



The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 63
FALL, 2015



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JIM MACLEOD, PRESIDENT CLAN MACLEOD
SOCIETIES OF CANADA



Well, how was your summer? Greetings once again to everyone. I hope that you were able to get out and attend many summertime Highland Games/Gatherings, Celtic events, family reunions or just spend time with friends and family. We have tried to populate your Web Site (Events tab) with as many events as we were made aware of. Once again I would ask that you send either to me or to our Web Master Neil F. MacLeod any event that is missing from the calendar.

Speaking of our Web Site (www.clanmacleod-canada.com) there have been some interesting and useful additions that you may be like to take a look at: The Home page has a direct link to:

The Clan MacLeod North American Gathering (NAG) 2016.

Click on the highlighted bar and you will be taken directly to the McLeod Castle home page (www.mcleodcastle.ca) that NAG 2016 Committee Chair Dr Don McLeod established specifically for NAG 2016. You will find all the information you will need including the schedule of events, fees, and registration form.

A Train Trip to NAG 2016.

Click on the highlighted bar and you will be taken directly to a one-page description outlining how you can make arrangements to travel from Toronto Union Station on "The Canadian". At the direction of Via Rail Canada, arrangements to make this trip are being handled by John Steel Rail Tours (JSRT). In addition to the contact person (Wendy) named on the sheet, please feel free to also contact NAG 2016 Committee member Judy Tipple for further information.

The Contact / Membership page:

An invitation was extended to all Membership Societies to have their annual Membership Form included as a link to their specific contact information. As a result, some societies have already submitted their form while others are in the process of doing revisions to their form prior to submission for the web site.

NEW! A new tab has been added – *Leod Voice*:

This new addition to the web site is, in my opinion – wonderful. Currently (with more to come) all of the back issues of the *Leod Voice* starting from Issue #41 Winter 2004 to Issue #61 Fall 2014 have been loaded onto the web site for you to read. I haven't had the time yet to look at them all but have enjoyed reading a few of the issues. What a wonderful journey down MacLeod Memory Lane and quite the lesson in our recent history. Enjoy, and a thank you to Judy Tipple (editor) and Neil F. MacLeod (webmaster) for their work in getting this done.

ACMS

There have been three meetings this past summer/fall of the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS). The first two meetings were held in Milwaukee Wisconsin on June 5 and 6, 2015. Minutes from both meetings are available for those who may be interested in all or part – just contact me directly if you wish. One of the changes that came out of the June 5th meeting was the replacement of the ACMS Business Manager. Bill MacLeod retired from the position and it is now held by Tammie Vawter. Tammie had been the CMS USA Regional VP for the Pacific Region. These two meetings were held during the USA Clan MacLeod Societies AGM and I attended, as did others, by Skype Video Conference.

A third 'informal' meeting of ACMS was held on October 1, 2015 in the Hotel Polar Stern, Kühlungsborn, Germany. It was known in advance of this meeting that there would not be a quorum nor was it a required meeting under the ACMS Constitution (given the three previous meetings early in the year), thus it was an 'information only' meeting and no minutes were recorded.

80th ANNIVERSARIES

As I have reported here previously, this November and next July will mark significant events for Clan MacLeod. It was on November 2, 1935 that the first Clan MacLeod Society outside of Scotland was formed – the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry.

The following July 4, 1936 over 1000 MacLeods from across North America gathered in Dunvegan, Ontario for a 'picnic' that turned into a true 'Gathering'. I don't think that it would be a stretch to refer to this event as the first Clan MacLeod North American Gathering – or in another term: NAG 1936, even though it was originally planned as a modest picnic.

Both of these events will be celebrated in Dunvegan, Ontario on June 11, 2016 at the Pioneer Museum, on the same day as the Glengarry Society has their Annual Clan MacLeod Picnic. Details of this event are in the development stage and will be posted on the Glengarry Society's web site at: www.macleodsofglengarry.ca .

NORTH AMERICAN GATHERING 2016

By the time you are reading this Newsletter it will be approximately 250 days until the beginning of NAG 2016 in Merritt British Columbia. If you haven't already, you would be well advised to start planning and making reservations. I would draw your attention to the note on the NAG 2016 web site (www.mcleodcastle.ca) that encourages folks to make early accommodation reservations to preempt the rush from a local country music festival.

I recently received an e-mail from Ian C MacLeod to say that the orders of our new Clan MacLeod Canada tartan have arrived. We expect to see plenty of the new tartan on display at NAG 2016 in Merritt, and at various events across the country.

MAGAZINES

We are all readers of magazines and/or books – well, books maybe more so, but do we really read everything in a magazine? Probably not. Well, for me, there is one exception: *Celtic Life International*. This is the one publication that I can truly say that I read cover to cover. Some of the advertisements are almost as interesting and informative as the articles. This magazine covers all of the Celtic world. And, it comes out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. If you are not familiar with this publication check out their web site with subscription details at: www.celticlifeintl.com . They also recently published a cookbook called *Cabrini's Celtic Kitchen* (2015 Edition) with great looking traditional celtic recipes from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany, Galicia and Nova Scotia. In particular, check out the recipe on page 32.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly.



CMSC BC VANCOUVER ISLAND NEWS

BY MALCOLM MACLEOD

Our society has between 25 to 30 members and we try to meet once a year in our back yard, but with little success due to distance and other interests. When we do meet, sometimes there are more Scots from clans other than MacLeod, including my MacKinnon and MacDonald cousins. We, however, feel that this is better than no Gathering at all. Last year we had an elderly couple come to our Gathering for the first time; they had been members for ages and are from Nanaimo which is 40 minutes north of us. Our big event of the year is the Highland Games in Victoria. The first entry in our guest book dated 5/21/06, is Ian C when he was President of CMSC.

