



The Leod Voice



CLAN M^{AC}LEOD SOCIETIES
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 61
fall, 2014



John MacLeod of MacLeod
Memorial Gazebo

Opened By HRH The Princess Royal
On 24th July 2014

Made possible by donations
from the ACMS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JIM MACLEOD, PRESIDENT CLAN
MACLEOD SOCIETIES OF CANADA



This past summer seems to have come and gone in a flash and now here we are reading the Fall 2014 edition of the *Leod Voice*. I hope that the past few months have been good ones for each and every MacLeod, your family and friends. Our summer was very good with the highlight of course being able to travel to Dunvegan, Isle of Skye Clan Parliament 2014. You will read much about Parliament in the pages of this newsletter including some of my

thoughts in this report, but first I would wish to express a note of thank you, and on your behalf - of pride.

CHIEF JOHN MACLEOD OF MACLEOD MEMORIAL GAZEBO FUND

Last May I sent a letter to all Canadian Membership Society Presidents asking that we join in with other Clan MacLeod Societies around the world in making a contribution towards the construction of the planned Chief John Memorial Gazebo to be established in the walled garden on the grounds of Dunvegan Castle. In my letter I had suggested that the Canadian contribution could be in the area of \$1400 (£750). The Society Presidents and individual Society members responded. Within just a little over two weeks I had received pledges for greater than the suggested \$1400! Then, in the following weeks leading up to Parliament and at Parliament itself the pledges and cheques and cash kept coming.

On July 21, 2014 at a meeting at Parliament of Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS) as part of the National Society reporting, it was with tremendous pride that I was able on your behalf to present John Davidson Kelly (ACMS President) with a bank draft and composite report of the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada's total contribution of £1400 (\$2644). Thank you very much and very well done.

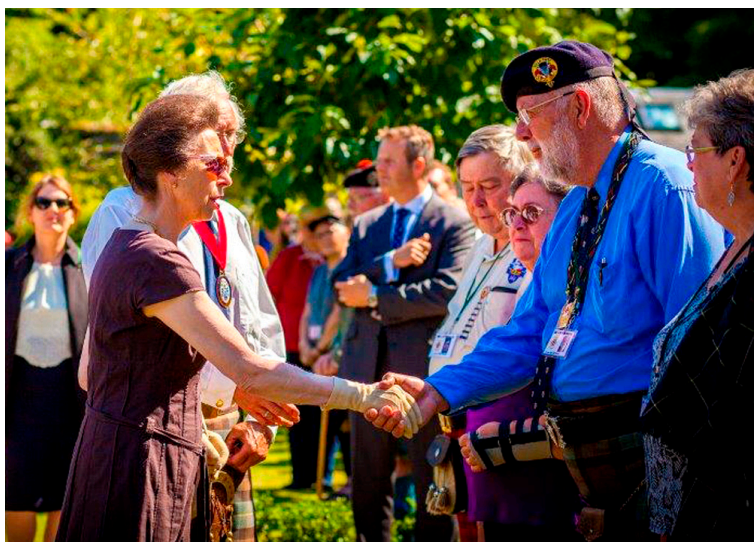
SCOTLAND AND PARLIAMENT

It was indeed a pleasure to once again be able to visit Scotland and in particular the village of Dunvegan – having grown up in Dunvegan, Ontario brings a significant feeling of connection between both villages. The cottage that we had rented for the week of Parliament and shared

with my sister Barbara, Neil F. and Jane MacLeod and Neil's sister Christine looked out over Loch Dunvegan and to the MacLeod Tables. It also looked out over about 100 sheep and their lambs who never shut up until about 3 am when the lost lambs would be finally reunited with their mothers! We were surrounded!

Prior to leaving for Scotland I did a little research as to what to expect in terms of the weather, as I'm sure did others. The average temperature on Skye for the middle of July is typically 16 to 21 degrees usually with a 'heavy mist potential' (downpour by Canadian standards). So we packed our best clothing to protect from the chill and the wet only to have the temperature from July 20 to 26 be between 26 and 31 degrees Celsius with wall to wall sunshine. Beautiful weather, just a tad on the warm side for tweeds and woollens.

Parliament was a full and busy week and the organizers did a wonderful job of scheduling a complete agenda of great things to do. For me, as a National Society President the week started off with a meeting of ACMS Management Council on Sunday evening July 20 in the dining room of Dunvegan Castle. The purpose of this meeting was to confirm the agenda for the week of Parliament and make any adjustments, address any issues, etc. as necessary. The setting was pretty spectacular with the room lined with history and elegance. Of course one of the highlights of the week was the presence on the Thursday of HRH Princess Anne who was there to dedicate the Gazebo in the walled garden as a memorial to the late Chief John. Heather and I had the pleasure of being in the receiving line prior to the dedication and meeting Princess Anne.



On a couple of occasions during the week I had the opportunity to have a chat with Chief Hugh mainly about Canada and the Canadian Societies and also had a brief chat with his young son Vincent who is 14 years old and a very mature young man.

On the morning of Tuesday, July 22 Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada held our General Meeting. The meeting was well attended with a few observers from the USA Society. One of the more significant items on the agenda was the presentation and approval of a resolution to retire the positions of Regional Vice Presidents from National Council and in turn, include all Member Society Presidents as members of National Council.

On the morning of Thursday July 24, it was Canada's turn to host the morning coffee break, and we did it in style with real perked coffee and Christie's maple leaf cookies. The line for service was, as they say "out the door".



On the morning of Friday July 25, elections were held for the new slate of offices of ACMS. It was with Canadian pride that the meeting was able to confirm the election of Dr Don McLeod of Merritt BC as the new ACMS President, succeeding John Davidson Kelly. Congratulations Don — the first Canadian to hold this prestigious position.

We spent the week following Parliament doing some touring around Scotland as did many others, and were pleased to be in Edinburgh on Wednesday evening July 30 to attend a Post-Parliament party hosted by the CMS Scotland and held in St. Anne's Church in Costorphine. It was

great to be able to reminisce about Parliament and also to meet some new MacLeods.

CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES OF CANADA

As I mentioned above a resolution was passed at the Canadian Annual General Meeting to retire the positions of Regional Vice Presidents, and replace these positions on National Council by the Member Society Presidents or their designate. The designate could be a Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. of the Society or any member in good standing. The main purpose of this change is to try to foster improved communications between the Member Societies and National Council and between the respective Member Societies across Canada. On behalf of National Council, I would like to extend a thank you to all those who have served over the years in the position of Regional Vice President.

I have reported previously that although we have many active Societies across Canada, the Maritime Societies have over the past few years become dormant. Over the summer Betty MacLean, the last President of CMS Halifax, has been making strong efforts to get that Society going again. Later in the summer, Ruth MacLeod from Perth, Western Australia was visiting her mother and family in PEI and while there, she worked vigorously to contact MacLeods in an attempt to get the PEI Society up and running once again. Ruth published a short article in *The Guardian* (Charlottetown newspaper) encouraging MacLeod's to contact her. Further, she organized and held a small gathering of MacLeods at the Delta Hotel in Charlottetown. She has forwarded the contacts she made to National Council for follow-up and we thank her for her efforts. Ruth writes the Linking the Clan column in the *MacLeod Magazine* and is also the Corresponding Secretary for ACMS.

In response to Betty's work in the Halifax area National Council took an initiative that has been under consideration for some time and that is to create a new Clan MacLeod Society that would serve anyone wishing to join Clan MacLeod from an area of Canada that is currently not served by a local Society, or for anyone from outside of Canada. This new Society is: Clan MacLeod Canada – National Society. I reported the creation of this new society at Parliament and in response to that we recruited the first member – Weeden Nichols. Weeden is the new (nominated during Parliament) President of Clan MacLeod Society USA. Anyone wishing to join our new Society can obtain a membership form from any member of National Council. See the web site for contact information – www.clanmacleod-canada.com .

NAG 2016

Just another reminder for now – remember to start making your plans to travel to Merritt, British Columbia for the Clan MacLeod North American Gathering 2016, from July 28 - 31. There will more details as they become available in subsequent issues of the *Leod Voice*.

Hold Fast & Shine Brightly, Jim Δ



We await the arrival of Chief Hugh, HRH Princess Anne, Roma & John Davidson Kelly and Fiona Howie, Parliament Co-ordinator



EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS

SCOTLAND AND PARLIAMENT 2014

BY HEATHER MACLEOD

Perhaps it's because my father's mother was born in Renfrew, Scotland, and/or perhaps I have been immersed in MacLeodism and all things Scottish for much of my life, that arriving in Scotland is truly like coming home. This was my second visit – the first was in 1996 and it was good to be back again. And going to Parliament was going to be a whole new experience to which I was very much looking forward.

So, here are some random thought of my experiences:

Upon arrival in Edinburgh my driver (husband Jim) thought he should get a little reacquainted with driving on the 'other' side of the road so off we went on a short drive to the town of Biggar, just south of Edinburgh and ended up in a Fish & Chip Shop. I thought I had died and gone to heaven – they were sooooo good and fresh. Now I'm sure that driving on the left hand side of the road is a challenge, but being a passenger on the left side of the car as it skims trees, stone walls, and sheep all while the tires seem to frequently (through no fault of the driver of course) fall off the shoulder takes just more than a little getting used to.

The next morning, after picking up Jim's sister Barbara at the airport, off we went north to Skye. The scenery was just as awesome as I had remembered, only perhaps better. At every twist and turn in the road (and there are many) the view before us kept upstaging the one before. The blend of hills, glens and lochs is simply breathtaking.

Once in Dunvegan we settled into our temporary home for a week – a rented cottage where all six of us shared food, drink and much laughter. We also shared the property with a bunch of sheep and their constantly bleating lambs that went on well into the night as lost lambs sought out their mothers in the dark. We cooked most meals at the cottage except for one evening when we had fish and chips from the village. Neil and Jim quickly volunteered to go and get the take out meal. The fish and chip stand just happens to be across the street from the Dunvegan Hotel. They were gone forever ... and ever. They swore with straight faces that the line-up for the fish and chip stand was "unbelievably long" ... "it took forever to get the order" ... or so they said.

I must confess that I really didn't know what to expect from Parliament, but soon felt comfortable and at home meeting and being with people from around the globe at this well planned family gathering. And

that is what it felt like – I was with family. The many events, side trips, presentations were all enjoyable and informative. The visits to Dunvegan Castle were wonderful and in particular walking through the Castle Gardens was a beautiful experience. Of course the highlight of the week was at the dedication of the Memorial Gazebo to Chief John when HRH Princess Anne performed the dedication and unveiled the plaque.

The social events like the ceilidhs, the wine and cheese tasting (England Society) and the BBQ (German Society) were lots of fun. All of the morning coffees hosted by various National Societies were an opportunity to meet and chat with people. In particular the morning coffee hosted by Canada was great and it was well received. On our trip from Edinburgh to Skye we stopped for groceries in Perth and Barbara Armstrong (my sister-in-law) bought a coffee maker for our cottage but also for the morning coffee break. I'm not sure which was received with more enjoyment – the 'real' coffee or the Christie's maple leaf cookies. I was in charge of making the coffee that morning and I made over twenty pots as fast as I could to keep up with the demand. It was all great fun.

All good things must come to an end and leaving Dunvegan, Skye and Scotland was not easy. I will miss everything I experienced except one thing: the midges! Never again will I complain about those beautiful winged mosquitoes or those cute little black flies we have in Ontario. The midge – the only true natural predatory animal in Scotland — has a bite that would be the envy of any African lion. How big are they? About two mm long.

