



The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD
SOCIETIES CANADA
NATIONAL COUNCIL
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This photo reminds me of the world-wide nature of our heritage

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY DON M. MCLEOD



The Immortal MacLeods

Many of us have been exposed to “the Highlander” stereotyping of MacLeods. We do not admit to being immortal and clan policy is to continue denying immortality.

At gatherings, we collectively grieve the losses of our “Flowers of the Forest” because we value the experience and wit of our elders. The seniors of our family are always respected and remembered with fondness as they propagate the lineage with all the traditions that they tell us are genuine. Who are we to disturb any of these traditions as we pass them on to the next generation. One attribute that we do not question is the longevity of our clan folk. All of us have relatives that have lived to ripe old ages, many with expression of the MacLeod longevity gene. There was no mistake when Connor MacLeod was chosen as the hero of the immortals. Obviously many of our genes are being shared,

recombined and diluted (definitely a good thing for other reasons) and the longevity gene is not always expressed as well as we want.

This is why “Nutrigenomics” will play a big role in helping us all with our future health. Many MacLeods will inherit problems with lipids (cholesterol) and glucose (sugar). Remember the Viking diet that shaped our past. It was fish. We need to keep up with our Omega-3 wild fish oils and we need to limit our other saturate fats from greasy meats and dairy products. Our best source of protein could still be from eggs (not Gannett) and from fish, lean meats, nuts and grains and our best source of sugars would be the low glycemic index vegetables (they only slowly raise our sugar levels).

Don't cook any of your food at extreme heat to prevent toxic cancer-causing changes to our food. Also avoid overdoing the alcohol on a daily basis. The research continues to show daily two ounces of wine intake is the only safe alcoholic beverage to not increase the risk of liver disease, cancer and diabetes. This is unfortunate for our “water of life” tradition.

The missing piece to the puzzle for our expression of longevity is to continue the daily intake of antioxidants to counter all the toxins from our environment and

to counter all the leftover toxic chemicals from metabolism within our cells. Our internal production of antioxidants drops as we age and when we get into our 40s, we need supplemental help and a much better diet. Eat the best antioxidant foods. Berries, garlic, curry powders, colored vegetables and non-contaminated foods are all important but adequate doses of vitamin C and alpha lipoic acid and any other combination supplements are a necessity as we age.

My entire career as a doctor has been involved with lifestyle management and slowing the aging process of the body and the brain. Research is slowly proving all the theories to be correct. I marvel at the intellect and wonderful brains of the active senior MacLeods. Haggis and Scotch were given to us to talk about and to taste on very special occasions. We all know that we always want the treats that usually are not good for us in

abundance.

Keep on learning, take another stab at Gaelic, bagpipe playing and Scottish dancing or even golf. Your brain will form new Scottish connections that will give you one more step down the road of longevity. Immortality is for the Clan but we are the link to the future.

Hold Fast to your health and



"Captain" Don addresses the CMS USA gathering in St. Louis then poses with Don Mac & Katherine (Texas) and his wife Chris



CMS BC VAN ISLAND



**BY MALCOLM & KAREN
MACLEOD**

On the September 26, we had a very nice Clan MacLeod gathering on Vancouver Island at MacLeod's place on Islay Street in Duncan. (where else?) The day started with the arrival of Neil R. and June and Judy Tipple. Dr. Don and his daughter Skye arrived later on with their pipes.

This turned out to be a beautiful day and although we had many displays inside the house, the clansmen chose to stay outside on our patio and then moved out into the sun around the fire pit. Neil R. had some Clan MacLeod paraphernalia to offer for sale which was well received and people watched our photos of Clan MacLeod activities scrolling on the TV.

Amongst some of our new members there was keen interest in genealogy and Catherine MacLeod Chapman had a wonderful family tree that harkens back to Stornoway. Sisters, Janet and Dorothy MacLeod from Victoria who we have met at the games for years, ventured over the Malahat (a steep

mountain highway) for the first time in years and on their return home had terrible car problems and had to be towed.

Randy Stewart (and children Holly and Lachlan), who heads up the Stewart Clan on the Island joined us since he has MacLeod roots from Gesto. He brought with him some of his museum which he takes to the Victoria Highland Games, it was very impressive as he always takes first prize for his Clan tent display.

The fare was burgers and hot dogs expertly cooked by Shaun Lahay, accompanied by salads, dips and complimented by some beautiful smoked salmon brought by Rick and Bev MacLeod from Bamfield. Karen and I recently discovered that fresh haggis can be procured from one of our local butcher shops and is very good.

Dr Don piped while I proudly carried the Haggis in and then Roderick Beaton did an absolutely wonderful job of the Address to the Haggis. There were some here who had not tasted the puddin' afore and were suitably impressed. Now it was time for the cake which was donated by my dad Neil, decorated with the Harris tartan and dispatched by Dr. Don's scalpel. At this point it was planned to have our friend Laurel Lahay (nee Beaton) do a power

point presentation on genealogy but the pipes took precedent since some had to leave to catch ferries. We had Dr. Don and his daughter Skye, Heather, the daughter of Rick and Bev from Bamfield and our son Callum giving us a wee concert in our driveway. Skye, Heather and Callum are all close in age and competed against each other several years ago at different games.

Also in attendance were John McLeod (a long time member) our daughter Kirstie, Frances (my mom), Roderick's wife Marny, Bobby Mawdsley, (Bob Tanner's daughter) and Gerard (Catherine's friend). A neighbor, Alvin Wallace was attracted by the pipes. Dorothy and Janet had noticed him riding by, shirtless on his bicycle and a

few minutes later joined the gathering properly attired in his Wallace tartan vest. Many a picture was taken during the day, especially of the haggis, the cake and the piping and a good time was had by all.

After most had fled we were treated to Laurel's presentation of her paternal genealogical studies. The search took her to Scotland twice where she knocked on strangers' doors many times until the mystery slowly unfolded through old pictures and conversations. There were many, many hours spent on the computer as well. Laurel did find her dad's birthplace and is very ecstatic about the results of her efforts and encourages any who would like to do as she did. Go for it!



Christine, President Dr. Don, Neil, Francis, Karen and Malcolm (MacLeods all) at Victoria Highland Games

CMS SOUTHERN ALBERTA

BY ALMA MACLEOD

We meet every two months on dates that we arrange every November, so that everyone can make their plans accordingly. We meet in the Kensington Legion, early Sunday morning and enjoy a scrumptious brunch, then we settle down with our coffees for our business meeting, followed by a social time. All in all, about three enjoyable hours. Unfortunately, both our President Randy MacLeod and Vice President Mike MacLeod work out of town, so we don't see much of them. Randy is working out of Fort McMurray and Mike is very busy setting up business offices in Beijing, China of all places. So I seem to be the leader, so to speak. Both Randy and Mike keep in touch via their computers, which is very helpful. I have submitted my resignation twice in this past year, not because I don't like the job, but because I think new blood would be a good thing. I have always enjoyed being Secretary. I think I am more Scottish than Icelandic/English which is my own heritage.

You will laugh when I tell you that Linda, my daughter, and I both got tattoos this past summer, the Clan MacLeod crest with the bull, done in traditional colors. Have had lots of fun with it, and I am sure have shocked many people.

Well, on to my report. We al-

ways have a raffle at our meetings, and try to stick with the Scottish or MacLeod theme. It gives us a bit of money for extra expenses, and creates a bit of fun too. We also try to have a book exchange, also mainly in Scottish themes. Get some great reading that way.

The Barracks Project in Fort MacLeod that Randy and I are so involved with is going through major problems, so we don't see much of it these days. But there is one point of interest that readers would be interested in. The records on Fort MacLeod showed that Jerry Potts' residence was still standing, and about to be demolished. Jerry was Col. MacLeod's friend, guide and mentor. Well, Randy and I agreed that this was of historical value and should be preserved, so we both contributed financially, and for Randy, also manually, to help move the building to the Barracks site. It was proven without a doubt that it was his home, just a little shack now, and very dilapidated. Now it stands in the Barracks site, looking very forlorn and neglected, waiting to be revived. Rod, my son, says we are slumlords. The Barracks Project committee has agreed to put a plaque on the building to say that it is partly the project of the Clan MacLeod. Rest assured, if that ever transpires, pictures will be forthcoming. Hopefully this

will be in my time. But it gives me great pleasure to be involved in something truly historical and dear to my heart for many reasons.

