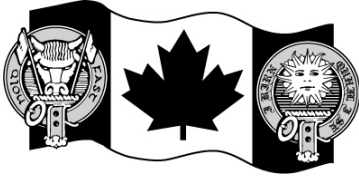




The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 57
fall, 2012



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JIM MACLEOD,

Greetings to all MacLeods (whatever the spelling), septs of the clan, and to all others who can only 'wish' that they were MacLeods.

It is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce myself as the new President of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC) for the term 2012 – 2016. But before I continue further, I would like to acknowledge my predecessor, Dr Don McLeod, (Dr Don as he is known across the worldwide MacLeod Clan family) worked diligently and with much enthusiasm over the past four years to further the CMSC objectives across Canada and beyond. Fortunately for us, Don continues to be actively involved in all things 'MacLeod' and will be particularly busy as we approach NAG 2016 when it will be Canada's turn to be host. Thank you Dr Don.

Although born in Toronto, when I was five years old my father, the late John D. MacLeod decided that, yes, *you can take the boy out of the country but not the country out of the boy*. So in 1947 he moved his family back to his native village purchasing a farm across the road from his family farm and so I grew up in the village of Dunvegan, Glengarry County, in Eastern Ontario. As a result you don't grow up as a MacLeod in a village called Dunvegan without the acute awareness of what it means to be part of the great family of MacLeods. If you recognize my father's name, he is the same John D. that on November 2, 1935 formed the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry,

the first outside of Scotland. The first project for this new Society was a Clan Gathering held in Dunvegan, Ontario on July 4, 1936.



Many of you will know my sister, Barbara (MacLeod) Armstrong, who was CMSC President from 1994 – 2000. For the past four years – since the 2008 North American Gathering (NAG) held in Ottawa, I have been the

Vice-President of CMSC.

Earlier this summer, on June 9 my wife Heather and I had the pleasure of attending an event near Kirk Hill Ontario, (on the Laggan-Glenelg Road) hosted by CMS Glengarry. At this site on August 1, 1965 the Glengarry Society had erected a cairn commemorating the founding of the MacLeod settlement in Glengarry in 1794. On June 9 of this year, the Society unveiled Stones of Recognition at the foot of this Cairn in recognition of those who have contributed to the continuation of the Glengarry Society. Credit goes to Doreen Howes of Dalkeith for her efforts in coordinating this initiative. Please go to the Glengarry Society web site at:

www.macleodsofglengarry.ca and

follow the links for more information and pictures.

At the end of June, my sister Barbara and I travelled to Alexandria, Virginia for the 2012 Clan MacLeod North American Gathering (NAG 2012). This NAG was hosted by the CMS USA mid-Atlantic Region and was a great event and very well organized and attended. However, as

many of you may have heard or will hear, there was a ‘little (unscheduled) glitch’. On the Friday evening shortly after everyone disembarked from a lovely cruise on the Potomac River, many were waiting for the shuttle bus to take us the eight blocks back to the hotel. The winds started to pick up, the skies turned darker and a bit of lightning could be seen; then – all hell broke loose! Now, I have been in my share of storms in my life, but nothing quite like this one. The wind and the rain were unbelievable. The end result – no power in the hotel (read: no A/C) until Sunday morning just before we left for home, with temperatures in the 104° F range. But MacLeods being MacLeods we individually and collectively ‘Held Fast’ and ‘Shined Brightly.’ This is particularly true for Stephen MacLeod, mid-Atlantic RVP and his organizing committee who carried on as if what had just happened was a mere ‘moist evening breeze’. It must also be said that the staff of the host hotel, the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria, went far and beyond to make NAG 2012 a success for all.