Since that time the Games in Victoria have grown and improved in structure. They were previously held in a small cold and windy location until Jim Maxwell came along as organizer and had the games moved to Topaz Park which is a much better venue and made it into a two-day event. Topaz Park (named after an early sailing ship) is central in Victoria and has four large fields. The lower field hosts the sheep dog trials, and shearing events on Saturday. On Sunday it is used by the pipe bands who warm up in the morning and then have competitions in the afternoon. At Sunday noon the official opening ceremonies are held, complete with the Parade of Clans piped to the podium and lined up on both sides of the stage with their flags and banners. The massed bands perform at this time. 2015 saw Clan MacLeod as the honoured clan with ACMS President Dr Don McLeod as Chieftain of the Games.

The middle field has all the clan tents (the MacLeod tent being one of the busiest), the dance stage, food vendors, beer garden, and assorted other vendors, whiskey tasting, falconry, dry stone masonry, spinning and weaving, the Gaelic Society and a large entertainment marquee. The upper field is the location of the heavy events which run for all three days with final competitions on Sunday.

This year 2015, the Games went to a third day including the Victoria Day holiday. Our Games start on Friday evening with a Torchlight Parade in front of the impressive Parliament Buildings in the Inner Harbour, of Victoria followed by a meet-and-greet at the Bay Street Armouries for all the organizers and heavy events people.

Saturday we are up early to set up our tents and get our displays out and ready for the onslaught. Sunday and Monday are the same except that we leave our tents and some paraphernalia then pack everything up Monday afternoon.

Attendance is in the neighbourhood of 10,000 on Saturday and Sunday but much less on Monday which is just a fun type demonstration day. We also had the pleasure of having Carol (MacCrimmon) Pugliese from Ontario travel to Victoria to judge the dancing, and enjoyed her company greatly. She and Judy Tipple shared digs and we all (Judy, Carol, Neil and June, Don and Chris, and Karen and I) shared tent duties and had great social times together.

In late summer, Karen and I drove to Merritt where we visited Neil and June and stayed with Don and Chris on a NAG 2016 planning session. We had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed our drive up over the Coquihalla and back down via the Thompson and Fraser Canyons and had time for a short visit with Ian C and Ardis before catching the ferry back to the Vancouver Island. *Beautiful British Columbia!*, as it says on our license plates.

On another note, we have been involved in work parties to restore the grounds of Craigflower Manor, a late Georgian style farmhouse (reputedly haunted) of two stories with a dining room, sitting room, music room, office, kitchen and four bedrooms. This was built by the Hudson Bay Co. in 1856 to house the McKenzies on their 900 acre farm that supplied Victoria with produce before the 1858 gold rush. In 2013 the property was taken over by the Victoria Highland Games Association (VHGA) who are fund-raising to build a Scottish Community Centre on the remaining three acres situated on the lovely Gorge Waterway.



The CMS Vancouver Island held a combination Gathering and Work Party at Craigflower Manor on Saturday September 26. I would like to invite everyone to come out and join our gardening work parties or just check the place out. Each work party starts at 10 am and usually lasts until 2 pm, which was the case this time as well. We had a new member in the person of Colleen McLeod come to the work party and she was a great help. Work parties at Craigflower Manor are usually the last Saturday of the month, weather permitting.

Later when people started to arrive for the Clan Gathering, I introduced her to John McLeod, a long time member from Sidney and she said “Hi, Uncle John.” They hadn’t seen each other in quite some time and John didn’t know that she had joined our society. Colleen has expressed

interest in volunteering at Craigflower Manor. Jim Maxwell is working on organizing volunteers to run tours in the spring. Another attendee, Jean McLeod Vantreight aged 92, drove herself to the Gathering. Jean was at the very first meeting of the MacLeods in November 1955 when Dame Flora was here to help form the local Clan MacLeod Society of Vancouver Island. Even though she has been a member for years, this was the first time that we met Jean and she said that it was good to re-connect. She also expressed interest in going to the North American Gathering next year in Merritt. Jean and I are both descended from Sir Norman MacLeod from the Island of Berneray in the Sound of Harris in the Outer Isles.

The North American Gathering in Merritt, July 28 to 31 should be a fabulous time and I encourage all who can, to make the trip. Karen and I have been to Merritt on a planning mission and will be going again before the event and are looking forward to it.

GREAT TIMES IN THIS MACLEOD FAMILY **BY IAN C MACLEOD, CMS GREATER VANCOUVER**

It has been an amazing eight months in our household with two new grandsons and two weddings (in five days!)

On December 19, daughter Heather MacLeod and Eric MacDonald had their first child, Linden John MacDonald (our first grandson, to add to 3 granddaughters, Melanie's girls).

On May 8, daughter Stephanie and Brent Johnson, had their first child, and our second grandson, Arlo Charles Johnson.

On August 15, son Cameron married Stephanie Komick at a 120 person wedding in Sooke (near Victoria, BC), overlooking the water and on a gorgeous day. Arlo was decked out in a MacLeod of MacLeod tartan kilt, as was son-in-law John Bolton (who has his own MacLeod ancestry). I and my brother Dave were in MacLeod of Lewis kilts. At the reception (not the wedding itself), Cam and his five groomsmen were wearing kilts in the "Scotland Forever" tartan.

On August 20, only five days later, Heather and Eric MacDonald were married in a small ceremony at Rockwater Resort, near Half Moon Bay, on the Sunshine Coast.



**we welcome
NEW MEMBERS
TO THE CLAN**

Pictured from left clock-
wise:

Cameron MacLeod and
his bride Stephanie with
Ardis and Ian,
Heather MacLeod and
Eric MacDonald with
son Linden on Ian's knee
and Ardis smiling with
pride,

Three month-old Arlo
sporting his kilt, son of
Stephanie MacLeod and
Brent Johnson.



RAMBLINGS FROM NOVA SCOTIA

BY DONALD R. MACLEOD (HALIFAX)

Eleanor and I spent three weeks on Vancouver Island in June, visiting our son Scott and family. While, there, I fulfilled one of my “bucket list items” — a visit to the Boeing Airplane factory in Everett, Washington, where they build the 747 and 787 jetliners. It was awesome!