I have to admit our group is not as active as it used to be. There are usually 7 to 15 members at our meetings, and we are by no means ready to give up. We will stick together even if it is only for the social aspect because we all have grown very close. Judy Tipple and Ian C. (CMSC Past President), and of course, Prairie VP Robert are a great help and only a computer message away. So we feel our ties are still strong.

CMSC MANITOBA

BY PRAIRIE DOG BOB

Folklorama was again a huge overall success. The Scottish Pavilion was moved this year to a different venue. The main stage and everything else (bar, novelties etc) were good, but the Clan displays, spinning wheel and what have you, were in a separate room and did not receive the traffic as in the past.

Our David McLeod played the guitar, whistle, pipes and sang every evening. He also was MC whenever required. All of this for seven nights. Wow! Thanks to the other room volunteers as well. Some I know were there for the full week, I don't want to name names except for Roy and Margaret, constant supporters.

I, personally am doing okay, getting older and creakier and walking with a cane. My eyes are good and I read a lot. Enjoyed Dr. Jim Hunter's book *Skye, the Island*, while relaxing in front of her wood fireplace at Judy's on Saturna recently. What a great book.

I must add at this time that Randy, while in Fort McMurray is working with the Historical Society there. He has discovered that a lot of MacLeod men went there to work for the Hudson's Bay Co. Who knows, maybe he will organize a new society up there.

Our 21st annual Dinner and Entertainment was held on Saturday, October 3 at the Victoria Inn, close to the new airport. Approx 45 attended and a good time was had by all.

Coming up on Nov 22, at John and Carole's place, they will be hosting a Pot Luck supper following a Clan Meeting. All are welcome.



CMSC CENTRAL ONTARIO

BY LESLEY MACCRIMMON

Orillia Highland Games

On July 18, Clan MacLeod (and McCrimmon) members flocked to Orillia to attend the 32nd Annual Orillia Scottish Festival. You see, we were the featured clan this year. As we all gathered at the far end of town, along with the numerous pipe bands, local groups and dignitaries, there was a sense of excitement in the air. We had our MacLeod banner and even a mascot, Maggie, a West Highland terrier appropriately attired in MacLeod tartan, thanks to Margaret Goode and



her family. Finally the parade got underway and we marched our way down the main street to the Couchiching Beach Park where the festival was taking place. A feeling of MacLeod pride and belonging envelopes you as you try to keep time with the pipe band behind you, wave to the spectators, make sure you haven't lost a young MacLeod who may have wandered into the crowd, while taking in the local sights. It was a beautiful, sunny day. The festival was held by the water where we were able to watch all the boats, have a picnic and enjoy each others' company.

My favourite part of the program is watching all the massed pipes and drums parade onto the field, causing your toes to tap, your





hands to clap and even some humming might occur if you know the tune. The music (non-Scots may say “the noise” but I certainly disagree) seems to reach deep inside you. This was one of our grandson Colin’s first Highland Games. The fun was watching him trying to figure out where the music was com-

ing from and who were all these people in strange outfits walking past him.

The Highland Games are indeed for everyone, young and old. There is Scottish dancing competitions and kiosks that sell “all things Scottish.” Each one also has its own distinct flavour. If you have never attended a highland games, I strongly suggest that you do so.



50th Wedding Anniversary congratulations go to Joan & Bryan McEwan CMS Glengarry. Joan is first cousin to Bruce MacLeod (Winnipeg)

CMS-HALIFAX

BY BETTY MACLEAN

On January 24 CMS-H members attended the annual Robbie Burns dinner and program at St. John’s United Church in Fall River. As usual, the evening was very entertaining. Our Spring Potluck Lunch and meeting was held on May 23. John MacLeod displayed and explained the historical material (notes, snapshots of summer events, luncheons, etc.) gathered from the beginning of the local Clan MacLeod Society. It was agreed that this interesting historical material would be part of our

display at the Halifax Highland Games on July 11.

Halifax Highland Games, held again at the Dartmouth Common site, were well attended. Mother Nature actually blessed us with a lovely, warm day. Clan MacLeod shared a tent with Clans Sinclair and Graham. Pat and I staffed our table, assisted at noon by Carole Hazelden. John and Karen MacLeod, Jim MacLeod and Carole took over early afternoon, closing down at 5 pm. Carole proved to be a great photographer at the event.

Our Fall Potluck Lunch and

meeting will be held October 17, at which time we will review the outcome of Halifax Highland Games 2009 and plans will be made for the Christmas get-together, the Robbie Burns dinner at Fall River. An item for the agenda will be the 2011 International Gathering of the Clans, which is scheduled for Nova Scotia. It is not too early to discuss our participation in the IGC. Also, clanspersons are urged to invite

relatives and friends to come to Nova Scotia in 2011 to participate in activities being held across the province.

At this time, on behalf of members and executive of CMS-H, we extend our best wishes to everyone for a Very Merry Christmas and may your New Year be filled with Joy, Peace, Love, and Good Health.

CMS CAPE BRETON

BY LEEANNE MACLEOD-ARCHER

The Clan MacLeod Society of Cape Breton held its fall meeting on October 3, 2009 in Baddeck. Guest speaker was Patricia Sutherland of the Clan Donald Society of Nova Scotia, who spoke on that group's efforts to include the youth and make gatherings fun. CMSCB members Corrina and Bill also made a power-point presentation on the new CMSCB website, which was well received. Check it out on the Internet.

Plans will soon be underway for a Christmas Luncheon, as well as the 5th annual CMSCB Robbie Burns dinner in January. A summer picnic will be planned at the Highland Village, and an Ecumenical Service will be organized for October, 2010 to coincide with the Celtic Colours International Music Festival. The 2008 service was very well received, though plans to organize a 2009 service in Broad Cove

did not come to fruition.

In all, it was a busy year for CMSCB and 2010 should prove to be even more so. Hold Fast!



Donald (Halifax) sent me some wonderful aerial photos of Cape Breton which appeared on Facebook. These two of Middlehead and St. Ann's Bay are from that set. In colour, they are spectacular.



ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

Betty McLean, Halifax, sent me a note about the Ship *Hector* Festival and the report in the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*. The Festival organizers aimed to answer the question “How did 200 people ever fit on this boat for three months at sea?” They advertised for any descendants of original passengers on the *Hector* (and others) to be part of the Festival and come aboard the ship.

Gail Speirs decided at the last minute to visit Pictou on Sunday afternoon to see what all the fuss was about. The New Glasgow woman hadn't paid much attention 40 years earlier when her grandfather had told her that an ancestor, Capt. John Speirs, had captained the ship *Hector* to Pictou from Scotland in 1773. But she was attracted by calls for descendants of the 200 passengers and crew to come aboard a replica of the ship during the annual celebration of the ship's arrival.

She told “a little fellow in a kilt” about her family connection and was immediately treated like royalty.

Master of ceremonies Rick Anderson reminded the re-enactors that

Sunday's light rain would have been a welcome chance for the original passengers to get washed.

“It's sprinkling a bit,” he said. “Compare it to three months on the North Atlantic in summer.”

Some of the comments of those who participated in the re-enactment were “it would have been terrible.”

“No privacy for anything, the people all jammed in there, the food and water running out. Terrible.”

“The privations of the 1773 settlers are unimaginable,” Ms. Speirs said. “It really happened,” she said, “I have new respect for my ancestor. He must have been as tough as whalebone.”

It was a tight squeeze, then and now, for the 200 people and crew.

The return trip to Scotland in the fall of 1773 was the final one for the first *Hector*.



