

Traditional kilts, tartans back in style

CALGARY (CP) — There's one important tidbit the public should know about a kilt.

What's under it is the wearer's business!

With that ticklish subject uncovered, it's time to talk tartans because these colorfully woven fabrics are parading back into fashion in everything from traditional kilts to bottom-tight minis, flirty skirts, jersey tops with tartan trim, bubble-skirted cocktail frippery and even pantyhose and shoelaces.

Canadians often refer to tartans as plaids. But John Whitelock, owner of the Scottish Shoppe in Calgary, says "if it's not authentic, it's a fashion tartan."

He says there are at least 420 registered family tartans, and about 300 are available in different codings.

"There's ancient, the original family tartan; modern, an updated version of the original and weathered," Whitelock says. "The latter applies to the reproductions of a tartan scrap found buried a few years ago at Culloden, Scotland, the last battlefield of the Stewart clan in 1745.

"In all, we're probably talking 600 tartans on the market."

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Have you this Whitelock on the Family tree? Article was in the Toronto Star last week.

Bill & Norma Whitelock