2018 can't come soon enough; I'll be back. Δ



Chief Hugh centre, son Vincent left, at the BBQ hosted by CMS Germany

2014 – SKYE VIA NEW ZEALAND

BY LYNN BENNETT

Four years passes very quickly. Before you realize it you are again making travel plans for the 2014 MacLeod Gathering on Skye. It was my second Parliament attendance and I never imagined that it could surpass the previous one. First of all, who on earth goes to Skye and comes back with a tan? Well – I did! The weather was fantastic for the entire week – of course, there is always the down side of that – the midges! Second, I was sharing a house which was within walking distance of the Village Hall, this time with New Zealand MacLeods. By the end of the week I was an honorary New Zealander and joined them in their Maori song on the Friday evening at our Farewell Ceilidh. The words of the traditional song were “McLeod-ified” specifically for the evening and I have included them below. The Maori words are translated into English at the bottom. It was fun to participate and entertain the MacLeods.

I hope you enjoy this snapshot of my week at Parliament 2014 as described by the words in the song.

Haere Mai (original song by Sam Freedman, 1952)

*(Words composed by New Zealand MacLeods
on the Isle of Skye for the Ceilidh 2014)*

Haere mai, everything is ka pai
We're here at last, the journey went so fast.

Haere mai, to Macleods on Skye
The Clan is here, the highlight of our year!

We're here to see our whanau
We're here to “Hold Fast”
Pai Kare, it's a long way!
But will the whisky last!!!

Haere mai, everything is ka pai
We'll sing and dance all night
The whisky is JUST right!

But watch out when you're walking,
And going out at night
Watch out for those midges
Pai Kare they can bite!

Haere mai, everything is ka pai
Throughout our stay
We'll use that midge's spray
And have at hand
The whisky of this land!

Translation

Haere mai- welcome

Ka pai- good

Pai kare – by heck !

Whanau – family group Δ



CMS New Zealand Choir with Lynn, third from the right

MEMORIES OF THE FIRST CLAN PARLIAMENT 1956

BY NOËL PROVEN (MACLEOD NICOL)

(Noël gave this account on the final day of Parliament 2014 to the ACMS meeting.)

Dame Flora called the first clan Parliament to be held in Dunvegan to coincide with her grandson John's coming of age, and the visit of the Queen, Prince Philip, and Princess Margaret to Dunvegan. I don't think I really appreciated the history that our family were stepping into when we came to that first Parliament. Let me mention a few points from that visit 58 years ago.

All the roads in Skye after Broadford were single track with passing places, so travel was very slow (for the Queen's visit all traffic was stopped on the roads to allow her an easy journey to the Castle.)

There was no bridge, only the ferry, to get you from the mainland to Skye. People sometimes waited for four hours to get across. On the Saturday that Parliament finished, everyone got up really early to drive to the ferry in the hope of avoiding the long queues.

In preparation for Parliament, Dame Flora had been round the village asking everyone if they would help to put people up for Bed and Breakfast, which of course they did willingly (no one ever refused the Dame.) Sixty people attended that first Parliament. When we all arrived, meeting each other in many cases for the first time, we soon realised that “Hello, Mr MacLeod is the name”, was of no use at all as we were all MacLeods: a very friendly atmosphere soon developed as we started referring to each other on first name terms.

On Sunday we went to Duirinish Church, and had a lovely surprise to see that the organist was none other than Dame Flora (who of course had walked from the Castle to the Church.) After the service we were all invited up to the Castle for lunch where we were ushered into the dining room and told to help ourselves to the salmon buffet which was beautifully laid out on the sideboard. What a thrill for us all to be treated so well in the castle and made to feel completely at home.

The clan meetings (with the Presidents of all the societies) were held in the castle and chaired by Dame Flora. There was, of course, no ACMS in those days. These meetings were not open to anyone else at all, so wives and children had nothing organised to do. There was, however, a coach trip to the North of the Island and the Borroraig visit. There certainly was no NRG or kids club then.

On the last night of Parliament, the ceilidh was held in the drawing room of the Castle. Photos could be taken, and many people took their turn to tell stories, sing, or dance. Dame Flora and her two daughters, Alice and Joan just loved entertaining the MacLeods in the castle. What a way to end a fantastic week.

The Royal party were coming to the Castle for lunch to celebrate John’s 21st birthday and to watch him drink from the Horn to prove his ability to lead the Clan as their Chief. No mean feat!

After lunch, the Royal family came out onto the gunyard where all of us were standing in country groups: Australia, USA, England, Scotland, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. Her Majesty walked along the groups and was introduced to key people. Imagine our thrill when she stopped to speak to my mother.

The Royals then walked down to where the seal boats are now, to get into their small launch and sail out to *HMY Britannia*. We all sang “Will ye no come back again” as the launch pulled away from the pier. We had no idea that the radio microphones were so close to where we were sitting on the hillside and that evening when we listened to the 6 pm radio news, we could hear our very Scottish voices singing enthusiastically. It was an

amazing day for all of us and one that we will never forget.

The Parliament fired up enthusiasm in many and here we are, 58 years later, at a Parliament full of activities for adults and children, and attended by 206 MacLeods. My father and mother, Jimmy and Isabel Macleod Nicol loved the clan and encouraged my sister Nancy, who gave so much to the clan; you will all remember her bright smiling face and her boundless energy. Δ

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY DR DON M MCLEOD



The wind is blowing and the fog rolls in as we sit on the bench overlooking the waters of the ocean near Drumbeg in Assynt, Scotland. Most of my family collected for a remembering and gathering in the land of our forefathers this summer. A glorious time for remembering our parents and all the struggles of generations before.

The weather at Parliament 2014 in Dunvegan was hotter than ever and the midges were scarce. A great time was had by all attending and it was exciting to see all three chiefs of the various decedents of the MacLeods present. All the MacLeods in my family (13 of us) scattered over the Island of Skye to search for their own “magic”. We missed the older members of the clan and those that have passed on but they have all left their mark and memories with us and we try to pass on their gracious lessons from history.



*Dr Don's
family group
attending
Parliament*

We have so much to be thankful for and I know there are many surprises and wonderful times ahead for all the MacLeod Clan. Christine and I hope to see everyone this year as we travel about. We need only find locums for my medical practice, a sitter for our cattle, someone to care for the Art Gallery and Culture Club, a helper for the vineyard and pear orchard and RV Park and sitter for the house and then we are “free” to attend to our passion with MacLeods. See you in Edinburgh Feb 21, 2015 or Milwaukee June 5, 2015 at any of the premiere events of MacLeods.