THE CLAN MACLEOD NETWORK

BY BETTY MACLEAN,

PRESIDENT, CMSC-B

It is amazing how much smaller my world has become because of Clan MacLeod Society connections, and because of the computer age. In May, I received an e-mail from Sue Shaw, of England. At first, not recognizing the sender's name, I almost deleted the e-mail, having recently receiving unsolicited advertising; however, I did open it. *And, I am so glad I did.*

Sue had been awarded a Winston Churchill travel fellowship to do research on asset-based community development and positive models of rural aging for seniors living in rural areas. She was coming to Halifax to start her research and, as she did not know anyone in Halifax, Sue asked her friend, Janet Macleod Trotter, if she knew someone who might be able put her in touch with local persons involved in seniors' volunteer community programs to aid her in her research. Janet gave her my name and e-mail address, and e-mails began flying back and forth. I accompanied Sue to her first meetings on August 24, took her for a brief orientation tour of Halifax, and the rest of the week she was on her own.

Sue came to my home on Saturday morning to stay overnight. We went out along the Eastern Shore to Musquodoboit Harbour, and

to East, and West Petpeswick and enjoyed the outing, even in the rain. On August 30 (date of writing) Sue moved on to meetings in various communities across the province, starting at Acadia University in Wolfville. I wish Sue well in her travels and research, and hope that I have helped a little toward her achieving her goals. I look forward to learning the outcome of her endeavours. Thanks to Janet Macleod Trotter and the Clan MacLeod Society, I now have a new friend and hope we will get to meet again.

GENEALOGY

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

CMSC GENEALOGIST

Where Did You Come From?

Irecently came across an obituary in a local paper about a bubbly looking, elderly woman that read: "born October 2, 1907 in the little northern village of Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands. The family was engaged in farming the harsh but supportive land until her father's death. Her family's clan, valiantly supporting the Stuart claim to succession, had been virtually wiped out at the infamous Battle of Culloden Moor in 1745 and those remaining clan members had es-

caped to Edinburgh and the Orkney Islands, and it is from this resolute stock that she came from”.

Having been fortunate enough to travel to Scotland and to see how rugged the highlands are, I have often wondered how our ancestors survived. We have been able to trace Don’s family to the Isle of Skye. It has been an exciting adventure that I’m sure will never end.

Do you know where your ancestors have come from? Our database of MacLeods and their sept is slowly growing. With your familys’ information, perhaps we can connect more clan members together. Please e-mail me lmccrimmon@hotmail.com or write Lesley McCrimmon, 16619 Innis Lake Road, Caledon, ON L7C 3A4 and I will send you genealogy forms to fill in. Who knows, you may also embark on an exciting journey that will bring you unexpected twists and turns but will inevitably give you more insight that will help you to answer the question “where did you come from?”

Evidently there is a Boularderie Island Historical Society and with web site www.bhis.ca through which Donald (Halifax) was able to find his paternal great-grandmother Annabella (McKenzie McLeod (then widowed) and her six children’s names from old census records. Others may like to check out this web site.

ALONG THE SAME LINE

[In the issue of the Leod Voice following Parliament 2006, you might recall an article by Malcolm and Karen (CMS BC Van Is) about their trip to Scotland and a visit to relatives in Berneray. They gifted cousin Fred with a membership in their CMS. I contacted him after seeing Malcolm and Karen’s photos of their trip and suggested he write the story of his “lost” cousin. Here it is:]

A CHARAID 15 AUGUST 2009

I first heard of Malcolm and Karen from Gloria Mackillop when she received an e-mail from them regarding their ancestry. She passed their e-mail address to me as she felt they were related so I got in touch with my “lost” cousin.

I have to say that I had met a cousin in Vancouver in the spring of 1967 who was Malcolm’s father’s first cousin. This was a surprise to me as, although I had heard of my Grandmother’s brothers emigrating to the west coast of BC, I had never been in touch with anyone on that side of the family. When my ship arrived in Vancouver at six-thirty in the morning, the telephone engineer, who had hooked up the phone, informed me that someone (cousin Archie) wanted to speak to me. To say that I was surprised would be an understatement. How he heard that I was on that ship is another story. Archie and Delia showed me the utmost kindness, took me around and introduced me to relatives and

friends. They also told me there were other cousins on Vancouver Island but unfortunately my time was limited with the ship sailing the next day.

Back to Malcolm and Karen. We corresponded and they told of plans for their trip to Scotland to take part in the MacLeod Parliament and their intention of coming to the Hebrides to see again where Malcolm's grandfather had come from. Their son Callum was traveling with them and they were planning to meet with daughter Kirstie at the Parliament in Skye. In July 2006 the weather here took a turn for the better and we enjoyed being able to meet with our cousins and to show the Island of Berneray at it's best.

On a beautiful sunny day on the 21st July 2006 a motor home arrived in our driveway on Berneray with Malcolm, Karen and Callum on board. This was the start of a wonderful experience for both families with stories, news and a few drams!!!

The first thing that struck me when I met Malcolm was how he resembled other cousins in Berneray. Farquhar Macleod bears a strong resemblance to Malcolm as does his brother Kenny who lives in Quebec. Not unusual as their respective grandfathers were brothers. While we wandered around the island my wife Cathie Anne and her daughters Sarah and Sharon

prepared a BBQ for our return. I enjoyed pointing out the old family home where Malcolm's grandfather Domhnall Challuim (Donald son of Calum) was born and which still stands on Ben Leva. We visited the island school built in 1877 and the old cemetery where our great-grandfather's white marble headstone stands. When Malcolm found out that the Scottish side of the family were planning to refurbish the stone he and his father Neil very kindly contributed. We also called in to see Farquhar and toasted the family re-union with uisge beatha as is the custom.

While enjoying our meal we were entertained to a few tunes on the pipes by Callum and afterwards pored over family photos which were of interest to Malcolm, Karen and Callum. We all trooped down to the local community hall that evening for a ceilidh dance and had Callum up on the stage with the musicians to give everybody a tune on the pipes. After an enjoyable evening of dancing and singing we made our way home for a cup of tea/coffee to clear our heads and finish the evening off.

The next morning, after breakfast, we waved them off, their stay in Berneray over all too soon. We sincerely hope to see them again in the not too distant future.

Le durachdan, Hold Fast
Fred M G Macleoid,
Isle of Berneray.

ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

I received an interesting newsletter recently and it made me wish that I had sufficient spare time to join their email list and read each issue. It was from the Waipu Museum (NZ's Best Small Museum) and following the Editor's Greetings had such categories as: Anniversaries, Birthday Greetings, Genealogy Queries, mysteries and observations, Obituaries (every third name was MacLeod), Books Wanted, Caledonian Society News, Websites of Interest, Dancing News and Items from the Shop.

If you have kin that settled in the Waipu area of New Zealand you might want to look up the Waipu Museum Newsletter on the internet.

Here is an item that interested me.

Digging up the Past

Relna MOORE has recently returned from a tour to Scotland and Nova Scotia. In a letter to Betty, she writes "On to Cape Breton and such a very warm welcome from Peggy and Sandy McLEOD at Middle River. They were so very kind to us. Their daughter and partner were away, so we were able to stay in her little cottage next door to them. Humming birds fed from feeders attached to windows.

Peggy took us round to the sites of our ancestors homes. It must have been so lonely for the old

ones, though they all helped one another out. Many of the old farms are regenerating back to spruce etc. They don't bring good enough incomes for modern day expectations. But those that are still cleared are very attractive. Many of the old homes are gone, but one that still stands and is well lived in – is that of Angus CAMPBELL who arrived on the *Hector* and lived to be 108. Of the homes that have survived, quite a lot are being rescued and renovated.

Peggy organised a get-together of all the McKAY and CAMPBELL relatives which she could contact, in the local hall. It was lovely and rather overwhelming – there were about 60 people there."

Another newsletter that I've somehow become a subscriber to, is produced weekly by a Nova Scotia group and is called *Nova Scotia Alba Nuadh Canada – Media Monitoring Report*. It contains many interesting items in both Gaelic and English with photos and interesting web sites.

