



## In Pursuit of History

*The Search is on for Artifacts, Keepsakes and Memories of the Royal and Ugadale Hotels*

**Argyll, Scotland – May 23, 2011** – Today, Kintyre Development Company Limited, an affiliate of Southworth Development LLC, the owners of [The Royal Hotel in Campbeltown, The Ugadale Hotel and Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club](#) in Machrihanish, announced they have launched a search to find memorabilia, photos and stories of Kintyre's most treasured hotel establishments. Stacy Keys has been appointed Project Coordinator for the project and will be charged with finding such items and interviewing residents regarding their memories of time spent at The Royal and the The Ugadale Hotels. An exhibit is planned to showcase and record these findings at the Campbeltown Museum later this summer.

Once hailed as destinations for the Scottish 'elite' during the turn of the century, both The Royal and Ugadale Hotels hold a long and fascinating history. The Royal Hotel was built in 1907 for Archibald Thompson by Architect James Munro, who later designed the Grand Hotel in St. Andrews using a similar but larger design. The Royal Hotel, located in the centre of Campbeltown and with views across the famous Campbeltown Harbour, will be fully restored to provide twenty-three rooms, a pub and a restaurant. The Hotel, with its premier location, will cater to both the Campbeltown business traveler as well as the area's tourism. The Royal will usher visitors back to an era when Campbeltown was a thriving fishing and shipbuilding town - as well as the malt whisky capital of the world. No fewer than thirty-two distilleries called Campbeltown home in the late 1800s and early 1900s and one of those, [Springbank](#), remains the oldest independent family-owned distillery in all of Scotland.

Standing proud for more than 100 years, The Ugadale Arms Hotel (also known as the Machrihanish Hotel), built in 1898, was once regarded as the pinnacle of luxury accommodation in the west of Scotland. In its heyday, The Ugadale regularly welcomed captains of industry and their families, who descended on Machrihanish for summer holidays with their steamer trunks and visions of relaxing times on the beach and golf links. Upon completion, the historic Ugadale Hotel will boast twenty-two stunning guest rooms and suites along with a restaurant and spa.

The search will hopefully result in locating a multitude of treasures that local residents may have stored away or just forgotten about. It's an opportunity to share the memories of these two great gathering places and to help celebrate their grand openings at the beginning of next year.

"This search is in perfect timing with the restoration of the Royal and Ugadale Hotels in what we consider a true renaissance for Campbeltown. We are not only celebrating a bright future, but an awakening of the past and hopefully telling the story of what made this town a celebrated destination for all of Scotland," said Nancy Powers, Director of Public Relations for Southworth Development.

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Enterprise, Energy, Culture and Tourism, added: "We are delighted that the refurbishment plans for these two historic buildings are on track. The Royal Hotel is a Campbeltown landmark and dear to the hearts of many people throughout Kintyre, and is also a target building for the Campbeltown THI/CARS project which has already put £30,000 towards its refurbishment. The search for artifacts from the Ugadale and Royal hotels is an exciting initiative which I hope will unearth

many local treasures, and I would urge people to look out for any items which might be of interest. Not only will the local community have the chance to view the results later in the year at Campbeltown Museum, but the exhibition will also enable visitors to the area to trace one aspect of its rich heritage.”

#### How to participate:

Do you have mementos that were once part of the Ugadale Arms Hotel in Machrihanish or possibly photos taken with friends or a wedding celebration at the Royal Hotel in Campbeltown? Do you have postcards, tokens, or souvenirs that have made their way from generation to generation in your home? Do you have a fond memory of attending afternoon tea with your grandmother or a celebration with friends? Were you a member of the Kintyre Club?

The Ugadale and Royal Hotels would like to record your stories and items from the past from as early as 1898 to today – we want to know! Members of the community may donate or lend their items for a temporary display for all to enjoy.

#### How to contact:

You may contact Stacy Keyes directly via email or telephone at Machrihanish Dunes, Machrihanish, Argyll PA28 6PT Scotland at 01586 810 020 or [stacy@machdunes.com](mailto:stacy@machdunes.com).

#### **About Machrihanish Dunes**

Machrihanish Dunes is located on 259 acres of pristine links land on Scotland’s magnificent Argyll coastline, close to the village of Machrihanish. The creation of Scottish golf course architect David McLay Kidd, Machrihanish Dunes is the first course ever to have been built on a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Working hand-in-hand with Scottish National Heritage, Kidd and the course’s developers carefully created Machrihanish Dunes in a way that would have the least possible impact on the beautiful natural environment. Machrihanish Dunes was built without machinery and in a way that harkens back to the way courses were designed at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, when Old Tom Morris was at work next door at Machrihanish Golf Club designing the famed links course there.

The Ugadale Cottages are situated in the heart of Machrihanish and only moments away from Campbeltown on the Mull of Kintyre. Directly across from the first tee of the world-renowned Machrihanish Golf Club, the Ugadale Cottages offer world-class accommodations as well as world-class golf.

The historic [Ugadale Hotel](#) is being revitalized to bring it back to its former glory. Upon completion of restoration, The Ugadale is planned to feature twenty-two spectacular guest rooms along with a restaurant overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The [Royal Hotel](#) calls for another twenty-three guest rooms with all of the modern comforts one might expect to find in Glasgow, Edinburgh or London. Additionally, The Royal is planned to include a restaurant and upscale pub. [www.machrihanishdunes.com](http://www.machrihanishdunes.com)

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#### Editors Note:

Grants to the restoration of the Ugadale Hotel in Machrihanish and The Royal Hotel in Campbeltown in cooperation with: Highland and Islands Enterprise and the ERDF [European Regional Development Fund] funding support; the Campbeltown Town Centre Regeneration Project (Argyll & Bute Council), a special grant to the Royal Hotel by the Scottish Ministers, through Historic Scotland under the Historic Environment Regeneration Fund.

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