



The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD
SOCIETIES CANADA
NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 52
SPRING, 2010



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



BY DR. DONALD MCLEOD

We are preparing for an interesting summer of activities again. We seem to be putting on our kilts regularly now. Every week there is some reason to don the tartan. The Victoria Highland Games are over and Karen and Malcolm and Judy Tipple did the usual wonderful job of manning the MacLeod tent. There were many MacLeods visiting this year and it was a great time. My brother, Bruce and Penny McLeod were there to take advantage of the whisky tasting events. Most of us tried to avoid the meat pies only because there were signs everywhere advertising “heavy events”. The MacLeod banner was always in front of the parade and ceremonies thanks to Malcolm’s efforts.

A barbecue date has been set for Victoria (1700 Teakwood) on August 22, Sunday at 12:00 noon. All the Vancouver Island MacLeods will be there.

The Gaelic Choir from Seattle with Penny MacLeod Degraff received a standing ovation when they performed at our house in Merritt for 75 guests. We had a great time discussing stories and talking bagpipes. There were lots of pictures taken of the Highland cows with various Scottish personalities in the foreground. It is exciting to keep up our contacts with the Northwest USA MacLeods.

Chris and I, with our daughter, Skye, will be traveling to Montreal to board a cruise ship that will stop at all the important MacLeod stops Charlottetown, Sydney on Cape Breton, Halifax and Boston. We are arranging meetings along the way and can’t wait to see the Clan everywhere. We hear that some Cape Breton MacLeods will also be on the boat? This will be the highlight of the early summer for us. I look forward to the excitement as the ship pulls into Sydney harbour. If I take my bagpipes I may be able to drift back to the time as my great great great...grandparents arrived there in the 1800s. It may be a magical time for many of us assuming the rain and storms don’t interfere with our heritage trip.

We are planning to attend some Highland Games in Ontario as we drive through Toronto and London when I attend a Diabetes weekend there. My son, Magnus, is doing

MACLEOD'S EVERYWHERE HOW DO WE CORRAL THEM INTO THE FOLD?

BY KEN MACLEOD
(CMSC VP PACIFIC

a neurology rotation there and we like to do courses together.

The Clan Parliament is shaping up to be a superb event. I am so looking forward to the trip to Assynt and Ardvreck Castle. I buried some treasure there when I was 16 years old and will try to find it under a large rock that I was able to roll when I was 16. I probably should be doing more farm work to prepare my muscles for the task. John D.K. is standing for president of ACMS and I have agreed to stand for vice-president for the next term. The excitement of Clan activities seems always to build. I certainly encourage anyone that wants to come to Dunvegan for the last 2 weeks of July 2010 to call us and we will help with information about accommodation etc. Chief Hugh will be presiding for the first time and will mark the beginning of a new era of MacLeodery. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again as this is our four year cycle with the Parliament being the crescendo of events and we hope everyone is younger than the last time we saw them and in good health. Hold Fast and hope to see you soon. Δ



REGION)

They're all over the place: MacLeods, McLeods.... Everywhere I go, especially when my wife and I show up in the Courtenay Legion in our kilts, MacLeods come out of the woodwork. "Is that the MacLeod tartan that you're wearing?" "My mother was a MacLeod." "MacLeod was my maiden name."

However, despite the number of "Proud MacLeods" out there, our clan organization, like many other organizations in the community that are made up primarily of the elderly, face extinction unless they

attract some younger members. So how do we do it: Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, word-of-mouth, programs to attract the young?

Ian C. MacLeod, past president of Clan Macleod Societies of Canada has one idea, re-forming the Internet Society entitling members to receive the international Clan MacLeod Magazine and the Canadian Leod Voice. In addition Ian has provided some genealogical and historical resources. To become a member of the Internet Society, send a cheque for \$35 to: Ian MacLeod, 10920 Seamount Rd, Richmond, BC V7A 4P6. Ian is working on a CMSC website (www.clan-macleod.org) which I'm sure will attract MacLeods. Who knows? A MacLeod website that is easy to find on a "Google Search" might be the wave of the future to keep our organization alive and thriving.

Clan MacLeod recently lost two legendary members: Nancy MacLeod Nicol of Scotland and our own Neil MacLeod of Duncan, BC. Nicol was the corresponding secretary for the ACMS for about fifteen years and also organized the Clan MacLeod Parliament at Dunvegan Castle in 1998.

Neil MacLeod was a much loved member who died on March 11, 2010 at age 95 after suffering a fall. Story-teller with a memory *par excellence* Neil, his stories and his melodian will be missed.

The Vancouver Society held a Spring Tea on April 16 which was attended by the late Neil MacLeod's widow Florence, son Malcolm and his wife Karen from Duncan on Vancouver Island. Dr Don McLeod, our National President along with CMS BC Interior hosted Penny DeGraff and *Oran nan Car* from Seattle in an evening of Gaelic and English singing on May 8. The event was held at Don and Chris' the Dunvegan-style home in Merritt.

Highland Games are on the radar. The big one, of course, is the BC Highland Games on Saturday, June 26 at Percy Perry Stadium (formerly Coquitlam Town Plaza) in Coquitlam.

On the May long weekend there are two events, the first on May 22 was the Comox Valley Highland Games at Lewis Park, Courtenay and the second on May 22-23 the Victoria Highland Games and World's Heavy Events Competition at Topaz Park. The Sons of Scotland Games are scheduled for June 10 at Rotary Stadium, Abbotsford. Enjoy these great summer Scottish activities.

Slainte mhaith! Δ

PAST PRESIDENT'S NOTES

BY IAN C. MACLEOD

*L*ead Voice Editor Judy continues to ask for material from me, so I continue with my ramblings on “things MacLeod” and “things Scotland”, even though I am getting further and further removed from my role as National President (2004-2008) of the CMSC.

Passing of Nancy MacLeod

Nicol: In this issue, the most serious item, by far, is to give some remembrance to the memory of our dear friend, Nancy MacLeod Nicol. Nancy passed away on Sunday, November 1 of pneumonia, after a long struggle with myeloid leukemia.

There was a good profile of Nancy in Issue #104 (April 2007) of the *Clan MacLeod Magazine*, and I expect that there will be much more in the current issue, so I won't go into a lot of detail about her Clan MacLeod activities. Rather, I will give just a couple of personal comments.

Nancy was a great friend of the Clan MacLeod, both in Scotland and around the world, all her life. I first recall meeting her at Parliament 1998, where she was the Parliament Co-coordinator (although I may also have met her briefly at the NAG 1992 in Vancouver). Even though I had held some significant

leadership positions in BC and even though I was a “mature” lawyer, I was a wee bit intimidated by this woman who clearly knew everyone and who was obviously very much in charge. But very quickly, that intimidation factor turned to respect and friendship.

She will be sorely missed by the Clan MacLeod family, especially by her sister, Noël Proven, Noël's daughter, Elizabeth Platfoot and her long time friend, Rose Fleming (also an ACMS Honorary VP and Co-coordinator of Parliament 1998.) Δ



Ardis, Ian, Nancy and Rose during a visit in Richmond, BC

THINGS SCOTLAND

Somewhat oddly, each of the next three items deal, in some way, with land issues.

1. MacLeod finds Lewis Chessmen, the “5th most important treasure ever unearthed in Britain”: In 1831, Malcolm “Sprout” Macleod, from nearby Pennydonald, discovered a collection of 93 chess pieces in a small stone kist (chest) in a sand bank at the head of the Bay of Uig on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis. This is the oldest known chess set in the world. The chess pieces were mostly carved from walrus ivory, but with a few made from whale teeth. All the pieces are sculptures of human figures, except the pawns. Today, eleven of the pieces are on display in the Museum of Scotland and the other 82 in the British Museum.

“By the end of the eleventh century, chess was a very popular game among the aristocracy throughout Europe. The Lewis chess pieces form the largest single surviving group of objects from that period that were made purely for recreational purposes.”

In 2003, a panel of experts from the British Museum, for a special episode, called *Our Top Ten Treasures*, of the BBC Television series *Meet the Ancestors*, ranked this discovery as the 5th most important treasure ever unearthed in Britain – and by a Macleod at that!