Anyone wishing to expand their knowledge of Gaelic, has a background from Nova Scotia or simply is interested in the most Scottish area of our nation, might enjoy a look at it. Contact me at jm-tipple@gmail.com and I'll forward you a copy.

FIREFIGHTERS

BY DOUGLAS MACLEOD

of MacLeod Forest Services Ltd,
Cawston BC, Canada

I was recently supervising suppression activities on a forest fire near Revelstoke BC. At the morning briefing we realized we had five MacLeods on the team. The attached photo is of Jason MacLeod, Armstrong BC; Braden MacLeod, Kelowna BC; Connor MacLeod, Clearwater BC; Doug MacLeod, Cawston BC; and Emily MacLeod of Halifax NS.



Here is another MacLeod firefighter, Ben Macleod Rogers, the son of Brian, our National Legal Counsel; grandson of Norman, our former National Legal Counsel and President of our Foundation; and great-grandson of Arthur, our first

National President.

This was his fifth season as a forest firefighter in Ontario. The crew he led, along with many others, was sent out to BC. He spent most of his time in Northern BC, based in Houston, BC. The photo shows him at one of the fires they successfully fought just south-west of there. He's just finished for the summer and heading back to Concordia University.

Past CMSC President Ian C. remembers: "I fought fires for two summers (1967 and 1968), in Hope, BC and up to Lytton, in the Fraser Canyon, usually the hottest spot in Canada, often in the high 30s or low 40s C (over 100°F). In fact, my first fire was on July 1, 1967, Canada's Centenary. It was my first

day on the job, only 5 days out of high school and I was still only 17. We had had absolutely zero training when that fire call came in. I think that we worked over 40 hours in the next two days. In those days, if you were still alive after two weeks, you were experienced. Thankfully, things have changed on the training and safety front. Likewise, it is interesting to look at the uniforms that the firefighters wear today. When I was fighting fires, we

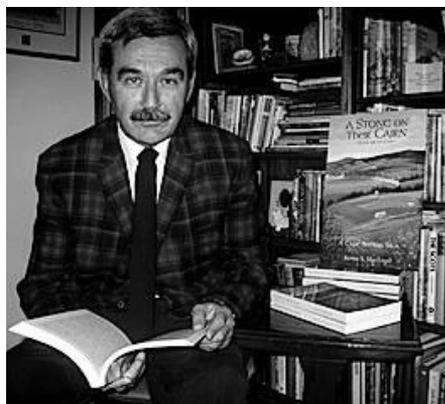
had to wear work boots and a hard hat - beyond that it was anything we wanted - mostly blue jeans and logger's plaid shirts or denim jackets (even in the heat, it was better to sweat than burn). Again, thankfully things have changed.

Given the heat and conditions, and my personal experiences, I truly feel for these guys. They are all doing a tough and magnificent job, in hot and dangerous circumstances. We thank them all."

A STONE ON THEIR CAIRN

BY KEVIN S. MACLEOD

Both by way of introduction and background, I am a resident of Ottawa although born and raised in Nova Scotia. Over the past several years, I have been engaged in the writing of a work of fiction that focuses on the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century in Cape Breton entitled *A Stone on Their Cairn / Clach air An Càrn*. I am a native of Cape Breton who grew up on a farm in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Even during those formative years, I was somewhat aware of the idiosyncratic ways of the Highland Scots who originally settled those shores in the early to mid years of the nineteenth century. I vividly recall observing and listening to my grandparents with the realization that theirs was a passing generation. Sadly, the intervening years have witnessed a passing of even greater proportions.



I felt compelled to write this novel as a testament to a unique wedge of Canadian history. Using stories from my youth blended with historical fact, I have attempted to relay a larger story of a specific people, in a specific time, in a specific place. Obviously, all three are intrinsic to the greater story line. It is not a romanticized account, but rather a realistic view of a society with its many strengths and weaknesses there for all the world to see. Beyond any sense of an historical

account, I have endeavoured to give a very personal face to a culture that, for the most part, is only “understood” by the larger population through the music of a host of contemporary Celtic artists. My goal was to get close to the roots of these origins and to demonstrate, in ways subtle and not so — what the people are about and what makes them tick — in an engaging and entertaining manner.

If music and language are the mainstays of cultural retention, then they are also its most visible face to the world. Still, they are only that — a face. To truly understand the Highland Scots and their legacy to the Canadian mosaic as well as their mind set, one must explore on a deeper level.

The book focuses on the people of Loch Dubh, a fictitious highland settlement on the North Shore of Cape Breton. The story line runs from spring 1896 to summer 1914 with each chapter a calendar year and containing 4 - 5 vignettes that weave the larger story together as the reader progresses through pages and time. I liken it to the reader undertaking an experience of witnessing the pieces of a quilt being sewn together one by one to develop the larger whole.

In some respects, it is as much a sociological/psychological study as it is an interesting account of their lives, both individually and collectively. As one advances through

the chapters, one experiences the blending together, not only of plot but also of lives, making a more complete and, hopefully, compelling portrait.

In this regard, I cite a few examples:

- The language: While the manuscript is written in English, the majority of dialogue is in Scots Gaelic with English translation. Through chapter headings and the actual story line, one can glean a transformation in progress that has continued on to the present day. My grandparents themselves came from a generation when children were punished by teachers for speaking in “that” tongue. There is an abiding beauty to the syntax of the language that often-times conveys a poignant message that is not always given justice by the translation. This too speaks to cultural differences in numerous, interesting ways that are alluded to in the text. I do not believe that the presence of Gaelic will pose difficulties for the average reader given that it is offered in edible bites. On the contrary, its presence is absolutely essential in subtly portraying the decline of language and all the cultural richness that emanates therefrom.

- The sense of place: The relationship of the Highland Scots to land — mountains, sea and sky — permeates the culture. It too is reflected in the story line. A very

unique facet of the Celtic mind set, based on the ancient belief of the Druids, is perhaps best exemplified by the detailed relationship of women to their flower gardens and how this speaks of their own particular lives as well as the larger collective view of life.

• The concept of family: There is an aspect of the Highland Scots' approach to family that goes far beyond any concept of clan. One can see it in the coming together at church, at céilidhs or at drink over the kitchen table. It is simple and yet complex, pious and irreverent, honest and hypocritical, joyous and profoundly melancholy. In part, it explains a great deal of so much of our musical culture gladsome and yet so lamentable, based on a desire for something that has been taken away, something never to be recaptured except in music and dreams. If one looks carefully, all these and more can be found in the pages.

To say this work has been a labour of love would not be an overstatement. It has also been a voyage of self-exploration in that I have come to a greater appreciation of myself through the process of committing pen to paper. I have been most gratified when readers of the book, be they young or old, have "recognized" a grandparent, an uncle/aunt or another family member or simply an acquaintance. However, when all is said and

done, most have commented on the visual pictures and emotions that are conjured up. If a chord has been struck then that in itself is incredibly honouring. *A Stone on Their Cairn / Clach air An Càrn* is not a sad story nor is it a joyful one. Rather, it is a story of a people whose beauty is found both in the complexity and simplicity of their lives and their intrinsic concept of life, all at the same time.

As a general point of reference, the Gaelic editing was undertaken by the late Reverend Murdo MacKay (Presbyterian minister in Millerton, New Brunswick) and subsequently by Professor Catriona Parsons (St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish). Both are natives of Lewis, Scotland.

Slainte.

[Editor's Note: Kevin hosted a seminar at NAG Ottawa and entranced his audience. He also authored *A Crown of Maples/La Couronne canadienne*, —an overview of the Canadian Crown and constitutional monarchy in Canada, published by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Kevin is a member of CMS Ottawa and a Senior Federal Civil Servant as Usher of the Black Rod and Canadian Secretary to The Queen. You can get more info at www.kevinmacleod.ca and also view his personal Coat of Arms.]

MORE INTERESTING READING

Favorite Gaelic Proverbs for Modern Readers.

