



The LEOD VOICE



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Clan MacLeod Parliament  2010
WORLD GATHERING



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



BY DR. DONALD MCLEOD

Greetings, as I prepare to find our way to the airport and board the Air Canada flight to China. This trip will be different in one regard. We will try no luggage and by this obviously travel light. We were burned coming back from Glasgow last month and ended up paying several hundred dollars for overweight luggage on Thomas Cook Airlines. Our thoughts are that if we don't have the suitcases, we can't easily shop. Difficult not to do in Shanghai, where the jewel of the Orient is exploding with business and deals!

Our MacLeod Parliament 2010 was the most memorable yet with more time spent getting to know our similar DNAs. I don't know about you, but I could spend hours talking history of the Scottish people and their struggles to get us to where we are today. "Life is short but our DNA is long", relatively speaking and there is excitement

hearing about the life history of similar DNAs. My wife, Chris, and I often miss the featured excursion before parliament but this time we were treated to a great time at As-synt. This was a unique place, barren, beautiful and bleak. The kind of place that has a sense of calling to us all and telling us that we can eke out an existence anywhere on this planet. No wonder MacLeods took to the sea and built their homes etc. from rock and sod. These MacLeods were set to challenge any environment on the planet. The banquet at Inchnadamph was terrific followed by the spectacular sunset over Ardvreck Castle. Stories of intrigue and treachery were relayed by our master historian Ruari Halford-MacLeod. The geology descriptions about the new Geopark were exciting from a young MacLeod living locally and we all loved it. Dorna Caskie did a wonderful job of organizing.

Back at Dunvegan, things were wet but no midges this week. The Castle was different with drapes and Chief Hugh has dedicated himself to repairs on his leaking home. The gardens were the finest anywhere and the advantage of a daily misting of water vapour is obvious. Any plant would love to call Dunvegan home. (We live in a semi-desert and a week without irrigation spells the end of most

plants and trees here in British Columbia.)

The Dame Flora Room in the Village Hall brings back memories for most of us and we remember old friends and those missing. As we age, we are supposed to be wiser, but life is still somewhat confusing as all the nostalgia and dreams of the future weave into a reality. In the past I really enjoyed sitting back and marvelling at the senior MacLeods and councils sorting things out but now with the elders passing the torch to us (soon to be elders), I hope the trail doesn't get difficult or muddy without their help.

The Associated Clan MacLeod Society (ACMS) meetings at Dunvegan were stimulating, the Scotch tasting was memorable (all my photos were blurry), the Scottish country dancing was fun and breath taking, the Gaelic lessons were mind boggling, the contingents from each country did unique tastings and socializing, the talent nights with Derek MacLeod's band were toe tapping and Malcolm Macleod was gracious with John Davidson-Kelly taking the "neck ornament" of office with a great acceptance speech. Chief John of Raasay and his wife were stunning in the "Red MacLeod" tartan and Chief Hugh relaxed into his new role with ease and presence. All in all, a superb time with all of us concluding that the parliament was

tight (in a pleasant way) and full of warmth. We can't wait for the next get-together which will be a North American Gathering (NAG) in Alexandria, Virginia.)

This summer there was a picnic at Penny DeGraff's in Seattle and also a picnic at Malcolm and Karen's place in Duncan, BC. I know there are events everywhere, but isn't this exciting that anywhere you go there could be a clan function. I know in two weeks when I am driving down the coast of Australia, there will be Clan MacLeod events popping up all along the way.

There is some chatter about chartering a bus from Glasgow to Dunvegan for Parliament 2014, so we will give that more discussion as the months carry on, so if there is interest, send it my way. Chris and I had 75 people over for dinner last night and dragged many of them through our pictures of Parliament 2010. ("No pictures then No dinner" so most were a willing audience.) Everyone wished that they had this kind of an event to complete their family ties. We are a lucky clan to have such history and pride. When coming back to Glasgow via Aberdeen to visit the family graveyard, we stopped in to see the Baron MacLeod of Leod. Of course this is John MacKenzie, Chief of the MacKenzies. He was preparing for their Clan gathering (every 5 years). He recognized

me from previous meetings, I guess, or else I just look like the local McLeods maybe. He is a fine gentleman and a gracious host and told Chris and I of his past close relationship with Chief John. I certainly enjoy hearing the tribulations of others with their organizations much like our own.

Next time you get to Glasgow, you must stop at the Bagpiping Centre and say hello to the director, Roddy MacLeod, one of our world champions. The pinnacle of piping is now to get lessons from Roddy when you are ready.

I am now moving on to perfect my new Nyrius language translator. My Chinese lessons are going terribly and this gismo may save me as I struggle blending in with the locals in Shanghai. I thought I could memorize almost anything after “lectures and obligations” but Mandarin is not a language of the Gaels.

Hold Fast the Shine. Δ



CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY LEEANNE MACLEOD-
ARCHER

The Clan MacLeod Society of Cape Breton hosted an ecumenical service on October 10, 2010 in Baddeck. The service was celebrated in conjunction with the Celtic Colours International Music Festival, which is held every year the week after Thanksgiving in Cape Breton.

This year's service was celebrated at St. Michael's Church by Rev. Dr. Greg MacLeod (a CMSCB member) and Rev. Karen Lynch of the Greenwood United Church in Baddeck. The Gaelic choir from Antigonish added a traditional sound to the hymns, while Fr. Greg's homily spoke of the early settlers, their clan traditions and faith, and how their experiences impact us today.

A social gathering followed at the parish hall, where tea and oatcakes were served and CMSCB member Harvey MacLeod entertained with a few Scottish tunes on his accordion. There was a real sense of fellowship and thanksgiving among the participants.

CMSCB's next event is our Robbie Burns dinner, which will be held in late January, 2011. Our annual fall meeting is scheduled for November 13 in Baddeck. Δ



CMS Cape Breton hosted the church service during the Celtic Colours Festival with the Antigonish Celtic Choir adding their voices. Revs. Greg MacLeod and Karen Lynch with Jessie MacLeod enjoying the social that followed.



Harvey MacLeod played well-known Scottish tunes at the social following the service.



ON ROBBIE BURNS

The Scottish poet is proof that a man doesn't have to be stuck in the rocky earth where fate has planted him. He can be a poet, a dreamer, or anything he chooses, as long as he believes in himself.

We celebrate our Scottish heritage through Burns, his poetry and song, world wide on January 25 each year. After all, Burns is worth 157 million pounds a year to the Scottish economy.

PRAIRIE REGION NEWS

BY ROBERT MCLEOD

Folklorama, a 2-week long festival each year, with entertainment, music, dance and ethnic foods, was held August 9-14 this year at many different venues in Winnipeg, representing 45 countries around the world. The Scottish Pavilion was held during the second week at Glenwood Community Centre in St. Vital, Winnipeg, with the Clan MacLeod having a tartan-covered display table as usual, with as many as 15 members of our clan enjoying the event and volunteering their time. Roy McLeod, Margaret McCurdy and Janet Thompson were present pretty well every day during the week. Our David McLeod had a major part on the main stage of the Scottish Pavilion, in the all-week, all-evening performances, playing instruments, singing, dancing, and telling jokes, along with highland dancers of all ages, excellent piping, and the harmony of great voices singing Scottish songs.