One of the highlights for me at NAG 2012 was the opportunity to renew acquaintances that I had made during NAG 2008 in Ottawa, those I had made over the phone, on e-mail message exchanges or personally on other occasions. There was ample opportunity to engage in conversation with many attendees and of particular note, with Don and Eleanor MacLeod from Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. Don is the new Vice President of CMSC. I look forward to working with Don and also with Isabelle Johnston, a former and now current Secretary for CMSC. Isabelle lives here in Ottawa and was one of the hard working

committee members for NAG 2008. Another highlight of course came at the end of the banquet, which was held at the Holiday Inn (a sister hotel of the Crown Plaza) a few blocks away from the Crown Plaza (they had not lost power), when the Chain of Office for the President was passed from Dr Don to myself.



Mid July saw Heather and I travel to Nova Scotia just in time for the Antigonish Highland Games. We try to get ‘down east’ as often as we can — if you have to ask ‘why’ then you haven’t been there — and always look forward to the Games weekend. The morning parade down the main street is always a favourite and the Games did not disappoint but lived up to their renowned reputation.

On August 4 I made my annual ‘must do’ visit to the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario. Clan MacLeod had a strong presence at the games once again with a splendid and informative booth in the Clan Building and an impressive number of MacLeods participating proudly in the Parade of The Clans prior to the official opening.

Is there any one of us who did not watch the Canadian Women's Soccer team at this summer's Olympic Games in London? How about that performance by Erin McLeod?!! Now that is the true meaning of 'Hold Fast' and 'I shine, I do not burn'; Erin – you did yourself, you teammates, your country, and all MacLeods proud and yes, you definitely are a 'keeper'.

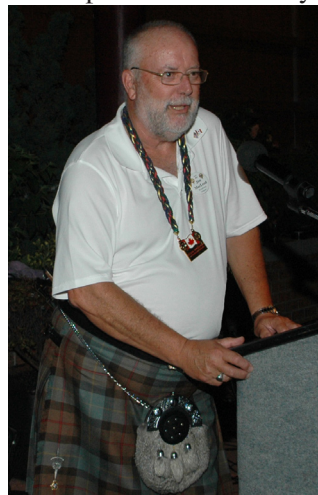
During NAG 2012 I had a few conversations with folks from various locations within Canada, USA, Scotland, Australia and England about the future of the Clan Societies and where we are going and what are any issues, obstacles and opportunities. Without a doubt the number one problem that everyone identified was membership – membership retention and membership recruitment. Within recruitment the number one problem was, hands down, youth recruitment/membership. I would venture to guess that all of us have driven down a road, through a town, seen a service/delivery truck or read a name in a newspaper etc., that had one common thread; the name MacLeod. Who are these people, do they know that there is a Clan MacLeod Society, are they and their family members of a Society and if not, why not? Are they interested or knowledgeable about their Scottish heritage? How can we spread the word?

There have also been discussions about the CMSC web site and the Internet Society – both worthy issues. However, one must question the point of either if we can't maintain and grow membership. I say 'we' because I think that all society members should seize the opportunity to participate in membership recruitment and retention. So, with this in mind I would encourage

each Society and all individual Society members to send me any suggestions you may have as to how we can move forward on this issue. I feel that such input will be extremely valuable in the development of a recruitment and retention strategy. At the same time I would also ask folks to send me any news, newsletters, bulletins, notes of introduction, etc. – anything about you, the Society that you belong to, and our great Clan. Tell me what is happening in your part of the country – it will be greatly appreciated. I want to get to know you as individuals and as well as each Society within our Canadian family.

Please feel free to send communications by e-mail (glenelg.macleod@gmail.com) or by regular mail (338 Riverwood Drive, Woodlawn, ON, K0A 3M0) or just give me a call (613-832-3045). I should mention here that we spend a few weeks of the winter in Portugal so any regular mailed letters will probably not get a response until early April. However e-mails are monitored almost daily and I would be pleased to have your input to some go-forward strategies.

Tapadh leibh/Thank you, Jim. Δ



some Like it hot!