Gaelic proverbs come primarily from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and they have a distinctly rural or agricultural flavor which reflects the society from which they were gathered. It is to be expected that many of them pertain to the weather, to the planting of crops, and to country life in general. Others reflect the Gaelic love of company and hospitality, fear of poverty and laziness — always a rural concern — and a keen awareness of the role of luck or chance in man's life. Here and there is a touch of the cynic, as in the case of in-laws and mates long endured, and certainly there is overall an awareness of the brevity of life and the difficulty in making a good life in the midst of ever-changing farm conditions. The proverbs here are given first in their Gaelic form, with an English translation for each and an explanation when the meaning is not obvious to the modern reader.

Available from Unicorn Limited
mcleod@scotpress.com

Do You Remember When:

'Memoirs of a Musical Journey'
Reviewed by Ian C. Macleod

Any of you over 50 will probably remember Don Messer's Jubilee from CBC national TV on Saturday nights in the 1960s.

One of Don Messer's performers was Johnny Forrest, the energetic "wee" Scotsman in a kilt who played his accordion.

Johnny is now living in Richmond, BC and still performing. In fact, he regularly plays his accordion at the CMS G Van annual Burns Brunch.

The book is written in a conversational and often humorous style, and tells Johnny's story, beginning with his childhood in Carluke (20 miles up the Clyde from Glasgow), Scotland. It is also an interesting history of the music industry in Canada.

Johnny grew up in a very modest setting. At age six, he heard his first accordion (a local busker) and was hooked. In order to keep him from following the busker like a piper, his mom bought him his first accordion. By age 11, he was on the road with a small Vaudeville group, touring around Scotland. After finishing school at 15 he apprenticed as a auto body man, but kept up his performing.

In 1956, at age 20, he emigrated to Canada, crossing on the *Empress of Britain*. He left home with £50 in his pocket. Following shipboard performances "below decks", he arrived in Canada with an additional \$200CDN! He was certainly both a performer and an entrepreneur.

He spent his first few years in Edmonton doing a variety of “regular” jobs, but always performing. In 1963 (at about age 27), he heard that the Don Messer 1963 Road Show would be appearing at the Edmonton Pavilion. He took his accordion and approached the band’s manager, with a request to meet Don Messer during the gap between shows. He was denied. So he snuck into the building and into an empty hockey change room, hiding there in the dark until the intermission. When he heard Don Messer in the hall, he came out, introduced himself and did an on-the-spot audition. He was hired on the spot! After three years of summer tours and guest appearances with Don Messer he moved to Halifax to be on the show full time. In 1969, CBC cancelled the show, but CHCH TV in Hamilton picked it up, for another few years.

Johnny tells of getting a knock on his apartment door in Dartmouth, NS one day in 1969 and finding two strangers at the door. They were musicians from PEI who had written a song that they had sent to the Messer show, but had never heard back. They were desperate and wanted Johnny’s help in getting their song heard. Johnny listened and liked it, and got it immediately before Don Messer who liked it and brought it on to his show. That summer it was included in the summer replace-

ment show, Sing-along-Jubilee.

One of the young singers on that show was Anne Murray, the song was Snowbird and the rest is history.

Johnny kept performing and, in 1984, also started his own business, Tartan Tours, taking groups of golfers and seniors to Scotland (while, of course, entertaining them all the way).

In 2002, CBC-TV did a 50 year anniversary celebration, and had Johnny on tour, representing the Don Messer Show. Another “nostalgia” tour took place in 2006.

This summer, he participated in a “Centennial Celebration of Don Messer” in Harvey Station, NB.

Over the years, Johnny has also produced many records.

Johnny tells all those stories, and more, in his book *Do You Remember When: ‘Memoirs of a Musical Journey’* (274 pages, soft cover, including many b/w pictures).

The book sells for \$20 tax & shipping included. He also has 4 CDs: Scottish Favourites, Songs of Scotland, Best of Johnny Forrest and Scottish Dance Music & Songs available.

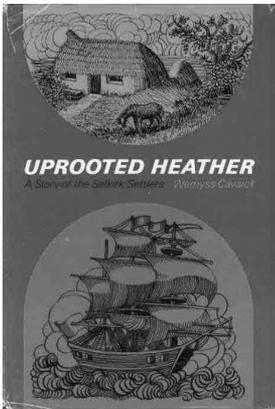
Contact Johnny at: #405 - 7500 Granville Ave, Richmond, BC, V6Y 3Y6 email: johnnyforrest@shaw.ca Tel: 604-273-3601.

Enjoyed reading this touch of Canadian cultural history!

Uprooted Heather
by Wemyss Cavaick

Like the first brigade of Selkirk Settlers, whose story this is, the author came from Sutherland, Scotland. The author's great grandfather, when a boy of ten, witnessed the Battle of Culloden Moor. There was nurtured in Wemyss Cavaick a life-long interest in that part of Scotland's history that relates to the travels of the dispossessed when Scottish independence fell.

Uprooted Heather is the story of the Selkirk Settlers of Manitoba.



This novel is different from other books written about the Selkirk Settlers in that it is devoted to the story of the Sutherland crofters

who were gathered up from their destitute position on the beaches when lands they had tilled became a deerpark. Fearfully, but with desperate hope, they took Lord Selkirk's offer to colonize and so, as the first brigade of an historic migration of settlers, they were pathfinders. In this colorful story those times are vividly portrayed.

Although out of print, *Uprooted Heather* can still be obtained as a used book.

**NEW FRIENDSHIPS
THROUGH CLAN
MACLEOD SOCIETY
BY BETTY MACLEAN,**

In mid-July, Past President Ian sent out an alert to his CMS e-mail network in response to a request from Johnny Forrest, who also lives in Richmond, BC. Johnny had written a book about his life and how he came to be on the Don Messer show. He further wanted to let his former viewers know that he was still entertaining, and would be performing at Harvey Station, NB in August. A tribute to Don Messer was scheduled as part of the Harvey Station Centennial Celebrations and Johnny was to perform, and would have his book and CDs available.

Johnny and I had a very interesting telephone conversation followed up by e-mail, as I was not able to go to NB. I requested his book and CDs. When the book arrived, I found it to be easy to read, very interesting and quite amusing. He exhibits a great sense of humour. His CDs are a combination of instrumental and vocals, Scottish, popular and sacred songs.

Johnny also operates "Tartan Tours" out of BC for group tours to Scotland, and other countries.

Again, through Clan MacLeod Society new friendships are formed.

PIPER KEVIN

BY BOB MACLEOD,

Northeast Regional VP CMS USA

You're looking at the First Place Pipe Band at the Central New York Highland Games, which was lead by my grandson, Kevin MacLeod, Piper, who is standing next to me on the right. Kevin convinced some members of the Queens University Band of Kingston ON and his brothers to compete this summer at the games.

So far they have had five 1st place and one 2nd place awards. They call themselves the Liverpool Pipe Band.

Kevin also did individual competitions that day and won three 1st places and at the end of

the day was voted the Piper of the Day. I guess you can tell that I am a proud grandfather to see them doing so well with the traditional Scottish music. My son, Bob Jr and his wife Sharon deserve congratulations as well for all they had to do to keep the boys motivated and focused.

We also celebrated grandson Philip's 16th birthday, so it was a MacLeod weekend.



RESEARCH CAN BE REWARDING

BY JOHN MACLEOD (CMS VAN IS)

There was an article in my local paper about a student, Jack Finn, requesting information about a Private John Harper MacLeod of the Seaforth Highlanders. He had been listed as coming from Cobble Hill or Duncan, BC but no one there knew of him and his name didn't appear on the War Memorial in Cobble Hill or Duncan.

After considerable research, I was able to find out that this sought-after John MacLeod had

been born in Calgary on Feb 24, 1924 and attended Western Canada High School there until joining the Army on June 6, 1942. John was with the South Saskatchewan Regiment. On his arrival in England, he was sent as a replacement to the Seaforth Highlanders and soon after sent overseas. At the tender age of nineteen, he was killed in action at Ortona on Dec. 26, 1943 and buried in the Moro River Cemetery in Italy.

