



# The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES  
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER # 56  
SPRING, 2012



*Congratulations to Malcolm & Karen MacLeod, CMS Vancouver Island who can boast that their tent has received the Best Display at the Games for the second year in a row!*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



BY DR DONALD MCLEOD

Happy Tartan Day Past (April 6),  
**O**nce again the warm weather is here and I know it pervades Canada because I was in Halifax this morning and now in the Okanagan it is a similar 27 degrees C. Christine and I went to Halifax mostly to see our new granddaughter by Magnus and Jodianne. We suggested a potpourri of names that are from the clan but young people have their own ideas. I think I have squeezed Annabelle into the proper name mix after Brayenda. All sorts of tartan gifts and Celtic adornments followed.

I had a terrific time with Donald Roy MacLeod (our great-great grandfathers were brothers) followed by a visit to Gordon McLeod at the Pictou farm and then time with Sandy McLeod at St. Anne's. All the other visits were impromptu and didn't quite materialize.

I did my wanderings through the cemeteries of Englishtown

and St. Anne's to feel the ancient wisdom around the stones. The Gaelic College is always a treat and a reminder to me that I still can't speak Gaelic. If I don't try to learn the language, then how can I expect the next generation to give it a second thought. The "Tartan Dinner" attended with Betty McLean from Halifax was a highlight and the entertainment shone. Tom Wallace spoke and piping and poetry kept the ears ringing.

Nova Scotia is a special place and everyone knows the MacLeod of Lewis tartan there. Nowhere else in the world, besides Japan and Scotland, can there be a claim to that kind of interest in a pattern. Emails were collected for Ian MacLeod (Richmond) for more Internet Society members. It seems that many of the young people are paperless and want only email newsletters (no magazines!) "C'est la Vie" as they say from the "Auld Alliance". We will discover the spark that stimulates the young clan members into action.

For now I wish all of you continued MacLeod Luck and Longevity and hope to see all of you in Alexandria for another extraordinary event for all the Clan June 28 to July 1.

Hold Fast the Shine

# NEWS FROM HALIFAX - SCOTTISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL OF NOVA SCOTIA BY BETTY MACLEAN

Over the past few summers, and again in 2012, the Halifax Highland Games have been postponed. For many years, this event brought highland games, dancing and music competitions and displays to entertain the public in Metro. The Games also offered exposure to all Clan Societies, allowing clans people to learn about their heritage, as well as to view historical displays and associated materials. This exposure also brought new members to various Clan Societies.

The Antigonish Highland Games are scheduled; however, with the loss of the Halifax Highland Games, our Scottish culture has no collective exposure in the Metro area. Our Scottish culture, to remain in the forefront, needed to find a new annual major event to remain in the public eye.

Jean Watson, past president of the Federation of Scottish Culture of Nova Scotia (FSCNS) suggested that a new and separate organization be formed to promote a Scottish Festival in our area. On April 28, eighteen persons attended a meeting to discuss the matter, to elect an executive, and to barnstorm for ideas. Thus, the "Scottish Cultural Festival of Nova Scotia", (name pending approval) was established with a slate of

officers, several committees and by-laws to be drawn up. To allow time to achieve approval, organize, formulate plans and contact many agencies, the first annual Scottish Festival is tentatively scheduled for September 2013. Meanwhile, committees will be actively seeking volunteers, corporate sponsors and obtaining information on legal requirements. This event will be held indoors, and booths will be available for Clan Societies, retail outlets, art and handcraft displays, etc. Among events will be special activities directed toward youth participation, as well as demonstrations of Scottish piping and dancing by various groups.

As of this writing, a meeting is to be held early in June. Please keep this new Scottish Festival in mind. If you have a bit of time to spare and would like to support this initiative, your help will certainly be appreciated. Further updates will be provided as time goes on.

For persons interested in attending individual Clan Society events in Nova Scotia for 2012, it is suggested you view the website for the Federation for Scottish Culture of Nova Scotia [www.scotsns.ca](http://www.scotsns.ca) The schedule of events across our province are posted and updated as received. Have a safe and happy summer.

# CMSC VANCOUVER ISLAND

BY MALCOLM MACLEOD

We had a great weekend at the Victoria Highland Games, which started on Friday night, May 18 with a torchlight parade in front of the Provincial Legislative buildings in Victoria. Most of the Clans that attended the Games took part. The ceremony started off with the Canadian Scottish Regiment's Band (Princess Mary's) marching in and playing several tunes. Each Clan representative took a torch (propane on a 4-foot pole), went in front of the microphone and identified their Clan. I proudly stated that "I am Malcolm MacLeod of Clan MacLeod representing Clan MacLeod Vancouver Island. Our Motto is Hold Fast, plant badge is the red whortleberry and our traditional lands are Skye, Lewis and Harris, Assynt, and Raasay." We then took our place in the formation of a St. Andrew's cross.



*Malcolm on the right, holding his torch*

Jim Maxwell, the Games president gave a short welcoming speech and we were piped off. Had we been 45 minutes later it would have been gloamin enough to get the full effect of the torches. They plan to make this an annual event and next year the pageant will start later.

The representative of the Clan MacNicol claimed as their traditional territory, "The lands that the MacLeods stole from us on Skye." I visited their tent at the Games and asked to buy their book but was told that I would have to join their clan in order to get a copy. I declined but curiosity has since given me a change of heart.

Most of the participants adjourned, to the Bard and Banker pub - which is a beautiful ex-bank and is very Victorian in its woodwork. Karen and I returned to our hotel for a nightcap with friends visiting for the games.

