. David's and Glyndwr and a chapel was constructed to serve the Welsh community, coupled with annual Eisteddfodau and Cymanfaoedd Canu (Hymn festivals). The last Welsh service was held in 1952.

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Up until the 1930's, Welsh could be heard on the streets in Ponoka, near Edmonton, Alberta, and a Gymanfa Ganu is still held there each August. The Ponoka Welsh settlers were originally American Welsh farmers, many from Crystal Lake, Minnesota, Ipswich, South Dakota, and Arvonin, Kansas. They were attracted by guarter sections of land being sold (160 acres at \$3.00 an acre). Sadly, today there is little to identify the small prairie town with its distinct Welsh identity, except for the names of the shops and businesses in the area, and the surnames which appear in the local phone books. Nevertheless, the citizens of Ponoka are proud of their Welsh heritage. There have been distinguished Welshmen throughout Canada's history. Robert Harris, a Conwayborn artist was from Prince Edward Island. He prepared sketches for the Toronto Daily Globe and during his life was commissioned to paint one of the most important paintings in Canada, commemorating the Confederation at the Charlottetown Conference in 1864. James Miller Williams, father to the oil industry in Canada, struck oil in Ontario's Lambton County. Leonard W. Brockington, an eminent lawyer, born and educated at Cardiff, was a special adviser and speech-maker to Prime-Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King during the 2nd World War. In 1973, former Canadian Prime-Minister John Diefenbaker remarked that he was the first Welsh-Canadian Prime-Minister to be invited to the St. David's Day dinner in Ottawa; apparently he was given a blood transfusion whilst admitted to hospital on holiday in Bangor!! The Prime-Minister's residence, located at 24 Sussex Drive, Ottawa was formerly known as Gorffwysfa - the Welsh word for "resting place". There have been numerous scientists, lawyers, civil servants, retailers, architects, engineers, doctors, teachers. bankers, tradesmen and clergymen from Wales who have contributed to, influenced and enhanced what Canada is today.

One entrepreneur, the eminent Terry Matthews from Newbridge, the founder of Mitel and Newbridge Networks, ranks as one of the most successful businessmen to descend upon the Canadian business scene. His contribution to "high-tech" industry is a global one and several of his companies can be seen in Kanata near Ottawa and worldwide, and of course on the M4 motorway his hotel, the Celtic Manor, stands proud and tall with a huge red dragon flag blowing in the wind. This was the venue for the Ryder Cup in 2010. J. C. Jones, a Welsh Canadian vagabond poet, was one of the 'Ciliau' family, from Ceredigion. He wrote a poem called "The Returning Man", the last couplet of which is engraved on a wall in the memorial Chamber on the third floor of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. "All's well, for over there among his peers A Happy Warrior sleeps". Today, Canada's immigration policy is global, rather than dependent on the 'old country'. Whilst the number of Welsh people permanently moving has decreased significantly in the last few decades, in comparison with the last century, the number of inter-social and cultural exchanges between Wales

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Tudalen 9

and Canada have increased dramatically due to improved transportation links and greater awareness, and a vast number of rugby teams, cultural groups, choirs and schools continue to visit Canada to experience its diversity and beauty. May this trend continue!



Llewelyn Bethel Chapel Llewelyn, Saskatchewan



The grave of Rev Dafydd Phillips who led members of his Chapel at Blaenywaun Llandudoch,Nr Cardigan Wales to New Brunswick in 1819



- Eirian J. Williams

In Memoriam



Suzanna Hermanna Van Dyke Jenkins

1922-2019

Suzie (Suzanna Hermanna Van Dyke) was born on June 8, 1922, in Stadskanaal, Groningen province, in the Netherlands. She and her ten siblings lived through the Great Depression and the Nazi Occupation of the Netherlands with their father George and mother Zwaantina. Shortly after WWII ended, Suzy and her sister Johanna (Jane) worked in London for two years as nannies so they could improve their English language skills and save some money. They then moved to Canada (Belleville, Ontario and worked again as nannies, saving every penny they could. Eventually, with the help of some of their brothers, they were able to sponsor most of the rest of their family to come to Canada. Suzie met her future husband, Glyn, in the Niagara Falls area. After their marriage, Suzie devoted herself to being a loving wife to Hywel "Glyn" Jenkins and mother to their four children, George, Rick, Linda and Marika. She also gained much pleasure from scoring for a local cricket team for over 30 years and, later in life, singing in a city choir. Later in life, she enjoyed her grandchildren, Alexandra, Leslie, Melissa, Stephen and Maria.

After they moved to Ottawa from St. Catherines in the early 60's Glyn and Suzy became very active in both the Ottawa Welsh Society and the Welsh choir in the early years. They also sang in the German choir. When Glyn joined the Defence cricket team Suzy went down to watch him play and then took up scoring. For over 30 years she became a much loved member of the cricket community and received many awards. Whenever an important match was being played at Rideau Hall Suzy was sought after to score!

Suzy died peacefully at The Westwood Retirement Home in Ottawa on Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at the age of 96 years, reunited with her beloved Glyn and her siblings Johanna, Jitske, Trijntie, Hank, Albert, Herman and Hanno. Left behind are her three brothers, George, Joe and Tino, her children and grandchildren. She "was a lovely lady who lived a full and active life and her warmth and laughter will be missed by many". (Randall Jones, friend)

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Upcoming Events

Further into the Future

2020

Gwyl Gymreig Ontario - Ontario Welsh Festival

The Ontario Welsh Festival will be held in Ottawa from April 17 to 19 in 2020. Watch for opportunities to help, before and during the Gymanfa weekend next year!

2021

NAFOW



The North American Festival of Wales is coming to Ottawa in September 2021. When we previously hosted this event (1977 and 2000), it was known as the National Gymanfa Ganu of Canada and the United States. Over the years, the gathering has grown into a 5 day Festival of music, seminars, workshops, tours, cinema, receptions and meetings, all culminating with two sessions of the gymanfa on Sunday.

A lot of the planning is done by the National committee, but there is room for local ideas, and a need for local participation and sponsorship.

I have been asked to serve as local chair, and I plan to present an outline of the Festival at the AGM. Following that, Alison Lawson and I will host a meeting for volunteers to share ideas and give more information about ways you can help us out for the Ontario Festival in 2020 and NAFOW in 2021.

Diolch yn fawr.

Myfanwy Davies

myfanwy57@sympatico.ca

(613) 526-3019

2021



Gwyl Gymreig Ontario - Ontario Welsh Festival

The Ontario Welsh Festival will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021. For this occasion we will return to the scene of the inception of this annual Gymanfa weekend, Niagara Falls.

In addition, the plan is to add an extra day and make it a big splash. The committee is looking for volunteers and for ideas. Contact the executive directly to offer your suggestions and services at the following email address:

president@ontariowelshfestival.ca