The annual Selkirk Settlers parade was held on September 11 this year. We are leading up to the 200th anniversary of Lord Selkirk's arrival with his group in 1812 from Scotland to Hudson's Bay, then eventually south to the Winnipeg area. In downtown Winnipeg near the junction of the Red River and the Assiniboine River, a

fort was built, and all that is left is what is called the "Upper Fort Garry Gate." Plans are being made to

develop a park around the gate, with perhaps an interpretive center. The parade formed up at noon and was led by the Cameron Highlanders Pipe Band. Many groups followed, including the St. Andrews Society, Sons of Scotland, Robby Burns Society, period costume groups with carts and children, people from all walks of life and clan groups. The procession proceeded to walk through "The Forks" area, along a road by the Red River, to the "Thistle Monument" (surrounded by a wall half-way around it, made from a donated stone from each of the parishes in Scotland). Below the gleaming thistle are the names of each parish represented, and below that are plaques donated from many Scottish groups around the city. Upon arrival at the Thistle, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that Roy McLeod was the MC for the various dignitaries and he did a great job. There was also a gun salute and light snacks followed, on the banks of the Red River.

The 23rd Annual Dinner of CMS Manitoba was held on Saturday, October 2, at the Victoria



Inn (close to the airport), with 58 people attending, plus entertainers. We were serenaded by a wonderful violinist walking around during dinner, playing Scottish tunes. David McLeod was our MC and played the guitar and sang, along

with 2 others, on guitar and accordion. The buffet was very good, the music was great, but three little girls in their tartan outfits (youngest 3 years old), stole the show.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly,
Prairie Dog Bob. Δ

PARLIAMENT 2010

BY IRENE MACCRIMMON

About forty clanfolk drove to the parish of Inchnadamph on Loch Assynt in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland. Six North Room Group (NRG) young folk, aged 18-25 had already been helping the local community to remove from a river, a large stone with ancient inscriptions carved on it, and also dismantling a poly greenhouse.

The Hotel Inchnadamph was located near the old Assynt Parish Church which had undergone a full restoration. Fragments of a 1000 year-old Celtic Cross had recently been found in the graveyard close to where the MacLeods of Assynt burial vault stands. Near the church many stags watched us as we watched them.

During the summer, the does raise their fawns far up on the mountainside whilst the stags browse on the loch side. The stags' huge horns were silhouetted at sunset; what a beautiful sight!

Close by on a peninsula into Loch Assynt, stands Ardvreck Castle which was built about 1500

AD as a stronghold for the MacLeods of Assynt. Following a siege of the castle in 1672, it was captured by the MacKenzies. The ruin consists of a tower with another tower added on at a later date. Recently extensive consolidation work has been done to the ruins.

The Centre for the Northwest Highlands Geopark is in the visitors centre at Lochinver. Here we read about the geographical characteristics, unique cultural heritage features of this forward thinking local community.

That evening, after all the clanfolk enjoyed the sumptuous dinner, a local speaker, John McLeod, told us about the community activism and governance.

Next morning we were shown through the all-purpose facility in Lochinver. The community raised half the cost of this wonderful building. Rooms for many meetings and activities for all ages were viewed. Then a Ranger led our busload of fascinated MacLeods



along the seashore road pointing out plant and bird habitats. At a stony beach where a huge meteorite landed millions of years ago creating a 30 mile wide crater, we were shown fragments of the meteorite imbedded in some stones. We were also shown where the movement of ancient layers of rock rose so that the oldest layers moved and settled on top of the newer layers of sedimentary rock. This is a unique phenomenon noted worldwide.

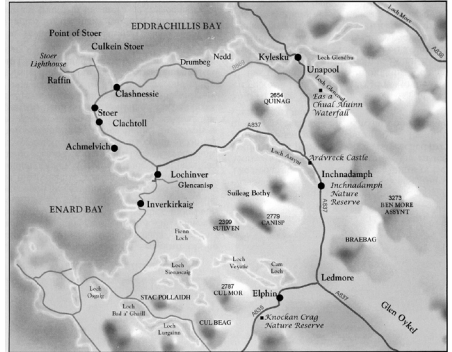
We also stopped at a park where a tall white plinth stood out on a bluff. This memorial was built at the birthplace of Rev. Norman MacLeod, the minister who took hundreds of clanfolk to settle at St. Ann's, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada. There he had ships built and sailed with some of the settlers to Australia. Not finding Australia suitable he took them on to New Zealand where they settled permanently.

The bus driver amazed us with his skill at handling the huge bus around hairpin turns on mountain single track roads without guardrails.

At noon we arrived for lunch at Kylesku, a wee harbour on the north shore of Scotland. In the afternoon we had a boat ride on Loch Glencoul. There we saw many seals and the Eas-Coul-Aulin waterfall which is 600 feet (300 metres) high but very narrow. This is Britain's tallest waterfall. The patter of the

Captain of the boat kept us well amused.

The bus ride back to the hotel was up and over and round about high mountains. After a delicious seafood dinner in Lochinver we packed up ready to set off for Dunvegan after two beautiful



Map kindly supplied by Jacqui Barbour, Planning and Development, Highland Council.

sunny days and fabulous sunsets in Assynt.

Saturday we drove in the rain to the village hall in Dunvegan to register for the events of the following week. In the evening we enjoyed a wine and cheese social hosted by the English Society. There we met up with 160 more clanfolk.

Sunday morning at the service in Duirinish Church we were welcomed by Rev. J. McInnis. At noon the local women prepared and served all of us a salmon lunch. This was followed by the Opening of Parliament, including pipers leading youth proudly carrying the MacLeod tartans and banners representing the countries attending the ACMS events.

Chief Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod and Chief John MacLeod

of Raasay welcomed all. A photograph of all Parliament attendees was taken by Neil R. McLeod of BC with MacLeod's Tables in the background. Sunday evening the Scotland Society held a welcoming stupak (tea and social).

On Monday morning we were welcomed to the first Parliament meeting by ACMS President Dr. Malcolm Macleod. An ACMS Council and business meeting followed. Rain spoiled the Open Day at Orbst. A sustainable mixed economy and its development on the Orbst Estate was explained.

The BBQ to be held at Varkasaig Beach, Orbst, had to be moved to the Village Hall because of continuing drizzle.

A successful ceilidh, showcasing the many talents of our clan folk, was held in the evening.

At the Tuesday Parliament, Dr. Malcolm led a plenary presentation on "What can the clan do to become more relevant?" There was a formation of five breakaway

groups with NRG leaders to meet, discuss and bring suggestions to the Thursday Parliament session.

After lunch a motor coach carried clanfolk to the Clan Donald Centre in Sleat, on the south coast of Skye, where a tour and educational displays were enjoyed. In the evening a very successful Silent Auction was held. At the same time a "whisky tasting" was hosted by Clan MacLeod Society of Germany. Later in the evening a "Tartan Challenge" took place. Here, clan members shared their traditional, historic and contemporary uses of tartan. Ruari and Anne Halford-Macleod as well as the bride and groom modeled their splendid clothes that had been worn at Emma and Jamie's wedding at Dunvegan Castle in 2009. Beautiful clothes that Ruari and Anne wore at their own wedding 32 years ago were modeled by other folk. Other folk wore outlandish combinations of tartans, much to the hilarity of the audience.