John's brother Alexander Owen MacLeod, born in Calgary Feb. 28, 1922 was a member of the 185 Squadron RCAF and was killed in action Oct. 13, 1942. His remains were never found but his name is on the War Memorial in Malta.

The boys' father, a widower named Alexander, moved from Calgary to Cobble Hill in 1945. He signed the Final Verification Form with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1947 and since his address was Cobble

Hill, Vancouver Island, BC, his sons were listed as having the same address.

Both Alexander and John are listed on the Western Canada High School Scroll of Remembrance where there are 192 names in total; three are MacLeods. Of the total, 124 are RCAF, 44 are Army and 24 are Navy. Of all of ranks and services of the casualties in 1943 there were 13 MacLeods, and of the Seaforth Highlanders killed that year four were MacLeods.

SFU CENTRE FOR SCOTTISH STUDIES

Simon Fraser University will be sponsoring a series of talks on Scottish Music and Dance.

Dr. Gary West, Head of the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, will deliver this year's annual St. Andrews and Caledonian Society lecture. His talk, entitled 'Pipers without Kilts: Survival and Revival in the Scottish Lowland Bagpipe Tradition,' explores a much understudied aspect of Scottish piping.

The lecture will take place at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W. Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC at 8:00 pm. Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009. Dr. West has an impressive resume. Check out Dr. West's resume at http://www.celtscot.ed.ac.uk/gary_west.htm or, go to Google and type in Dr. Gary West.

Another of SFU sponsored talks will be entitled "Scottish Traditions of Dance: their Transmission and Reinvention," a presentation and demonstration by Rosemary Coupe.

This event will be held in Room 7000, SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W. Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, at 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm on Thursday, February 4, 2010.

Talks are free and open to the public. Email Leith Davis at leith@sfu.ca or phone 778 -782-4833 to reserve a seat.

All universities have web sites and list coming events. Simply Google the one nearest you and enjoy a free or inexpensive event of interest.

UNIQUE NEW CD DAME FLORA TELL THE MACLEOD STORIES

In 1968 during the clan parliament Dame Flora invited the “North Room Group” into the library at Dunvegan Castle where she told us clan stories. This session was recorded on reel-to-reel tape by Bill Cowe and subsequently made into a booklet entitled “Stories told by the Chief”. We decided it would be worth trying to convert this recording to a CD.

Yes, miracles do happen and we now have a wonderful digitized recording of these stories. It is wonderful hearing the “Dame” speaking to us as if it were yesterday.

The CDs are now available for sale for £9 Sterling including postage and packaging.

Orders should be sent to:

Rose Fleming,

10 Victoria Gardens,

Newtongrange,

Scotland, EH224NL

Cheques should be made out to the ACMS.



SARAH BURNELL BAND NEWS

BY LINDA CRAWFORD,

Manager and Mother

Ottawa Clansperson Sarah Burnell, and her hot folk/celtic band, toured the Maritimes this past August. It was a busy time, 8 shows in 12 days! But the Sarah Burnell Band also found time for some fun, along the way: a day at the beach (PEI), sailing on a 60' tall ship (Lunenburg), a tour of the Sabian cymbal factory (New Brunswick) and, of course, a lobster feed (PEI)! The main focus of the trip was the

Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, at which the SBB enjoyed the beautiful venues and the enthusiastic crowds. They received a standing ovation for their Sunday evening main-stage show! This fall, the SBB has shows in Montreal and Ottawa. Information can be found at www.sarahburnellband.ca Sarah will be continuing her studies at McGill University, as well, and also teaches violin privately. The Sarah Burnell Band hopes to perform at Parliament in 2010!

PAST PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Ian C. MacLeod CMS G Van

Leod Voice Editor Judy expressed some concern in that last issue that she needed more material. So, notwithstanding that I am no longer CMSC President, I can nearly always come up with something. So here goes.

Before getting into a few items on “things Scotland”, “things MacLeod” and some odd or humorous items involving Scots or Scotland, I have a few random items:

CMSC Website: After years of trying, unsuccessfully, to get someone to build and maintain a CMSC website, I have decided to do it myself. I have reserved a couple of domain names – clan-macleod-canada.com and [.org](http://clan-macleod-canada.org) and have retained a “host” to help get it operational.

Barbara MacLeod Armstrong: Three points involving Barb, Past CMSC President (1994-2000), NAG 2008 Ottawa Chair and Outstanding Clansperson Award recipient 2008:

First, most of you would have heard of the untimely death of her husband of over 51 years, Bob, on July 5. The Clan has lost a great friend. She is fortunate to have the love and support of their 4 kids, grandkids, friends, neighbours and the Clan MacLeod. Un-

doubtedly there will be much more in this issue of the *Leod Voice*. All of us send condolences to her and her family.

Second, Bob and Barb had planned a trip west for a family anniversary and an Alaskan cruise for late August. Barb decided to carry on with the trip. Her daughter, Alison, accompanied her on the cruise. She stayed a couple of nights with Ardie and me. On the last night, CMS GVan hosted a reception for her and “all the living Past and present Presidents” of CMSC. Dr. Don (2008-present), Neil (2000-2004), Barb (1994-2000) and I (2004-2008) and about 20 others were all in attendance at the condominium complex of Bill (NAG 1992 Vancouver Co-Chair) for a lovely evening of socializing and reminiscing.





Third, Barb and I discovered, pursuant to the DNA Project, that we (and of course, her brother Jim, CMSC National VP) are distant relatives. I encourage you all to join in the DNA project (more fully described in nearly every issue of the *Clan Magazine*.)

SFU Pipe Band: On August 15, for the 6th time in 15 years (1995, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2008 and 2009) and second year in a row, the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, from Burnaby BC, under Pipe Major Terry Lee, won the world piping championships in Glasgow. In addition, for the second year in a row, they won the drum corps competition. Congratulations to all of them!

Wedding of Emma and Jamie Halford-Forbes: Congratulations as well to Emma and Jamie on their wedding, at Dunvegan, on July 31. You will all know Emma as the Editor of the *Clan MacLeod*

Magazine, and daughter of Ruari Halford-MacLeod (CMS Scotland President) and Anne (Coordination of Parliament 2006). A large contingent of MacLeods known to many of you were there, including Ian, Ruth and Kirsteen (Australia), Nancy MacLeod Nicol (also celebrating her 70th birthday that day) and J.D. Kelly. She has many pictures on her Facebook page.

Now to the “things Scotland”, “things MacLeod” and some odd or humorous items involving Scots.

A. THINGS SCOTLAND

Why did the Scots Flourish as they Emigrated to the New World: Education was the Key: Many MacLeods emigrated from the mid-1700s to the late 1800s, due to:

- political persecution (particularly the British purges of Highlanders following Culloden in 1746);

- economic hardship, arising

from the Clearances (forced tenant farmers out, about 1762 through 1850) and the potato famines (about 1846 – 1857), which were also hitting Ireland;

- work and land opportunities elsewhere, in the Commonwealth and Continental Europe; and

- foreign military service, which, at that time, was a “profession”.

MacLeods, like many Scots, excelled in their new countries, for at least three reasons: they had come from a poor and often harsh environment (quite common for many immigrant groups), which equipped them to handle the rigours of the New World; they spoke English (as well as, in many cases, Gaelic), making them, at least within the British Empire colonies, better able to adapt, and maybe most importantly, most were literate, making them valuable employees.

That education may have been the biggest factor in their success. Starting from 1561, led by John Knox (Knox Presbyterianism), steps began towards a system of universal education in Scotland (Knox believed that if everyone could read their Bibles, they could be better Christians – but of course, they could read everything else as well). By 1616 education in Scotland was mandated by legislation, backed by tax supported funding by 1633. By 1700, a big part of the

Scots were literate and Scotland’s education system had been developed well ahead of England or most other European countries. (School was attended six days a week for ten to twelve hours a day!)