I was up and at the field at 6:15 the next morning setting up our tent and helping others as needed. The Victoria Games are now held at Topaz Park, a very suitable venue and is a two-day event billed as Highland Games and Celtic Festival, incorporating more Irish piping, singing and dancing events and in my opinion, exceeds the BC Highland Games held in Coquitlam (a Vancouver



judged throughout the day. The outer field is used on Sunday as a Pipeband warm up field. I feel that you can't get better entertainment value for your money at \$12 per day for adults, \$10 for youth and

seniors and under twelve free. A very full weekend of entertainment if you can take it all in.

suberb). Topaz Park has four large fields on three different levels. The upper field hosts the Heavy Events accompanied by a beer garden so that the spectators have their choice of watching either from the stands or the beer garden. This year the Canadian championships had a field of 10 athletes at an average age of 32 years and an average weight of 248 pounds. The oldest was 48 and the youngest 24. Two years ago Victoria hosted the World Heavyweight Championships, you likely saw several photos of the athletes in the Fall 2010 issue of the *Leod Voice*. The athletes love it here, treated well with first class hotel accomodation and all found. The middle field has all the different tents featuring entertainment, vendors, culture groups, heritage organizations, piping associations, dancing clubs, the Ceremonies stage, food vendors, beer garden, kids area and Clan tents. The lower field has Sheep Dog Trials and Shearing Demonstrations.

Sadly, we missed our usual Clan members that help us out (Dr. Don and Chris from Merritt, Ian C from Richmond, and Judy Tipple from Saturna.) This meant that Karen and I were tied to our Clan tent for the two days with only short breaks individually. Clan MacLeod had a steady stream of visitors and we were flabbergasted to be awarded the *Best Clan Display* for the second year in a row. We were apparently judged by persons unknown to us who visited the different displays and who unanimously selected us best, based not only on our display, but more on knowlege, enthusiasm and our interaction with everyone who stopped by. I thank the judges and a special thanks goes to Karen!

As is true of all of our societies, we have people that join and pay dues for a year or so and then drop out. Typically Scottish? Whatever! We don't hold that against them

On Saturday and Sunday Piping and Dancing competitions are

judged throughout the day. The outer field is used on Sunday as a Pipeband warm up field. I feel that you can't get better entertainment value for your money at \$12 per day for adults, \$10 for youth and seniors and under twelve free. A very full weekend of entertainment if you can take it all in.

but invite and welcome them to our gatherings. We also welcome others such as our neighbour down the street; Alvin Wallace arrived at our back yard Gathering two years ago, shirtless, on his bicycle when he heard the pipes being played in our driveway. The pipers were Dr. Don, his daughter Skye, Heather MacLeod from Bamfield and our son Callum.

This year at the Games we had three families join our Society. While Duncan Scott McLeod was filling out his application form, his cousin John happened by and they met with glee. One had been to the other's wedding. Lorne MacLeod Daniel joined and Neil MacKiskill MacConnell also. Neil was originally from the Isle of Berneray leaving with his family when he was seven years old. Since my people are also from Berneray we agreed that we have more research to do and results to share; we could well be related.

Back to the Victoria Games:

Next year is the 150th anniversary and bigger and better things are being planned, so if possible please come and join us. We have room and welcome visitors.

I've told this story before, but I think it bears repeating. Two years ago, Karen and I were walking back to our hotel after dinner with Don and Chris at the Bard and Banker when we met an Oriental couple. They were very impressed to see me in my kilt gear and were trying to, not very discreetly, take my picture, saying to each other, "McWoud, McWoud". Karen and I couldn't figure out how they knew that I was a MacLeod and looked down to see if I had my name tag on. We invited the gentleman to have his picture taken between Karen and I and his lady nearly piddled her pants while taking the picture. We realised that they had been watching the movie *The Highlander* and recognised the MacLeod tartan from the film.

Hold Fast, Mac and Karen



CMS Greater Vancouver  
(photos left and on next  
page)

Some of those attending  
the Spring Gathering  
graciously hosted by  
Bill G. and Edith in  
Richmond, BC  
Ray Eagle (top left)  
introduced us to his new  
book



## SCOTLAND - a photographic journal

BY RAY EAGLE

The book is self-published by Raymond Eagle and printed by Friesens of Altona, Manitoba on high quality paper. It has a soft-cover and is 8-1/2" by 11" with 96 pages. The price is \$20 plus postage (total \$25 in Canada - \$30 to US.)

I have taken the photos over several years on my visits to the West Coast of Scotland and the Inner and Outer Hebrides. There are approximately 100 photos of various sizes from full-plate to 1/4 page. It includes some historical text and four biographical profiles that I wrote for *The Highlander* magazine: Marjory Kennedy-Fraser, who researched and published the three volume *Songs of the Hebrides*; Sir Hugh Robertson who founded and conducted the famous Glasgow Orpheus Choir; the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod who collaborated with Kennedy-Fraser, and also wrote *The Road to the*

*Isles*, and Seton Gordon the naturalist/historian whose biography I wrote, which was published in Scotland in 1990.

The words at the bottom L/H of the cover are from *The Uist Tramping Song*, which was written by Hugh Robertson and is quoted in full in the book. The cover scene is shot from Sleat at the southern end of Skye looking north to the Cuillin Hills, with the ruins of Dunscaith Castle in the mid-foreground.