Malcolm Macleod was prob-

CMSC Newsletter # 52, Page 6



ably a crofter (tenant farmer). It seems that he didn't much benefit financially from his find. He sold the collection for £30, but he and his family were evicted from Pennydonald several years later when the area was cleared to make way for a farm – perhaps another victim of the Clearances.

So, back to at least the early 12th Century, it appears that our Viking ancestors in the Western Isles may have been playing chess – the Game of Kings!

2. Scotch Whisky and An Interest in One Square Foot of Land in Scotland:

For the price of a bottle of Laphroaig single malt Scotch whisky, from the Isle of Islay (on the very south west of Scotland, about 60 k from Ireland), one have acquired a life interest in 1 square foot of Islay - rent to be one dram annually, deliverable at the distillery. I also received an

interesting certificate, to evidence my interest.

At great “sacrifice”, all one has to do is buy a bottle (about \$80) of Laphroaig, copy the bar code and register as a Friend of Laphroaig at <http://www.laphroaig.com/>.

For Laphroaig, this is a masterful marketing program. At the moment, they have over 380,000 friends (that’s 380,000 bottles of scotch sold, for perhaps over Can\$30 million).

Unfortunately, there doesn’t seem to be anything similar for any distillery on MacLeod lands. The only one that I can find on MacLeod lands is Taliskers, but they don’t even have a web page.

For the “Friends of Laphroaig”, it is a great conversation piece, even if the physical value of the

land interest is minimal. So, for now, I think that I’ll go and savour my friend.

3. Feudal System: The feudal land system has only been abolished in Scotland — partially in 1974 and fully in Nov 28, 2004.

I recall a MacLeod telling me once that he owned a small island in the Western Isles. Until 2004, with his land ownership came some kind of feudal powers, such as the right to approve (or not) marriages, although I don’t think he ever tried to exercise those powers and I believe all that power is now gone.

So I guess my one square foot on Islay carries little benefit, other than the annual dram to be collected on site.

CMSC Website: As I mentioned in the Fall 2009 issue of the *Leod Voice*, I am now working on building and maintaining a CMSC website. I have a couple of domain names and am slowly adding content. It is going much slower than I had hoped, as a number of other priorities have gotten in my way. I will get the word out once I have it operational.

Personal: Daughters’ MS Climb of Machu Picchu, Peru

As many of you know, I have been living with MS since at least 1997. My sister (1996) and two daughters, Heather (2007) and Stephanie (1998), also have MS (it appears to disproportionately hit those



LAPHROAIG
SINGLE ISLAY MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY

LIFETIME LEASE ON A SQUARE FOOT OF ISLAY

This is to certify that

Ian Charles MacLeod

is a *Friend of LAPHROAIG* and, accordingly, has become the Lifetime Leaseholder of an unregistered plot recorded at **LAPHROAIG DISTILLERY**

As a condition of this award, we agree to pay a yearly ground rent in the sum of one dram of Laphroaig, to be obtained in person at the distillery. You'll understand we're not offering heritable ownership or any right to cut peat, burn sheep or extract minerals from the plot - far better to take up your rights to a warming measure of Laphroaig.

Upon the Leaseholder's arrival at Laphroaig we undertake to provide a map, with adequate directions for locating the **PLOT**, and suitable protective clothing against Islay's rugged weather and eccentric wildlife.



The **LEASEHOLDERS'** Cupboard will contain all direct essential equipment, including: For ascertaining the boundaries of the plot, one tape measure; a pair of wellingtons, size 12, approximately one foot in length.

For the journey to the plot, protective headgear against low-flying **GEESE**, a thick overcoat to repel the inclement Scottish mist; a lifebelt and anchor to safeguard against being blown out to sea; one ball of string for securing trouser legs from inquisitive steers; and a towel for the Leaseholder to dry-off in the event of unwelcome attention from affectionate otters.

No moment is more special than savouring our rugged single malt at its source to the sound of the sea. To do so is to understand why Laphroaig is the most rewarding and individual of all malt whiskies.

Plot No. 425316 Date 15/03/2010

Signed 

with Highland Scot and Swedish ancestry – perhaps due to an ancient Vitamin D deficiency and, at a rate of 3:1, disproportionately women over men). Anyway, we are all getting by reasonably well, although I have the most obvious impairments.

Most of you will remember Heather as the Co-Editor of the *Clan MacLeod Magazine* from 2003 to 2008. Both Heather and Stephanie have been at several Parliaments and NAGs, most recently NAG 2008 in Ottawa.

As many of you know, they are taking part in a very ambitious MS fundraiser, by climbing the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru from October 9 to 22, 2010. They will be the first siblings to do this trek, as well as the first pair with MS. It looks as if each will raise over \$10,000 for MS research.

Heather has created a web site, at www.msclimb-macleods.ca, to describe their stories with MS, and the Machu Picchu climb. She will also be posting a blog on their experiences, and some pictures. Steph, on the “About Stephanie” linked page, has done a very moving YouTube description of our family story (they are so talented, even if I am saying this as their father!). It’s worth a look.

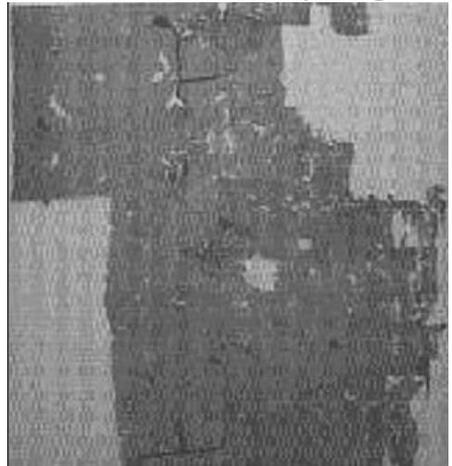
Parliament 2010: Due to my mobility challenges, I will not be able to make it to Parliament this summer. For those of you going,

have a great and safe trip.

I include the text and photo of the Fairy Flag card that many of you received at the NAG in Ottawa —

“It is said during World War II that young men from the Clan MacLeod carried pictures of the Fairy Flag in their wallets while flying in the Battle of Britain, and not one of them was lost to the German flyers.”

MacLeod Fairy Flag



On the back, is the old Celtic blessing

*May you have -
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks beside the fire.
Laughter to cheer you, And those
you love near you,
And all that your heart may
desire.*

Hopefully everyone had a safe journey home.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly

Ian C. MacLeod Δ

PRAIRIE REGION NEWS

BY ROBERT MCLEOD

Coming up for the summer months will be the Manitoba Highland Games. Folklorama will be held this year from August 9 to 14, in which our Clan Society has a display table for the full week, as it does every year. The location for Folklorama is the same as last year, Glenwood Community Centre, 27 Overton Street in the St. Vital area of Winnipeg. This year has also been declared “Manitoba Homecoming” for families and friends to return to enjoy some of our cultural events and places of interest.

An executive meeting and potluck supper was held on December 9, 2009 at the home of Carole and John Cox. The meeting was opened by former president, Carole Cox, due to the absence of our president, Roy McLeod. Carole passed the gavel over to our new President, Janet Thompson, and minutes were taken by our new board member, Colin Harris. After a short meeting, a potluck supper was enjoyed with appetizers, three entrees, salad, vegetables, cake, coffee, tea and wine. Potlucks are such wonder-filled events! Many thanks to Carole and John for hosting this memorable event.

Our past president for 2009, Roy McLeod (one of our original members in 1987) was in and out of hospital for about two months. Cur-

rently, we are pleased to report that he is doing much better.



This year so far in 2010, we held an executive meeting in a private room at the St. James Legion with seven members attending. It was decided to hold our 22nd Annual Dinner in October again. Since then we have booked the event at the Victoria Inn for Saturday, October 2, 2010.

All are welcome!

Our Manitoba 2010 Executive is made up of: President - Janet Thompson; Past President - Roy McLeod; Vice President - Bob McLeod (Harvester)*; Secretary - Roy McLeod/Colin Harris; Treasurer & Membership - Robert McLeod (formerly Bob)*; Newsletter - John Sam McLeod; Phoning Committee - Dorothy Doran; Other Board Members: Margaret McCurdy, Connie McLeod, Colin Harris.

(*We have 2 “Bobs”; from now on, one is called “Robert” and the other is called “Bob”.)