Stornoway: Microtwill Coat and Landrover car Stornoway is the name of a new “high-end” man’s topcoat, the “Stornoway Microtwill”. US based Orvis, who makes the coat, one of its most expensive (£400), buys their wool from Harris Tweed Mills. Officials from Orvis, after several visits to the Highlands, decided on “Stornoway” as a name for the tweed overcoat – combining both the recognition of Scotland as a premier supplier of wool and a coat that can protect against the harsh winters of the Western Isles.

Likewise, car maker, Landrover, is calling one of their car colours “Stornoway Grey”. This use of the name Stornoway did cause some upset amongst the locals, but Landrover has carried on nonetheless, and claims that it is one of their best selling colours.

Toast to the Scottish Parliament

On May 3, 2008, Ron Sutherland of Vancouver was called on to propose a toast to the Scottish Parliament at the 100th anniversary banquet of the Gaelic Society of Vancouver. The speech was emailed around the next day, and published in the May 2008 issue of *The Celtic Connection* (<http://>

www.celtic-connection.com/features/feat2008_05_10.html). Here is that toast:

“When I received a call from Duncan MacKenzie asking that I propose a toast to the new Scottish Parliament, I thought this was something contrary to my usual attitude towards governments. A “roast” maybe – but a “toast”? However, the Scottish government is also quite different and most definitely worthy of a toast.

Their initial moves were startling:-

1. They increased teachers salaries by 20.4% which reflects the Scottish priority on education. In the 18th century Scotland was considered the best educated country in Europe, and indeed this was the reason that the Hudson’s Bay Company employed Scots rather than English to work in Canada.

I had thought this meant the Scots would cherry-pick some of the finest teachers in England, but I have learned that the English University degree in education is not recognized in Scotland. Interestingly, our daughter’s degree from UBC was readily accepted.

2. Social assistance for the elderly was no longer subject to a means test in Scotland.

3. Free tuition at Universities for residents of Scotland – another statement about the importance of education in Scotland.

All these independent changes

in Scotland were noticed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not warmly endorsed by Westminster.

Last summer, an official from the Westminster Government had the temerity to write to Edinburgh, pointing out that they were the “Senior Scottish Executive”, and they should not consider themselves as the Government of Scotland. Within weeks all the stationary and documents read, “Government of Scotland”.

Recently, legislation has been introduced in both Westminster and Edinburgh about reducing carbon emissions. The European Union has criticized Westminster for foot-dragging on the issue, and praised the Scottish Parliament for having some of the most enlightened legislation in Europe.

Over the past year there has been an ongoing dispute with the Police Departments throughout Britain, which went to arbitration. The arbitration award outlined wage increases and suggested they be retroactive, but retroactivity was not mandatory. The Scottish Parliament made the settlement retroactive, Westminster did not.

It is not just on the rugby pitch that the Scots and the English are competing.

I might add that the support for the Gaelic language has increased dramatically (Incidentally, all the signs in the Scottish Parliament

building are in the Gaelic as well as English) – in fact, the Gaelic College on Skye is considered proportionately to be the best financially supported university in Scotland.

Please join me in a Toast to the Scottish Parliament, and their continued enlightened approach to the issues.

[An item that he did not mention in his talk, was brought to his attention later. Bus rides for seniors in Scotland are free – anywhere, anytime, it seems.]

B. THINGS MacLEOD

War of One-Eyed Woman:

The history of the Isle of Skye was dominated by the histories of the MacDonalds and the MacLeods, often in bloody conflict.

In 1480, John MacDonald and his illegitimate son, Angus Og (or Black Angus MacDonald) battled for the chieftainship of Clan Donald. At the Battle of Bloody Bay, William Dubh MacLeod was supporting John, but was wounded and taken prisoner (and died shortly after). Black Angus won. After the battle, the MacDonalds, under Black Angus, raided northern Skye in revenge for MacLeod's part in supporting John. This began about 120 years of particularly vicious battles and bloodshed between the two great clans.

Perhaps the worst of the vicious bloodletting led to the "Battle of the Spoiling of the Dyke", in

1578. The MacLeods had raided the MacDonald-held Isle of Eigg a couple of years previously, and massacred hundreds of MacDonalds in the cave that was used as the place of worship. In revenge, the MacDonalds of Uist landed on Skye and barred the doors of Trumpan Church in Waternish, when it was full of worshippers, then set the church on fire. (Some stories suggest that the victims, in each case, were actually first herded into the cave / church before it was set afire.) No one escaped – except one girl who though fatally wounded managed to sound the alarm. The MacLeod chief then set off for Ardmore Bay and caught up with, and attacked, the MacDonald raiders. Almost every MacDonald was killed in the ensuing battle. The corpses were dragged into a turf dyke, giving the battle its name as the Battle of the Spoiling of the Dyke.

Tradition has it that the Fairy Flag was unfurled twice, but the stories vary as to when. On at least one occasion, it was unfurled in one of the ongoing battles with the MacDonalds during this period – either 1490 or 1520. The MacLeods carried the day, in each case (the other unfurling may have been during a time of famine).

Sometime in the 1590s, an attempt was made to mend the rivalry when Margaret, sister of Rory Mor MacLeod (15th Chief,

Chief from 1595 to 1626) wed Donald Gorm Mor MacDonald. At that time, it was the custom in the Highlands for a marriage to have a trial period of one year, a tradition known as “hand-fasting”, or “left-handed marriage”. If the trial worked (to the satisfaction of the man, of course!) the marriage would become formal, and any children legitimized. If not, the trial could be terminated. Margaret bore no children. Sometime during the “trial year” she lost an eye. When the year was up, Donald MacDonald sent her back, on a one-eyed horse, led by a one-eyed man and accompanied by a one-eyed dog. Not surprisingly, Chief Rory Mor was outraged, and a new war began between the clans, called the “War of the One-Eyed Woman”. This culminated in 1601 in a battle in Coire na Creiche (the corrie of the spoils), beneath the Cuillins, when both clans suffered heavy losses.

The MacDonalds seem to have won the battle, but the MacLeods point to the fact that Rory Mor MacLeod was not personally present at the fight and argue that this was the reason the MacDonalds won the day. In any case, it was the last battle fought between the two clans. (One note has it that Margaret went on to become a nun.)

Our ancestors were certainly a wild and vicious lot! In fact, in the early 2000s, I recall listening to a BBC reporter in Afghanistan at the

beginning of the Afghan War. He commented that the tribal warlords in the north of Afghanistan were not unlike the Highland Chiefs of 400 or 500 years earlier. Needless to say, the reporter was British (but he may have been right!).

C. ODD OR HUMOROUS ITEMS INVOLVING SCOTS OR SCOTLAND

Glasgow Kiss: Evidently the Glaswegians are known for their toughness and belligerence, so much so that some on-line dictionaries have defined the phrase “Glasgow kiss” as “a head butt: a strike with the head to someone’s sensitive area (such as the nose.)” The Urban Dictionary goes on to say: “Within Glasgow itself the term ‘Gorbals kiss’ is often used, referring to the most dangerous area of Glasgow. It is hypothesised that within Gorbals it is known as a Crown Street kiss; and on Crown Street it is called a Number 73 kiss; and at Number 73 it is known as Steve’s kiss. Steve, however, calls it whatever the ##& he wants to.”

In Canada, a somewhat similar expression came up, known as the “Shawinigan Handshake”, after Prime Minister Jean Chretien (being from the town of Shawinigan) strangled a social activist during an outdoor protest in 1996.

Undoubtedly, Zinedine Zidane, the French football (soccer) star was familiar with the concept. Who

can forget the dying minutes of extra time in the 2006 FIFA World Cup Final when Zidane, angry with Italian Marco Materazzi, gave Materazzi a “Glasgow kiss” (of course, drawing a red card).

What’s Worn Under a Kilt?:

Dr. David McCracken, age 82, of Charlton, Mass, was in full Highland garb at the 2007 Highland festival in Charlton. While on stage, in a moment of “enthusiasm”, he answered the question for many, when he bared his backside to (moon) the crowd. He was charged with lewd and lascivious behaviour.