# FINDIN ONE'S ROOTS

[The following is an exchange of emails that brought to my attention just how we can help each other in our genealogical research. I have excerpted from the email exchange between Glen McLeod (Winnipeg Bob and Connie's son) and Bob McLeod (Great Lakes USARVP) with their permission. Editor]

**Subject:** McLeod genealogy: To Bob & Connie McLeod (Winnipeg): Judy Tipple sent me a copy of the last *Leod Voice*. I was very interested in your article and the similarities between our two families. I was wondering if you had participated in the DNA project? I have been trying to trace my roots back to Scotland in hopes of finding some relatives over there but have had no success yet. This is what I know and I think you can see the similarities:

My great grandfather, Donald McLeod, was born in Assynt. He was born in 1820 or 1821 just outside of Lochinver, Sutherland. In about 1845 he immigrated to Canada. In 1848 he arrived in Kincardine, Ontario along with the family of James Rowan. In 1849 he married James' daughter Isabella Rowan. The book about Kincardine, *Tears, Toil and Triumph* lists their marriage as one of the first there. They had 10 children, my grandfather Hugh Donald McLeod being the youngest born in 1876. All but one of the seven boys became Great Lakes sailors.

While at the North American Gathering in 2008 in Ottawa I visited the National Archives and found information on the Rowan

family including where they came from in Argyle, but nothing about my McLeods. I have a good friend that lives in Lochinver, Durrant MacLeod, who Sandy and I visited in 2006. Unfortunately, we had no luck. It seems that everyone in town is either a MacLeod or Mackenzie, and Donald seems to be the most common name. I also know that the former President of CMS USA, John B. McLeod also has roots in Assynt and Kincardine. I was hoping that possibly you had some information to help me with my research. I hope to meet you at the North American Gathering this summer in Alexandria.

Bob McLeod RVP Great Lakes Region Clan MacLeod USA.

From Connie & Bob McLeod  
[bcmcleod9@shaw.ca](mailto:bcmcleod9@shaw.ca)

Hi Judy.....Thanks for your reply re: clan members, etc. Yes, we rec'd the email from Bob McLeod U.S.; sent it on to our 3rd son Glen who has completely picked up the genealogy bug, and below is his reply to Bob.

**From:** [Glen McLeod](#)

**To:** Bob & Sandy CMS USA

My parents, Bob and Connie McLeod, forwarded your email to me asking if I could reply. Finding this kind of stuff all very interest-



ing, I jumped at the opportunity. As you know from the latest edition of *Leod Voice*, our McLeod line also originated in Assynt, immigrating in 1848. Upon arrival in Canada they first settled in the Woodstock-Stratford ON area, before moving up to Kincardine sometime between 1850-52. My great-great grandfather was also named Donald McLeod, and was born in Clashnessie, Assynt, in 1822. He married Margaret McIver in 1848 just before immigrating to Canada.

So our families appear to have a very similar heritage. You asked whether we've had a yDNA test performed and both my father and I have in fact done so, through *FamilyTree DNA*. For reasons unknown, all of our yDNA matches are to McDonalds. We are even an identical 67-0 match with one McDonald family whose ancestors emigrated to the southern USA in the early 1800s. We would love to find some close yDNA McLeod matches, but thus far nothing even remotely close. Have you had a yDNA test?

Although we do not appear to be directly related, I nevertheless did some digging around this morning and may have a *possible* lead for you. I'll explain it in point form just to make it easier:

I also have the Kincardine history book (*Toil, Tears & Triumph*) and located your family at p. 354.

With that as my starting-point I located your family on the censuses from 1852 to 1901 (except for 1891).

From this information, I noted that your family appears to have closely followed the customary Highland naming pattern, of naming the 1<sup>st</sup> daughter and 2<sup>nd</sup> son after the mother's parents.

In this case, the Kincardine book indicates that Isabella's parents were James and Catherine. The names of Isabella's 1<sup>st</sup> daughter and 2<sup>nd</sup> son followed this custom exactly.

It's reasonable to presume, therefore, that the 1<sup>st</sup> son and 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter would've been named after Donald's parents. So Donald's parents would have been, by this analysis, John and Margaret.

The naming pattern in this family appears to have been so strong that after the "first" Margaret died at a young age, the next-born daughter was given the same name.

So from here I went to the *Scotlands People* website [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk), which I recommend very highly, if you're not familiar with it.

On this site I ran a search of births/baptisms in the Old Parish Records (OPRs) using the following parameters:

- o name: Donald McLeod
- o father: John McLeod
- o Parish of Assynt, Sutherland

o Jan 1, 1820 to Dec 31, 1829  
o [I didn't use "Margaret" as a parameter due to the many variations: Margaret, Margt., Marg, Peggy, and even the Gaelic "Merran"]

This search gave three results, as follows:

(1) Donald McLeod, b. Dec 1820 to John McLeod and Margaret Sinclair

(2) Donald McLeod, b. July 1822 to John McLeod and Katherine McKenzie

(3) Donald McLeod, b. Nov 1825 to John McLeod and Annabella Kerr

So, in my view, (1) appears to be a promising lead. It's the only "Donald McLeod" born to a John and Margaret McLeod in Assynt Parish in the 1820s. Further, when you examine the actual OPR, you can see that the birth occurred in "Straan", which is just outside of Lochinver.

I've attached a copy of the OPR. You'll have to zoom-in and this entry is near the middle of the page. Let me know if you have difficulty opening it. Straan was also spelled at various times as "Strachan", "Strathan" and "Strahan", but always pronounced as "Strawn". I believe the markings following baby Donald's name is a contraction of "lawful", so that it reads, "Donald lawful son to John..."—meaning, of course, that he wasn't born out of wedlock.

