

# Glasgow finds its culture

By DIAHANN NADEAU  
Herald Special

The following is the first of a four-part travel series on Scotland.

Art, opera, dance, theatre, orchestras, fireworks, architecture - wealth of culture and cultural events for every day of 1990. Ah, you say, that sounds like Edinburgh all right. Well, Edinburgh does have all those things, but Glasgow will be the 1990 Cultural Capital of Europe.

Yes, really, Glasgow will be the cultural capital of Europe in 1990. Don't laugh, it's true. Glasgow has had to overcome a worldwide reputation for poverty, ugliness, and working-class origins to be a credible candidate for this honor. Since 1985 Athens, Florence, Amsterdam, Berlin, and this year, Paris, have had turns holding the title. In 1990 Glasgow will be the first British city to join this select elite.

Say Glasgow to the average tourist and images of soccer fans, slums, and depression come to mind. But this is no longer the case. After a multi-million pound investment, face-lifts, renovations, and a lot of hard work, Glaswegians have a centre to be proud of, a city with a great deal to offer to any traveller, a worthwhile stopping place on the grand tour of Scotland.

Visitors will find an array of first class accommodation both inside and outside the city. You can stay in a modern American style hotel in the heart of town, five stars, and all, to an exquisite country house on the Clyde River, 20 minutes from the centre. There are also bed and breakfast places and self-catering accommodation available. Glasgow is not an expensive city and caters to every budget.

So you've taken the big step and committed yourself to a few days in Glasgow. (Your friends will say 'can't you skip that bit? Edinburgh is so much nicer.' Don't pay attention.) What to do? For starters, you can visit the Burrell Collection, a treasure-house of art and objects d'arts that sits on the grounds of historic Pollok House.

Located on the outskirts of the city, Pollok House is a beautiful 18th century house that features some lovely Spanish paintings

(including two El Grecos), as well as Glasgow's only Highland Cattle (they live in the park though, not the house). In 1983 the building that houses the Burrell Collection was opened on the grounds.

Sir William Burrell was a native Glaswegian who amassed an astonishing number of pieces, ranging from ancient Egypt and China, through medieval tapestries and stained glass, to Impressionist paintings. Today the collection contains 8,000 pieces. No matter what your taste, the Burrell Collection will have something to interest you. Sir William, we are assured, loved a bargain, and lived up to the Scots reputation for 'can-niness.'

The Museum of Transport is a marvelous place to take the family. There is a fine exhibit of every kind of transport, from carriages to trains, ships to bicycles. There is a replica of a Glasgow street, circa 1938, and a subway station. There are many more museums and galleries in Glasgow, too many to describe in detail here. Art lovers will have enough to keep them occupied for weeks.

Glasgow is full of fine examples of Victorian architecture, an inheritance Glaswegians are proud of and ready to highlight in 1990. Buildings and furniture designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a native of the city, are especially noteworthy. A major proponent of art nouveau, Mackintosh designed the famous Glasgow School of Art, which still operates as a school, but also welcomes visitors.

The 1990 program will offer events for every day of the year, beginning with a fireworks spectacle on New Year's Eve, with seven of Europe's leading fireworks companies taking part. There will be rock concerts, street dances, specially commissioned plays, operas, concertos and choral works, and the Scottish debut of Luciano Pavarotti in May. The multiplicity of events is

guaranteed to satisfy all, with something for everyone, from tots to seniors, rock and jazz fans to ballet lovers.

If you like to shop, or even if you don't, make sure you visit Princes Square, a magnificent shopping centre that makes all others look crass and vulgar in comparison. Why can't we have malls like this in North America? On the other end of the scale is the 'Barras' weekend street market, a bargain hunter's paradise, where you can have your palm read as you look for sweaters.

Glasgow offers some superb restaurants, with numerous ethnic cuisines, as well as fabulous Scottish fare. We had a brilliant lunch at The Rogano, on Exchange Place; the restaurant is decorated in the same fashion as the Queen Mary, the Cunard liner. It's a marvelous way to absorb the joys of Glasgow's architecture and interior design, not to mention the chance to consume some delicious food. Dinners at our hotel, the Hospitality Inn, and at Glendoch House, a gorgeous country hotel on the Clyde, were both excellent.

In 1990 Sunquest will be launching a Scotland-only brochure, and will feature packages that include Air Canada flights, coach or self-drive tours, weekend breaks at great prices for some five star hotels, a large selection of accommodation ranging from B and B's to country inns, and city stay packages that include Glasgow.

# See the best of country at Royal Winter Fair

TORONTO--You don't have to convince the agricultural community about the importance of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Many of the 350,000 people who visit the fair at Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition grounds each year are from outside the big city and fair publicist Sue Bundy says the agricultural community understands its importance.

However, the same can't be said for Toronto's own inhabitants. Bundy says many big city people don't know what the fuss is about and the fair is hoping to bring more urban residents to its grounds this year.

"You see the best of the country. You see the best holstein cows, the best guernsey cows, and they're right there in front of you."

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, which runs Nov. 8 to Nov. 19, is the largest annual indoor agricultural fair in the world. About 10,000 animals--horses, poultry, sheep, swine, goats and cattle--are shipped to the Royal for its 12-day run.

Many national agricultural competitions are held at the Royal and Bundy says the size of the fair makes a victory in one of the categories a cherished accomplishment. Entries come from across Canada.

There is also a good deal of ceremonial pageantry during the competitions, adding more lustre to a victory. Several of the com-

petitions are red-carpet events, complete with box seats where some people wear black ties or evening gowns.

The fair is also known for the Best of Ontario Markets, which features all types of take-home food products.

Rounding out the highlights are square dancers, fiddlers and various other entertainers. Bundy adds the fair is one of the best places a person can go for a good meal, something organizers plan to promote this year.

There are also a few good bargains, although not many people know about them.

At the end of the fair, there is a grand finale auction where many of the entries in the food contests are auctioned off. The auction also features items such as wool products.

Bundy says the auction is one of the "best kept secrets", since many people don't seem to know about it. The Royal wants to attract more people to this year's auction.

The fair also features world-class equestrian events, with teams from four countries. And there will be a freestyle dressage competition on seven straight nights, where top riders compete in a freestyle ballet on horseback to music. Canadian figure skating star Toller Cranston will be one of the judges at the dressage competitions.

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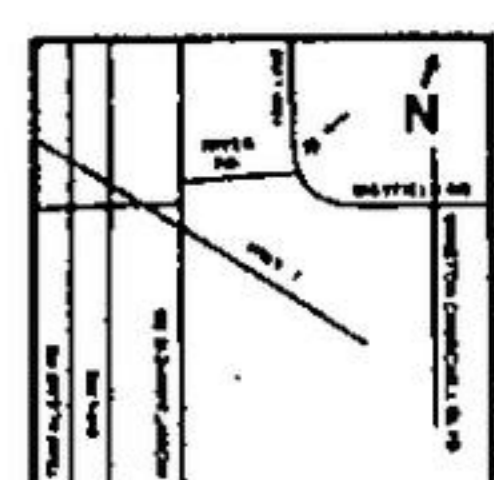
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Seeing spots before your eyes?

It is important to take care of a spot on your clothing as soon as possible. There are several things you can do to help your dry-cleaner do a better job of stain removal. Never put away a garment with spills or stains on it. The warmth of a closet as well as exposure to artificial or natural light can help set a stain. Never rub a stain. Blot the soiled area. Inform your drycleaner of the location of specific stains even if the stains are no longer visible. Stains that appear invisible can "oxidize" and show up later.

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