Hold Fast the Shine

Reminder: Check out the NAG 2016 at website mcLeodcastle.ca Δ

PILGRIMAGE ON RAASAY

BY WEEDEN NICHOLS

Poets laureate, of course, must be elected or appointed by a government or some official body, but we of Scottish descent celebrate Robert Burns as, in effect, the poet laureate of our Scots heritage. Not to disparage Robert Burns, but I have maintained for many years that Sorley Maclean should be considered the poet laureate of the Highlands and Islands. Robert Burns should be honored for many reasons. He was the first poet to write of ordinary life and ordinary people, and *Ode to a Haggis* is integral to most of our formal celebrations. However, Burns wrote of the people of the Lowlands and Borders, and in the dialect of the Lowlands. Sorley Maclean wrote in Gaelic, and of the lives and sufferings of the ordinary people of the Highlands and Islands. Sorley’s poem *Hallaig*, translated to English (I do not speak Gaelic), is the most moving account of loss of home (the Clearances) and remembrance of home that ever I have read.

When I learned that our schedule for Clan MacLeod Parliament 2014 would include a day on Raasay, I resolved to make a pilgrimage to Hallaig in honor of Sorley Maclean. My plan was to walk as far toward the former site of the Hallaig community as I could, before time constraints forced me to turn back to meet the ferry to Skye. I set out from Raasay House, toward the east coast of Raasay. On that day the temperatures were at record levels for Raasay and Skye, and the humidity was significant. I stopped at the Village Hall of Inverarish for water. The woman who provided the water asked what I was doing, and I told her of my pilgrimage. I determined later that her name was Jen. She had plans for the afternoon, but canceled them. We walked down the hill to where her car was parked in front of her home. Jen drove me to the point, halfway

from Inverarish to the Hallaig site, beyond which vehicles could not pass. Instead of leaving me to hike alone (probably out of concern for my age and the heat), she decided to accompany me to Hallaig.

Beyond the point which vehicles could not pass, there was little or no evidence that humans had ever lived along that coast. The day was so lovely, so still, and so perfect, that I felt I had been folded into a magical world. The former road, now a single-file path on the edge of a landslide, was about halfway up from the water to the tops of the cliffs. Dun Can was high and to the left before us, and The Five Sisters were reflected in the Sound to the east. The water was so calm as to reflect the clouds and The Sisters, and the reflections of the clouds seem to float above the calm surface. Magic! Sorley Maclean's young girls of the Hallaig of his youth might have been floating gracefully above the water in the form of clouds, instead of taking the form of trees, as in his poem *Hallaig*.

We arrived at the Sorley Maclean cairn on the path below the Hallaig site. On the cairn was the poem *Hallaig*, in both Gaelic and English. High on the cliff the remains of one cottage were visible. I read aloud the English version of *Hallaig*. We remained quiet for fifteen minutes, then started back. I never have spent a better afternoon, or known an afternoon better spent.

How does one honor a life of such conscience and principle, as that of Sorley Maclean? All I know to do is share *Hallaig*, make a pilgrimage, shed a tear, and tell the story. Δ



RASAAY DAY

Piper leads visitors off the ferry, Chief John gives a welcoming presentation with Rasaay House history and one of the traditional rounds of Tug-of-War (even the ladies took part)



ACMS NEWS

*Clockwise from top:
John Davidson Kelly
gives newly elected
ACMS President Dr
Don words of wisdom,
Youth Co-ordinators
Bronwyn and Finn
present future plans,
Silent Auction items
surveyed by purchasers,
and Kevin Tolmie editor
of the Clan Magazine
gives his report*



Clockwise: Castle custodian John Nicolson gives a detailed tour of the Castle and grounds, Anne catches up on her knitting while listening to the ACMS business, CMSC executive, CMSC webmaster Neil F. with his sister Christine and wife Jane



CMSC executive: Past President Dr Don, Vice President Judy Tipple, President Jim and Secretary Isabelle Johnston (Treasurer Beth not present)

DISPERSAL OF MEMBER DUES

How are your Clan MacLeod Society membership dues spent?

There is the levy paid to Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS), a fee goes to Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC) and the remainder goes to your local CMS.

What does your ACMS levy give you?

Firstly and most importantly, \$8.25 USD goes for the production, printing and mailing of the two issues of *The Clan MacLeod Magazine*. Then \$1.55 USD goes to the working committees of the ACMS such as the web site costs, NRG planning and stimulation of Youth Membership initiatives, inventory of goods which the Business Manager handles for sale to members, maintaining Society status.

The Clan MacLeod Magazine and the website are the world-wide communication devices that give each of us, whether travellers or not, the warm feeling of knowing that we are united in clanship with folks in England, Scotland, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, France, Germany, USA, Canada and soon Switzerland.

Secondly, the CMSC levy of \$8 CND pays for the production, printing and mailing of two issues of the *Leod Voice* to each member, the cost of the website, advertising and the maintenance of Society status. The *Leod Voice* and the website are our Canadian communication tools which keep us informed of events (past and future), heritage stories, vicarious travels and assorted news that bring us together. We have a common knowledge that helps to promote the fellowship and bonding we feel as a Scottish cultural group.

Thirdly, the amount left is used by your local Clan MacLeod Society (CMS) in ways that might include the sending out a local newsletter, support of ceilidhs and exposure at Highland Games as well as general promotion of the Clan within the region.

There is an incredible amount of volunteer time and resources put into ACMS, CMSC and local CMS organizations and in all aspects of the Clan MacLeod activities enjoyed by individual members.

From the *ACMS Handbook* we are made aware of the following responsibilities:

ACMS coordinates and is responsible for Parliament every four years.

ACMS is a focal point for the strengthening and consolidation of all world-wide national Clan MacLeod Societies.