You should probably run a few  
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more searches of the Assynt birth OPRs, using some other parameters, before confirming that this lead is the correct one. The Assynt birth OPRs go back to 1798, so you may also be able to find siblings of this Donald. If you know the names of some siblings through research or oral family history, just search for them using their forenames. If you don't know the names of any siblings, you can find out what other children this John McLeod and Margaret Sinclair may have had just by searches using only their names. Perhaps you'll find an Angus or a Murdoch—names which appear in your family in the 1871 census. As I mentioned, it's a good website with a well-designed search engine, so you may have some success.

The Assynt marriage OPRs also go back to 1798, so I couldn't resist looking for the marriage of this John McLeod and Margaret Sinclair. I found it in 1801. Margaret Sinclair was from Torbreck (just outside of Lochinver) and John McLeod was from ?? (Bad-didaroch? Badnaban?)

If you agree that this lead is worth following through a bit more, you may be able to locate some of these people on the 1841 Scotland census. Using the *Scotlands People* website, you can quite readily browse through the various Assynt towns page-by-page on the 1841 census. I've searched through the

settlements of Clashnessie, Oldany and Balchaldich house-by-house in searching for our ancestors. It costs a bit and takes a bit of time, but is likely well worth it.

The Assynt OPRs never included death records. So death records before 1855 (when the Scotland public register began), are almost non-existent.

One final point: the 1891 census gives Donald's birthday as "May 24". Unless you have other information verifying this as correct, I wouldn't put much stock into it. Many (most?) elderly Highlanders at that time had no idea when they were born; in this case, it's possible that Donald just gave the reigning Queen's birthday as his own. It's been a major holiday in Canada since the 1840s, and we continue to celebrate it as a holiday long weekend even now! In other words, I wouldn't discard the Dec. 1820 baptism solely on account of that birthday being listed in the 1891 census.

Similarly, the 1845 date of emigration may not be exact. I know from searching some of my other Canadian lineages that this date is, as often as not, inaccurate. Of course it could be correct, but the Duke of Sutherland did perform a major clearance of his estate in Assynt in 1848, including the boat that our ancestors were on with 400 other people from Assynt, all of whom originally settled in the

Woodstock-Stratford area.

Let me know if any of this helpful. I hope I haven't sent you down a wrong path with this lead but I believe it's a good lead that you might wish to investigate further.

Best regards, Glen McLeod (Winnipeg, Canada)

## WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON,  
CMSC GENEALOGY  
COORDINATOR

Do you know where your ancestors have come from? Our database of MacLeod's and their sept's is slowly growing. With your family's information, perhaps we can connect more clan members together. Please e-mail me [lmccrimmon@hotmail.com](mailto: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 I come from?"



# THE DNA PROJECT?

FROM THE ACMS-GENETICS WEB SITE

The concept of a genetics study for Clan MacLeod was first proposed to the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies [ACMS] in 1974 as a chromosomal analysis, definitive DNA analysis not being readily available at that time. The proposal was declined because in the minds of the leadership at that time such would be “an invasion of privacy.” Now, thirty years later, the ACMS has completed a study involving over 550 initial volunteers under the auspices of University College London [UCL]. This Study had two arms: an investigation of possible surname DNA linkages and a search for Viking DNA linkages.

This Group Name Project, now being continued through the premier commercial genetic genealogy company, [FamilyTreeDNA](#), is aimed at the same two linkages, and, in addition, hopes to further clarify the relationships between haplogroups even further. Also, the Study now has been extended to include Sept names.

The UCL Study revealed two elements of interest. Some 32% of the volunteers revealed a common haplogroup compatible with origins 1,000 years ago on the Isle of

Man. An additional 12% revealed a common haplogroup compatible with Scandanavian origins. Both of these groups are consistent with our oral traditions and history. As we increase the numbers of samples we hope to further clarify and define both of these initial findings and also reveal additional information

There are currently four projects underway:

DNA testing of surviving cadet families of both the Harris/Dunvegan and Lewis/Raasay branches of Clan MacLeod.

DNA testing of descendants of MacLeods (however spelled) who settled in the Sandhills section of North Carolina.

DNA testing to delineate a McLeod family with three McLeod lines, created where two McLeod females from one line married male McLeods from two other lines.

DNA testing for any interested MacLeod as part of the continuing general project.

If you want to participate in the Genetics studies further information is available in the ACMS Genetics brochure downloadable from the web site. [www.acms-genetics](http://www.acms-genetics)



# REFERENCE BOOKS TO AID YOUR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

*The Genetics of Clan MacLeod*,  
by Julia Abernethy

*The MacLeods of Herries*, by  
Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie

*The Ancestry of the MacLeods*  
and *The MacLeods of Lewis*, by  
William Matheson

*The Origin of Leod*, by Alick  
Morrison

*The Ancestry of the MacLeods*  
*Reconsidered*, by W. D. H. Sellar

*The Ancestry of Leod*, by An-  
drew P. MacLeod

*Short Tales on Sir George Wil-  
liam Ross: and on how the Gaels*  
*settled in Upper Canada(1915)*

[http://www.archive.org/stream/  
gearrsgoilairsi00fras#page/n5/  
mode/2up](http://www.archive.org/stream/gearrsgoilairsi00fras#page/n5/mode/2up)

This Gaelic book is available  
for viewing at the link above.

**DID YOU HAVE ANCESTORS  
WHO ATTENDED UPPER  
CANADA COLLEGE?**

Then you may find this book  
useful in your research: *A History  
of Upper Canada College, 1829-  
1892: With Contributions by Old  
Upper Canada College Boys,  
Lists of Head-Boys, Exhibitioners,  
University Scholars and Medallists  
and a Roll of the School*, by G.  
Mercer and George Dickson.