Prairie Dog “Robert”(formerly “Bob”) Δ

CMSC HALIFAX NEWS

BY BETTY MACLEOD, PRESIDENT

On Oct. 17, due to insufficient attendance, we were not able to hold our Fall meeting. We did decide, however, that we would still plan a Christmas get-together, and this was held on Dec. 5th, at Swiss Chalet, with seven members in attendance.

On January 23, four members attended the Robbie Burns Dinner and Entertainment held at the St. John's United Church, Fall River. The evening began with the "Addressing of the Haggis", followed by a lovely meal (and a taste of haggis). We were entertained with Scottish comedy, dance and song, a very enjoyable evening.

Congratulations:

In November I noticed a **60th Wedding Anniversary** announcement and photo in the *Halifax Chronicle*. Robert and Dorothy MacLeod of Milford, NS (our members) had celebrated their 60th Anniversary. I quote hereunder the newspaper item inserted by their family:

"We would like to send love and best wishes to our parents, Robert and Dorothy (affectionately known as Bobby and Dot) MacLeod on their 60th anniversary. They were married on November 16, 1949, in Neil's Harbour, Cape Breton.

"Love from your children, Hughena (Gerry), Diane (Dan),

Brian (Barb) and from your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"We thank you for all you have done for our family and wish you good health and much happiness."

More Congratulations:

March 25 marked the 50th Wedding Anniversary for Don and Eleanor MacLeod (CMSC Maritime Region VP). They will be celebrating the occasion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the 2010 East Coast Music Awards (ECMA) held in Sydney, NS. Our congratulations are extended to Joel Plaskett of Dartmouth who received six ECMA awards on March 7. His awards are for: the single of the year, best male solo, best pop recording, songwriter of the year, entertainer of the year and producer of the year. Joel is the nephew of our members Russ and Carol (MacDonald) Hazelden, and grandson of the late Robert and Katharine (MacLeod) MacDonald, formerly long time members of Clan MacLeod Society.

As of writing, unless new sponsors and committee are found, the 2010 Halifax Highland Games will not be held this year. It is hoped that the 2011 Games will resume to be part of the 2011 International Gathering of the Clans scheduled for Nova Scotia.

Our Spring AGM will be held in early May, and members will be further advised of place, date and time. Δ



CMS Halifax ready to greet visiting MacLeods at 2009 Highland Games

CMS CAPE BRETON NEWS

BY LEEANNE MACLEOD-ARCHER

The Clan MacLeod Society of Cape Breton held its fall meeting on October 3, 2009 in Baddeck. Members Bill MacLeod and Corinna Petersen (father and daughter duo) presented a PowerPoint introduction to the new CMSCB website (<http://www.clan-macleodcb.com>) As well, a guest from the Clan Donald presented a brief overview of their activities in Cape Breton, which include social gatherings and an annual picnic which attracts visitors from around the world.

In a corresponding effort to better foster the social aspect of clan membership, CMSCB hosted its first annual Christmas luncheon on December 6, 2009 at the Royal Cape Breton Yacht Club in Sydney. Despite a late fall snowstorm which kept many members at home, those attending enjoyed a tasty lunch, Christmas trivia and warm fellowship.

We also hosted our 6th annual Robbie Burns dinner on January 23, 2010 in Baddeck. The weather cooperated for once and a good

number of members and friends of Clan MacLeod gathered to enjoy the evening. Guests were treated to a delicious roast beef dinner, complete with mashed neeps, haggis and scotch, as well as old-style bread pudding for dessert. Rev. Dr. Greg MacLeod was MC for the dinner, with grace presented by Rev. Cameron Brett. A new addition to the program, Rev. Major Donald MacGillivray, CD presented an enthusiastic address to the haggis, and musical entertainment by so-

loist Laurel Browne followed the meal. A door prize donated by VP Margaret MacLeod (a framed copy of one of her beautiful paintings) was awarded.

Plans will soon be underway for a spring meeting and a summer picnic. Notable events in the past quarter include the retirement of CMSCB President Dr. Alastair MacLeod after 50 years of dental practice. He plans to continue consulting on a part-time basis. Δ



Nova Scotia's Wendy MacInnis and her son proudly display the NS Gaelic Flag at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, BC

CMS CENTRAL ONTARIO NEWS

BY KAREN MACLEOD MCCRIMMON

Central Ontario has a spring and fall ceilidh every year. During our get-together we have a delicious pot luck dinner provided by everyone followed by a varied program. This spring we had highland dancers with a great

explanation of dress, the marking system and things to look for when judging competitions thanks to Carol MacCrimmon-Pugliese. We had a piping demonstration by David MacCrimmon-Pugliese whose “music” scared the pants off of

our newest member, 18 month old Colin McCrimmon. Society President Karen Macleod McCrimmon presented three different versions of the history of the “Fairy Flag” including a slide show. The children created shields at the crafts table during this portion of the evening.

Just recently, CMS Central Ontario was given a rare historical treasure. Through our connection to CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada), we learned of a Mrs. Patricia Dunsmuir in BC who was moving and came across a 1895 manuscript of Piping Music. The details on the title page stated: “The Gesto Collection of Highland Music, Compiled and Arranged by Keith Norman MacDonald and Dedicated to the Memory of ‘The McLeods of Gesto’ 1895”. The MacLeod Crest with HOLD FAST was on the left side of the page. She kindly donated this priceless piece of our history to the clan. It is currently being preserved properly before joining the Clan Archives at the University of Guelph.

In the past we have had “Merry Moments” open to all - to read, do a skit, tell a joke or story; “Scottish Dancing” where we can watch the intricate footwork or just enjoy

bumping into one another as we learn new steps; “Video Travelogues” from members who have taken memorable trips abroad and have had some team games.

Our Executive was again reinstated for another two years. President, Karen Macleod McCrimmon assured everyone that they too could experience the joys of being a part of this group and that we were



not hogging the executive positions.

President – Karen Macleod McCrimmon

Vice President – Diane Sankey

Treasurer and Genealogist – Lesley McCrimmon

Membership Secretary – Christina Macleod Gladish

Social Secretary/Highland Games – Cathie White

Program Co-ordinator – Diane Sankey

Hospitality Committee – Melba Shaver, Mary MacLeod, Jean McLeod, Irene McLeod

CASSOC Representative – Allan MacLeod, alternate Bob MacLeod.

It is always fun getting familiar faces together and welcoming new members. The children add the joy of their youth to each of our gatherings. Δ



*Victoria Highland Games
Pipers, Bands, Dancers,
Whisky School and various
entertaining groups welcome
spectators*





*World Championship Heavy Events
with competitors from Canada, England, Holland, New Zealand,
Poland, Scotland and USA compete in eight events*



CASSOC

BY BETH MACLEOD, CMSC TREASURER

The Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) is an organization that has been in existence for many, many years. The late Marjorie and Margaret McLeod were amongst the founding members of the organization and encouraged the Central Ontario Society to join and be represented within its executive and recreational functions throughout its history.

In the fall of 2009, National Council decided that the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada, (CMSC), become a member of CASSOC replacing Central Ontario. CASSOC's role is to reach out, on a national basis, to the many organizations within Canada that espouse and encourage all things Scottish in Canada. To use CASSOC's own words, it is an organization for organizations.

Chief John MacLeod of MacLeod was a patron of CASSOC for many years.

The website www.cassoc.ca provides an opportunity for Clan MacLeod to provide information about the clan and its worldwide and local Canadian Societies' activities on an existing Canadian website. This website attracts many people looking for information about their clan and Scottish orientated interests in Canada. To

this end, Ian C. MacLeod, former president of CMSC, has offered to be our Clan Representative with respect to inquiries from those visiting the website and also to act in a coordinating role for any Clan Member or Canadian Society who wishes to have information placed on the CASSOC website.

To contact Ian, please send your information to him via email: icmacleod@telus.net

Otherwise, if you wish to mail your information, please use the following address:

Ian C. MacLeod, 10920 Seamount Road, Richmond, BC, V7A 4P6.