ACMS acts as a link between clan members and the Dunvegan Castle Estate – e.g., the current project for the Memorial to the late Chief John in the form of a gazebo installed in the walled garden of Dunvegan Castle and turned over to the estate for ongoing maintenance and operation.

ACMS considers matters affecting Clan MacLeod Societies and represents the views of ACMS to those and other Societies connected with Clan or Scottish Highland matters.

To illustrate the role that projects play, the following is a list that have been commissioned by ACMS over the past years:

The Chiefs of Clan MacLeod, written by Alick Morrison launched at Parliament

- In 1968 the first volume of *The MacLeods, the Genealogy of a Clan* was published, and now all five volumes are in circulation.
- In 1999 Jim Hunter was commissioned to write the third volume of the trilogy *The MacLeods: The Migration of a Clan*, which was published in 2005. All three components – History, Genealogy and Migration – have been written by non-MacLeods, which at least ensures objectivity.
- Repairs to various cairns and stones of Chiefs' graves. The grave-stone of Chief Norman MacLeod of MacLeod, The General has been repaired and was visited by Clansfolk during ACMS 40th Anniversary celebrations in Edinburgh.
- Following Dame Flora's death in 1976, the Clan raised money, which, together with public donations and government grants, funded enlarging the Village Hall in Dunvegan and establishing the Dame Flora Memorial Room.
- Helping finance the cataloguing of the Muniments in Dunvegan Castle, which are the property of the Chief. Copies of the catalogue can be viewed in Register House, Edinburgh, and Somerset House, London.
- The institution of a Music Fund, named after a Cadet family, the Clann Alasdair Ruadh, was established for Durinish Parish Church.
- The building of cairns at three ancient battle sites at Waternish on Skye.
- The painting of a portrait of the late Chief John Macleod of MacLeod by a noted British artist.
- The recording of Clan stories as told by Norman MacLeod of Suardal.
- The Genetics Study.
- Projects under consideration include the renovation of the Memorial at Borroraig, the Kilmuir Church and the *Genealogy Section VI*. Δ

halifax celtic festival – 2014

BY BETTY MACLEAN, PHOTOS BY CAROL HAZELDEN

The first Halifax Celtic Festival (2013), having been well received, it was decided to expand the 2nd annual festival to a three-day event, September 12-14, 2014, starting with a Celtic Kitchen Party on Friday evening. The audience was treated to a variety of Celtic dances performed by Worthen School of Highland Dance, and the Amethyst Scottish Dancers of Nova Scotia, followed by the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Pipe Band. Rounding out the evening was music and song by *The Worry Birds*, followed by *The Sham-Rocks*. When the doors opened at 11 am on Saturday, display booths were ready to receive the public. The booth for the Federation for Scottish Cultures of Nova Scotia (FSCNS) displayed an array of books relating to Clans, Tartans, Scottish Genealogy and History, and, as well, maps of Scotland. We also had raffle tickets on a painting of Glencoe, Scotland. Other booths offered something of interest to everyone: kilt makers, leather and handcrafts, publishers, magazines, Scottish cookies, information of various Celtic culture and sports groups and Clan Societies.



The RCMP “H” Division Pipes and Drums (Nova Scotia) and the RCMP “H” Division Highland Dance Group, opened the day’s stage entertainment to the delight of the audience. The official opening followed, with a welcome extended by the Festival committee, who introduced visiting dignitaries from Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments.

A birthday cake was cut to celebrate the 393rd anniversary of the naming of Nova Scotia. Through the day, the audience was entertained by a wide variety of Celtic music and song, dancing, and pipes and drums, and Gaelic songs. There were opportunities to visit the booths, ask questions, participate in short classes where Gaelic was spoken or to try the pipes

and drums. The FSCNS booth was kept busy answering questions from persons who knew they had Scottish roots and sought their connections and clan histories.

On Saturday evening a Celtic Concert was held highlighted by the band The Stanfields. Also during the evening, the audience viewed clothing and accessories appropriate to Celtic cultures, presented by special guests, Ashelin and Veronica MacIsaac Apparel Fashion Show. On Sunday morning, beginning at 10:30 am at the Wanderers' Grounds, there were exhibitions of Celtic sports: a Gaelic football exhibition match, followed by a Hurling exhibition match; and ending with a Touch Rugby Tournament, bringing to a close the three-day event. Δ

CMS CENTRAL ONTARIO

BY KAREN MACLEOD MCCRIMMON

Usually Cathie White attends three to four Highland Games in and around Southern Ontario each year on behalf of the Central Ontario Society. However, she planned to attend Parliament in Skye this year and the thought that our tent would not be flying the MacLeod banners was unthinkable. I decided to enlist my family for the job. As always the weather on games days went from glorious to quite awful, however, whoever complains of the weather, just isn't dressed right!!



It is always wise to carefully consider which games will offer the most all day fun for my two little boys, Iain age 3 and Colin age 5, when planning who in the family to enlist for each of the events. As it turned out, my husband Paul and I decided that the Durham Highland Games held

at the end of July seemed most promising. As we had the children with us, grandmother Beth Macleod, and grandparents Lesley and Don McCrimmon were summoned to attend.

The organizers of the Durham Games (close to Uxbridge) are very good at children's activities, so my sons were kept busy making shields, playing clan battles with foam swords and checking out the Scottish breed dog show. The rest of us took



turns welcoming visitors, other clans and periodically taking the kids for a walkabout.

It was a long day for the kids, but we had brought along pillows and blankets

to hide behind our display table and of course, the iPad. This certainly kept them occupied for quite a while.

At the Fergus Highland Games, we enlisted my sister, Chris, to babysit the boys, and her daughter Rowan accompanied Paul and I. Again a good day with Rowan singing and playing guitar in the tent and a steady stream of visitors.



In September, Chris again babysat, Cathie joined us and Rowan and I all manned the tent at the Innisfil Celtic Festival on the shores of Lake Simcoe. This was one awful weather day, rain, rain and cold from start to finish. When we found a lake developing under our feet, we decided that we would call it a day. Obviously, not dressed right. Hopefully another year will bring better weather for this usually delightful spot. Δ

hIGHLAND GAMES

BY CATHIE WHITE

The most important thing to remember before leaving home to set up the MacLeod Clan tent at a Highland Games is The Checklist. The next most important thing to do is to make certain that you have packed everything on The Checklist into the car.