A HISTORY OF UPPER CANADA COLLEGE. 1829-1892 :  
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY OLD UPPER CANADA  
COLLEGE BOYS, LISTS OF HEAD-BOYS, EXHIBITIONERS,  
UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS AND MEDALLISTS, AND A ROLL  
OF THE SCHOOL

© MERCER, 1899-1912 ADAM, GEORGE DICKSON

## GAELIC PHRASES

*Slainte, sonas's sith dhuibh uile:* Good Health, Happiness and Peace to all

*A' chuid as fhearr dhen ghnathach:* The very best of everything!

*Tha mi cuimseach:* I'm okay, in response to How are you?

*Tha mi a' gluasad:* I'm moving, I'm able to get around.

A response to "How are you?" by some with senior status.

*Cum na tha air fhagail:* Keep what's left.

If referring to money, it would mean: keep the change!

# A MCCUAIG HERITAGE TOUR

BY JUDY TIPPLE

In 2010, Margaret McCuaig-Johnston and her husband Paul Johnston made a lifelong dream trip to search out the roots of Margaret's McCuaig ancestry and also to attend the MacLeod Parliament, McCuaig being a sept of Clan MacLeod. The report of their tour was beautifully produced in a well put together booklet of text and photos which has been so generously shared with me.

Before making her journey, Margaret did her homework using ancestry.ca and many other resources passed on to her from relatives and friends. She discovered that in her great great grandfather's line that her 'great' (times 8) grandparents, John and Janet (Gilchrist) McCuaig, were born in Islay, (not in Scotland) but in Arequipa, Peru. Their son Henry had maintained a connection with Scotland by choosing his bride from the Isle of Islay, raising a son Duncan there and then returning to Peru for their aging years.

Margaret relates the highlights of their trip from Ottawa to London to Edinburgh to Islay, on to Skye, then return to Edinburgh to fly home to Ottawa. Only an eight day tour of Scotland but filled with a month's worth of activities. The welcome, hospitality and

congeniality that Margaret and Paul met at every stage of their tour were so typical of the experiences many of us have had while travelling in Scotland.



Margaret referenced several books she acquired and read on her journey and I include them here:

David Caldwell, *Islay: The Land of the Lordship* (Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2008)

Gilbert Carmichael, *Old Islay* (Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland: Stenlake Publishing, 1998)

Freda Ramsay, *John Ramsay of Kildalton* (Toronto: Peter Martin Associates, 1969)

Joanna Andersen McEwen (editor) *Kith 'n Kin* (Orillia: Dymment-Stubley, 1978).

An exciting discovery Margaret had at the CMSC meeting was that Jim McCuaig of Lethbridge AB had commissioned and registered a McCuaig tartan. Margaret now sports a full length kilt in that very handsome tartan and so generously sent me a sample piece.

# SCOTTISH GAELIC MOUTH MUSIC

**S**cottish Gaelic mouth music or *Spuirt-a-beul* is an unaccompanied form of vocal dance music common throughout the Highlands and Islands. Lively and exciting, its combination of haunting Celtic melody, fast rhythms and the magical Gaelic language is a once-heard never-forgotten experience. For some excellent mouth music, look up Erik Christensen, a folk performer who lives in Tasmania. His repertoire contains a strong element of Irish and Scottish Gaelic-language song. Erik's consuming passion is Gaelic language, poetry and music. His *blas* (pronunciation and accent) and renditions of traditional songs have been praised by native speakers.

According to the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*, after the Battle of Culloden in 1746 where the Jacobite Rising, consisting largely of Scotsmen from the Highlands, was brutally crushed by forces loyal the British government, a ban on musical instruments was placed on the people of the Highlands. This is the predominant reason for the existence of one of the most enduring folk traditions of Scotland: **port-á-beul** (or **puirt-á-beul**), also known as "mouth music." When no instruments were available, bards from the Highlands would sing for dancing, often imitating the rhythms and music of

the bagpipes, using humorous and sometimes bawdy lyrics in a danceable rhythm. However, according to several present-day scholars, this story is utterly apocryphal and nothing more than unsubstantiated legend. Port-à-beul could be much older than 1746, and why not? Humans haven't always had instruments at their disposal, and what would have kept them from inventing their own music? And there are similar styles in other European regions – **lilting** in Ireland, for example, and in Norway with a fiddle imitation known as **tralling**. Regardless, this legend is a nice lead-in to discuss a recording of real mouth music.

Recordings of traditional music from England, Scotland, and Wales, are by far the exception rather than the norm. While the Gramophone Company of London was cavorting around the world recording all manner of peoples and cultures and exploiting new markets in the first half of the 20th century, the regional and folk music in their back yard went largely unnoticed. There are a number of important exceptions, of course. The Beltona label of Scotland recorded many folk bands and unaccompanied singers from the 1930s onward. People like Cecil Sharpe and Ralph Vaughn Williams helped to usher in a folk revival. Carrying

the byline *Lon Dubh Na H-Albainn* or *The Blackbird of Scotland*, the Gaelfonn label was in operation in the late 1950s. The outfit was run by a well-known Gaelic singer, Murdo Ferguson (1923-2005), who recorded performers on tape in Glasgow and had the records pressed in London.

Angus MacLeod was born on the island of Scalpay in the Outer Hebrides (2001 population: 322) and died in 1970. Murdo Fer-

guson recorded several records by MacLeod ca. March of 1957. One of the tunes recorded is *Tha Fionnlagh Ag Innearadh* or *Finlay is Spreading Manure*. For another track by MacLeod, look for the new 2-CD collection by Fremeaux, *60 Years of Scottish Gaelic*, put together by Scottish discographers Bill-Dean Myatt and Nigel Barrett.