I hope that you will all take the time to visit the website and explore the many subjects available. If you have any comments or suggestions for Ian regarding the Clan MacLeod information or additions thereto, please contact him directly. Δ



MY GRANDMOTHER

BY ALMA MACLEOD (CMS ALBERTA SOUTH)

My Grandmother, Sigrudur Magnusdottir, was born in Reykjavik, Iceland. She married an Olafsson and had at least seven children when she was widowed. I do not have much information about her life in Iceland except to know that she took the name Victoria at the time of her emigration. Her two eldest children, son Stephen and daughter Gunna, remained behind in Iceland. By the time I became interested in genealogy, much time has passed and I have been unable to trace any contacts in Iceland.

In 1906 she emigrated to Canada with her four youngest children. Her oldest daughter Augusta was married and had come to Canada earlier but was in poor health, probably because she had four young children and was subject to seizures. Hoping for a brighter future, my grandmother sold everything she possessed and set off for Canada on a sailing ship named the *Phyllis Coyumn*. I have a picture of it and it was a lovely five masted. It first landed at Portsmouth, England, then crossed the North Atlantic to Halifax. What a journey for a lady who could only speak Icelandic, and was accompanied by four youngsters between the ages of five and twelve.

When they landed at Halifax she went with her children to a small store to purchase supplies for the train trip west. This must have been quite hilarious when you think of only being able to identify food by labels and knowing that cooking facilities on the train would be skimpy at best. My mother mentioned tinned pineapple as one of the treats but in my mind I am not even sure there was tinned pineapple on the shelves at that time.

They landed in Fort Macleod in Southern Alberta and joined her daughter Augusta who, with her husband, worked at farming. From my mother's stories, it must have been really hard. But my grandmother was a determined pioneer, eager to learn to read and write English, quite a job in itself, and determined to make a better life for her children.

Well, WW1 hit and with it the Spanish Flu. My grandmother lost a young son from the Spanish Flu and then her daughter Augusta, pregnant again, also succumbed to the disease. This left my grandmother with Augusta's four young children to raise, as their father had abandoned them. She had expected Gunna, who she had left behind in Iceland, to join her in Canada but she died in the flu epidemic

also. She never saw her oldest son again and I have been unable to trace him.

Life was not easy in the early time of Western Canada settlement. Grandma was very superstitious, every happening was an omen of some sort and playing

cards was tempting the devil.

I have a picture of Grandma taken shortly before she died at the age of 64. She looked like an old, old lady; I was very young when she died, so I didn't get to know her. What a shame, she must have had some great stories to tell. Δ

MY SALT LAKE CITY EXPERIENCE

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

For a genealogist at trip to Salt Lake City is like going to the Vatican for a Catholic, Mecca for a Muslim, or St Andrews for a Golfer. (Don added the last one).

Nestled in the middle of this picturesque city, founded by Brigham Young in 1847, is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), also known as the Mormon Church. Central to the Mormon belief is that the only way a soul can enter heaven is through proper baptism.

It is believed that many of the LDS members' forbearers were not baptized or never had the opportunity to be baptized. By reconnecting with their ancestors it is believed that a fully Baptized Mormon can offer them a baptism by proxy. The ancestor then has the option of accepting or rejecting this offer.



This is the genesis behind the founding of the huge bank of genealogical information gathered and stored in the massive archives of the LDS. It is their mission to try and connect everyone with their full line of ancestors.

Last October, I had the opportunity to visit the LDS Genealogical Centre Family History Library and began doing some McCrimmon research. Anyone is welcome and the members working at the Centre are extremely kind and helpful. The only problem with genealogy is it is like reading a great book, the time just flies by. Six hours later I was just scratching the surface of the information I was researching.

One very interesting item we found was a copy of the Enlistment form from the Canadian Army for Don's grandfather. This permit-

ted him to go overseas to fight in WW1. Don noted after reading the document that his grandfather's signature was almost identical to the signature of his father.

We also found a sister of Don's mother, named Margaret. This was a surprise to Don as he had never heard of an Aunt named Margaret. Upon further searching, we discovered that this was in fact, his Aunt Izzy (short for Elizabeth). The date was correct but the name

was wrong. This goes to show you that mistakes can be made and how important it is to verify information if you can.

Please continue to submit your family updates by snail mail at: Lesley McCrimmon, 16619 Innis Lake Road, Caledon, ON L7C 3A4 (Canada) or by e-mail at: lmccrimmon@hotmail.com.

I hope to see you at Parliament this summer. Δ

MS CLIMB OF MACHU PICCHU



BY HEATHER MACLEOD

For nearly 15 years, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) has played a large part in my life. In 1996, my aunt was diagnosed at the age of 40. In 1997, my father was diagnosed, at the age of 48. In 1998, my youngest sister, Stephanie, was diagnosed, at the age of 17. And in August 2007, at the age of 31, I was officially diagnosed with MS. On the morning on June 16th, 2007, I woke up and thought that I simply had a piece of cat hair stuck on the lens of my left eye. After all, with two cats, it had happened be-

fore! After many failed attempts to wipe it away and with the gradual worsening and blurring of my vision, I went to my physician. The symptom that led to a series of optometrists, ophthalmologists and neurologists appointments was called "optic neuritis", otherwise known as inflammation of the optic nerve that causes a complete or partial loss of vision. For a period of 10 days, my vision went from 20/20 perfect eyesight to hardly being able to see out of my left eye at all. Over the course of the next 4 to 6 weeks, my vision returned to

20/20 vision again. I was fortunate in that I had a complete recovery, which is not unusual of Relapsing-Remitting MS. I am also very fortunate in that blurred vision was my one and only symptom. The good news is that prior to and ever since my diagnosis, I have made healthy choices to ensure that I am doing everything I can to reduce stress, eat well, exercise often, and embrace life's good fortunes.

My sister Stephanie and I have decided to join the MS Climb group and embrace the challenges of: 1) Trekking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru in October 2010, and;

2) Fundraising \$7,500 each for the MS Society of Canada.

It is with the support of family, friends, colleagues, businesses and the community that Stephanie and I will be able to achieve these two big goals!

The MS Facts:

- Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). MS attacks the protective myelin covering of the brain and spinal cord, causing inflammation, resulting in "attacks", followed by remissions.

- It is the most common neurological disease of young adults in Canada.

- An estimated 50,000 Canadians have MS.

- The MS Society estimates, based on current prevalence rates, that there are approximately 1,000 new cases of MS diagnosed each year. This means that three more people are diagnosed with MS every day in Canada.

- Multiple sclerosis is usually diagnosed between the ages of 15 to 40, affecting women twice as often as men.

If you have any questions at all about MS Climb or about providing a donation, please do not hesitate to send me an email at hj_macleod@yahoo.ca or give me a call at 780.340.1506 or mail me at Heather MacLeod, 526 Geissinger Loop NW, Edmonton, AB T5T 6T1. °

[Note: Follow the action on www.msclimb-macleods.ca]



Sisters Stephanie and Heather MacLeod prepare for MS Climb of Machu Picchu, Peru

CMSPRESIDENTORDONVISITSNS

by Dr. Donald and Chris McLeod

We have had a wonderful time with a science cruise from Montreal to Boston. Rain and wind of course are the Maritime conditions and we accept them with traditional pleasure. We have had our share of searching shops for anything relevant to MacLeods. When we travel, we try to travel light but a necessity is tartan. Walking about Sydney, Cape Breton Island gave our tartan recognition. We did pick the yellow MacLeod of Lewis, being the most unique of all tartans. Greetings of “Good morning Mr. And Mrs. McLeod” came from many people on the street and most shop keepers. We did visit with LeeAnne MacLeod-Archer between her court cases in Sydney, Nova Scotia. She is a busy, respected lawyer in a complicated, heritage-type community with its share of clan bickering. She shared with us many of the Gaelic culture programs that continue in the Cape Breton area.

Back to sea took us to Halifax and a terrific tour with Betty McLean to the Citadel, full of Scottish his-



tory via our clan military background. My wife, Christine and daughter, Skye had a luncheon with Donald (Halifax) and his wife Eleanor. Our conversation was mostly MacLeod with touch of Masonic history. The visit was too short but the boat beckoned for the trip to Bar Harbour. Betty gave us MacLeod place mats, a great reminder of a great visit.