One highlight of our trip to BC was to attend our youngest of three grandsons, Collin’s high school graduation. He plans to be an engineer and is, at the moment, interested in the aeronautical side of that profession. He has been working summers, as an apprentice, at the local branch of Coulson Aviation.

One of our three grand daughters Shelby, and her boyfriend have been touring Australia, on work visas, since December 2014. On arrival in Melbourne, they purchased a Toyota camper van, from a departing Japanese couple. They then drove to the Adelaide area, where they worked in vineyards. Since then, they travelled up the east coast to Melbourne, Sydney, the Great Barrier Reef, Darwin, ending their tour in Perth. They sold their camper van and will fly to Bali and other Southeast Asia destinations, waiting for winter to end in Nova Scotia.

Collin’s next elder brother, Liam, returned to Halifax, for his second year at Dalhousie University to continue his study in kinesiology. After taking one year of science at the University of Victoria he is only required to take three more years at Dalhousie. Liam is an absolute delight to know and Eleanor and I look forward to his coming out to stay with us when he’s able to take a break from his studies. He is intelligent, a quick study, loves hockey, music (clarinet) and has a quick and sharp sense of humour. Since his arrival and between his study sessions, we took him on his first mini-tour of the northeastern mainland of Nova Scotia to “visit” his maternal MacPherson ancestors in Guysborough County, and the Hector Centre in Pictou.

We have not been far from home since our BC trip but are planning a visit to Cape Breton (Baddeck area) to continue our search for the graves of my paternal great grandparents, Murdoch and Effie (McNicol) McLeod. They originally lived in Englishtown and then purchased about 200 acres in St Ann’s. Their last born child, Norman, married one of “Giant” Angus McAskill’s sisters, Catherine, and settled in Baddeck Bay. I know that at least one of his descendants still lives there. Another great uncle, George

McLeod, his wife Ann (McGregor) and only child, George, emigrated with the Rev. Norman McLeod on the *Margaret*, first to Australia and two years later, to New Zealand where they lived in Whangarei Heads.

If we are still above the sod, our next trip West will include the Clan MacLeod North American Gathering in Merritt, BC in late July 2016 and to visit with our friends from our original CMS experience (1992-1994), the Clan MacLeod Society of Greater Vancouver.

I Shine, Not Burn.

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK ABOUT CLAN MACLEOD

BY ALMA MACLEOD (CMS S ALBERTA)

Way back when I was younger, eighty-four, to be exact, my daughter Linda and I decided it would be a good idea to do a mother/daughter thing. So we decided to get a tattoo. So we both now have the Clan MacLeod Crest in full colours on our shoulders. Needless to say, this attracts quite a bit of attention, especially when I go for a blood test, etc. I was in the hospital last year having a procedure, won't say what for. Got the usual response when the nurse bared my arm. So I spent the time while on the table giving the nurses and doctor a lecture on the Clan and what it is all about. Gave them a run down on its history, the Castle, the Laird and all the good things our Clan stands for. Talked my way through the whole thing. Made it easier for me and they commented that I had made the whole thing more enjoyable for all of us.

The moral of my story is "We have an organization to be proud of; let's brag about it."

ALBERTA ROCKS FOR THE ORBOST WALL

BY RANDY MACLEOD CMS S ALBERTA PRESIDENT

In 2014 Keith and Rachel Jackson of Orbost requested rocks from MacLeods everywhere to be used in building a memorial wall at the Clan MacLeod Woodland Project. Alma MacLeod and I thought that it would be a great idea to bring a rock from Fort MacLeod as a tribute to Col. James MacLeod. He was born in Drynoch, Skye in 1836

and as a commander in the North West Mounted Police contributed greatly to bring peace, order and good government to the north west by ridding



the province of whiskey traders and by gaining the respect of the local native tribes. He was instrumental in the avoidance in western Canada of the Indian Wars which plagued the western regions of USA.



So — I went to Fort MacLeod, in a snowstorm and went to the site of the original Fort. There was a number of huge old poplar trees that had been knocked over during the flood last summer, so I grovelled around in the snow, mud and roots until I found a

suitable rocks that were probably there when the Fort was built. I brought them back to Calgary and had them engraved. I also received a beautiful poster, depicting the Fort and NWMP riders, given to me by Mayor Rene Gendre of Fort MacLeod which I gave to Keith and Rachel in thanks for their work on the project, when I presented the rocks to them.

One of the reasons for me going to Scotland, was to do a little more research on my great grandfather who was a liquor merchant in Oban. When booking rooms, I found out that the first Rural Scottish Parliament is being held while we are there. My friend and travelling companion, Donn Lovett is heavily involved in federal and provincial politics and to give him something to do while I am doing family research, I signed us up to attend. When I registered, I mentioned



about bringing the rocks as a way of bringing attention to the role “ancestral tourism” can have on local economies. (ie: 200 + at MacLeod Parliament, spending lots of money). They asked us if we would be interested in doing a little presentation on our trip etc. and I replied that we would be very interested. Donn is an excellent public speaker, and the idea of talking to 400-500 Scottish politicians (who largely voted to separate) had him ecstatic. Me? Not so much.

Donn Lovett has a very interesting website www.DonntoDusk in which he chronicles some of the trip he and Randy took to Scotland.

GLENGARRY NEWS

BY JUDY TIPPLe

From Doreen Howes' excellent newsletter, I garnered several interesting items I'd like to pass on to our readers. CMS Glengarry produces good-looking tartan pens and also licence plate holders to sell as souvenirs. Members attend Highland Games and hold a Golf Tournament as well as a Curling Day each year. Such activities draw numbers of spectators and participants and place the Clan MacLeod colours in the public eye. John and Mary, Donald and Merle MacLeod as well as Doreen and Carmin Howes celebrated fiftieth wedding anniversaries. Sandy MacLeod's mother, Catherine Milgate, was chosen Mother of the Year by residents of the Palace of Alexandria. Taylor Young received Youth of the Year award in North Glengarry for accomplished fiddling and piping. Soccer star Bonnie MacLeod, daughter of John and Mary, was inducted into the Glengarry Sports Hall of Fame. Kelli Trottier was inducted into the Ottawa Valley Country Music Hall of Fame in recognition of her talents in fiddling, singing and dancing. Also Kelli was involved in having the third Saturday of May designated as National Fiddling Day in recognition of Canada's fiddling heritage. The Glengarry Fiddlers, 69 members strong, under the leadership of Ian R. MacLeod, held a successful launch of their first CD. Carmin Howes had his book *Stories by Carmin* published this year. A new grand child, Marc-William Alexander, joined the Brag Book of Bill and Lorna MacLeod, born to Alain Legault and Jessica MacLeod.

