

“Let’s Learn Some Gaelic” (Part 4)

Gaelic (Gàidhlig) refers to the language spoken originally by the Gaels of Scotland and Ireland. The Gaelic culture originated in Ireland, and was influenced by the Normans, the Vikings, and the English. Scottish and Irish Gaelic dialects are very similar. Both Irish and Scottish Gaels shared much in common culturally that they were sometimes referred to as “The Sea-Divided Gaels”. The Strait of Moyle, dividing the two countries is only 20 km wide at its narrowest point.

The Gaelic language was dominant in the Middle Ages in Scotland and Ireland and remained strong in both until the conflicts with the British had begun as early as the 1500s. In the mid-1600s, the English influence took over Scotland and Ireland and in the centuries that followed, English replaced much of the Gaelic language and dialects, especially those in the Lowlands of Scotland.

In the last article, we learned:

Madainn mhath!	[mat-een vah]	Good morning!
Feasgar math!	[Fehs-ker mah]	Good evening!

Here are some more fun and basic phrases in Scots Gaelic.

Mòran taing!	[moe-ran taeeng]	Many Thanks!
‘S e do bheatha.	[sheh doh veh-uh]	You’re Welcome.

To learn more about Scots Gaelic and the Gaelic Society and Culture in Nova Scotia, visit: <https://www.novascotia.com/explore/culture/celtic-gaelic-culture> or keep up with the next publication article of “Let’s Learn Some Gaelic.” It is up to YOU to keep the interest of the Scots Gaelic language alive! Nach bruidhinn sinn Gàidhlig! (Let’s speak Gaelic!)