On Wednesday many clan members spent the day on Raasay where Chief John MacLeod of Raasay hosted the Parliament in the new community hall. Raasay House was “off limits” because work was in progress repairing the damage of the fire. Another ceilidh and dance was held in the evening.

Each morning at 9 am the Village Hall was filled with dancers eager to learn ceilidh dances under the direction of Derek MacLeod.

Thursday morning at the Parliament, reports from the breakout groups were delivered and briefly discussed. An in-depth report will be collated and acted upon. The gist of most groups was that the age of NRG should be extended to 30 and that more attention be given the youth as they might be executive material in the future.

On a lovely sunny afternoon at Borreraig on Loch Dunvegan many clanfolk followed pipers led by John Davidson-Kelly up the path to the MacCrimmon Cairn. This monument, built in 1933 was dedicated to the MacCrimmon family of pipers who operated a College of Piping there for 300 years and attended their chief. Gold medalist piper Ewan MacCrimmon played a moving piobaireachd which was composed by one of his ancestors.

CMS Canada later held its annual meeting in the Dame Flora

Room at the Village Hall. President Dr. Donald MacLeod led the meeting.

Supper was a “Boston beans and brown bread” meal prepared by the hard working Parliament organizer Dorna Caskie. Dessert treats were served by the Canadian Societies. In the evening Uta Stalling of Germany delivered a magical version of the fairy flag story whilst accompanying herself on the harp. Later a memorial concert for late Chief John featured piper Ewan MacCrimmon, local and famed Gaelic singers Seamus Campbell and Arthur Cormack.

On Friday, Parliament closed with the election of new officers of the ACMS: President Dr. John Davidson-Kelly of Scotland, Vice President Dr. Donald MacLeod of Canada, and Treasurer John Chandler. The other executive positions remained as before. Outgoing President Malcolm Macleod thanked his executive and wished the new executive well. Chief Hugh invested these and all who held offices in the ACMS. The new President John Davidson-Kelly announced no date for the next Parliament but noted that it might be near the time of a Scottish Homecoming Gathering four years hence.

Some very energetic clanfolk climbed MacLeod’s Tables in the afternoon in spite of the rain. the Clan MacLeod Ball, with clanfolk dressed in their fanciest garb, was

held in the main hall in the evening. Partway through the dancing all followed the pipers up the High Street to view the fireworks set off below the Millennium Stone. The entourage followed the pipers back to the Hall to continue dancing. Farewells were made to old and new friends after a much enjoyed week. Δ



Opening Session of Parliament has ACMS President Malcolm leading the way while Hugh, Chief of MacLeods extends a welcoming hand to his son. John Davidson-Kelly pipes everyone in, and Dorna Caskie, Parliament organizer, announces housekeeping changes.

At the Closing Session Malcolm hands over the ACMS charter to new President John Davidson-Kelly





Long-time friends and a Past President of ACMS, Angus and Julia (CMS England) enjoy the guncourt grounds; CMSC President Dr. Don enjoys playing his apartment-scale pipes; Lesley & Don McCrimmon (CMS Central Ont) visit with Chris (CMS BC Interior) at registration area, with Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese in the background.



MY JOURNEY TO PARLIAMENT

BY LYNN BENNETT

“You must go to Parliament” – one of the first statements I heard from the McLeod Clan. My journey there began with a trip to Fredericton, NB archives to trace my paternal great grandmother – Annie Bell McLeod. She was born in Fredericton around 1850 and married a member of the British army stationed there. She returned to Ireland with husband and child after 1½ years of married life. After a day of research with no luck, I returned to try again the next day and managed to recruit several other people to aid in the hunt, but alas, still no hits. However, one of my “helpers” had been involved in formulating a book entitled *Isle of Skye to Penobsquis NB* and I hoped that it would provide the connection I was looking for. The book led to a series of phone numbers for Clan McLeod Society members in Ontario which resulted in the words I would hear quite often leading up to July 2010 – “You must go to Parliament” – So I did. After eight months of planning, I arrived in Dunvegan with no idea what to expect. But what an experience – too many highlights to mention here.

The first evening was a meet and greet, so imagine 200+ people in the Village Hall meeting and reconnecting – one thing I can say is we are not a shy clan, or short

on verbal skills. After meeting McLeods from around the world for an hour or so, a warm glow had started in the pit of my stomach (and it wasn’t the whisky)! Here I was on Skye and however loosely related – with family.



Each day there were activities – the morning workout to wear off the calories consumed in my Scottish breakfast was ceilidh dancing lessons. This was an attempt to polish our skills for the evening. Lots of fun and laughter – the moral being we need more practice to learn the Mrs. McLeod reel and the ‘figure of 8’. We are a talented clan in every respect – as McLeod’s young and old entertained us with music, songs, readings, stories as well as alternatives uses for the tartan. One evening highlight was a Whisky Tasting and education of the staple drink from around Scotland – a true hit and one that I’m sure will be repeated in future Parliaments – only we may need a larger room and definitely more whisky! Thanks Albrecht!

Driving was another highlight, although comfortable with the left-hand side, I didn’t realize my skills and abilities would be tested daily with “sheep negotiations” for road usage. The Skye landscape is won-

derful and rugged. Every twist and turn gives a different view, even when the weather doesn't cooperate and is misty, wet and rainy. However, I did learn that what I call fog is really "low-lying cloud" according to the Scots. So "low" it can meet the road! As you drive around Skye you quickly understand why porridge and whisky were a staple of the highland diet. Their strength of character comes from the hard living they endured as crofters and workers of the land.

All too soon Parliament is over, capped off with the Clan Ball and village fireworks. What a night – fun, laughter, dancing, fellowship in all its glory – oh – and of course – whisky! What a way to celebrate my 50th – My Best Vacation Ever. So if you've never visited Skye or attended the world gathering of the clan and you ask for my opinion, my response will be "You must go to Parliament." See you there in 2014. Until then ...

Hold fast, shine bright. Δ



Don McCrimmon (Central Ontario) proudly accepts the bottle of 50 year old Isle of Skye whisky donated by the distillery, for auction.

Below: Is Don contemplating his Silent Auction purchase?

Below left: Matthew, David and their father Rick Pugliese take a break from activities at the Village Hall



Chief Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod welcoming all to the Opening Session of Parliament.

ACMS President Malcolm is on the right and Chief John MacLeod of Raasay on the left.

Below: Gordon (Pictou) accompanied by his daughters and a son-in-law flanking Chris and Dr. Don (CMSC President and newly elected ACMS Vice President)



Canadian Coffee Time Crew: Lynn Bennett Don & Lesley McCrimmon, Rick, Carol, Matthew Pugliese, Finlay, Chris, Cathy White, Irene MacCrimmon, June & Neil

ORKNEY, A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

BY IRENE MACCRIMMON

A ferry trip of one and a half hours transports locals and tourists from Scrabster on the north end of Scotland to Stromness, located on the largest of 70 islands that make up the Orkney group. Sixteen of these islands are occupied. The islands make up 375 square miles (974 square kilometres) of lush fields grazed by many black angus cattle and white fluffy sheep.