We congratulate CMS Glengarry members in these celebrations and any others that may have happened this year.

As a Clan family, I would like to see us share these sort of tributes and celebrate together the achievements of our members and their offspring. This can only be done if I am informed, so please send me any news from your regions.

GAELIC PROVERBS

An am na eiginn, dear na cairdean Adversity shows your true friends
Beul a labhras, ach's e gnìomh a dhearbhas Deeds speak louder than words

An car tha an seanmhaide, is duilich a thoirt A warped nature is difficult to change.

GENEALOGY

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

As we remember those who have fallen, this is a good time to think about people in our family who fought in the past wars. Do you know of anyone in your family who fought? How far back can you trace family members? We are always trying to expand our Clan MacLeod database of those who live are have ever lived in Canada. We may have some of your family members that you didn't know about. If you need forms to help you get started, please let me know and I will e-mail them to you.



It is really simple. You start with you, then add your parents and keep going until you can't go any further. If you don't have specific birth/death dates, you can use approximate dates and we will check our database to see if we have any matches. Once we have a place to start we simply put your information into our current MacLeod database and see if we can connect your family with any already there. It doesn't always work but sometimes we get really lucky. In my husband Don's case we were able to go from two generations back to now go over six generations back and he has also found and met second and third cousins he never knew he had.

I asked if anyone has specific web sites they search for genealogy. No replies yet but I would like to start a list to publish in the future. Please send me your favourites. I hope to hear from you soon.

AN INTERESTING BOOK

Skye Pioneers and "The Island" by Malcolm A. Macqueen Unicorn Press, Inc. has many books of interest to those researching their ancestry. This is a reprint of Macqueen's classic study of the Highland settlers of Prince Edward Island and their descendants. There is much genealogical information here (from both Canada and Scotland), including births, deaths, marriages, and land holdings, as well as an excellent overall history of the area. The families with more extensive genealogies include Munro, Mackinnon, MacLeod, MacDonald, MacQueen, Martin, Nicholson, and Ross. There are extended lists as well of settlers, of ministers, and of other prominent citizens throughout the history of the region. 118 pages. Paperback.

*Skye Pioneers
and
"The Island"*
Malcolm A. Macqueen



TRAVEL ON THE CANADIAN TO NAG 2016

Train travel is arranged by John Steel Rail Tours (JSRT)

www.johnsteelrailtours, Toll Free in North America 1-800-988-5778
or International Toll Free 800-7245-7245.

The Canadian from Toronto July 23 arrives in Kamloops BC on Tuesday evening July 26 approximately 11:09 PM (note that train arrival times are always flexible.)

Overnight accommodation in Kamloops will be arranged by JSRT.

Bus pick-up by the NAG will take you to Merritt and your accommodation there, in the afternoon of July 27.

Departure from Toronto:

To travel straight through from Toronto to Kamloops, you need to be on the train leaving Toronto in the evening of July 23. This train arrives at Winnipeg at 8:00 AM on July 25 and departs 12:00 PM.

If you are coming from a point east of Toronto, Wendy (JSRT) can coordinate your train, hotel, transfers, and sightseeing as needed.

If you are travelling from the United States, Wendy can help you coordinate your travel plans to Kamloops, including flights and Amtrak.

A departure from Toronto July 19 (or earlier) allows for a stop along the way to visit the Canadian Rocky Mountains, and then catch the July 25 train departing Jasper to arrive in Kamloops for July 26 at 11:09 PM.

Departure from Merritt on July 31:

On *The Canadian* from Kamloops to Vancouver (easy to set-up if you are using a CanRail Pass) you can depart Kamloops on Sunday evening, July 31. There will be a bus from Merritt to Kamloops in the late afternoon. The train arrives in Vancouver on Monday, August 1 about 9:40 AM.

Wendy at John Steel Rail Tours is our contact agent and can be reached by email at wendy@johnsteel.com
or by phone at 1-800-988-5778 (PST).

REGISTRATION NORTH AMERICAN GATHERING

JULY 28-31, 2016 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY)

AT McLEOD CASTLE, 5076 HIGHWAY 5A, NICOLA LAKE, MERRITT, BC, CANADA



Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Prov./State _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

		Early Bird	Fee after May 31, 2016	Number Attending	Subtotal
GENERAL REGISTRATION	\$150/PERSON \$75/UNDER 19 FREE UNDER 6		ADD \$10		
NON MEMBER CLAN MACLEOD	\$175/PERSON		ADD \$10		
MEMBERSHIP CLAN MACLEOD FAMILY	\$25/FAMILY				
RANCH TOUR	\$25/PERSON				
COPPER MINE TOUR	\$25/PERSON				
SAWMILL TOUR	\$25/PERSON				
TOTALS					

**GENERAL REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL MEALS, SNACKS, DINNERS, ENTERTAINMENT AND
ACTIVITIES ON CASTLE SITE**

PLEASE SEND CHEQUE TO: NAG 2016 (IN CANADIAN FUNDS) TO: BOX 1835, MERRITT, B.C., CANADA V1K 1B8
ANY QUESTIONS REFER TO WEBSITE: mcleodcastle.ca or email: drdonmcleod@hotmail.com
PHONE JUNE MCLEOD AT 250-378-5225 OR PHONE CHRISTINE MCLEOD AT 250-378-7275

WEBB SITES OF INTEREST

Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada: www.clanmacleod-canada.com

Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada: www.cassoc.ca

Federation of Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia: www.scotsns.ca

Unicorn Books Ltd: www.scotpress.com

Find Merritt BC on <https://maps.google.ca/>

YVONNE MACLEOD HONOURED

The Ottawa Highland Dancing Association (OHDA) recognized Yvonne's 58 years of teaching excellence and long-time membership with a Life Membership. Yvonne began her teaching of highland dancing in 1958 in Ottawa after training in Edmonton under the direction of the late Ellen Armstrong. Yvonne is also an Honourary Life Member of both the Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance (STDA) and the British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD), a very impressive confirmation of her teaching expertise.