BY LYNN BENNETT

Well, the time has finally arrived and I'm off to my first NAG in Alexandria, Virginia. One of the places I've always wanted to visit and with its proximity to Washington, DC, I can get to the Smithsonians – another item off my bucket list. We have received the emails outlining the events over the two plus days from Stephen McLeod and the weather forecast is Hot, Hazy and Humid with temperatures in the 90s – bring it on! As someone who is only warm in July, I can't wait!

Old Town Alexandria lives up to my expectations – history abounds, walking and running paths alongside the Potomac River makes the exercising and getting around more enjoyable plus there is a Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream parlour – yum!

It's HHH and the temperatures are above 100° F and we are gathering for the kick-off event – a picnic on the outdoor courtyard of our sister hotel, a time for me to meet new McLeods and re-new acquaintances from 2010. The mantra is “Hydrate, Hydrate Hydrate”. We are given a briefing regarding the next two days activities. Friday's hi-light is a 2 ½ hour cruise on the Potomac (little did we know that Mother Nature had another hi-light in store), where we gambled, listened to music and enjoyed the sights along the way. And boy, do McLeods like to gamble (especially when it not our money)! After the cruise, I head back to the hotel, by foot and arrive just before Mother Nature unleashes a surprise. There were a few folk not quite so lucky who had to seek shelter in doorways. A weather system let loose on Alexandria, Washington DC and sur-

rounding environs – end result – trees down – power lost. Not a lengthy storm, but devastation is noticeable everywhere on Saturday morning.



I head out for my morning run and end up on an obstacle course. Either way a good workout or I'm now ready for whatever the day holds. My room is on the 6th floor, so I have water and because I'm up early – have warm water available for my shower, not so later in the day – BRR! The day's events proceed wherever there is natural daylight and it is the coolest – more emphasis on the latter, as the outside temperature is approaching 106° F. While I'm enjoying the heat and head outside at any opportunity to soak up my Vitamin D quota, others are wilting and not so happy. Today we learn about kilt making, sash tying (which comes in very handy for the evening banquet) and we attempt to speak Gaelic. Why does it sound so much better when the instructor says it – soft and lilting?

The big question of the day is “Where do we have our gala banquet”? Our hotel has no power or air conditioning, so keeping us cool in our highland dress, cooking the food and being able to see are definitely challenges. The group decides just before lunch to go ahead with the silent auction/banquet with a few tweaks – the biggest being location – Holiday Inn Suites – where we had our kickoff picnic on the outdoor patio. The Cocktail hour and bidding on Silent Auction

items are pushed back in the hope of cooler temperatures. End result, a perfect evening under the stars, with the food, wine, live music, highland dancing demonstrations, my first taste of haggis and bidding on “McLeodery” of every shape and size you could imagine.

Canada Day dawns, still without power, but we gather in the hotel lobby to celebrate. I’m very patriotic in my red and white. While a few check out and head home, I head to Washington for some “speed-site-seeing”. How many Smithsonians can you visit in seven hours? My answer – four – and even then I’m missing a lot. However, I manage to squeeze in the Washington monument, the White House, Capitol Building (from a distance), the sculpture and butterfly gardens and the folk festival. I’ve covered the highlights and can cross another item off my bucket list! My feet however, are extremely tired, sore, blistered and bleeding from all my walking and a cold foot bath back at the hotel sounds like heaven as I journey back to Alexandria to think about packing and the return trip home the next day. All in all, a very memorable first NAG. Δ



Dr Don checking in with Joan finding a “goodie bag” for him

DR DON'S NOTES

The North American Gathering in Alexandria was a most memorable event. The gale force winds and the initial rain storm took out the power. This of course means the air conditioning and the ice machines were down. The lights and water were also in trouble but the ingenious MacLeods had whisky and Gaelic songs to get them through the toughest times. Many friends were made in the hot, dark and humid times. It gave me great pride to present the CMSC Outstanding Clanspersons of the Year Awards to our *Leod Voice* newsletter editor and membership registrar, Judy Tipple and also Ian C. MacLeod who unfortunately was unable to attend.



