

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

Dearcan Sasgatùin

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 1,116. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 812 corresponds to Litir 1,116.

O chionn beagan sheachdainean, bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu lus ùr a chuir mi am-bliadhna – an càl buan. A-nise, tha mi airson innse dhuibh mu phreas a chuir mi o chionn trì bliadhna. Am-bliadhna nochd measan air – dearcan a bha blasta gu leòr, chanainn.

Ann am Beurla, 's e *saskatoon berry* a chanas daoine ris an lus, agus na measan. Canaidh mise *preas sasgatùin* agus *dearc sasgatùin* riutha ann an Gàidhlig. Bidh sibh ag aithneachadh gum buin an lus do thaobh an iar Chanada, ged a tha e cuideachd a' fàs ann an ceann an iar-thuath nan Stàitean Aonaichte. 'S dòcha gum bi sibh a' smaoinneachadh gun deach an lus ainmeachadh an dèidh baile mòr ann an Saskatchewan – Saskatoon. Sin a bha mi fhìn a' smaoinneachadh an toiseach.

Ach 's e mo thuigse a-nise gur ann air an rathad eile a tha e. Tha an t-ainm-àite *Saskatoon* a' comharrachadh làrach **far am faighte** na dearcan. Chaidh ainmeachadh leis na daoine dùthchasach ris an canar na Crì. Bha iad a' cruinneachadh nan dearcan far a bheil baile Sasgatùin an-diugh oir bha iad lìonmhor ann. Tha na mìltean de Chrì fhathast a' fuireach ann an Sasgatùn. Tha mi an dùil gum bi feadhainn dhiubh a' cruinneachadh nan dearcan as t-samhradh.

Cheannaich mi dà phreas bheag o chionn trì bliadhna. A-nise tha iad dà mheatair a dh'àirde agus bha tòrr mheasan orra am-bliadhna. Tha na dearcan a' dol bho uaine gu dearg gu purpaidh fhad 's a tha iad ag abachadh. Chan eil iad mòr, beagan nas lugha na dearc dhubh. Agus tha blas car àraidh orra. Chanainn fhìn, nuair a tha iad amh, gu bheil am blas car coltach ri blas pheasraichean òga amh. Tha iad nas fheàrr air am bruich le beagan siùcair.

Tha na Cainèidianaich gu math measail orra. Tha gnìomhachas coimeirsealta stèidhichte air *saskatoons*, mar a chanar riutha. 'S iomadh duine ann an Canada a dh'itheas *saskatoon pie* a h-uile bliadhna. Agus bidh feadhainn a' dèanamh fion leis na measan.

Nuair a bhios sinn a' cur lusan ann an ceann a tuath na h-Alba, bidh sinn uaireannan car faiceallach leotha oir faodaidh an geamhradh againn a bhith car fada is fuar. Ach chan eil dragh ann mu phreasan sasgatùin. Tha aimsir a' gheamhraidh far a bheil iad a' fàs gu nàdarach **cianail fhèin fuar**. Chaidh an teothachd ann an baile Sasgatùin sìos gu caogad Celsius fo neoni anns na clàraidhean, ged a bha sin còrr is ceud bliadhna air ais. Cha bhi i uair sam bith cho fuar sin ann an Inbhir Nis!

Tha na dearcan math dhut, le beothamain is mèinnirich gu leòr annta. Anns an dòigh sin, tha iad car coltach ri dearcan gorma. Bidh iad a' tighinn abaich tràth as t-

samhradh. Mar as motha de sholas na grèine a gheibh iad aig an àm sin, 's ann as fheàrr.

Tha na preasan a' coimhead glè shnog cuideachd. Thig flùraichean geala orra as t-earrach agus bidh na duilleagan a' dol dearg as t-fhoghar. Ma tha rùm agaibh san leas, carson nach fheuch sibh preas sasgatùn no dhà a chur ann aig deireadh a' gheamhraidh?

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Faclan na Litreach: ceadachd: *permitted*; preas sasgatùn: *saskatoon berry bush*; dearc sasgatùn: *saskatoon berry fruit*; Crì: *Cree*; dearc dhubh: *blackcurrant*.

Abairtean na Litreach: mu lus ùr a chuir mi am-bliadhna – an càl buan: *about a plant I planted this year – perennial kale*; dearcan a bha blasta gu leòr, chanainn: *berries that are tasty enough, I'd say*; 's e mo thuigse a-nise gur ann air an rathad eile a tha e: *it's my understanding now that it is the other way round*; gum bi feadhainn dhiubh a' cruinneachadh nan dearcan as t-samhradh: *that some of them collect the berries in the summer*; dà mheatair a dh'àirde: *two metres high*; fhad 's a tha iad ag abachadh: *while they are ripening*; car coltach ri blas pheasraichean òga amh: *reminiscent of the flavour of raw young peas*; air am bruich le beagan siùcair: *cooked up with a little sugar*; bidh feadhainn a' dèanamh fion leis na measan: *some people make wine with the fruit*; bidh sinn uaireannan car faiceallach leotha: *we are sometimes quite careful with them*; oir faodaidh an geamhradh againn a bhith car fada is fuar: *because our winter can be quite long and cold*; chaidh an teothachd ann an baile Sasgatùn sìos gu caogad Celsius fo neoni anns na clàraidhean: *the temperature in the city of Saskatoon went down to -50 degrees Celsius in the records*; le beothamain is mèinnirich gu leòr annta: *with plenty of vitamins and minerals in them*; mar as motha de sholas na grèine a gheibh iad aig an àm sin, 's ann as fheàrr: *the more sunlight they get at that time, the better*; thig flùraichean geala orra as t-earrach: *white flowers come on them in spring*; bidh na duilleagan a' dol dearg as t-fhoghar: *the leaves turn red in autumn*; deireadh a' gheamhraidh: *the end of the winter*.

Puing-chànain na Litreach: a' comharrachadh làrach **far am faighte** na dearcan: *marking a site where the berries would be obtained*. The -te suffix on this verbal form represents the passive conditional 'would be' (it also occurs dialectally as -ist). Because faigh is an irregular verb, it is found in the forms gheibhte eg gheibhte e 'it would be obtained, got' and faighte eg am faighte e? 'would it be obtained?'

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: **cianail fhèin fuar:** *incredibly cold*. The adjective fuar is here qualified by two adjective modifiers cianail and fhèin, both of which act as intensifiers. Cianail fuar is 'extremely cold' and cianail fhèin fuar is even colder!

Tha "Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh" air a maoinachadh le MG ALBA