This was the third time that I have visited Orkney; this time with my family, daughter Carol, son-in-law Rick and grandson Matthew. I was excited to show them the many sites saved by the Orkney World Heritage Sites organization. Generations have continued to respect the many monuments. In the 19th and 20th centuries farmers have reduced the number of monuments whilst antiquarians and archeologists have also altered the profile.

How did people live 5000 year ago? Here are three examples:

First, Maeshowe is a grassy mound on a large circular platform surrounded by a dike in a farmer's field. This Neolithic chambered tomb with its 30 foot long stone passageway leads to three side cells of the main domed chamber. All this was built without the aid of metal tools or powered machinery!

Inside, on the walls, are carved dots and circles believed to be the works of the initial builders. Also on the walls are Norse runes, carvings that look like fir trees. They are believed to have been carved by Norse invaders who broke through the roof into the chamber below about 1150 AD. The translations are mostly a Norseman's name and occupation. To see inside this tomb we had to crawl through a 30 foot tunnel. This had a sliding stone door which would be opened and closed for burials.

Secondly, the Ring of Brodgar nearby Maeshowe and on the Ness of Brodgar off the Atlantic Ocean, was built in a 400 metre wide circle. It originally had 60 megaliths but only 27 stones remain. These giant stones vary in height from seven feet (2.1 metres) to 15 feet 3 inches (4.7 metres). It is the third largest stone circle in the British Isles. Nearby a new discovery was being unearthed. A team of 25 students and staff from Orkney College were brushing aside soil from a thick-walled ruin. It is thought to be the foundation of a Stone-age building of a Neolithic cathedral. I could hardly tear my family away from this new "dig". For artifacts were being brought forth frequently. In a nearby trailer,

a woman was sorting each find into separate boxes. These artifacts will be studied during the coming winter.

The whole area of large single standing stones, the Brodgar Circle of stones, Maeshowe and this new foundation must have a religious centre.

Thirdly, on the west coast of the main island of Orkney stands the remains of a Neolithic village, Skara Brae. During the winter of 1850 a great storm battered Orkney. The wind and waves stripped the grass and sand from an outcrop leaving the outline of a series of buildings. The local laird, William Watt, began an excavation. Now with a protective wall to keep back storms

and seas, a 4000 year old settlement was examined. Well preserved huts with walls still standing and alleyways still roofed with their original stone slabs were excavated. Each house has a large square room with a central fireplace, a bed on either side and a shelved dresser on the wall opposite the doorway. Each time I see this village I am amazed to see the little homes built so many centuries ago.

Many more archeological sites are easily visited in a few days because the island is so small. The old towns of Stromness and Kirkwall are well worth a visit too. I hope you will be able to explore for yourselves, Orkney and its wonderful ancient sites. Δ

MSCLIMB OF MACHU PICCHU, BY IAN C. MACLEOD, PAST PRESIDENT CMSC

As I mentioned in the Spring 2010 issue of the *Leod Voice*, two of my daughters, Heather (Past Co-Editor of the *Clan MacLeod Magazine*) and Stephanie (incoming Treasurer of the Greater Vancouver Clan MacLeod Society) were doing a trek up the Inca Trail to climb Machu Picchu in Peru, as a fundraiser for the MS Society of Canada, as part of a group called MSCLimb. Heather and Stephanie were the first siblings to ever do this trek under MSCLimb, as well as the first pair of siblings with MS.

Each of them has MS as well

as do I. What you may not know is that MS affects Scots, Swedes and Canadians more than most others in the world. Between 1 in 500 and 1 in 375 adult Canadians have MS. The rate is between 2 and 3 times higher for women than men (so 1 in 250 to 1 in 180 adult Canadian women), and then 5 times that for family members of those with MS. Certain localities such as the border areas of Scotland (203 per 100,000 of all Scots, not just adults), Crowsnest Pass in Alberta (217 per 100,000) and the northern-most province of Sweden

(253 per 100,000) have very high concentrations. So research on this disease is of particular interest for all Canadians, especially those of Scottish and Swedish descent.

On October 20, they completed their trek!

Heather and Stephanie, and 10 other climbers in their group, spent a week at high elevation in Peru, before starting the climb. Stephanie had no trouble adjusting to the elevation, even though she lives at sea level. A bit surprisingly, given that she lives at a higher elevation (Edmonton), Heather did have elevation sickness, but only for 12 hours.

The actual trek was 45 km, over 4 days. Physically, it was challenging. Heather has always been very fit, and runs marathons. Steph has always gone to the gym, but she was a bit concerned about her fitness, so started training last spring – a good thing too, as on June 10, she joined her mother, Ardie, at the track (flat ground) for her morning walk. Ardie walks 6 miles every morning, at a brisk pace. Steph couldn't keep up with her mother! In August, she and Heather did the "Grouse Climb", a very steep 2.9 km hike with 800 m of elevation gain of Grouse Mountain overlooking Vancouver. By the time she left for Machu Picchu, she was in great shape.

They were in the "rabbit group", the 4 or 5 who were in best shape

and led the whole way.

The highest point of the Machu Picchu climb, on the third last day, is at Dead Woman's Pass, at 4,215 metres or 13,829 feet. That name apparently has nothing to do with a woman actually dying on the trek, but rather comes from the "lay of the land" which is said to represent a woman lying on her back. The trail takes you over her belly and faces some "twin peaks" that evidently appear as the woman's breasts.

One of Heather's big hobbies is geocaching (using a hand-held GPS unit and coordinates posted on a web page to find hidden caches or small "treasures"). She even found a cache at Machu Picchu!

Together, they raised almost \$23,000 for MS research. They also helped others reach their threshold donations.

Their stories, pictures and a blog are on a web site that Heather built, at www.msclimb-macleods.ca. Steph put together a YouTube piece explaining what she was doing – it is a real tear jerker (it is on the web site that Heather built, on the link through to her page) – they have such talent! Many thanks to those of you who helped.

We are so proud of them. Δ

MACHU PICCHU CHALLENGE

BY HEATHER MACLEOD

As previously promised, here are the details about the MSClimb trip to Peru, that my sister Stephanie, nine friends from Toronto, and I completed from October 9th to 23rd, and a link to the photos.

I returned to Edmonton last Saturday night feeling rejuvenated from an absolutely amazing experience (sadly, I think that I have lost that rejuvenated feeling after being back in -4 degree weather and back at work again — I am calling it “low-altitude sickness”!). First and foremost, I am pretty certain I now have a love affair going on with Latin America! I have been inspired to relearn Spanish (more than the basic and generic conversational skills that I have retained since taking Spanish in 1st year of UBC — “where is the toilet”, “two beers please”, and “Whasssss up”!).