The McClure whisky tasting, stories of olde Dunvegan, Celtic music, language courses, genealogy, president speeches, fine dining, riverboat gambling, Canada Day with cake, tours of D.C. and Chief John MacLeod’s discussion of Raasay all combined with old friends and new, tired us all but whetted the appetite for the next gathering, the CMS USAAGM in San Antonio, April 4-7, 2013. “Yippee Texas”. Christine and I will be there for sure. Christine nursed in Texas before I dragged her back up to the

North country of Canada. I remember her telling me that Gaelic was spoken at the Alamo. This was her effort at convincing me to practice medicine in Texas instead of Canada. Almost worked but the snow and ice skating won out. Hope to see you there. Δ

MASONIC INSTALLATION

On September 22, 2012 Dr Don was installed as the Master of the Lodge #53 Nicola and was graced by a championship piper and many MacLeods and brethren from as far away as Nova Scotia. Donald Roy and Eleanor MacLeod were guests and were a great help with all of the entertaining. Donald Roy is the vice president Atlantic Canada and finalized the memorable event with his history of the Cape Breton MacLeods arriving in 1820. Neil R. McLeod, Stan MacLeod and Donald Roy MacLeod are all past Masters and well versed in Masonic history and tradition. Robert MacKenzie and Ed Chilton rounded out the Scottish connections.



GAELIC PHRASES

Cuisd! *You don't say!* Often used by my Aunt Flora when told of news of interest.

Cha chreid mi nach eil *I think so.* Δ

NS TRIP

Trips to Nova Scotia are becoming frequent for Dr Don and Christine since their first grand daughter was born in Halifax. Son Magnus McLeod and his wife Jodianne Good-McLeod have baby Breyenda Annabelle to keep them busy.



Every trip to Cape Breton brings us closer to our roots and every glance at the hills and bays remind us of the hardships faced by our predecessors. We have so much to be proud of with Scottish roots and we need to keep that skirl of the pipes in our blood.

I envision the day of playing the bagpipes either in a spaceship or on earth-like planet somewhere in the Cygnus arm of our Milky Way galaxy. If anyone wants to see a talk given by Dr Don and Chris on interstellar space travel, google TEDx then Penticton October 2012. Δ



Several Canadians enjoy a cool resting place before meetings; sharing greetings and stories on the terrace; Dr Don advertising the next NAG in Merritt, BC in July 2016 on the back of his shirt



*Left: Chief John of Raasay chats with CMS England President David
Below: Barbara MacLeod Armstrong chats with Romma and ACMS President John Davidson-Kelly*





Piping in the Haggis and the Honour Guard; Jessie M. Herron tells of growing up on the Dunvegan Estate where her parents worked for the Chief. She made shortbread for the Silent Auction and gave us this very old family recipe

Isle of Skye Shortbread

2 sticks of butter at room temp. (1 C.)

1/2 C. granulated sugar

2 2/3 C. all purpose flour

Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 350°F

Cream butter and sugar with wooden spoon till light and fluffy.

Stir in flour and salt then knead by hand to form into a ball.

Press evenly into 7"x11" buttered pan.

Cut into desired shapes with sharp knife.

Prick with fork and flute edges.

Bake 20 min at 350° F, reduce oven to 320° till lightly brown.

Remove from oven and re-cut.

Sprinkle with sugar.

Cool completely then remove from pan, store in airtight container.





Chaplain Andrew McIntosh with NAG organizer Stephen MacLeod, some of the Kirkin' crowd, dancers on the terrace before the Banquet, most of the Canadians after the Banquet



ACMS Business Manager Bill (Vic) and CeeBee with others waiting to board the CHERRY BLOSSOM for an evening cruise on the Potomac River



Neil R. and June with other gamblers on the CHERRY BLOSSOM



Below: Dr Don cutting the Canada Day Cake

Left: Lynn Bennett, Isabelle Johnston with cousins Florence and Elizabeth



AMAZING EVENT

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

As we entered DC, driving along the George Washington Parkway, we both had to smile at the sign that read “George Bush Center for Intelligence”. The temperature during the four days ranged from 100 to 104 °F. The festivities began with an evening Outdoor BBQ at the Holiday Inn (sister hotel down the street). Next day included business meetings followed by a paddle boat evening cruise down the Potomac River on the *Cherry Blossom* which included gambling (we were all given paper money) and entertainment



by singer, songwriter Lee Murdoch and penny DeGraff.