From: <http://excavatedshellac.com/2012/01/17/angus-c-macleod-puirt-a-beul/>

## HOW SCANDINAVIAN IS SCOTLAND? BY JON KELLY BBC NEWS MAGAZINE

The Scottish government is exploring closer links with Nordic nations in the event of independence, reports have suggested. But just how similar is Scotland to its northern neighbours?

They don't make bridies in Bergen or Tunnock's Tea Cakes in Torsby. Nor is Hakkebøf half as popular in Hamilton or Helensburgh as it is in Hvidovre. But the North Sea which separates Scotland from Scandinavia could become slightly less of a divide if political leaders in Edinburgh have their way.

According to reports, strategists within the Scottish National Party (SNP) government have drawn up plans to shift the country's focus away from the UK and towards the Nordic countries if a referendum on

independence is passed.

It's a plan which might appeal to those who support the SNP's drive for a sovereign Scotland, and might be expected to attract opposition from supporters of the union.

But regardless of contemporary politics, looking north reveals much about a little-discussed aspect of how the national character was forged.

"In countries where it's dark half the year, you do tend to have a great tradition of storytelling" says Ian Rankin, crime writer.

The union with the rest of the UK may be more widely discussed in a political context, and Scotland's Gaelic and Celtic heritage might be widely celebrated. But the long history of Viking and Norse settlement in Scotland has left an



indelible mark.

Scots words like bairn (child), midden (dump), muckle (large) and even kilt (from the verb kjalta, meaning “to fold”) are derived from Old Norse. Places like Dingwall, Wick, Lerwick and Tinwald can all trace their etymology back to the same source.

This heritage is most visible during the Up Helly Aa fire festivals in Shetland, which culminate in the burning of a replica Viking galley.

An oft-repeated tale has Jo Grimond, former Liberal MP for Orkney and Shetland, being asked to give the name of his nearest rail station on a parliamentary expenses form, and writing “Bergen, Norway”.

And for centuries there were political links across the North Sea. The first Viking raid on Iona is thought to have taken part in 794, and much of the Hebrides and Caithness would come under Norse rule. Orkney and Shetland continued to be earldoms under Norway until 1468.

This settlement resulted in the Scandinavian-derived Norn language being spoken on Orkney and Shetland until the 18th Century, and influencing the Shetlandic and Orcadian dialects to this day.

But this Norse settlement did not, in the main, affect the central belt - the most populous, culturally dominant part of the country. This

has meant the Nordic influence has been downplayed, according to Norwegian-born Dr Arne Kruse, senior lecturer in Scandinavian studies at the University of Edinburgh, who has lived in Scotland for 22 years.

“There are so many similarities, especially in terms of our relationship to nature - the oil, the fisheries, the fish farming, the renewables,” he says. “There are so many parallels

“In particular,” he says, “Scotland’s Presbyterian heritage mirrors Scandinavia’s Lutheran tradition, lending both peoples an egalitarian suspicion of rank and a strong emphasis on the importance of education.

“It’s like two cousins who have gone their own ways - only one of them still has his own hair. In many ways, Scotland is the southern, fertile end of the Nordic empire.”

Not surprisingly, many Scots strongly identify with their Gaelic heritage. Estimates suggest that a third of Glasgow’s population has family ties with Ireland.

It’s true that Glasgow will be looking to Ireland as a Celtic nation whereas the east looks both to the Nordics and the low countries.

*Do articles such as these interest you?  
Your feedback is needed. Email your comments and requests to the editor at [jmtipple@gmail.com](mailto:jmtipple@gmail.com)*

# GAELIC NEWS AVAILABLE

*The Gaelic Affairs Media Monitoring Report* is a monthly report issued by Gaelic Affairs, a Division of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Government of Nova Scotia and contains a wealth of information on things Gaelic going on in Nova Scotia. To receive the monthly Report, phone toll free 1-888-842-3542 and request to be put on the email list.

Several items in this issue have been gleaned from this source.

[www.gov.ns.ca/oga](http://www.gov.ns.ca/oga)

Nova Scotians will now be able to learn more about the province's rich Gaelic history through a collection of newspapers digitized by the Nova Scotia Archives. The online collection will include *Fear na Céilidh (The Visitor)*, *Teachdaire nan Gàidheal (The Messenger of the Gaels)*, *Am Mosgladh (The Awakening)* and *An Solus Iùil (Guiding Light)*. Web visitors can explore 1435 pages of Gaelic and English content. Pages are presented in a zoom-viewer that allows the reader to examine them in detail. Newspapers can be browsed by year and month.

*Fear na Céilidh* (1928-1930), an all-Gaelic monthly, offers opinions on topics as diverse as the Chinese Civil War, trans-Atlantic flight attempts, the weather and Gaels' contribution to building

the British Empire and Canada. *An Teachdaire Gàidheal* came out sporadically over 10 years (1924-1934). The 45 online issues include news, letters, commentary, songs, stories, folktales, historical information and Gaelic lessons. *Am Mosgladh* (1922-32) was a monthly publication of the Scottish Catholic Society in Sydney. Although predominately in English, it offers Gaelic proverbs, prayers, conversational Gaelic lessons, songs, news and folktales. *An Solus Iùil* (1925) focused on Presbyterian news, including mission efforts, ministerial appointments and church meetings. The 12 digitized issues also include humorous anecdotes and historical information.