Now, I swim most mornings. In the change room there are usually 25 or so naked men of pensionable age. I can say with absolute certainty that I could not, even in my wildest imagination, find even one of their exposed and wrinkled backsides to be “lewd and lascivious” – maybe my imagination is not as good, or my sensibilities as fine tuned, as the authorities of Charlton, Mass!

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, as a “one eyed Scottish idiot”: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was born in 1951 in Govan (Glasgow). He earned a First Class Honours MA in 1972, at only 21, and a PhD (history) in 1982. He worked as a lecturer and a journalist until being elected as a Labour Member of Parliament in 1983, for the riding of what is

now Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath in Fife, just east of Edinburgh. He lost the sight of one eye playing rugby at university.

So he is certainly Scottish, certainly blind in one eye, and certainly very well educated.

Jeremy Gear is a BBC presenter and columnist, and host of “Top Gear”, a BBC motoring show. Earlier this year, on one of his shows taped in Australia, he called Prime Minister Gordon Brown a “*one-eyed Scottish idiot*”. It’s quite amazing – in those four short words, he managed to insult all Scots, all the vision impaired and the Prime Minister himself.

Under some threat of loosing his job with the BBC, he apologized to both the Scots and the vision impaired, but not Gordon Brown.

This BBC/English view of Scotland is not an isolated event - for example, see as well the references above to Afghan warlords in the part on the “war of the One-Eyed Woman” and the comment in the “Toast to the Scottish Parliament” about the “Government of Scotland”. On any trip to Scotland where I have watched the BBC weather reports, it seems that they always have a black cloud hanging over the Highlands and the Islands (to be fair, that may be accurate!).

Personal: I am continuing with some Clan MacLeod activities. I am President of the CM Internet

Society, am building a new web site (as above) and have just finished a “Memory Book”, covering my last 25 years of activities with the Clan MacLeod (I will get a copy off to the archives). I included several pages on the Chiefs (with some help from Chief John of Raasay), tartans, crests and badges, which I hope to transfer into the web site.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly



Clansperson Awards honoured Neil R., Barbara, Judy's husband Rick, and Bill G.

NEWS FROM KENNETH

[I was inquiring about Douglas MacLeod's address following his move to Ottawa area from Toronto and that lead me to contact his brother Kenneth in NS. Now I finally have Blanche's family somewhat sorted out. Many thanks, Kenneth.]

Hello from West Porters Lake, just outside Halifax. We are fast jumping into autumn, but that's okay because we didn't ever have much of a summer. We enjoyed about four days of +30°C, but those were few and mixed in with R. F. & D. — rain, fog and drizzle. I am sure you have seen a day or two of that — we had an entire summer.

This all started with Ruth and Ian (Perth, Australia) heading to Skye for Emma Halford's wedding in early August. Being that close, Ruth continued on to Canada, visiting Montreal, Ottawa and then driving down to Mum's place in Charlottetown for a three-week visit.

While this was being planned, two cousins from near Spokane and

their husbands were planning their trip to visit the Eastern Seaboard, cousin Carole Pfeuffer in Maine, and PEI.

I planned to get my kids - Sarah (27) and Timothy (25) to grab a few days off and to come over to PEI for the get-together.

Rae and Nancy from Montreal drove down to be there as well. Rae's daughter Carolyn and her husband Len (Lennart Sorensen) flew down from Toronto.

Grandma Blanche hosted us all to lunch (17 in all, with the addition of a few local PEI MacRae cousins) at the Glasgow Hills Resort and Golf Club in New Glasgow where the view of Rustico Harbour and the Atlantic Ocean was stunning.

A few words of identification, a few words of genealogy. Blanche was married to Roderick (Rod) MacLeod and is the mother of Rae (Montreal), Ruth (Perth, Australia), Kenneth (me, near Halifax) and Douglas who lives in Ottawa.



Front - Kenneth, Ruth, Blanche and Rae Back - Sarah, Donna, Claudia, Carolyn, Timothy

Rod's sister Anne, married Robert (Bob) Knott who farmed near Spokane. Claudia and Donna are two of their children and their husbands are Tom Mays (Claudia) and Chuck Pierce (Donna).



PARLIAMENT 2010

The theme for Parliament 2010 is “Old and New Traditions”. The organizers want to reinforce those traditions that have come to be a regular part of Parliament, as well as bring in some new things. The format will be familiar, including the social, heritage, and business elements that we all enjoy. But delegates are invited to bring new ideas and discuss our potential as an organization in the future. There will be a bit of “homework” beforehand, offering opportunities for each of us to share a piece of our local world with fellow MacLeods.

A source of information regarding accommodation, program and activities associated with Parliament 2010 is the ACMS web site clan-macleod.org. There is also a Facebook entry where you will find the first Parliament 2010 Newsletter from Parliament coordinator Dorna Caskie.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

ROBERT GORDON ARMSTRONG 1934-2009

BY JUDY TIPPLE

Clan MacLeod has lost a staunch supporter and dedicated worker in the passing of Bob Armstrong on July 5. Always by Barbara's side to help wherever needed, Bob came early and stayed late, transporting, leading, accompanying, rounding up whatever was needed and generously filling the 'goffer' role at every MacLeod event he attended.

Bob's passing was sudden, yet peaceful, with all of his family at his side: his best friend and wife Barbara MacLeod; children Alan (Michelle Courchesne) of Gatineau, Ian (Silvia Arno-Armstrong) of Thunder Bay, Alison Doherty (Tim) of London and Peter of Ottawa. His sisters Carolyn Walton (Ross) and Mary Adele Fraser (Ian) and grandchildren Isabelle & Jeremy Armstrong, Emily & Hannah Armstrong, Erin & Calum Doherty are also left to mourn Bob.

A dedicated employee of EB Eddy/Eddy Forest Products until his retirement in 1995, Bob's interest and training in forestry gave him opportunity to enjoy many outdoor activities throughout his life.

Bob shared his musical talent with church choirs in Nepean, Sudbury and Parkenham as his work moved him around Ontario



and also other choruses and choirs in the Ottawa valley.

We extend our sincere condolences to all of his family, especially Barbara our CMSC past President and very active and enthusiastic member of CMS Ottawa.

AUDREY EMILY MCLEOD

Our condolences are extended to Roy McLeod President of CMS Manitoba, on the passing of his mother Audrey.

JANET MACLEOD

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Janet MacLeod on August 13 after suffering a few short years from Alzheimer's. She is survived by her husband of 54 years Donald B. past president of Clan MacLeod USA.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE



Happily I have noted that *Leod Voice* readers actually read this page and have responded to my plea for material. I should have known that the thrifty nature of all true Scots would respond to being able to mail out a 36 page issue for the same price as a mere 24 pages, would strike a chord.

Thank you all for your efforts and if your item didn't get into this issue it will surely show up in a future one. In the meantime, keep writing snippets or epistles and sending them to me.

Parliament 2010 will be the highlight of the coming year and although I'd hoped to include more specific information regarding the event in this issue, there are many Internet sites where information can be sought out. Do all of the searching you can and plan to be there. I will do the same.

Just after we got home from the North American Gathering in Ottawa, we received the sad news of Bob Armstrong's untimely passing. CMSC Past President Barbara has the love and support of not only her dear family but also of her world-wide Clan MacLeod family.

It was with a heavy heart that I read the email message from Noël Proven that her sister, Nancy MacLeod Nicol, had lost her valiant battle with leukemia on Nov. 1. I would very much like to receive your stories, memories, tributes and photos of Nancy for the spring issue of the *Leod Voice*. Nancy has been such a large part of my personal MacLeod Experience over the past 37 years it is difficult to envision its future without her.

The greatest tribute we can pay Nancy is to support the world of Clan MacLeod by making it even more vibrant and active than it already is.

Till the spring issue, (*containing your article?*)
Hold Fast and Shine Brightly.

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1

and September 1

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