

Perth and District Historical Society

Perth and District Historical Society - News Release – April 2026

The Perth and District Historical Society: April 16, 2026 Meeting: A Scotch Export – The Story of the Glenlivet

The Perth & District Historical Society's meeting for April 16, 2026, will continue with the theme of the Scot's and Scotland's influence in our area that we covered in March. At that meeting, we learned of the importance the Scots gave to learning, knowledge, books, libraries from the story of the Dalhousie Library Museum in Watson's Corners. This time it will be to explore the facts of what is arguably, Scotland's best known export to the world – Scotch.

The presentation titled “The Story of Scotch Whisky – From the Braes of Glenlivet to the Historical Town of Perth Ontario” invites us to come and learn about the history of Scotch whisky through the eyes of The Glenlivet located in the Livet Valley where illicit distilling was a way of life. Hear tales of the cat and mouse games between the cunning Scots protecting their beloved whisky and the Exciseman and the dreaded Tax. Discover how in 1824, founder George Smith, a former smuggler himself, became the first licenced distiller in the Livet Valley – despite intimidation and opposition from locals who remained on the other side of the law.

Then, we travel across the Atlantic to the Town of Perth – a town steeped in a whisky history of its own. What was the connection between Perth distillers and The Glenlivet? How did this connection influence the Perth distillers and why some failed and others prospered?

Presented by Perth born Chris Brousseau who spent over 35 years working as a fish and wildlife biologist and senior manager for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. During this time, he started a whisky club in Peterborough and created the world's first whisky trivia game. His passion for whisky encouraged him to seek a career change, and, in 2008, Chris and his Scottish wife, Eileen, moved to Dufftown, Scotland, the heart of malt whisky country. Chris started as a tour guide at Aberlour and other Chivas Brothers Distilleries and soon became their first full-time archivist. He spent 14 years working in the archive at Strathisla Distillery researching, cataloguing and preserving historical records going back over 200 years. After retiring in 2022, he had the opportunity to write a book celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Glenlivet Distillery. Chris and Eileen have since returned to Canada, now making their home in Barrie.

The Perth and District Historical Society is dedicated to learning about and popularising our history and is a forum for discussion and celebration of our area's rich culture and heritage. The meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and are open to the public at 7:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, Perth-Upon-Tay, Branch 244, home of the Hall of Remembrance, 26 Beckwith St. E. in Perth. The usual “Toonie Fee” applies for each meeting. For information, contact Ellen Dean at 613-264-8362. Our website at www.perthhs.org has additional information about us and items of interest related to Perth and district.

Article submitted by the Perth and District Historical Society