Boston gave us a tour of M.I.T. with special attention to the Space Science Centre, my historical career. A tour of the Boston Hospitals with a classmate now in charge of all the Emergency Departments was a fine time to compare health care systems around the world and to continue the debate. People from all areas of the world exchanged email addresses. The Scientific American crowd is quite an energetic group looking for answers. The relevance is questionable for most of us as the most exciting topics were the state of the universe 13.73 billion years ago, what is the cultural spice of choice, the ideal orbit to Mars and gene defects for repair. My future topics for this group will be medical considerations for space journeys or hormone manipulations for

longevity and health.

Remember that we have to keep asking questions if we want to find the occasional answer. I often wonder if our MacLeod motto, "Hold Fast" refers to our memories. Keep that brain healthy and do all those things that give us energy to push the boundaries of a safe and exciting future. Our swing through New York and Ontario will hopefully bring us into contact with more MacLeods, the group that excites us the most. We unfortunately missed Sarah Pipegrass (our MacLeod Boston representative) by just a few hours as she teaches night school courses.

Our contingent from Canada is very excited about our meetings at Dunvegan for Parliament 2010 in Scotland. Δ



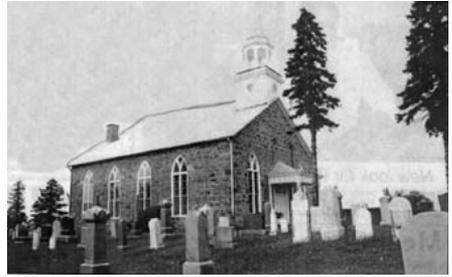
HEEDING THE CALL

BY ERNIE MACMILLAN (CMS GLENGARRY)

The skirl of bagpipes greeted me as I parked my car at Kirk Hill United Church. This didn't surprise me for I was attending the annual St. Andrew's day service organized and conducted by Ian MacLeod, a local dairy farmer, violin instructor and member of the church.

Ian has been giving fiddle lessons since 1993 and indeed when I entered the old stone church, there were some dozen teenage fiddlers in the choir area, playing a medley of sacred and secular tunes in perfect time and harmony, as Ian accompanied them on the piano. They were but a few of the forty students he teaches each week in his home during the school year and they were a testimony to his skill as a teacher.

The theme of the service was "Following Jesus" and the prayers, hymns and meditation interspersed with fiddle music and highland dancing followed the theme closely. Retired minister Rev. Garth Mundle, formerly of the Maritimes and now of Ottawa, was the guest speaker. Meditation doesn't exactly describe his presentation. Following the theme, he spoke about God's call — not just to clergy, but to everyone of the congregation — with such energy and passion that I'm sure every person left the ser-



vice with a renewed dedication to respond to God's call in whatever sphere of life and activity they are involved.

That is what Ian was already doing and inspiring his students to do — using his talents to maintain and enlarge God's kingdom in this part of the world.

And what is this part of the world?

Kirk Hill is a community between Cornwall and Hawkesbury in Eastern Ontario. It is situated on a county road amongst lush dairy farms about ten miles from the Québec border. The area was settled in the late 1700s and early 1800s by mostly Scottish emigrants. For years, Gaelic services were held weekly for those who used their ancestral language in their daily lives. This day Donaldson MacLeod said the Lord's Prayer in Gaelic and one of Ian's young female violinists, Robin Barillaro, sang an inspiring rendition of "Morning Prayer" in Gaelic.

Ian and his family operate a beautifully manicured dairy farm two kilometres from the church, and his wife Karen, the director of nursing at a local seniors residence, is the church's music director. Their daughter Ashley is a well-known celtic fiddler who has performed around the world. Scott works with his Dad on the farm and youngest son Brad plays the bagpipes. Ian began playing the violin at ten years of age, won many fiddling competitions and played occasionally as part of several music groups around North America. He and Karen have worked hard to maintain the Scottish traditions in Glengarry County through their music.

St. Andrew would be proud to see how Ian and his community are heeding the call to God's service. Δ



Oran nan Car Choir performs at CMSC President Dr Don McLeod's Merritt BC castle home, complete with piper



20 SHOTS — A CHALLENGE

A large and very loud American goes into a bar in Glasgow.

“I hear all you Scotch people are real hard drinkers.” he says in a big booming voice, “Now you folks just don’t know what hard drinking is! Why I’ll wager a bet with any man to drink 20 shots of whisky one after the other and give you \$500 dollars if you can do it.”

No-one takes up the challenge. One bloke even leaves!

“Well, there ya go, sure proves my point!” the foreigner says disgustedly. A few minutes later the guy who left comes in and says “Hey Big Man, is that bet still on?”

“Sure as hell is!” and he orders a line up of 20 glasses of whisky. The man runs along the bar, grabbing each glass and throwing back the contents, to huge cheers and the astonishment of the visitor. The visitor of course tries to do it as well, but can’t pass the 17th, so he gives the bloke the \$500.

“Tell me,” slurs the foreigner, “where did you go before you (hic!) came back in again.”

“Eh? oh aye,” says the man pocketing the bills,

“I went tae another pub just tae make sure Ah could dae it!” Δ

THE EXCISEMAN

Oasis of the North author, Dawn MacLeod, relates a tale she was told in Wester Ross [Shire, on north west coast of Scotland, just north of Kyle of Lochalsh and south of Ullapool - so between the MacLeod lands of Glenelg and Gairloch] in the 1950s after she observed a busybody hanging about and staring at nothing in particular.

“What does that man do for a living?” asked Dawn.

“The Exciseman”, said her friend. “He spends his life watching, in the hope of catching somebody at it. He hasn’t a dog’s chance, of course, these folk are far too clever and too clannish to give anything away.”

“What are they supposed to be caught at?” Dawn persisted.

“Distilling whisky, it’s the Highlander’s traditional sport.”

“I can’t believe they make whisky out in the bleak places I’ve seen him.” Dawn said skeptically, “Like in a graveyard!”

“That’s all you know about it, and just as well,” was the reply.

Another friend joined in. -There was a good story going around a year or two back. Two men, father and son, had kept a still hidden undetected in a wonderful cave for many years — so long that it got worn out and useless. The tragedy was they couldn’t possibly afford a new one. Nor had they the money for legitimate brands, and it seemed they would be forced to go without their daily dram — a bitter sacrifice for men whose work took them out on the hill in all weathers.

Such men really do need their ration of whisky, though it is a pity they have to drink the crude, terrible stuff of their own making, while the finest Scotch goes away to America. One day the son came to his father in great excitement. “The Exciseman is getting annoyed,” he said. “He’s offering twenty-five pounds to anyone who will give information leading to the discovery and seizure of a still in this area.”

“Oh, the man will never find ours!” said the father, “but, why boy, are you looking so pleased? You would never give away anyone’s still to the Exciseman, I

hope.”

“I was thinking of that,” said his son gravely, much to the old man’s disgust. “I’m sure it is the best thing to do. If the still is done, he may as well take it. Twenty-five pounds is a lot of money, and will do us more good than it will do him.”

The crofter stood staring at his son, while a slow gleam of understanding crept into his eyes. “Our still, I see. Perhaps there is something in what you are saying. But you would not be letting the Exciseman find the place it is in?”

“That will not be necessary, we can take it up to the Easan Dorcha [*south of Ullapool, north of Ach-nasheen*] one night, or some other place no one uses, then show the Exciseman the way to it. We must make some pretense at hiding it well, so the man will not feel foolish at having passed it by so often, but that will be simple.”

The more they thought about it, the better the plan seemed, so on the first suitable night they moved the still with its unwieldy copper worms away from their real hiding place to another cranny in the rock, and made a good show of disguising it. Then they went to the Exciseman and said they had stumbled on a still while going after some straying sheep.

The official needed no encouragement. He was onto the trail at once, and hustled them away to the

hill at a fast pace. He had not been aware of the Easan Dorcha cave, so the story sounded convincing. He knew Donald and his father were poor and they had recently taken sheep to that hill. They might not be familiar with the owner of the apparatus and thus more willing to give its site away to earn the money.

He was right in one respect, the two men accepted the reward with great alacrity but no one suffered any loss as a result of their betrayal. The owners gained, they went to Inverness and got parts to make a new still for twenty pounds, which left them a fiver to celebrate the occasion.