We had an action-packed itinerary and got to visit Lima, the coastal towns of Nazca and Pisco (home of the Pisco Sours — a Peruvian alcoholic beverage made from lime juice, pisco brandy, and

frothed egg-whites), the high-altitude town of Puno (at over 13,000 feet above sea-level), many islands on Lake Titicaca, and Cuzco (the starting point of the Inca Trail). Unfortunately, I did suffer the effects of high-altitude sickness during the two pre-hike days



of acclimating in Puno. After doing a single flight of stairs at our hotel, we were all winded and our hearts were beating as though we had run a 10km race!! Some people had severe headaches, insomnia or fatigue — I was nauseous and violently sick for about 12 hours — not good, but at least it was over and done with quickly. What really set me off was seeing the deep-fried head of the Cuy (guinea pig) that some folks in our group ordered as an appetizer for dinner. I was completely disgusted and just the sight of it totally turned my stomach. But after I took care of business, I ate an alpaca steak and it was DELICIOUS!! (I had a conversation with a woman who said that her mother raised guinea pigs. I foolishly asked if they were for pets. I also shared that Canadians take them as pets and name them such things as Charlie, Grizzly, or Twinkle Toes. She responded that they too name their guinea pigs — Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday...) I never did chew the coca leaves for the purpose of high-altitude treatment, because the one time I tried them, they made my heart race. All the locals assured me that there were no addictive properties, yet they could not explain why people couldn't stop cramming them into their mouths like they were potato chips. For the record, they tasted HORRIBLE!

Machu Picchu was so breath-



taking (honestly, the pictures hardly do it any justice), but I would have to say that the 4-day journey along the Inca Trail was as fantastic as the destination itself. The Inca Trail was 45km worth of steep and sometimes sketchy terrain and we did have to dodge a few llamas. The highest pass that we crossed was “Dead Woman’s Pass” at 4215m above sea-level (13,829 feet). Despite the fact that it poured nearly every day, every minute was enjoyable (and it did remind me of home in Vancouver). I think that my good level of fitness really helped, as even the challenging parts of the trail were really not that bad and I was never out of breath. One of my guides told me that I was working him too

hard and that we needed to slow down (I'm not called "One-Speed MacLeod" for nothing apparently!) I didn't feel as though I was rushing — I just felt strong. Others in my group really struggled and three in particular had to actually be carried by the porters at the end of the second (longest) day. The trail itself was visually stunning. We were in many different ecosystems, from the plains to the highlands, to the cloud forest, to the jungle. For our group of 14 (11 hikers, 2 trail guides, and our tour leader), we had 17 porters who were the smallest Peruvians I saw — but WOW, they could carry 150 lbs and ran along the trail like nobody's business. They were AMAZING! Interestingly, they are all unionized and the government regulates how much weight each hiker can give to the porters. We were all limited to 6kg each (we would be fined if we tried to cram in an extra granola bar or t-shirt). Also,

each porter has to have a very specific duty, such as the cook (who has to wear a white chef's hat), the security guard (who watched the tents to make sure nothing

was stolen), the server (who would serve the food plates), and the propane carrier. The typical wage was 5 Sols/day (the equivalent would be \$1.35), with a big tip at the end. It is a huge honor for a porter to have that job and often it is a family business. The only thing I didn't like were the bites from the black flies! I got bit by about a million of them on Day 4 of the hike. I had been wearing long pants for the first three days, but switched to long shorts upon arriving at Machu Picchu. I didn't even feel them bite me, but two days later when I had "cankles" and lots of pain and swelling, I realized that they had got me good!! So much so that I ended up having a massive allergic reaction. This resulted in me making a very desperate purchase of Mexican Benadryl during my stop-over in Mexico City. It has been 10 days since and my calves are still covered in spots and



bruises from the flies, and they are STILL itchy! (I guess it could be worse...I could be losing a toenail like Stephanie!)

Our group was very cohesive and everyone got along well, which made the two weeks go smoothly (some of the other groups could not report the same). All in all, it was fantastic and I loved every second of the adventure! I really could not have asked for a better trip, and I would go back to Peru in a heartbeat — I loved the culture, language, people, food, learnings and the generosity.

DNA STUDY

BY IAN C. MACLEOD,

PAST PRESIDENT CMSC

My Wife and Kids are (dis-tant) Royalty! The idea for a (DNA) genetics study for Clan MacLeod was first proposed by University College London (“UCL”) in 1974. Due to more restrictive privacy laws in Britain, the project was transferred to the FamilyTreeDNA program, in Atlanta, GA. Those early studies only looked at MacLeod males. I tried to join in about 1998, but my DNA sample was rejected, either because of damage in transit or because I have MS. So I sent in a new sample from our son, Cameron - a good thing, because it also picked up my wife’s (Ardie) ancestors. Scores of MacLeod men turned up on that

As a point of interest, our MS Climb group collectively raised **over \$105,000** for the MS Society of Canada, with \$23,000 of that raised by my sister Stephanie and me, thanks to the amazing support of our family, friends, and co-workers (THANK YOU!)

To view the pictures, visit my website <http://www.msclimb-macleods.ca/photos.php>. The slide show will start automatically. I hope you enjoy!

Best regards, Heather. Δ



first test.

This past summer, FamilyTreeDNA offered a new, and much more detailed analysis called Family Finder, which identified other possible relatives (up to perhaps the 8th cousin level). A few weeks ago, I got the first list of 10 possible relatives to our kids. I emailed the 10, and have heard back from all of them. Two of them, on Ardie’s Clarkston line, were of the “Eureka” variety. On one we were able to make the actual connection (Garrison), to about 1731. The Garrisons have an association and periodic newsletter. On the

other we are still working on it, but it looks very likely that we have found the common connection (West), to about 1775. Ardie seems to have had direct ancestors (Clarkston and Garrison, at least) who were soldiers in the American Civil War, for each of the South and the North.

If that West line pans out, Ardie has ancestors that include William the Conqueror (1066), the Plantagenet kings of England (including John I of Magna Carta and Robin Hood fame) and Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII (and mother of Elizabeth I).

That West line also includes Malcolm III of Scotland (1031-1093), and his ancestry back to 834.

A COUPLE OF LITTLE PERSONAL ANECDOTES:

First, for years I have been singing songs to the grandkids, especially when we are baby-sitting. One of those rather goofy ones was Herman's Hermits "I'm Henry the Eighth, I Am". It was on the car radio not long ago, and Chloe, our oldest granddaughter (age 7) even remembered enough to sing along. That night, as she was getting ready for bed, she told her dad "I can't get that Henry the Eighth song out of my head". Imagine her interest, and pleasure, when I told her that Henry VIII may actually be her Uncle (I didn't try to explain what

13th Great-Grand Uncle meant)! A funny story for her, and maybe it will make school a bit more interesting.

The second involves Ardie. For years I have been teasing her that she is the "daughter of a 1/2 Witt" (her dad's mom was a Witt, making him a "1/2 Witt"). Now that I have (possibly) located all of this royalty in her family (ironically, much from her, not my, family roots in Scotland), she is suggesting that maybe I should change my humour, and maybe even bow or kiss her ring (I'm considering it!).