As a competitor, Yvonne won many major awards and has judged dancing from coast to coast in North America as well as the World Championships in Cowal, Scotland. Her mother, the late Margaret MacLeod was always supportive of her daughter's chosen profession and contributed much to the dancing associations in both Edmonton and Ottawa volunteering as treasurer and trophy convenor as well helping in the never-ending task of fund raising.

Many of Yvonne's students have reached championship level, more recent champions include Darcy McSeffrey and Sydney Comeau. Also many of today's teachers of highland dancing were trained by Yvonne.

Now at 72 years young, Yvonne is winding down with Highland Dancing, but not life. She will continue teaching "low impact" classes and as well as "Show Biz" classes for seniors in Ottawa.

Since the passing of her mother last year, Yvonne has extended her compassion for the elderly giving pastoral care and palliative care with her goal of having all of her contacts smiling.

Yvonne is thankful for the many wonderful memories she has and is most grateful that as teachers and judges there is a very special shared bond.



CMS OTTAWA NEWS

BY YVONNE MACLEOD

Adventures with Yvonne MacLeod's grandson in Australia and New Zealand. Twenty-one year old Dillon MacGregor, from Ottawa applied for a youth Work Visa for Australia in 2013. He was accepted and flew to Sydney and worked at the harbour front for New Years celebrations bringing in 2014.



From there he slowly made his way up the East Coast arriving at Cairns. Two hours out of Cairns on the Great Barrier Reef he was employed as a tour guide with a Canadian accent. He escorted tourists way back in the “boonies” in the land of alligators, huge rats, poisonous snakes and insects. His roommate was a Maori native from New Zealand and they lived in an “old shack” for five months. Oh, to be young and adventuresome! He next flew to New Zealand and enjoyed a great deal of hiking. Thanks be to God there were no dangerous incidents and he is now home, but is soon taking off again to seek new adventures.

TRIBUTE TO THE EARLY SETTLERS IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

BY REV ALEXANDER M. CAMPBELL

A son of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, Hampden, Quebec

A minister of the Presbyterian church, USA, April 19, 1989

Let us now review briefly the account of the migration of which our people were a part. When, however, the existing political and economic circumstances forced the expulsion of our people from Lewis, Scotland and they set their course for Canada, little did they realize that in their distress and deprivation, the unseen hand of God was guiding their destiny.

Twenty thousand Gaelic speaking Scots settled in what is known as the Eastern Townships of Quebec. They named their settlements after location they left in Scotland. Something of the character of the people is captured in an article by a Canadian correspondent: “They, a true pioneer, the Gaels had no material wealth! The ship they boarded was so small that boxes of bedding and clothing, and perhaps a few spinning wheels were all of their possessions. But they had something infinitely more precious to them than worldly wealth, their Gaelic Bibles, and in their hearts their language and song, and an integrity unsurpassed by any other people.”

The braved a long rough voyage across the Atlantic in less than sea-worthy boats (the mortality rate was high), and landed in a virgin forest, a sight which they had never seen before — and this was not to be their homes.

What greeted them was not what the Government and the land company had promised them — which was warm, sunny maple sugar groves and productive soil fit for tobacco plantations.

They found instead, a hard rocky forested land, which had to be cleared of large trees, and cultivated with great hardship, and a bitter, hostile climate that yielded nothing more than subsistence-level farming.

The National Geographic Magazine, in an article a few years ago, wrote: “The Gaelic speaking Celts were a particularly distinctive race, warlike and hardy, yet also mystical and artistic. They are described as having a character, and a culture which bridged the gap between the Materialistic West and Spiritualistic East.”

This latter point was certainly true of our people, for in every part of this continent where they settled, the seeds were sown, not only of Christian civilization, but of christianity itself, with all the side benefits and blessings. Unknown to themselves they had become the forerunner of the Lord’s Mission in a New World.

From their limited and difficult beginnings, they managed to develop and sustain a very civilized and caring society. Their Christian hospitality and neighbourly supportive measures are known, respected, and remembered by many both far and near.

The Reverend Malcolm MacDonald, a native of Whitton, Quebec, a descendant of the early settlers and of the first church established in the area, says: “The book of books was the library they opened, and the Church of Jesus Christ was the institution they established and that in their homes the Gospel of Christ was the philosophy they espoused.”

The most casual observer and historian must admit that these early settlers played a leading part in setting the course in which the Nation travels today.

I am indeed grateful that we are privileged to stand in the stream of a noble, spiritual, national and cultural tradition, which has flourished in scotland for centuries, and for some 150 years established firmly on this North American continent, in both Canada and the United States.

If I were to call the roll that great company of men and women from whom we have all descended, there would answer from within the portals of the Church Triumphant, the voice of a company of people equally as noble as those who ever walked across the pages of the New Testament,

or the dusty pages of human history. For we are truly the recipients and inheritors of an unusual heritage and tradition, which should be cherished, appropriated, and transmitted to succeeding generations.

Our roots are deeply embedded in a great spiritual, cultural and social heritage, which too few, I believe, have ever fully appreciated or expressed. Since there is nothing more important or becoming than a thoughtful, reverent and grateful recognition of our indebtedness to those who have transmitted to us the qualities and motivations which are the bases and foundations of our society and families, may they now know that, the remembrance and recognition of their lives and gifts are this day being inscribed and recorded for present and future generations to ponder and revere.