The Checklist contains: table, chairs, tent, tent pegs, hammer, box of “MacLeodery”, bags of “MacLeodified” items, jelly beans — more on this later.

On several Friday afternoons, over the summer, across Canada, various people will be going over a list something like this one, in preparation for a Highland Games, or a Celtic/Scottish Festival, the next day. In southern Ontario, we could have a booth at some sort of festival almost every weekend. The Clan MacLeod Society of Central Ontario chooses to represent Clan MacLeod at five events, from June to September. Some are quite large — remember Fergus, at the NAG in 2000? Some are smaller and more intimate, but at all of these events, we try to show people how interesting and fun it can be to become involved with their Scottish heritage.

We give out membership forms, and brochures, sell small “MacLeodified” items and books as well as answer the same questions over and over again, week after week! It’s hard to believe, but it’s quite tiring, being polite and charming for eight hours straight! At one of our regular games, we’ve been able to watch some of the highland dancers grow up, as they stop by the tent, year after year, growing taller and more confident each year. We also usually have a vantage point from which we can watch the heavy events — caber toss, hammer toss and the like. Although we don’t move around the grounds too much, we don’t miss much! People watching is great fun, as many people try to wear some tartan — even babies in strollers will often be arrayed in Scottish attire. On a beautiful day, it really is a pleasure, promoting things Scottish, but not so much in Scottish-type weather! On occasion, we have had to make a mad dash to get the books, brochures, flags, etc., put away, before striking the tent, to avoid a deluge. Fortunately, this doesn’t happen too often, and we will usually tolerate a light drizzle, but not a thunderstorm. The hope we have at Scottish events is, of course, to increase membership, but even if that doesn’t happen we try to show people the pleasure to be had in all things Scottish — the music, the stories, the history and the food. We don’t actually serve food — we leave that to the vendors,

but we do offer JELLY BEANS! We are the only clan to have jelly beans to match three tartans — MacLeod of Lewis (red, yellow and black), MacCrimmon (red, yellow, black, and blue) and MacLeod of Harris (red, yellow, black, blue and green) — all displayed in red dishes, and placed on tablecloths of the appropriate tartan. The candy attracts visitors, MacLeod or not, and brings a smile to many faces! Δ

THIS 'N THAT

BY JUDY TIPPLe

Those of you who were keen fans of Cape Breton's famous Buddy MacMaster and John Allan Cameron can follow the photos of the tribute given them at Celtic Colours 2014 in Nova Scotia Gaelic Affairs Media Monitoring Report for 2014-10-17 at www.gov.ns.ca/oga. GA MMR 2014-08-29 has a very interesting article on Buddy's life and character as well as interviews of his family and friends attending his funeral.

This issue also contains a summary of the Royal International Mod held in Inverness, Scotland.

I receive this bulletin each week and greatly enjoy seeing photos and reading about the activity to advance the Gaelic culture in Nova Scotia strongly supported by the government.

I strongly recommend that everyone who enjoys Celtic music and culture attend Celtic Colours held in Cape Breton in early October, at least once in your lifetime. This year there was live streaming of some of the Celtic Colours concerts. I had them playing in the background of my computer while I worked on the *Leod Voice*.

Should you be interested in learning Gaelic at your own pace through an online course, that is also available through the website.

A Canadian magazine that has many well researched and very readable articles of interest to those with Scottish or other Celtic cultural heritage is the *Celtic Life International* magazine at www.celticlifeintl.com and you can examine some issues.

If you are looking for information on ancestors who came from the Hebrides you might want to investigate the hebridespeople.com.uk website. I recently received an email which gives an example of one such member's search for ancestors who came from Lewis and the results were quite fascinating. I'd be happy to forward the email to you. Δ

CMS VANCOUVER

BY JUDY TAPPLE

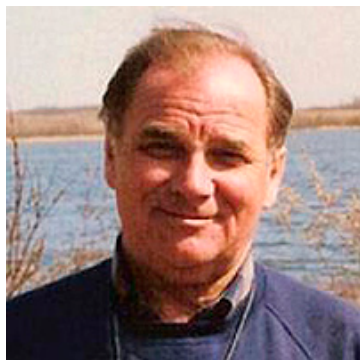
On September 6 a group of CMS BC Vancouver and friends enjoyed a delightful cruise along the Vancouver waterfront and up Indian Arm, a scenic inlet north east of the city. We enjoyed a gourmet buffet lunch, majestic scenery, exceptionable good weather and companionable company.

This is a four hour trip you might think of including in your visit to BC for the North American Gathering 2016 in Merritt. I would highly recommend it. Δ



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

ROBERT ALAN MCLEOD 1930 - 2014



On Monday, June 9, 2014, at Deer Lodge Centre, a kind and loving man peacefully passed away, at the age of 83 years, surrounded by the love of his family. Robert Alan McLeod, or Bob as he was known to all, was predeceased by his father John Alexander McLeod; mother Emma (Streeton) McLeod; brother Lloyd and sister Joyce (Steinburg). Bob will be greatly missed by his wife Connie (nee Goodison) and their four children and families: Bruce (Debby - Heather, Cameron); Gordon (Debbie - Shawna, Paula); Glen (Barb - Kaitlyn, Christina, Graham); and Carolyn (Ian Sundby - Carla, Allan). Bob was also immensely proud of his four great-grandchildren.

Robert Alan McLeod was born August 12, 1930 at home on Roseberry Street in St. James, delivered by his midwife grandmother, Charlotte Streeton. Bob had a very happy childhood, delivering papers, playing hockey and attending Britannia and Assiniboine schools in St. James, while enjoying warm prairie summers at his grandparents' farms near Shoal Lake, MB, and Sheho, SK. In 1944 Bob joined the Army Cadet corps, preparing to follow in the footsteps of his father and brother and join-up for wartime service to his country. Thankfully, the Second World War ended soon thereafter. Bob graduated from St. James Collegiate in 1948, and later in the same year met the love of his life, Constance Grace Goodison. Bob and Connie were married in 1952.