There is also another pending DNA analysis, on the Viking line. As you know, the oral history of the MacLeods holds that we may well be Viking in our ancestry, tracing, from about 1200 to Leod or Ljot (meaning "the ugly" or "the ugly wolf" - perhaps a "fighting" name, rather than a physical description). Dr Jim Wilson of Ethno Ancestry and Edinburgh University said recently "*I would say that the original and main lineage of the McLeods is S68+, so Ljot was a Scandinavian after all.*" Marker S68 at Ethno Ancestry is SNPL165 at Family TreeDNA. Some others in my MacLeod DNA family group have tested positive for the L165 SNP, and Cameron shows as a probable. I have ordered the test, but have yet to hear back. If the test is positive, I will have established our Viking ancestry. That might

impress the grandkids too!

Much has been written over the years in the *Clan MacLeod Magazine* about the DNA projects, so I won't go into it again here, other than to encourage anyone interested in family history to take part, at www.familytreedna.com. Costs of analysis range based on

complexity, but start at US\$169 for a 37 marker test (males), climbing to US\$559 for the full family finder test. It doesn't have to be done all at once, as they keep the DNA sample on file, and do the progressively more complex tests only as you order them.

This can be fun! Δ

THE OLD MACLEOD TRAIL

BY ALMA MACLEOD

Way back in the early 1870s, all freight being sent west arrived at Fort Benton, Montana by paddle boat. It was then loaded aboard huge wagons pulled by oxen, formed into trains and pulled overland to Fort Whoop-up and Fort Macleod. They always followed the same route, and consequently huge ruts were formed, some of them so deep that they are still visible today on land that is still natural prairie.

At that time, Colonel MacLeod, who was called 'BULLSHEAD' by the natives, was in charge of the fort. Interesting to note that the bull's head appears on our clan crest. From Fort Macleod, the cargo on the trains was transferred to smaller carts. Because the terrain was so different with bogs, mud, small lakes, many hills and deep coulees. They were called Red River carts, and mainly used by the buffalo brigades made up of Me-



tis who were moving west from the Red River area. These huge trains cut ruts in the land, some as wide as fifty yards across. Today the old trail is almost indistinguishable except for a few short sections on raw prairie land. Wherever possible it has been marked by signs, erected by farmers on their land and located as near as possible to the wagon train routes. It has been well catalogued as far as locations, and has become the personal project of a fellow I met last weekend, named Bill Dunn.

Currently there are 14 markers between Fort Macleod and High River, with more planned between there and Calgary. It is a slow process, because everyone involved has a deep sense of history, and wants to stick as close to the original trail as possible. When you think of what a huge undertaking this was, dealing with weather, sometimes hostile Indians, oxen that had to be kept healthy because their job was so terribly hard, and most of all, the men who had to endure very

poor conditions a great deal of the time. I feel that it was a great tribute to Colonel MacLeod that his name was chosen to represent this most important trail, and what a difference it made in our Western History.

Those who visited Fort Macleod way back in 1992 and experienced Clan MacLeod Days should enjoy this story. Their bus trip from Fort Macleod followed fairly closely the old MacLeod Trail route that was formed many, many years ago. Δ

THE WARMTH OF MEMBERSHIP

BY JOY TARRANT

Hello from a recent Clan MacLeod Society Alberta South member. I attended my first local CMS meeting the other weekend and was so thrilled to meet McLeods in the Calgary area. It was really fun and I felt like I had lunch with relatives, yay yay!

It's been a long road of many years but the last year spent doing ancestry and tracing my family lines has been really exciting. I'm very, very proud of the rich heritage of my grandmother Grace Glendenning McLeod and the legacy of personal strength of character and perseverance as well as the history of this great McLeod family tree. As a child of British Columbia, whose parents were both born and raised in Springhill, NS, with a

sister who has lived in the Yukon for over twenty-five years and a first-generation Canadian husband, I feel a part of all of this great country of ours from coast to coast and I am hoping to find that I have relatives both back east as well as out here in the west. The search for the family history has been truly inspiring and I have so much respect for all the people who forged their way through the centuries enduring the physical hardships, social upheavels, religious strife, disease, famine, ignorance, through ever-changing and sometimes incomprehensible political events that altered lives and ideas. I am daily inspired by the fabric of the past woven through each of our ancestors, down the generations bringing us to the

people we are today, facing many of the same challenges, although perhaps a little better equipped in some ways and a little less well equipped in others. In touching the history and searching out the past, I have felt my own strength being replenished and I am excited about finding any living relatives that may be out there wondering whatever happened to Grace and

her side of the family.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the various McLeod gatherings and am always happy to discuss genealogy, history or family any time. In the meantime I am loving that 'in from the cold feeling' and thank you for extending a hand and including me.

Hold Fast and Shine Bright Δ

CMS VAN ISLAND NEWS

BY MALCOLM MACLEOD

The Clan on Vancouver Island has had quite a good year starting with the Victoria Highland games, a two day event May 22 and 23.

This was a great action packed event highlighted this year by the World Championship Heavy Sports competition. The MacLeod tent was well attended with nine new families joining our society. James G. MacLeod from the Halifax Nova Scotia Society visited and Beverly Duthie one of our new members found her name in The MacLeods of Glengarry book *The Genealogy of a Clan* on page 198. There were over 50 people who signed our guest book and at times we had so many people that I didn't even get to meet some of the new members.

One interesting person that I was looking forward to getting to know was Merna Jean Moffat who was there with two of her sons,



Angus and Lindsay. Merna and her son Lindsay and daughter-in-law were planning to visit Skye and

Dunvegan but sadly that was not to be since Merna succumbed to cancer on July 30, 2010. Merna MacLeod was born in Turtelford, Saskatchewan and grew up in St. Walburg, Duck Lake and St. Albert. College in Winnipeg was followed by a long career as a medical laboratory technologist. On July 4, 1953, Merna married George Moffat and is survived by her three sons, Angus, Lindsay and Jamie. She is predeceased by Wally, her father Neil John MacLeod and mother Marvel Francis.

The Moffats spent many years in Prince George where she was active in the community including stints as President of the Red Cross,

Community Arts, Friends of the Opera, VP of the Prince George Symphony and Concert Society and she also served as President of the BC Society of Medical Technologists and was a faculty instructor at the College of New Caledonia. In 1993, they moved to Honeymoon Bay on Lake Cowichan where she was again very active in the community. Merna loved life, was also an accomplished pianist and painter and will be sorely missed.

Merna's good friend Dianne Coutts has joined CMS Van Island in her stead.

Our next gathering was on August 22 at the house in Victoria that Dr. Don and Chris keep as a dormitory for their kids as they attend University there. There were 22 that picnicked in the yard there on that cold and blustery day. We had the two sisters, Lisa Levesque and Kelly McNamarra who had contacted an aunt who lives in St. Anne's on Cape Breton and taught at the Gaelic College there. They had been told by their aunt of their forbearers' immigration to Canada and that they had come from Clach-toll in Assynt with the Reverend Norman. Apparently part of their family travelled on to New Zealand to Waipu with the Reverend but the older ones remained in Canada. I loaned the girls *The Migration of a Clan* so they can read the story for themselves. Mary Davidson came from Salt Spring Island with

her genealogy and she has been researching it for over 50 years. She thinks that there is hardly a clan in Scotland that she is not related to. This would probably hold true for most of us.