Perhaps the old hymn writer sums it up succinctly for them as an acclimation we join with Him and say:

They climbed the steep ascent to heaven

Through peril, toil and pain:

O God, to us, may grace be given

To follow in His train.



RETIREMENT OF BILL (VIC)

BY BETH MACLEOD, NATIONAL TREASURER, CMSC

As we all know, volunteering to serve in some capacity within your clan organization often comes with the realization that you are not only providing a vital service in the ongoing success of your home organization but also that your commitment is truly appreciated by more people than you might originally have expected. Such is the case with Lt Col William R McLeod, fondly known as Bill Vic, by those of us who are aware that he resides in Victoria, Texas. This moniker is used to identify Bill himself from the many others who share his name within the Clan.

Bill has served as Business Manager, ACMS for many years and has now retired. How does this affect Canada? Well, if you are used to seeing Bill and his wife CeeBee at North American Gatherings and Clan Parliaments, you will know that they would spend an inordinate amount of their time at these events, manning a booth to ensure that clan memorabilia is available for us to purchase. Another reason is that he also served as the focal point in collecting dues (collected from each Society worldwide) on behalf of Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS). Those dues pay for the membership of each of us within ACMS and the preparation and distribution of the *Clan Magazine* twice each year.

Needless to say, there were other duties that he performed for ACMS which at the end of the day meant that he was a very busy individual. His role is now being split in two, and I expect that we will have an opportunity to meet his successor in charge of clan memorabilia at the 2016 North American Gathering in Merritt, BC. Of current importance to our Canadian Societies is that Al McLeod, the Honorary Treasurer, ACMS will be overseeing the collection of dues.

In my role as National Treasurer, CMSC, I have had preliminary correspondence with Al McLeod on the changes that are occurring and expect that these discussions will be ongoing in the near future. As soon as the changes are settled upon, I will be contacting each Canadian Society President and Treasurer to outline what the requirements will be for each Societies 2016 dues.

On behalf of CMSC and the Canadian Societies, I would like to thank Bill McLeod and his wife, for the many roles that they fulfilled, with patience, cooperation and good nature. They will be missed in fulfilling this vital role and I hope that they have many years to enjoy the ability to relax and simply attend future Clan events.

GENETIC RESEARCH

BY DONALD R MACLEOD, HALIFAX, NS

When I was asked by our *Leod Voice* editor if I would prepare an article on my genetics research I found that doing so enabled me to better understand the results of my research. My remaining sibling, Frank, and I have been dabbling in DNA/genetics for some time. We both still have much to learn on the subject. We both took the paternal and maternal Family Tree DNA tests, our paternal, to the Y-111 level. Frank recently took the “Big Y” test, the results of which apply to both of us. I took the *National Geographic’s* Geno-2 test. This test does not tell me anything about my recent (the last few thousand years) genetic history. What I learned from Geno-2 is that everybody is originally “out of Africa”, perhaps 60,000 plus years ago. My genetic make-up is, according to the Geno-2 test: (All are plus or minus percentages, so the total might not add up to 100%): 2% Neanderthal; +/-7% Middle Eastern (all of our ancestors, no matter where we now live on Earth, after coming out of Africa, lived in the Middle East for about +/-10-20,000 years. I am related to six or seven of the Middle Eastern Tribes and so are we all at some similar percentage level); +/-38% Mediterranean; +/-53% North European. (My paternal ancestors

were amongst the first to settle in Scandinavia). When the ice age came and the ice cap moved south, so did our Nordic ancestors. They resettled on the Iberian Peninsula and along the Mediterranean coastline. When the ice cape retreated north, our ancestors followed. Literally everyone living in eastern and western Europe has a somewhat similar story, only the percentages differ); the remaining +/- 47% is Norse/Viking. From the Big Y test results it appears our early Nordic ancestors travelled far and wide. According to these most recent test results, one of them was from what is now Finland moving first to what is now Sweden and then to Norway. My family are direct descendants of his Swedish offspring. Those direct Nordic ancestors settled in the Hebrides and northwest Scottish Highlands. I have recently ordered another file called BAM, from my brother's Big Y test. This, so that the web site www.Yfull.com can be used to provide further genetic insight. This BAM file will be available soon. I have joined two DNA/genetics groups, the DF29 YDNA Project, mentioned above and DNA Haplogroup I1 (M253). The former group is only interested in Scandinavian haplogroup relationships. The latter group looks at haplogroup M253, on a world-wide basis. ([HTTP://www.facebook.com/groups/5478499658/members/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/5478499658/members/))

I have been corresponding with James MacLeod, the ACMS DNA Project administrator regarding my results. James advised that my family DNA haplogroup I1 M252 is somewhat rare amongst MacLeods, at least amongst those who have taken the FTDNA tests. It is possible but not proven, that our family "away back when" might not have been MacLeods. It was a common practice in days of yore that Highlanders and Islanders came under the protection of one of the Chiefs and assumed the clan chief's name. That possibility doesn't really matter to me. This, because we have been proud members of the MacLeod Clan for at least several hundreds of years. Further DNA test results could reveal more concrete facts. The one fact we are now certain of is that the members of my family are of direct Norse origin. The Big Y test has revealed some very interesting information on our family's genetic background. It has confirmed that we are direct descendants of a couple that lived in Scandinavia, about 1,000 years ago. One of the I1 M253 groups of the DF29 YDNA Project, I now belong to is also looking at interesting inter-clan relationships. This website has a closed membership (by invitation), with an interest only in specific Scandinavian DNA/genetics. When the www.Yfull.com results on my family's BAM file are known I will pass them along. Anyone with a direct interest in my family's DNA test results can email me at nova.don@ns.sympatico.ca.