No sooner did we dock than it started to sprinkle. Rather than wait for the shuttle, we walked back to the hotel. No sooner did we get to our room than the windows started to shake and the rain poured down. The power then went out and the high winds and rain continued to pelt the big picture window. The next day we discovered that it was part of a hurricane type storm and some clansfolk got caught in the downpour walking back to the hotel. The power remained out for the next few days. There was some emergency power in the lobby and in the halls, and one elevator was kept working, so we could move about the hotel and keep the meetings and events going.

At the Canada business meeting,

the next North American Gathering was discussed. Dr Don, Chris, Neil and June (the committee) advised us that it will be held in Merritt, BC on July 28 – 31, 2016 and will have a Country and Western Theme. Merritt is about 3 hours from Vancouver with temperatures ranging from 80 – 90 degrees during the day and cool at night. They suggested getting a train, starting in Halifax to travel across Canada to Vancouver. This was Dr Don’s final meeting as President as his term had come to an end and he was succeeded by Vice President Jim MacLeod from Ottawa. Donald MacLeod from Halifax was elected Vice President to succeed Jim. Isabelle Johnston agreed to fill the position of Secretary and Beth Macleod will stay on as Treasurer.

Despite the heat and no air conditioning all the events in the hotel were well attended and that included the Scotch Nosing, which was overflowing (no pun intended) with women. The Scottish dancing was cancelled as some of us moved a little slower with the heat, but all the clansfolk remained in high spirits.

We met Jon MacLeod and his family from Sault Ste Marie. This

*Both from
Sault Ste.
Marie, Jon
and Florence
(Isabelle
Johnston's
cousin)*



was their first NAG. Welcome and we hope to see you again soon.

The formal dinner became a “come anyway you want” and was again held in the outdoor courtyard at the Holiday Inn down the street, as they had power and could cook the meal. Judy Tipple was presented with the Canadian Outstanding Clansperson of the Year Award which was truly fitting for such a dedicated member of the clan. When I first attended a clan function (2002 in Guelph), Judy was

the first person to take me under her wing and make me feel right at home. Since then, I have been amazed at the amount of work she does for the clan. Congratulations, Judy.

Canada Day started with a cold shower for some and a Red and White Canada flagged cake which was great. Everyone met in the lobby for “breakfast” and a fond farewell wishing each other a safe journey home and the hope to meet again soon. Δ

GENEALOGY REPORT

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON (lmccrimmon@hotmail.com)

When I went to the North American Gathering in Alexandria, I met my US counterpart, Migration Director Annie McLeod. We had discussions about genealogy, how people collect it and verify all the information. As you know, stories are passed down from generation to generation, people find snippets of articles, pictures and notices from various sources. It can be difficult to verify this information as “we have always heard it this way” or “someone told me this was my great aunt or uncle”. Others have scrapbooks filled with information and pictures that go way back in the family. These are awesome sources of family history. Once you start researching the information that you have, you may be bitten by the “genealogy bug” and spend countless hours trying to track down the validity of your information. In so doing, you may also come across more family members that you never knew about. You may also end up with even more questions which will send your research in another direction. Enjoy it! I find it fascinating and am amazed by what I find.