An updated version of *The Celtic Lyre*, Gaelic songs collected by Henry Whyte between 1883 and 1895 has recently been republished by SIOL Cultural Enterprises, St. Andrews, Nova Scotia. In the past, the book has been reprinted often; however, this edition has both updated and staff and solfa notation, with a special preface on the music of the songs by Aindrias Hirt, the Music Editor.

Publisher Trueman Matheson hope that this new version will be especially helpful to Gaelic learners who wish to learn the songs.

# THIS 'N THAT

Nova Scotia Gaelic has its origins in Scottish Gaelic and, like Irish Gaelic and Manx, is a branch of the family of Celtic languages. It has been spoken in Nova Scotia since at least 1773 and is rich in cultural expression through song, traditional fiddle and pipe music, step dancing, storytelling as well as customs and beliefs. NS Gaelic continues to make cultural, social, educational and economic contributions to Nova Scotia society.

The book *I Never Knew That About Scotland* compiled by Christopher Winn contains the following interesting fact: Meikleour Beech Hedge on A93 in Perthshire is the world's Tallest Hedge. Planted in 1745 by Robert and Jean Mercer, the hedge is made up of trees with dense leaves from the ground to a height of 120 feet (37 metres) and half a kilometre long. After Robert Mercer was killed at the Battle of Culloden it was left to grow wild and is now maintained by a local trust that cuts and measures it every 10 years in an operation that takes four men six weeks to complete.

Scotland's first capital of Dunadd was founded by Fergus Mhor around 500 AD and is located south of Oban on highway A816. While nothing remains of the Dark Ages fort, its location was atop a

stunning rock hill with a gorgeous view of the area. Believed to have been part of the inauguration ceremony of early Scottish Kings, a 1500 year old foot print carved into the rock is still in evidence at the summit.



*Music doth soothe the savage beast*



**A KIND HEARTED SCOTSMAN!  
...INDEED!**

My wife and I walked past a swanky new restaurant last night.

"Did you smell that food?" she asked. "Incredible!"

Being the nice guy I am, I thought, "What the heck, I'll treat her!"

So we walked past it again.

# CARIBBEAN CEILIDH IN MARCH

BY DR DON MCLEOD, CMSC PRESIDENT

Cruises in the Caribbean often have the best weather and there seems to be an unlimited number of ports of call.

In March the McLeod family from Merritt joined the McClure family from Palm Bay, Florida on a Royal Caribbean cruise for a Scottish Ceilidh. Jay and Pam McClure were excellent travel companions and Jay and Donald had some productive meetings and educational sessions.

Donald brought his bagpipes and Scottish finery was displayed on various occasions. Lachlan, Emma, Skye, Kevin and Christine kept busy with all the ships amenities. The food is always wonderful

on cruise ships and the Scotch malt whisky brought by Jay was tested, examined and classified by professionals (us).

We made plans to continue cruising with more attractions for other Clan MacLeod members since the trips are so memorable and immersion in so many things Scottish is easy. Donald brought his power point projector and Celtic music to play on the balconies and decks.

We would like others to try and join us for another warm wind, blue sky, fun walking and gastro-nomic adventure next year. If you are interested please contact me at [drdonmcleod@telus.net](mailto:drdonmcleod@telus.net)



*Jay and Pat McClure (centre) answered the call when CMSC President Dr Don and Chris announced their plan to add a Scottish component to a cruise of the Caribbean they were taking in March with some of their family*

## DEAR EDITOR,

I want to thank Dr Don McLEOD for having the impromptu Canadian cruise out of Port Canaveral FL. We had a great time drinking single malts and solving the world's problems. The Canadian and American contingents were in full agreement for all issues addressed. All meetings began and ended on time. Dr Don appropriately used his indoor pipes, and I supplied the 30 year old Talisker (though the security confiscated the Talisker Distiller's edition). Don's potential future son-in-law was quite impressed to drink whisky that was older than he was. The age differences were definitely crossed during this meeting as the young 20 year-olds were interacting with the

50+ year olds.

As the old saying goes, we Scots come in two colors, white and red, and Dr Don sported the Canadian white tan, while I wore the "sunburned red" color so prevalent when Scots appear outside of the snow belt. We had a good time on shore excursions and Don and I actually swam with the stingrays. All in all, a great time was had by all! We laughed, we cried, all emotions were touched. Can't wait for the next MacLEOD cruise and I'm sure it will be a blast. Looking forward to Dr Don's land cruise at the next parliament.

Holding Fast in Florida.

Jay McClure (CMS USA,  
former editor newsletter)

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

### ESTELLE LYDIE LUCE MACLEOD

Estelle, wife of Donald Alister MacLeod, was born August 6, 1916 in St Helier, Jersey and died May 30, 2011 in Edinburgh aged 94.

Estelle was brought up on the Isle of Jersey. At school she love reading and with a good knowledge of the classics, she was fascinated by DK Broster's *Flight of the Heron* set in 18th century Scotland.

Training as a State Registered Nurse in Jersey, her reading about Scotland prompted her to move to Edinburgh in 1936 where she started training as a midwife. After the outbreak of war, Jersey was occupied by the Germans. Not being able to return home, Estelle was posted to the Military



Hospital in Bangour Wales. It was there that she met and fell in love with a dashing young wounded officer, Donald Alister MacLeod, whom she married in April 1944.

Donald worked in Birmingham and the family lived in Comley Bank, moving in 1966 to Barnton and finally to Ravelston in 1982. Estelle had strong links with the Church wherever she lived.

Together Estelle and Donald enjoyed the countryside and cycling and made their base for outdoor activities at a cottage they purchased in 1958 on Loch Tay.

After retiring from nursing, Estelle began writing children's stories, articles on nursing and fascinating historical snippets, many of which were published in monthly magazines.