As for the Exciseman, nobody knew if he ever suspected he had been duped, but on paper his honour was vindicated he had captured an illicit whisky making plant. Δ

[This story ran in the March 2008 issue of the Clan MacLeod Society of Australia (NSW) Newsletter. The couple of italicized comments were inserted by Ian C. MacLeod, then President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada.]



RAASAY HERITAGE TRUST BY REBECCA MACKAY

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, in Skye, in Inverness for the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and the USA and Canada, a book about Raasay using archival material, an audio tape of Raasay music and song, and exhibitions, and the production of a tea towel showing a map of the island and some of its Placenames.

The Gaelic Society of Inverness has published an essay written by a Rebecca Mackay on Place names, History and Myth 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. Two new books about the island are about to be printed.

Important organisations such as the School of Scottish Studies have referred to us 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 Field Archaeologists over the period of its 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

Raasay Heritage News is produced annually. Should you decide to become a “friend” of the Raasay Heritage Trust, this publication can be e-mailed or posted to you. Further information may be obtained from Rebecca Mackay M.A. F.S.A. Scot, secretary, Raasay Heritage Trust, 6 Osgaig Park, Raasay, Kyle, Ross-shire, IV40 8PB, Scotland, Great Britain or email: osgaig@lineone.net Δ

AN ENGLISH – GAELIC STORYBOOK

SHEENA'S GARDEN – NOW ON-LINE

Our first e-book is now live on the Internet at: <http://www.parl.ns.ca/ebooks/sheenas-garden-ebook.htm> Δ

GAELIC-LANGUAGE LIBRARY LAUNCHED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Halifax has a growing, active community of Gaelic speakers and learners. A wealth of Gaelic resources can be found in the city, but often they are out of print or inaccessible to the average learner, due to considerable expense and diminishing quantities.

When Shay MacMullin saw the vibrancy of the city's Gaelic community, and learned that the municipal libraries were destroying some of their Gaelic language materials, she felt compelled to launch a library dedicated to Gaelic-centric books that she could make directly available to the thriving community of Gaelic speakers and learners in the local area.

Although the collection is in its infancy, it is growing. Some of the books are English language, but pertain to Scottish and local history. Shay points out that the collection benefits from books generously donated by families of Gaelic-speakers past. If you wish to support the Gaelic library project, there are three ways to contribute, says Shay, “We'd be happy to accept donations of books - new or used, cash to purchase books that

become available, and also feedback or input on how to grow or improve the library.”

To learn about how you can borrow books, visit our list of materials at: www.halifaxgaelic.ca or contact Shay MacMullin at halifax.gaelic@gmail.com by email or phone 902-461-7798. Δ

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST MAY WE EVER REMEMBER THEM

NEIL MACLEOD

BY MALCOLM E. MACLEOD (CMS VAN ISLAND PRESIDENT)

Neil MacLeod of the Vancouver and later Vancouver Island Clan MacLeod Societies passed away on March 11, 2010. Dad was born in Flat, Alaska on August 30, 1915, the son of Donald MacLeod from the Island of Berneray, in the sound of Harris, and Mary Anne MacLean of Locheport, North Uist.

His grandparents on the paternal side were Malcolm MacLeod who married Mary Munro, both from Berneray. His maternal grandparents were Neil MacLean and Isabella MacLean of Locheport, North Uist. Grandfather Malcolm represented Berneray to Lord Napier's Crofting Commission at Leverborough in 1883 and greatly impressed them with his "accurate knowledge of facts and great moral courage". Those of you who have been fortunate enough to have visited the Isle of Berneray will have observed his gravestone in



the north cemetery up on the hill as it is the largest and only white marble stone in that very crowded graveyard. From there, our lineage goes back to Margaret, who was the youngest daughter of Sir Norman MacLeod of Berneray. She became pregnant by her tutor Neil Beaton and they signed an obligation to marry. This was not to be as her father, Norman, would have none of this and drove Neil off and sent Margaret to live with her oldest sister who had married the chief of the McNeils and was living in Kismul Castle, in Castle Bay, Isle of Barra. Twenty years later, a young Neil MacLeod arrived on Berneray and was accepted without question. He had taken his father's first name

and his mother's surname. Thus are we descended.

My grandfather Donald MacLeod (1882-1949) came to Canada around 1900, first to Gengarry County, Ontario and then to Manitoba before traveling west to Victoria where there was a sizeable Gaelic community and several folks from the Outer Hebrides. It was in Victoria that he met Mary Anne MacLean who had come out to Minnesota, USA with her three sisters. Three of the sisters made their way to the Vancouver and Victoria areas and one returned to Skye where she married a lighthouse keeper and settled in Portree. Donald also had a younger brother, Angus who came out and settled in Vancouver but we have lost track of him and his descendents. Mary Anne and Donald must have met in Victoria and were married in the home of Constable and Janet Munro at 553 Vancouver St. on November 4, 1912. These folk were most likely also from Berneray. Donald was supported by his brother Angus (who I think must have come out at a later date than Donald since he would have been too young to have come with Donald). Mary Anne was accompanied by her bridesmaid Mary Stewart and the "Bride came into the drawing room on the arm of her cousin Norman Paterson Macdonald who wore the full dress uniform of the 50th Gordon Highlanders", since he

was Pipe Major of said Band.

In the last few months I have done some research into some of our histories and found, with the help of my cousin Fred Macleod on Berneray, that Norman Paterson MacDonald was also from Berneray and happens to be my cousin Allan MacDonald's grandfather. Norman Paterson MacDonald was a tall man with very upright posture and a full black beard and handlebar moustache and was known as the "Black MacDonald".

My Aunt Evelyn (Mom's sister) married John MacDonald, Frances (my mother) married Neil MacLeod and Mom's younger sister Elsie married Richard MacKinnon who hailed from Skye. I have a letter dated April 1, 1914 from Donald to Mary Anne written when Donald was on his way to Alaska via Skagway and Whitehorse in which he mentions meeting his brother Malcolm in Prince Rupert. Malcolm was a sailor and became a Sea Captain and eventually settled on the Island of Iona where he died and left issue, whom we have recently contacted.

Another letter which I have has Mary Ann travelling to Flat, Alaska via Whitehorse when she was about six months pregnant with Dad, who was born August 30, 1915. Dad spent the first eight years of his life in Flat and attended a one-room school from the age of five. In the winter time he went to

school on foot, via snowshoes, on skis and by his own dogsled that was built for him by a local fellow who had lost a watch that dad found and returned to him. Dad also had a pet Husky dog named Scotty that pulled his sled. Needless to say, the spoken language at home was Gaelic and that is what dad first learned but he spoke English at school. To his dying day, dad still had some Gaelic.

The MacLeod family left Flat, Alaska in 1923 and travelled to Seattle via tram to the Kuskoquim River and by steamboat to Holy Cross Mission on the Yukon River where they boarded the steamer *Alaska* which took them up the Yukon to Fairbanks. From there they caught the newly completed train line to Anchorage. These children had never seen a train so it was quite an exciting experience.

In Vancouver, Dad went to Norquay School and Vancouver Tech and he enjoyed many sports including hiking, skiing, and wrestling but his passion was rugby, a sport he truly excelled at. He was known as the "Bruiser" and played for the all-stars against the New Zealand Allblacks and was proud to say that they were thoroughly beaten.

As the eldest child, Dad's working career started when he was 15 when he went to work at Bralorne Mine in the Bridge River area of BC, working with the line crew

putting up poles and stringing lines. After returning to Vancouver, he found work on the coastal steamships, which were largely manned by Highlanders, to the extent that most of the crew on some of the boats spoke Gaelic.

Around this time Dad was offered work on the stern wheelers on the Yukon River and as he had always wanted to return to the north, he took up the offer, not the first year, but the second since he had to stay and play rugby the first year. There were also many Highlanders on the riverboats. Dad's uncle Angus was the skipper on the *Tutshi* which ran on Lake Atlin from BC up to a place in the Yukon called Ben Mu Chree. It was on this ship that my Aunt Evelyn and Uncle John met.

Dad had a wonderful memory and could recall events and names accurately back into his childhood. Dad spent only five summers on the stern wheelers but he often said that those were the most memorable years of his working life and the Yukon was forever in his heart.