At one of our meetings there was a discussion about combining the ACMS, the USA and the Canadian databases. The topic of “privacy” also came up which I feel we all have to respect. People who are still living may not want to have their personal information made public (ex. birth dates). The US website includes an “access code” so the general public does not have use of their database. We are currently using different databases but I believe that our formats are all basically the same. Lots of work to do and we can always make it better. If you have any thoughts on this topic, or are interested in finding out more about your ancestors, I would appreciate hearing from you. Yours in clanship, Δ

ACMS MEETING



ACMS HEAD TABLE

Peter Macleod – national co-ordinator for Australia, Ruth MacLeod – corresponding secretary, Penny DeGraff – internet co-editor, Dorna Caskie – secretary, John MacLeod – Chief of the MacLeods of Raasay, John Davidson Kelly – President ACMS, Dr Don McLeod – President CMS Canada, John N MacLeod – President CMS USA, Ruari Halford-MacLeod – President CMS Scotland, David MacLeod – President CMS England

ACMS BUSINESS

BY DAVID MACLEOD CMS ENGLAND PRESIDENT

The full minutes of the meeting run to 12 pages so I'll just report a few snippets here:

John DK introduced the ACMS Management Council to members in attendance; John stressed that it is the members who are the most important; what ACMS does is not as important as what the individual national Clan MacLeod societies do. The ACMS organization has evolved as required to support the national societies. For example, the *Clan MacLeod Magazine* used to be produced by the Scottish Society. As it has evolved into a more international publication, it is now published by the ACMS.

Seventy per cent of the issues of *Clan MacLeod Magazine* are distributed in North America. The cost of producing the magazine is presently covered by the amount billed to each Society.

John DK noted problems with the CMS Republic of South Africa. Members in RSA are happy to belong to the National Society, but no one has stepped forward to assume

leadership.

John DK is concerned that no permanent memorial to Chief John has been developed. The MacLeods Woodland project had some possibilities as a memorial, but these qualities have yet to be identified. The construction of a memorial wall could be worked on by the NRG (North Room Group).

One new suggestion was the composition or collection of original music in memory of the Chief – perhaps a nine song cycle, with “native” contributions from each nation.

Clan MacLeod parliament/world gathering 2014 will be held from 19 to 26 July, so that Parliamentarians will be able to attend some of the events at the next Scottish Homecoming July 11-13, 2014, centered in Stirling (see <http://www.stirling2014.co.uk/>).

There were discussions at the meeting (continued informally later) about issues facing all societies e.g. declining membership; how to engage younger members; costs of posting out newsletters; society activities; how

to take advantage of the internet and social media; making the best use of genealogical resources.

Whilst the business meeting was very interesting, the workshops and social events provided more opportunities to meet fellow MacLeods from around the world.

At the Banquet the keynote address was given by Chief John MacLeod, Chief of the MacLeods of Raasay. John resides in Tasmania, Australia and spoke of the bonds that connect MacLeods all over the world.

Convention delegates had a variety of workshops to choose from: topics covered included story-telling, genealogy, the gaelic language, kilt making and whisky tasting. Guests were entertained by folk singer Lee Murdock aboard the *Cherry Blossom* sternwheeler paddle steamer on the Potomac River; more entertainment was provided by society member Penny De Graff from Seattle who gave an impromptu performance of Gaelic singing. Δ

CLAN MACLEOD WORLD GATHERING

NOVEMBER 2013

CMS Auckland and Helensville, NZ are well underway with their organisation and planning for another Clan MacLeod World Gathering 2013, to be held in Auckland 20–24 November 2013. They are in the process of setting up a website. They have invited Chief Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod, Chief Torquil Donald MacLeod, Chief of the Lewes, and John 18th Chief of Raasay. It is exciting to think that 10 years on New Zealand, is having another big international MacLeod Clan Gathering.

NRG NEWS TAKEN FROM THE CMS AUSTRALIA (NSW) NEWSLETTER

Co-ordinator, Bronwyn McLeod is calling for those interested in attending the NRG at the 2014 Clan MacLeod Parliament to contact her. The NRG is for young adults from 18 to about 25 or 30. The program starts about a week before Parliament and runs about two weeks in total.