Catherine Chapman MacLeod and her partner Gerard came with Catherine's genealogy records and also a copy of a survey of the Isle of Lewis done by an ancestor in 1821. The Merritt McLeod's were also well represented with Don and Chris, Skye, Lachlan and his girlfriend, Don's brother Bruce, his Uncle Fred and Aunt Joan. We were also graced with Judy Tipple's presence.

On September 25, 2010 our next gathering was at our home on Islay St. in Duncan where we gathered in the back patio area next to our fish pond and fire pit. Mary Davidson attended from Salt Spring Island, Dianne Coutts from Lake Cowichan, Bev, Rick and daughter





Heather from Bamfield, Frank Nichol and his girlfriend Ann and their exchange student Mike from Germany, Chris and Robert Smith from Duncan and then Ken and Cheryl from Courtenay dropped by for a short while with their company from Italy. My mother attended along with my sister Carol and her grandchildren. Our son Callum provided the piping accompanied by Frank Nichol.

Robert Smith, whose granddad came from Stornoway in 1905, was born in Central Bute, Sask. and

became very active in Country Music from 1965 to 2000. Robert plays the guitar but his forte is singing, writing and producing; he has several Juno nominations; got Album of the Year in 1977 and is in the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. Robert started his own record label, Royalty Records from which he is now retired, but his son runs the show and his wife Chris still sings and does voiceovers.

We do have some very interesting people in our Clan Society and look forward to getting to know them all better. Δ



THE RAASAY MILLS

REBECCA MACKAY, SECRETARY, osgaig@lineone.net

Fundraising on a small island with a population of about one hundred and thirty is extremely difficult and so we seek your help to assist us to protect our and your Celtic Heritage for the future.

Raasay Heritage Society was formed in 1988 and became a Trust in 1994. During that period we have actively been collecting material for our archives and disseminating the information via talks and publications. People are interested in what we do and we have done our best to accommodate that interest. Raasay Heritage Trust has disseminated material in a variety of ways: talks at home and abroad, two books about Raasay using archival material, an audio tape of Raasay music and song, exhibitions, and the production of a tea towel showing a map of the island and some of its place names. The Gaelic Society of Inverness has published an essay written by a Trustee on the place names, history and myths relating to Raasay, Rona, Fladda and Eilean Taighe. People show a great interest by attendance at talks, purchasing our products and by becoming Friends to the Trust. One new book about the island is about to be printed.

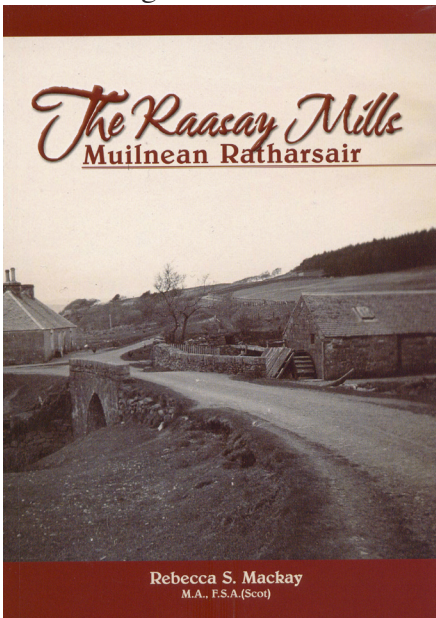
Important organisations such as the School of Scottish Studies have referred to us for those who seek

information. For many years, we have helped students with theses and school projects. The Trust has been involved with disseminating information in Primary Schools. The Trust has been consulted by the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists over the period of the Trust's existence and prior to that consulted with Raasay Heritage Society. We have helped students in The Sabhal Mòr, the Gaelic College in Skye and the University of the Highlands and Islands. "Over the years we have taken various groups of students to Raasay and have found the exhibits, archives and local knowledge of the Raasay Heritage Trust to be invaluable", Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Initially, we had the use of a very damp small room in Raasay House which burnt down in 2008. Fortunately, our material had been removed for safer storage before the fire. It has been very difficult without any premises of our own. As well as paper material, we have audio collections and a large genealogical data base.

After many years of saving, we bought the remains of a small mill, built c1760, and worked intermittently as a sawmill from 1850 until 1915. We wish to develop the little bit of the mill which remains standing into a small Heritage Centre.

One of our recent publications is called *The Raasay Mills*, which can be purchased from the secretary of the Trust. We humbly ask for your help to build our Heritage Centre by purchasing this book or other publications which are mentioned on the Raasay Heritage Trust's website <http://www.raasay.com/rhtrust.html>. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.



The book covers the history of three different mills — between 1761 and the present day. The cost is £8.00 plus postage. Δ

THIS AND THAT

ATLANTIC GAELIC ACADEMY

Due to the large increase in enrolments in the AGA program for the coming school year, additional part-time Scottish Gaelic instructors are needed. Further information is as follows:

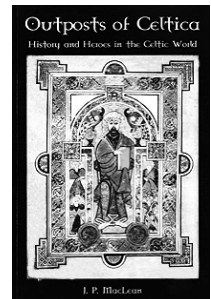
The AGA is the largest Gaelic school in North America with over 150 students from around the world.

The AGA teaches students to read, write, and speak the Gaelic language. Courses are offered at five levels from Beginner to Fluent. The school year begins the last week of September and continues until May.

Further information is available on the AGA website at www.gaelicacademy.ca Δ

An interesting addition to any library.

Outposts of Celtica: History and Heroes in the Celtic World by J. P. MacLean



<http://thechronicleherald.ca/Books/1198072.html> Δ

HANDY GAELIC PHRASES:

Excerpted from *Office of Gaelic Affairs* newsletter, easily accessed on the web site <http://www.gov.ns.ca/oga>

Chan fhaca mi riamh a leithid !...

Literal meaning: **I never saw the like!! I have never seen anything like it!**

Often used to describe a reaction an unprecedented showing of talent, food, unusually good event, etc.... like a Celtic Colours show.

Tha mi ‘n dòchas gum bi fuarag agad air Oidhche Shamhna!

I hope you will have some “Fuarag” on Hallowe’en night!

On Hallowe’en “Fuagag would be prepared and offered in homes. Made from whipped cream and oats, a coin, button, thimble and ring would often be put in the “fuarag. If you got the coin, that would mean that you were going to be wealthy. if you got the button, you wouldn’t be rich at all; if you got the thimble, you were going to be a spinster; and the ring, you were going to marry.

Chan eil iongantas ann

Literal meaning: It’s no wonder (there’s no wonder in it)..... It’s no surprise...!!

Often used to describe a reaction to news or something inevitable – usually the speaker would pronounce the words with an air of confidence – to show his/her lack of surprise at the item or event – indicating he/she foresaw it.

Innsidh mise dhut!

Literal meaning: “I’m telling you or I will tell you!”

An emphatic preface to a story - often used in Cape Breton before telling a “naidheachd” and it means:

“News flash!!Here’s the latest!!!!Wait till you hear this!!..... Let me tell you!!”