The one unfortunate thing I notice when checking the DNA maps available as a participant in Family Tree DNA tests (www.FamilyTreeDNA.com) is that few Canadian McLeods/MacLeods appear interested in learning about their DNA/genetic background. American and European clan folk have taken tests in considerable numbers. Analysing your family tree is very interesting. I have thus far been able to trace my ancestors back to my great-great grandparents, Murdoch and Effie (McNicoll) McLeod who were married in or around Achnacarnin (probably in Stoer Village) in Assynt, Sutherlandshire. They emigrated to Englishtown, Nova Scotia circa 1820, according to my great grandparents' the gravestone in Man O' War Point Cemetery, Boularderie Island, NS. DNA/genetics testing takes you to a deeper level of understanding who you are. I encourage all clans folk, wherever situated, to seriously consider the Y-111 test and perhaps the Big Y test. The Y-111 test in itself can be personally rewarding. If you do take the YTNDA test(s), please make those results available, to the ACMS DNA Study. The Big Y test takes us to a whole new level of understanding. You will help to tie all of us closer together as a great Clan Family. Take a look at this website: www.FamilyTreeDNA.com. Don't be too intimidated by DNA testing or the understanding of it. Since taking the Y-111 test, I discovered I am closely related to at least one member of the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada. We had known one another, for about 18 years, before we learned of our close relationship. I have also discovered some close (3rd-4th-5th) cousins and more distantly related people up and down the USA East Coast, Europe and elsewhere. That alone has been worth the cost of the Y-111 test.

BBC REQUEST

BY DR KATIE MCCULLOUGH, SFU

BBC Scotland is on the lookout for Scottish-Canadians descendent from two 1920s emigrant ships for a new documentary series looking at the aftermath of the First World War. Within two weeks in 1923, two ships carried approximately 600 people from the Outer Hebrides of Scotland to their new home in Canada. At the time most Scottish emigrant ships were leaving from Glasgow, however, the April 1923 voyages of the *SS Marloch* and *SS Metagama* embarked first from Glasgow, then stopped en-route to pick up passengers in Lochboisdale and Stornoway respectively.



The *Marloch* set sail for St. John, New Brunswick from Lochboisdale on the April 15, 1923. On board were at least 50 families from the southernmost outer islands of the Outer Hebrides, including Barra, Riskay and North and South Uist. Over 300 men, women and children were on their way to the Clandonald colony in the Red Deer area of Alberta.

When the *Metagama* sailed from Stornoway on the April 23, 1923, the ship contained 300 people mostly from Lewis with an average age of twenty two — all but twenty were young men. They were on their way to Montreal, Quebec.

The BBC is keen to hear any personal stories from any Canadians or Americans descendant from those who boarded either ship in Lochboisdale or Stornoway in 1923. Similarly, any stories from people descendent from those who stayed behind in Scotland will be gratefully received.

If anyone has any information on what the BBC is looking for please contact Nadine Lee by e-mail nadine.lee02@bbc.co.uk or by phone +44 1224 384 816.

Submitted by Dr. Katie McCullough

Assistant Professor, Department of History Associate Director, Centre for Scottish Studies Simon Fraser University

[Editor's Note: These two ships were Canadian Pacific steamships and the passenger lists are available online. It appears to me that some of the passengers were emigrants and others were returning to their Canadian homes, very interesting.]

THE STORY OF THE THISTLE

Thistle is really a humble weed — but what a beautiful weed it is! It is likely the oldest recorded National Flower and one of the most well-known and recognised symbols of Scotland. Like Scotland it is both bold and beautiful, growing and blooming on all parts of the Scottish landscape. In Canada we have numerous variations of





this noble plant, many that are smaller in structure and more obnoxious as weeds but all varieties seem to have the same tenacious root system and beautiful blooms.

Thistle is a biennial (it takes two years to bloom), flowering in late summer and autumn. Plants produce spiny, silvery-white foliage the first year and the following year thick triangular stems grow up to eight feet tall and are topped with lavender thistle-like flowers. The whole plant has a white, cottony down that

comes off readily when rubbed, and causes the young leaves to be quite white. From the presence of this covering, the thistle has obtained the popular name of Cotton or Woolly Thistle.

They prefer full sun and well-drained soil. It may become a weed if plants are allowed to self-seed freely. If you grow thistle, you should trim the flower off when the bloom dies to prevent reseeding or it can get out of control.

The Scottish Thistle received the nickname of “the Early Warning System” from this legend. The best known thistle legend takes place in the mid 13th century during a surprise invasion by the soldiers of King Haakon IV of Norway at Largs in Ayrshire on the east coast of Scotland. Having control of the Northern Hebrides and harried the coast of the Kingdom of Scotland for some years King Haakon sought to enlarge his holdings by attacking further down the eastern coast.

Allegedly, under cover of darkness, the Norsemen managed to land unobserved on the coast and removing their boots so as to surprise the army, the unsuspecting Scottish army, they proceeded bare foot. Suddenly a sharp cry of pain shattered the stillness: A Norse soldier had stepped on a thistle. Thus alerted to the surprise attack, the Scots sprang into action, charged into battle and drove the invaders from the shores. Legend has it that because of the heroic role the plant played in the outcome of the battle, the Thistle was immediately chosen as a national emblem.

It appears on silver coins that were issued in 1470 during the reign of King James III (1466-1488) and early in the 16th century it became an integral part of Scotland’s Coat of Arms.

It is generally considered that Thistle was originally the badge of the House of Stuart, and came to be regarded as the national emblem of

Scotland. The first heraldic use of the plant would appear to be in the inventory of the property of James III of Scotland, made at his death in 1458, where a hanging embroidered with ‘thrissils’ is mentioned. It was, undoubtedly, a national badge in 1503, in which year Dunbar wrote his poetic allegory, *The Thrissill and the Rose* on the union of James IV and Princess Margaret of England.

The Order of the Thistle, Scotlands’ highest chivalric order was instituted in 1540 by James V, and revived by James VII of Scotland and Second of England, who created eight knights in 1687. The expressive motto of the Order of the Thistle, *Nemo me impune lacessit* appears surrounding the Thistle that occupies the centre of the coinage of James VI. This Latin translates into “No one provokes me with impunity” (or in Scottish-English “Wha daurs meddle wi me?”). From that date until now, the Thistle has had a place on Scottish coins.



Pliny states, and mediaeval writers repeat, that a decoction of Thistle applied to a bald head would restore a healthy growth of hair.