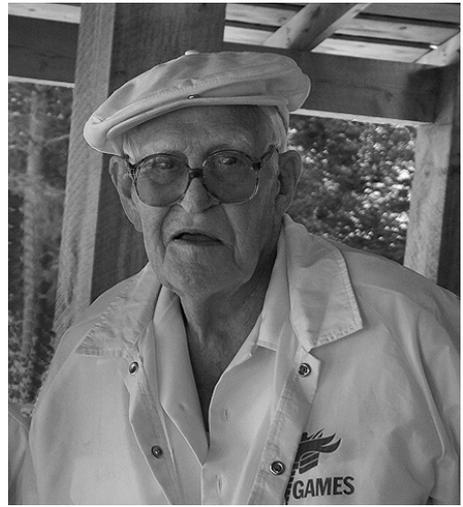
When he returned to the Yukon to work on the sternwheelers, the first ship that he sailed on was called the *Aksala* and dad recognized it as being the same vessel (the *Alaskan*) that had taken them up the Yukon in 1923. When they brought it into Canadian waters, they changed the name and what they did was reverse the letters,

from Alaska to Aksala.

In 1937, at the age of 22, dad made a trip to Scotland on a Scottish merchant ship and when they reached Glasgow, the ship had to go into dry dock for repairs so Dad was paid off for a period of two or three weeks. He had met some relatives in Glasgow and they suggested he go to Berneray and North Uist and Dad thought, "How am I going to get there". As it turned out, his mates all threw in some money and bought him an air ticket to Solas on North Uist and he had a wonderful visit there. He met his Grandfather MacLean and several other relatives on Berneray.

Dad joined the Canadian Navy when the war was in its second year and spent the rest of the war on convoy duty, in the St. Lawrence and bobbing around the North Atlantic. He had some very interesting and some heartbreaking stories. It was during the war that Mom and Dad were married, with Dad travelling to Vancouver to be married and then meeting up with mom in Winnipeg several months later, for a honeymoon.

When the war was over and Dad was discharged, he travelled across Canada by train again and was in search of a job. He wasn't in Vancouver much more than a week when he met a fellow that he knew who told him that the Gibson brothers were looking for winch men to load lumber on the



ships that came into their new mill in Tahsis. Dad hired on and spent the next 31 years in Tahsis. His duties took him from electricians' helper, to winch man on the ships, to splicer of rigging, to long shore foreman, to Fire Chief and manager of water supplies for both the mill and the village. Mom and Dad left Tahsis in 1976 and moved to North Vancouver where they were very active in Horseshoes, Vancouver Naval Veterans, Blind Bowling, Vancouver Yukoners' Society, International Sourdough's, Moray Nairn and Banff Gaelic Society as well as the Clan MacLeod Society of Greater Vancouver. Mom and Dad sold their house in North Vancouver in 2006 and moved to Duncan, to a house about three blocks from us and fit right into this community, joining the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Legion.

Dad has several photographic

negatives from that trip to Scotland in 1937 and I have recently purchased a digital scanner. I am looking forward to seeing them and sharing with my cousins on Berneray and others who may be interested. Δ

[Neil is survived by his wife Frances, children Carol (Jim) Avon, Malcolm (Karen), Anne (Ross) Keeler, eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren and sister Angela. To all we extend our regards in clanship.]

REMEMBERING NEIL

BY ANGELA MACLEOD (CMS GREATER VANCOUVER)

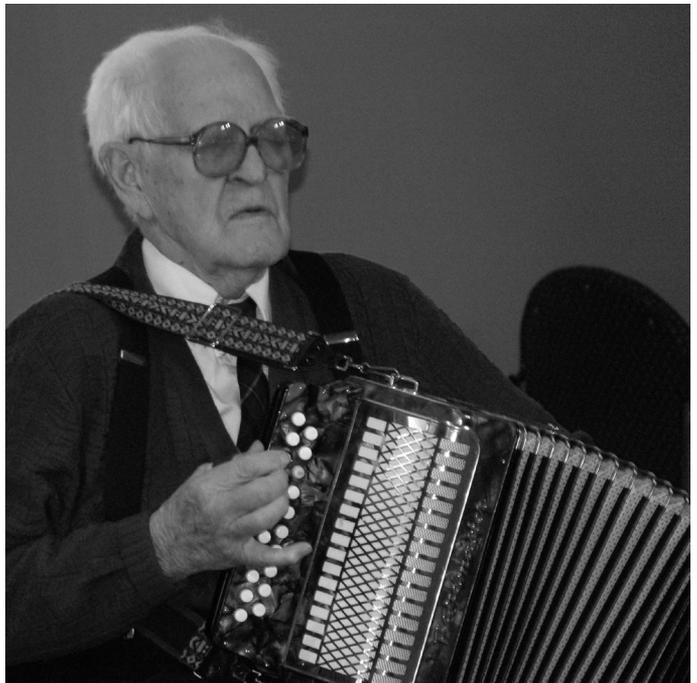
We first met Neil and Frances MacLeod in 1968 when Don and Neil were both attending a BC Fire Chiefs' Convention just north of Campbell River. Don and I were having lunch in a small café when this tall, dark-haired man came over and said, "You have a button accordion — I play one of those." So Don said, "Help yourself."

— The stranger started to play — it made me laugh to hear him play the same pieces that Don played — and so began our friendship.

When Neil and Frances moved from Tahsis to North Vancouver we met again at the Gaelic Society and at Clan MacLeod gatherings. The "boys" entertained at socials,

ceilidhs and picnics for several years.

We really got to know each other well when Bernice Davidson suggested that we write our autobiographies. We planned to meet at her place every two weeks for six weeks but we enjoyed it so much and had so much to write about that it went on for almost a year. At



each session we read out what we had written since our last meeting and Bernice led us through a critique. It was unbelievable how Neil could recall past events, time and sequence, names and nicknames, places and addresses. His memory was simply amazing.

When Neil and Frances moved to Duncan, Don and I visited them often, staying for two or three days at a time and always enjoyed such

warm hospitality — and of course — the accordions would be going from morning till night, Frances and I adding our voices in the old songs that I swear are heard no where else!

Neil was the only other button accordion player we knew and for that reason alone he will be sorely missed. But for the fun, the laughs and the warm companionship, he will be missed even more. Δ

DOROTHY IRVINE

OCTOBER 1, 1944 – DECEMBER 10, 2009

BY HEATHER BETHUNE, DOROTHY'S COUSIN

Dorothy had many plans for 2010. October 1 was her sixty-fifth birthday and she was looking forward to retiring and returning to the continuation of more extensive travels and to having more time for her art. She was in the midst of drafting the plans for her new gardening area once the construction of the new two-storey garage and storage area was complete in the New Year. It had been a busy time at the Irvinelea Farm during the past few years as construction had been completed on several of the buildings with the last of the buildings already partially constructed. Plans were well underway to make this very modern and pro-



gressive farm into one even less work intensive so all the partners could continue their independent interests. Designs and plans were being considered for additional stonework, more gardens and to finish the interior of the new winterized veranda. It was all beginning to look just as Dorothy hoped and very little was yet to finish.

It was to their Irvinelea Farm that the Clan MacLeod early-birds were welcomed in 2008 before the meetings began in Ottawa for the North American Gathering of the Clan MacLeod. In the middle of their tour of points of interest to MacLeods in Glengarry, everyone was invited to gather and to have a time for introductions to other MacLeods, to engage in continuing conversations and to partake of great food.

The 2010 Clan MacLeod gathering in Skye, Scotland, was high on Dorothy's list as she had begun to seriously check out the various hotels and bed & breakfast accommodations in Dunvegan area nearby the planned parliament meetings. She was going to arrive early to join in the pre-parliament tour of historical Assynt. While in Scotland, it was going to be a good time for an extended vacation. After the parliament ended, brother Douglas was to join her and together they would drive around the Isle of Skye so Dorothy could show Douglas all the places of in-

terest. A trip to Glenelg would be part of the journey as that is one of the MacLeod ancestor locations and a revisit after several years was keenly anticipated by Dorothy.