Donald served as President of the Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland and also Treasurer of Associated Clan MacLeod Societies; they travelled to many MacLeod functions in USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, visiting her sister in Vancouver and their daughter in New Zealand.

Arthritis and unsuccessful corrective surgery led to amputation of her left leg, though immobilized Estelle still attacked life with vigour. In 1999 Estelle suffered a stroke and had to go into care, but to the end she enjoyed her life.

## DONALD G. MACLEOD

Donald passed away February 28 after a brief illness. Born September 17, 1928 in Montreal, Mr. MacLeod grew up in the

Preston, ON. Upon graduation from PHS, he served as an Anglican lay reader at residential schools in northern Canada. In 1947 he entered the reserve officers' training course at Camp Borden and was commissioned in 1948 as a lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, forming a proud life-long association with the regiment.

His beloved wife Beth A. Anderson predeceased him after 43 years of marriage. Dearly loved and deeply mourned by his second wife Christina Weylie of Kitchener; his three children, John A. MacLeod (Christine) of Cambridge, ON, Janet E. Bates (Ronald) of Kelowna, BC and M. Kathryn Rosenstein (Hagop Artinian) of Montreal; Donald Weylie of Vancouver, BC and Catherine Weylie of England; his four brothers and sisters, Marjorie Oldfield of Cambridge, John R. MacLeod of London, Andrew MacLeod of Waterloo and Molly Ridsdale of Aberfoyle; nine



adoring grandchildren; two affectionate great-grandchildren; also numerous nieces, nephews.

Donald attended Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, graduating a George F. Baker Scholar in 1958.

As an employee of Savage Shoes, he was a pioneer in the use of computer technology in business. He rose to the position of President, first of the Canadian subsidiary, Savage-Interco, and later of the independent Canadian company, Savage Shoes Ltd. He was a leader in the activities of the Shoe Manufacturers Association of Canada and served several terms as its president.

Following his retirement from Savage, he was active as a business consultant and lecturer at the University of Waterloo. He also worked extensively for Canadian Executive Services Overseas, providing entrepreneurial leadership and advice to businesses around the world. His travels for CESO took him to various exotic locations in South America and Asia, but his particular specialty was advising block companies in the former Soviet Block.

Donald was a staunch supporter of the Conservative party at both the national and provincial level. His abiding love of English literature led him to membership on the Board of Governors of the Stratford Festival, serving as its president in 1983. He was a long-serving member of the Board of the

University of Waterloo. In demand as a speaker on a range of topics, he was an active member of the Conference Board of Canada, the Confederation Club, the Harvard Club of Toronto and the Probus Club, as well as being honoured as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International.

***Donald's son John had this to say of his Uncle:***

He was a gifted raconteur, an excellent host and a unique and eccentric individual. A graduate of Harvard University Graduate School of Business, he claimed that he chose to attend an American Ivy League school because no "elitist Canadian institution" would take him without an undergraduate degree. During his lifetime he was an Anglican missionary, an army officer, a business executive, an energetic lobbyist for the Canadian shoe industry, a University lecturer, a business consultant to various enterprises around the world on behalf of the Canadian and US governments, a backroom politico, a president of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, collector of shoes (370 pairs in his heyday) and suits (300+ in his heyday), and an out-of-control bibliophile. In between these activities, he nevertheless found time to drink copious amounts of Scotch and to smoke numerous large cigars.

*[Sent to me by David Rosenstein, son of Donald's daughter Kathryn (MacLeod) Rosenstein and Donald's eldest grandson.]*

# THE EDITOR'S PAGE

One of the benefits of being the editor of the *Leod Voice* is the enjoyment I get from the communications that cross my screen. Such has been the case with the exchange of emails between Bob (USA RVP) comparing his family genealogy with Bob (Winnipeg) as a result of an article in the *Leod Voice*, and then having Bob's son Glen (Winnipeg) assist with the research that may result in some common ancestry (pages 8-11). I felt a similar excitement when I read Margaret McCuaig's wonderful 33-page *Heritage Tour* booklet she so kindly sent me. I felt part of the tour as she described the sights, sounds and feelings she and Paul experienced (page 14).



My concern about the demise of CMS Halifax has been alleviated somewhat by Betty McLean's report of the committee working on the Scottish Cultural Festival of Nova Scotia (page 3). The hope is that we have a *phoenix rising from the ashes* that will give a new and broader exposure to all Clan Societies in the Halifax area and to all those seeking a greater knowledge of their Scottish heritage.

Why become involved with the Clan MacLeod Society, some might ask? My answer is to enrich your life! Since my involvement in the world of Clan MacLeod Societies over 40 years ago, I have met, corresponded and become friends with, visited and been visited by, so many wonderful people. Involvement had taken me across Canada and USA several times, to Britain (always including Scotland) eight times, even though I have yet to visit the Continent, and has presented me with the opportunity to join the Clan Hunter Society to investigate my paternal roots. For what more could one ask?

CMSC President Dr Don has mentioned that many of our younger potential members are interested in being paperless. To this end, when Ian's Internet Society has 20 members signed up, I will undertake to produce a parallel issue of the *Leod Voice* with colour photographs to email to them. So, twenty-somethings, get with it, sign up, pay the \$20 membership and make this seventy-something editor give you the format you want. Oh yes, one more requirement will be for you to contribute some photos and news.

I would be grateful if members would please humour me and adhere to the timelines for submission of newsletter articles and membership lists on the right.

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## Newsletter Timelines:

*Spring—May 1*  
*Fall—October 1*

**Membership and  
Executive Changes:**  
*March 1*  
*and September 1*