Bob had a very successful career in the retail industry, during which time he made many long-lasting friendships, retiring in the late 1980s. Bob was a man of great integrity who loved people, and who rarely spoke an unkind word about anybody or anything. He was outgoing by nature and made friends wherever he went. Bob was tireless in volunteering his time and energy to numerous organizations and community groups. When his children were young Bob coached hockey and served as president of the Deer Lodge Community Centre and the St. James Legion Track Club. Bob regularly served on the boards of the churches he attended, including Chalmers United, Silver Heights United and Deer Lodge United.

In the 1980s Bob was the founding President of the Clan MacLeod

Society of Manitoba, later becoming the Prairie Regional Vice-president. Over the years Bob and Connie enjoyed four trips to the Isle of Skye, Scotland, attending the Clan Parliament and exploring the family's ancestral roots.

Bob was also honoured to be a Mason and a Shriner. Bob's love of people also led him to join the Kharthum Komediens where, as the beloved "Dozey the Clown", he brightened the day for countless children over the years, clowning until age 80.

Bob was self-taught on the piano, and often relaxed by performing his creative arrangements of "Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Scottish Soldier", among others. A special thrill for Bob was being able to attend Rainbow Stage last summer to see his granddaughter Paula (Potosky) excel in the lead role as Mary Poppins. Bob and Connie, along with all their children and grandchildren, enjoyed many summers at the family cottage at Laurentia Beach. We will all treasure memories of times at the lake with Dad and BBQ'd food either raw or burnt, early and extended happy hours, hard-fought horseshoe tournaments, spectacular sunsets and late-night beach bonfires.

Above all else, Bob was a true gentleman who was selflessly devoted to his family, friends and community, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Connie and all of Bob's family with thankfulness for his energetic work and resourceful leadership in many projects of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada. Δ

MACLEOD, MARGARET (WOODHOUSE)

Just short of 94 years, Margaret passed away peacefully April 16, 2014, with family members present at Carlingview Manor in Ottawa. She was the beloved wife of the late Donald MacLeod (War Veteran) and dear mother of Yvonne and Lloyd, cherished grandmother of John (Wendy) and Lloyd MacGregor (Ariel) and Jason, Kristopher and Nickolas MacLeod and great-grandmother of Dillon and Hannah MacGregor. Margaret was very much loved by her large family the Woodhouses in England and the Kings of England and Belleville. Margaret very bravely sailed the ocean on the *Queen Mary* as a war bride with her daughter Yvonne from England to settle in Canada. Her support and love of Yvonne's dancing career and Lloyd's interest in horses and hobbies were very much appreciated. Many thanks to caretakers Nickolas and Lloyd and the very kind service at Carlingview Manor during her short stay. We will miss you, your beautiful garden and interest in Clan MacLeod activities. Δ

ALEXANDER "MAC" DONALD MACLEOD



[Exerpts from the eulogy written by Gillian MacLeod and presented at the funeral for Mac. Ed]

Born 19 April 1922 Alexander Donald MacLeod was the second child of WWI veteran Charles and his teacher wife Ester. With his older sister Dot, Alexander otherwise known as Alex or Mac lived the typical life of a farm family in Alliston, Prince Edward Island. Mac learned to drive in a truck in the farm fields and played fiddle in a band at local functions.

One of his favourite stories was about how after a very late night out he planned to creep quietly into his home undetected only to arrive to a house full of light as his sister was giving birth to his niece. After leaving grade school Mac attended Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown to obtain a teaching license that often found him substituting for his mother.

In September of 1942 Mac enlisted in the RCAF and was sent for training to Uplands, ON. He met the criteria for being a pilot; he fit into the cockpit. He was thrilled when he graduated in the yellow Harvard and was assigned to Coastal command. He travelled to England in 1943 and often laughed about the fact that somewhere in that country was a pair of his socks. He had washed them and hung them on a window ledge to dry only to have them blown away during a bombing raid.

In 1945 Alexander entered Mount Alison University to obtain an engineering certificate. He became enthralled with the feisty Sybil Estabrooks from Sackville, NB who was studying to be a secretary at Mount A. It was the start of a great love affair that lasted over five decades. Married in Moncton in 1946, Mac obtained his Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Nova Scotia Tech and began work at Nova Scotia Power Company.

Sybil and Mac started their family in 1949 with the birth of Alexander, quickly followed by Charles in 1950, then daughter Amy in 1952. Life in Dartmouth was good but in 1955 Mac packed up the three kids and a very pregnant Sybil to move to Ottawa where Jack was born.

In 1957 Jamie and Jill became child number 5 and 6. It was a very busy household and in 1959 the family moved to a new development in Minto. In 1963 Mark rounded out the family. Mac worshipped his large brood and settled into a life full of porridge making, sporting activities, dance lessons, creating sleeping quarters, expanding the home, and the

adventures that came with having many children. While Sybil manned the home front he took a second job teaching night school at Ottawa Tech to allow his family every advantage. Each summer the kids were squeezed into the family car and driven back to the east coast. A slow steady drive quickly became a much faster one once Sybil fell asleep.

Mac became a father-in-law for the first time in 1972 when his oldest son married. It was a role in which he excelled. He accepted and embraced each new member. As many complained about their in-laws, those who married into the Alexander MacLeod family never did. With each son-in-law he developed a bond that was deep and heartfelt, full of mutual respect. His easy going, endearing, and courteous style made loving him effortless for each daughter-in-law.

In 1974 Mac's first grandchild, Kate was born. His big heart grew even bigger. His delight increased with each successive grandchild. Geographical distance did not hamper his ability to forge a strong and loving connection with everyone of his fourteen grandchildren.

In 1997 his family was increased further with the birth of great grandson, Joshua. Mac experienced much joy in being great grandpa to his two great grandsons and one great granddaughter in Ottawa and to his five great grandchildren in the West.