The Ancients supposed this Thistle to be specific in cancerous complaints, and in more modern times the juice is said to have been applied with good effect to cancers and ulcers. A decoction of the root is astringent and diminishes discharges from mucous membranes. Gerard tells us, on authority of Dioscorides and Pliny, that “the leaves and root hereof are a remedy for those that have their bodies drawn backwards,” and Culpepper explains that not only is the juice therefore good for a crick in the neck, but also as a remedy for rickets in children. It was considered also to be good in nervous complaints.

The cotton is occasionally collected from the stem and used to stuff pillows, and the oil obtained from the seeds has been used on the Continent for burning, both in lamps and for ordinary culinary purposes. Twelve pounds of seeds are said to produce, when heated and pressed, about 3 pounds of oil.

These physical attributes make this plant the perfect Scottish Emblem: The delicately beautiful flower heads; the viciously sharp thorns; it’s stubborn and tenacious grip on the land; it’s defiant ability to flourish in spite of all efforts to remove it.

The Scottish thistle is beautiful, fierce and robust - the perfect emblem for a country of stunning landscapes, turbulent history and resilient people.

SEARCH BAC-LAC.GC.CA

BY JUDY TIPPLE

Having one page left to fill, I went on line and searched Emigration from Scotland. I clicked on the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) site and have excerpted some information. Obtaining information from these lists does not seem to be complicated and is readily available. Hopefully someone will find something useful to their research.

In 1803, the British Parliament enacted legislation to regulate vessels carrying emigrants to North America. The master of vessel was required to prepare a list of passengers and to deposit it at the port of departure. Please note that there are no comprehensive nominal lists of immigrants arriving in Canada before 1865. Few such lists have survived.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds the Canadian immigration records for the years 1865 to 1935. The passenger lists are the sole surviving official records of the arrival of the majority of people accepted as immigrants in Canada.

The passenger list gives the name of the ship, its port(s) and date(s) of departure, its port(s) and date(s) of arrival in Canada, the name, age, sex, profession or occupation, nationality and destination of each passenger aboard.

The passenger lists from 1865 to 1935 were transferred to LAC by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in four groups: the 1865-1900 records, the 1900-1908 records, the 1908-1918 records, and the 1919-1935 records.

The database provides access to 21,840 references to passenger lists held at LAC for the following ports: City of Québec, QU (includes Montréal); Halifax, NS; Saint John, NB; North Sydney, NS; Vancouver and Victoria, BC.

To maintain a file of immigrants arriving at seaports in the United States and proceeding directly overland to Canada, the Canadian immigration service began in 1905 to collect extracts of passenger lists kept at the east coast ports of New York, Baltimore, Boston, Portland, Philadelphia and Providence.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Flora Isabel MacDonald 1926 – 2015

The Honourable Flora MacDonald passed away peacefully in Ottawa on July 26 at the age of 89. She was a trail-blazing Canadian politician and member of the Order of Canada. Her compassion, leadership and example changed lives across Canada and around the world. She took part in humanitarian work aimed at rebuilding the nation of Afghanistan as late as 2008 and never lost her passion for public service. Her contribution to Canadian politics was profound and after leaving politics in 1988 she continued to be a trail-blazer in many ways for women's rights and with the United Nations and Future Generations Canada, a non-governmental organization that she founded. She toured much of the Third World as a human rights observer, hosted a television series on Third World development, making at least a dozen visits to war-torn Afghanistan with the organization Future Generations. She was a known to dress according to local customs and walk the streets.



Those who attended the North American Gathering 2008 in Ottawa will well remember the impressive address given by Flora MacDonald at the opening session.

Marianne Ross MacDonald 1924-2015

Peacefully at the Central West Hospice, Ottawa on Saturday July 25, 2015, Marianne MacDonald of Ottawa formerly of Vankleek Hill passed away at the age of 91. Beloved daughter of the late Malcolm MacDonald and the late Sarah Ann MacCrimmon Marianne was predeceased by her brothers and sisters; Donald (Jean), Effie, Raymond (Vi), Angus (Mabel) and Catherine (Darrell). She is survived by her dear brother Earle MacDonald (Mary) and as Aunt Mainie will be remembered with love by 13 cherished nieces and nephews and their families, and many friends.

Marianne was a member of the Ottawa Clan MacLeod Society for many years; condolences are extended to her family and friends.



THE EDITOR'S PAGE

This Fall issue of the *Leod Voice* has almost turned into a Winter issue, except for the mildness of the weather in my Mediterranean-like Island Paradise. While most of you are gearing up for Christmas and the New Year I am picking kale from the garden and harvesting rose hips and kiwi fruit. Dealing with the rose hips was quite a challenge but two quarts of puree is now ready to turn into jam. Tempting as it is, I'm not yet venturesome enough to try processing Thistle seeds for their oil.



I hope that some of you will find the detailed genealogical research and DNA testing results in the article by Donald R. (Halifax) of interest and that it inspires more members to participate and share their findings. Information gathered from genetic testing has come a long way since CMS USA President Dr. Alex first brought us information about it. More genealogical web sites are listed on the CASSOC web site (which is listed on page 15.)

Further on the topic of web sites, I again want to congratulate our web-master Neil F. and his assistant President Jim on the great work they have done. Visit it and you will also be impressed and proud.

I would encourage each society to send their publications, however small to me and to each other, also to send a notice of your events to CASSOC to be included in their list of event since CMSC is a member of CASSOC and Central Ontario's Alan MacLeod is on the executive. I remember Neil F. telling me that he was in Vancouver on business and had he know of our CMS Vancouver Gathering would have joined us.

I hope that many of you making arrangements for your summer 2016 activities will include plans to attend the NAG in Merritt July 28-31. It will be a Gathering quite different from others you may have attended, I'm sure.

Please keep an eye on the deadline dates for sending me membership lists and articles. There can never be too many articles, stories, photos, news items, etc. sent to me for the *Leod Voice*.

My Best Wishes to all, good health and much happiness.

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1 and

September 1

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