Stobach: crusty (surly); jagged; prickly; short-tempered; thorny

Stràiceil: proud, haughty, conceited, huffish, pettish, arrogant, insolent, Purse-proud

Robach: tough, hairy, slovenly, filthy, shaggy, wet (as weather). Δ

BOB AND SANDY MACLEOD VISIT SATURNA

Little did they realize that they would meet the *This is Your Life* Miss Las Vegas, Jody Bavis, while visiting the Saturna Island Vineyard, Winery and Bistro with host Judy Tipple.

A vicarious visit with clan friends was made through viewing the photos from various Clan Gatherings, as a substitute for attending 2010 Parliament. Δ



Karen and Paul McCrimmon are helping to increase the CMS membership of Central Ontario and give grandparents Beth McLeod and Lesley & Don McCrimmon great joy with their beautiful sons Colin and Iain born two years and two days apart. Δ



CMS Greater Vancouver Mark, Bill G. and Allan MacLeod proudly stand with one of their banners while CMSC President Don enjoys the BC Games





Who has the right-of-way here?

An interesting and regular stand-off encountered on Skye's single-track car paths

TARTAN DAY DECLARED

The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced that the Government of Canada will now officially recognize April 6 as Tartan Day.

“A tartan represents a clan, a family, and a community, and is an enduring symbol of Scotland that is cherished by Canadians of Scottish ancestry,” said Minister Moore. “Many Canadian provinces and other countries already celebrate Tartan Day. As well, through Tartan Day, Canadians will have an opportunity to learn more about the various cultures that comprise Canadian society.”

Tartan Day originated in the late 1980s in Nova Scotia, where it was declared an official day by the provincial government. It then spread across the country, with

many provinces joining in. This marks the first time the Day has been recognized by the federal government.

“By officially recognizing this Day, we encourage Canadians all across the country to celebrate the contributions that over four million Canadians of Scottish heritage continue to make to the foundation of our country,” said Senator John Wallace, who recently introduced a bill in the Senate in support of nationally declaring Tartan Day.

In Canada, Tartan Day is celebrated on April 6, the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish declaration of independence. Tartan Day celebrations typically include parades of pipe bands, Highland dancing and sports, and other Scottish-themed events.

For more information, consult the official Press Release from Ottawa at <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/infoCntr/cdm-mc/index-eng.cfm?action=doc&DocIDCd=CJM101447>

This announcement is a feather in the cap of Dan Taylor who lobbied long and hard with the support of all Scottish groups he could contact, to pressure the federal government into naming April 6 Tartan Day.

“I hope that all Canadians of Scottish descent will rejoice with the United Council of Scots in Atlantic Canada and her affiliated organizations in applauding the Government of Canada for addressing this important issue.”

Dan plans to continue his campaign for the adoption of the Maple Leaf tartan as Canada’s official tartan. We can be proud and appreciative of such a tenacious advocate for the recognition of the many Scottish pioneers who gave so much to make Canada the great country that it is today. Δ



fLOWERS OF THE FOREST
MAY WE EVER REMEMBER THEM

ROBERT STANLEY TANNER

Passing away peacefully at home on October 2, 2010 surrounded by his loving family, Bob is survived by Eleanor his wife of 60 years, his children Bobbie (Rob), Joy (Don), Brad (Sandy), Beth (Chris), his sisters Jewel and Audree and families, eight grandchildren and two great granddaughters. Bob was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba where he met Eleanor and they married in 1950.

The majority of his working life was spent as an accountant in the mining industry, and employment



opportunities saw him move his family from Island Falls, Sask., to Flin Flon, Manitoba, Esterhazy, Sask., Fernie, Coquitlam and fi-

nally Vancouver, BC. Bob was active all his life in service to every community in which he lived, supporting many causes as a volunteer. He was an avid reader, quick with a joke and made friends easily. Dad's love and commitment to family and friends across the country was evident in all the Gatherings he encouraged which we all enjoyed over the years. Bob will be remembered for his unique perspectives on life, religion and politics.

Cheers Pop, you are greatly missed by all of us! Δ

TRIBUTE TO BOB

BY JUDY TIPPLE

CMS Van and Van Is members extend their condolences to Eleanor and all the family. We will greatly miss Bob's steadfast loyalty and efforts on the executive as well as his subtle humour and ready smile.

Bob resisted our urging to enter the computer age, displaying adept facility with pen and paper, using good old Canada Post and BC Telus to send us his warm messages.

I will miss Bob's cheery phone calls and warm bear hugs at our clan gatherings. Δ

DOROTHY EVELYN MACLEOD

Dot MacLeod of Milford Station, passed away at home on Friday July 23, 2010, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Neil's Harbour, Cape Breton, on May 27 1930, she was the daughter of the late John and Alice (Lillington) Organ.

Dot was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother who always put her family first. Family meant the world to her and she meant the world to her family.

Dot enjoyed many things in life and was especially fond of cooking for her family, sewing, knitting, playing cards, watching curling, shopping and spending summers

in Neil's Harbour and Sunday family suppers. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years Robert (Bobby); daughters Hughena (Gerry) Boyd, Enfield; Diane Barbrick and (Dan MacDonald), Milford Station; son Brian (Barb Cleveland), Milford Station; grandchildren Scott, Heather, Shauna, Mike, Brent, Darin, Tyler, Breanna; great grandchildren Alexandra, Kailey, Gillian, Liam, Graeson, Braylin, Christian, Ashlyn, Anna-Leigh and Ruby. She was predeceased by brothers Freeman and Hickman, sisters Eva and Ivy.

Our sincere condolences to friends and family of Dot MacLeod.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE



Clan Parliament 2010 is history and I am grateful for the interesting reports sent to the *Leod Voice* for this issue. Many of you took my offer to be a journalist seriously and I am so very grateful to you.

I missed being there and having a pictorial documentary of my own to draw from; however, happily I received photos from Neil (CMS BC Interior) to introduce you to the new executive of ACMS and chronicle events of the gathering. John Davidson-Kelly is the new ACMS President and our own Dr. Don MacLeod is Vice President. My best wishes and heartfelt support go to the new leadership. They must have our vigorous support and encouragement in order to carry us forward as an Association of Clan MacLeod Societies.

Another group of clansfolk seeking the support and encouragement of their seniors is that of our young people, those who attend gatherings and who show interest in our Clan MacLeod Societies across Canada. The nurturing of their interest in their heritage is vital to the ongoing success and indeed existence of our organizations. I'd like to hear more from the under-40s, their ideas and interests, the direction they would like to see the organizations go, what will capture their enthusiasm and encourage them to apply their energy to invigorate Clan MacLeod.

Might I suggest that when you are reading this issue you let your imagination wander and follow a theme of "how can I be of help to make my Clan Society stronger?" Adopt the mantra *Think, Write, Send*. All ideas, stories, experiences, impressions, histories, whatever thoughts you have are welcome.

The CMSC is in need of enthusiastic volunteers to fill a variety of positions. Vice President is a vacancy which urgently needs filling. Also anyone interested in working on the *Leod Voice* or on maintaining the Canadian membership registration, I'd love to hear from you. Please give it some thought.

It was only after wrapping up the production of this issue that I realized the group photo was not included. I apologize and will make certain that it appears in the next issue.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly

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

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1

and September 1