In 1976, so legend has it, Mac and Sybil decided that with such a large family a cottage was not a feasible option in the long term. They decided a pool was a better purchase. It quickly became Mac's pride and joy. It was a gathering place for family and friends. It was, he believed, the reason people came to see him. Over the years most of his grandchildren and great grandchildren learned to swim in his pool. Such was his delight, he took many, many pictures of his pool. The pool empty, the pool full, the pool toys, the pool in winter, spring, summer, and fall. In this his last summer he was gratified to see people still swimming in his pool. Never has a pool been so loved by one man.

To Mac's dismay when he turned 65 he had to adhere to mandatory retirement. He was so proud of being an engineer, truly enjoyed his work. When the love of his life suffered a heart attack in 1987 he became her self-appointed care giver, to the extent that Sybil asked people to take her out to lunch so she could escape his ever watchful eye. She encouraged him to find outside pursuits and in 1989 he joined the Kiwanis Club of Sage of Ottawa where he often took on more than his share of the work load of any project he entered. As a member of this club he once again displayed his excellent leadership skills and quiet efficiency resulting in him being given the highest award for service.

After Sybil passed away in 2001 Mac became fiercely independent. He sewed, shopped, cooked, cleaned, repaired things and increased his participation in Kiwanis, but the one thing he hated was asking for help.

He added chief cheerleader to his credits attending as many of his grandchildren's sporting activities as he could, becoming a very familiar sight at local arenas and sports fields. Mac took over the role of keeping in touch with extended family members and close friends being diligent in sending Christmas cards and making periodic phone calls using Sybil's perennial calendar to keep track of family birthdays and special events. Such was his nature that he never realized that the way people treated him was a direct result of how he treated them.

Mac cherished the time he spent with every member of his large clan but he was the most happy when they were all together. He loved his seven children with his eyes wide open, seeing them for who they were and not how he wanted them to be. He celebrated their achievements and anguished over their trials. As he spoke about them the depth of his feelings for each of his two girls and five boys resonated in his voice and beamed from his face. In a true measure of the man he was, he always gave his beloved Sybil full credit for them becoming such fine human beings.

Alexander Donald MacLeod never stopped being grateful for the life he had lived. He frequently said he was so very lucky to have had a long good life with a wonderful wife and a terrific family. He opened his home and his heart to so many others. His strong spirit was always evident and his smile could light up the dimmest room. Never one to complain, during his last days he would just say "I'll just sit here and be quiet". He always remained a courteous, gentle, gentleman.

A life well lived is a precious gift,
of hope and strength and grace,
from someone who has made our world
a brighter, better place.

It's filled with moments, sweet and sad
with smiles and sometimes tears,
with families formed and good times shared,
and laughter through the years.

A life well lived is a legacy,
of joy and pride and pleasure,
a living, lasting memory
our grateful hearts will treasure.

WILLIAM DAVID (BILL) BEATON 1920-2014



Peacefully at the Ottawa General Hospital, Dad passed away on October 24, 2014, at the age of 94 years. He was born in Saskatchewan on June 19, 1920. Bill was pre-deceased by his wife Iris and is survived by his sons Lorne (Carolyn), Douglas (Louise) and granddaughter Sara. He leaves numerous loving nieces and nephews. Bill served in the RCAF from 1940 to 1975. Wartime service was with the 133F Squadron. Peacetime service was

with the RCAF Defence Construction Engineering Department. Following release from military service, he worked for the Department of Public Works from 1976 to 1985. He was a life member of the Nepean Museum and the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club. He was also a member of the Robert Burns World Federation.

Many CMS Ottawa members will remember when Bill Beaton were so kind to bring many items from his extensive Robert Burns collection to our gatherings for us to enjoy. Our condolences are sent to the family of Bill and Iris Beaton.



GAELIC PHRASES

Tha e gàbhaidh! It's awful! used to describe an occurrence that is dreadful, appalling, horrible.

Eiridh sinn a-rithist! We will rise again

Cha chreid mi nach eil I think so

Gabh Oran Sing a song

A Dhia bhi agam-sa The Lord be with me. God help me!

Sin mar a bhitheas That's the way it will be. Δ

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

The 206 clansfolk who attended Parliament 2014 had a wonderful time forming new and renewing old friendships, enjoying delightful programs and spectacular scenery, and all of this in the most outstanding non-Scottish weather. This gathering may well become known as the *Hot Parliament* as distinguished from the *Very Wet and Windy Parliament* or the *Midge-Plagued Parliament* of past years.



Photographs in this issue have been contributed by a variety of photographers and I thank them all. Look for other fine photos at www.clanmacleod-canada.com. I'd encourage you to send your photos, stories and notice of events to be included in this very important communication medium.

You will be hearing from your CMS membership/treasurer shortly in their attempt to bring membership lists up to date and remind members to submit 2015 dues. They, as well as I, will appreciate your prompt response. I would like to commend each member of the local CMS executives for the generous gift of time and resources in efforts to keep each Society viable. Give a thought to how you could assist them.

You might be interested in receiving your *Leod Voice* by email and enjoy the benefit of colour photos. Just let me know and perhaps take out a membership for family and friends for a Christmas gift.

The photos and obituary notices of members who have passed away are received with sadness. The *Leod Voice* is not only our primary communication tool but it is also archival in nature. The eulogy for Alexander MacLeod of Ottawa, and of Bob McLeod of Winnipeg particularly told me so very much about these fine gentleman, their lives and families that I was reluctant to omit any part of them.

I trust that everyone enjoyed their summer and is looking forward to a restful winter. My travels to Scotland, Ireland and Iceland this summer filled me with wonder and many happy memories.

Wishing everyone the very Best of the
Season and a New Year where we all
Hold Fast and Shine Brightly.

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1
Fall—October 1

Membership and Executive Changes:

March 1 and
September 1

My address: Judy Tipple, P.O. Box 111
Saturna Island, BC Canada V0N 2Y0
Phone: 250-539-5475
E-mail: jmtipple@gmail.com
leodvoice@gmail.com