As 2009 was one hundred and fifty years since the Irvine ancestors had come from Perthshire, Scotland, to Glengarry County in Ontario, it was the next part of the trip. It would not be Dorothy's first trip to Perthshire as she had been there over twenty years ago with college friends but this time she and her brother Douglas would be traveling together to explore their "Irvine roots" and she knew she would enjoy seeing the beautiful Tay Valley area in Perthshire. While in Fortingall Dorothy would once again view the old Fortingall yew tree outside the church but this time she would splurge and stay at the nearby luxury small hotel which would be much different from her first trip there traveling with a backpack. Aberfeldy and a stroll in the Birks of Aberfeldy to see again the woodland gorges of waterfalls and rapids and later seeing what changes have occurred to make Aberfeldy the first Fairtrade Town in Scotland, Ween with its historic church and the Castle Menzies, the village of Dull, the conservation village of Kenmore, Perth city, Blair Atholl, the Victorian resort town of Pitlochry, the village of Killin with the falls of Dochart and the Breadalbane Folklore Centre,

Logierait and Dunkeld would be the major places of interest. Since completing much of the Irvine family history in preparation for this trip, each place would have a different feeling and meaning. But none of this was to happen.

Cancer arrived suddenly, aggressively and terminally and on December 10 Dorothy began a different journey. During her hospitalization in Ottawa, visitors were welcome to come if they agreed to follow two rules: no pity and no tears! Later on a cool, breezy day with lots of fluffy, white snow everywhere friends, family, neighbours, fellow artists, and members of the many committees Dorothy belonged to, gathered in the Breadalbane Church. The church was packed with only standing room for many. Some folk drove for many, many hours to join with others from nearby to attend the funeral.

Dorothy was born in Glengarry to Sara MacLeod and Ian Irvine. Brother Douglas was older and brother Stewart was younger. A gifted academic, Dorothy entered University of Toronto when she was sixteen. After graduation with her Honours B.A. in Fine Arts and English, she and two other grads started their travel journey in Lisbon, Portugal, and continued on to Spain, Italy, Malta, Sicily, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, riding the Orient Express through Yugoslavia, then



on to France, England, Scotland, Ireland and Iceland. Dorothy taught high school to finance her next trip to Vancouver, Waikiki, Tahiti, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, Bali, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey, then flying home from Switzerland. Returning trips to the United States, across Canada and to Mexico were enjoyed also. Before going on any trip she researched the countries, reading everything she could find on the terrain, waterways, the cities/town/villages and the people.

After teaching at Barrie North Collegiate in Barrie, Sir John A. MacDonald High School in Ottawa and Almonte High School, in Almonte, Ontario, Dorothy decided in 1982 to change careers and began her architectural studies

in Ottawa. After graduating from Algonquin College in Ottawa, she worked for Parks Canada and for three different architectural engineering firms until 1990 when she returned to Glengarry. First she worked as the Chief Building Official and By-Law Enforcement Officer for Lochiel Township and then in 1998 she decided to join the Irvinelea Farm partnership. It was to the Irvinelea Farm that relatives, cousins, classmates, and lifelong friends gathered over the years to enjoy good conversations, a great welcome, wonderful food and laughter.

Dorothy became involved in many local and community activities. She was a member of the Vankleek Hill Horticultural Society, Membership Chairman of the MacLeod Society of Glengarry, Captain of the door-to-door campaign for North Glengarry for the Heart and Stroke Society, treasurer of the Breadalbane Community Cemetery, member of the Tole Painters' Guild of Ottawa, life member and volunteer in the Dunvegan Museum, member of the Dalkeith Friends of the Library, member of the Dalkeith History Club, member and advisor of the Glengarry Historical Society, Chairman of the North Glengarry Heritage Group, editorial advisor for the book *The Stone Buildings of North Glengarry*, editor of the book *The Churches of North Glengarry*.

An avid reader, she devoured information on history, architecture, gardening and mystery books! Dorothy was the perfect example of "Ask a busy person and it will be done!" Titles were not important to Dorothy. She knew what she could accomplish in the time she had available. Her conversations usually started with "We can do it" or "Someone has to do it, let's get going on it."

Stewart gave the eulogy on December 16 and he ended it with the following sentence: "A stranger might ask, 'What was special about Dorothy?' You just had to meet her, talk with her, get to know her, to understand how special she was."

An accomplished lady without a sign of ego and an amazing friend. Δ

[We are all saddened by the loss of Dorothy and extend our sympathy to her family and friends. Her contribution to Clan MacLeod will be sorely missed.]



NANCY MACLEOD NICOL

BY RUARI HALFORD-MACLEOD

31 JULY, 1939 TO 1 NOVEMBER, 2009

NANCY MacLeod Nicol, the eldest daughter of James and Isabel MacLeod Nicol, was educated at the Mary Erskine School for girls (known in these days as Queen Street), where she delighted in the sporting side of the school and played for the golf team.

Hers was a happy post-war childhood, with holidays in Aberdour and the Irish Republic. Immediately after leaving school, she became a student at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, where she spent two years before further training at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. At the Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital she undertook training in midwifery.

After spending some time as a night sister in orthopaedics at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, Nancy turned to teaching and took the clinical instructor's course at the Royal College of Nursing in Edinburgh, subsequently teaching at the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, Edinburgh College of Commerce (now part of Napier University) and the South Edinburgh School of Nursing.

Changing direction once more, she was appointed nursing officer at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, having charge of four

medical wards and three outpatient departments.

However, teaching was in Nancy's blood and her next post was that of senior nursing officer for in-service education with South Lothian District.

When districts were dissolved in 1983 and the unit became part of South Lothian College of Nursing and Midwifery, Nancy undertook the nurse teacher's course at Jordanhill. Having gained her diploma, she returned as senior nurse tutor.

From 1991 she was head of the continuing education department at Lothian College of Health Studies (now part of Napier University). From 1988-93 she was a member of the Royal College of Nursing.

She contributed to and edited the book *Basic Management for Staff Nurses*, designed a learning pack on disciplinary policy and procedure and invented *Adminstrivia*, a nurse management game.

Nancy had an excellent, satisfying and enjoyable career.

As a member of the Clan MacLeod Society, she held almost every official post in Scotland. She also planned and organised Clan MacLeod gatherings in Skye for more than 500 people worldwide,

and wrote a short history of the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies entitled *Tell Your Children About the Stones*.

Nancy was a committed and enthusiastic member of the Girl Guides movement, enjoying every aspect of indoor and outdoor activities. Throughout her life she was also a loyal and active member of St Anne's Church, serving as an elder with care and devotion.

Everyone who encountered Nancy thoroughly enjoyed her incorrigible sense of humour. She had a quick wit, an enquiring mind and a great zest for life. Nancy lived her 70 years to the full, even when, latterly, her health was failing.

She is survived by her sister, Noel, her niece Elizabeth and many, many friends. Δ



THE EDITOR'S PAGE



The highlight of the year is almost upon us and all CMS members planning on attending Parliament are excitedly anticipating the event. Visiting Dunvegan on the Misty Isle, having a dram with longtime friends and making new friends will fill the unscheduled time between the many well-planned activities and meetings that make up Parliament.

I'll be with you in spirit this year and have only one request: that you make a few notes of your activities and impressions and send me a written picture (as well as any photos you take) for the next issue of the *Leod Voice*. It's your chance to be a journalist!

You will find that not all family stories in this issue are of MacLeods but one is of an intrepid woman who settled in an area where MacLeods abounded and gave rise to a very active and dedicated Alma MacLeod. Thanks for answering my call, yet again, Alma!

Finally I want to pay tribute to my dear friend Nancy MacLeod Nicol. When I first met Nancy, some 30 years ago, I was impressed by the dedication and zeal with which she approached each one of her many projects and interests. Nursing, teaching, Girl Guiding, church work and all things MacLeod received her full attention and energy in their turn. Her dazzling smile was generously shared with all and her infectious laugh charmed friends and yet-to-be-friends alike.

Problems were always approached as challenges to her artistic creativity; her clever mind picked away at the tangle until an innovative and unique solution was found.

She was a welcome guest and a generous hostess, eager to offer a traveller a bed, a fine meal, a cup of tea and a dram of whisky. Cleverly she always served her finest whisky first and then refills were from her next-best bottle. I will miss you greatly Nancy, and will try to follow your example.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly.

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Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1

and September 1