The group usually carry out community projects for half their time and sightseeing the other half. Of course, there is always time to party afterwards. Bronwyn says, for her, the NRG was a life impacting event, “I encourage any young person with a clan connection to come and enjoy the friendship, fun and heritage in this amazing place. I want to hear from you about coming in 2014.”

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet MacLeods from around the world and absorb local Scottish culture. Bronwyn can be contacted through Facebook at “MacLeod Clan Oz NRG” or by phone 08 8327 0925.

NRG Pre-Parliament week will be 12 to 19 July, 2014. Δ

2014 PARLIAMENT

The next Clan Parliament will be held from 19 to 26 July, 2014. This will be a little earlier than usual as Scotland is hosting another “Homecoming” in Stirling 11–13 July, 2014. Also note the Commonwealth Games 2014 will be held in Glasgow that month.

These are just dates for your diary at this stage, advanced warning in case you wish to travel in 2014. Δ

CMS USA PRESIDENT JOHN N. MACLEOD VISIT ROOTS IN NOVA SCOTIA

We began our trip viewing the spectacular Tall Ships in Halifax Harbor. What a sight they were!

Heading north to Cape Breton Island we stopped in Dundee and Ingonish before getting to our destination Bay St. Lawrence.

There we visited John's MacLeod cousin and enjoyed whale watching, a kitchen Ceilidh, and learning to play Tarbish, a local card game.

From there we drove to Inverness to check out the new golf course, Cabot and relax at The MacLeod Inn.

Having met and corresponded with author Alistair MacLeod, we had a visit with him. Alistair's wife, Rita was very hospitable, sharing her home baking with us as the conversation flowed. Before leaving the Island, we went to Judique and looked over the new music museum, enjoying the fiddle playing of Kinnon Beaton and others.

We spent our last afternoon with



Eleanor, Donald R. (Halifax) and John N. at the airport, photo by Judy

Halifax friends Don and Eleanor MacLeod, sharing gardening tips and a special dining spot.

John N. and Judy MacLeod. Δ

CMS BC INT REPORT BY DON M. MACLEOD

The Gaelic Choir group spearheaded by Penny DeGraff and Dale performed in Merritt October 13, 2012 to a crowded Culture Club. The performance was outstanding and coincided with the beginning of the Celtic Colours Festival that was taking place on Cape Breton Island. Where else would you find a Gaelic show full of history, Highland dancing, bagpiping and Scottish humour. The music was divine and even neophytes to the Gaelic were fascinated by the experience. Of course, some proceeds of each of these events go towards the North American Gathering (NAG) occurring in Merritt BC on July/August 2016. Thank you to the CMS BC Interior for their help in organizing the event. Δ



CMS BC Interior stalwarts Phil, and Pat with Neil R. and June in the MacLeod tent at the Kamloops Highland Games

JOHN ANDREW MCLEOD

BY PATRICIA FOODIKOFF, CMS INTERNET MEMBER

John Andrew McLeod piped in riders from “Just Giver” cycling fundraiser for Parkinson’s at reception hosted by Castlegar Selkirk Lions.

The tartan John is wearing is your clue that his family came from Isle of Lewis. In 1873 his great grandfather Kenneth, arrived at Hampton, now Scotstown, PQ along with his father John, mother Flora Nicholson and six brothers and sisters including a brother born at sea. Two sisters stayed behind and another brother was born two years later.

A member of the Trail Pipe Band, (BC) John has paraded and marched in a lot of different places. One of their annual events is the kick-off to Castlegar’s Concert in the Park series where family and friends get to see/hear him.

Parades, highland games, summer festivals take up most weekends but he especially enjoys solo community events such as Columbia Power Corporation’s annual Community Christmas Party providing the Scottish entertainment. Where else would you see Jack Frost, Santa’s Elves and Cinderella following the “Plaid” Piper?

He can be heard on Remembrance Day and leads the walkers in the survivor’s lap at Relay for Life. John is often part of private or corporate celebrations, funerals and memorial services and is always at the community memorial service held just before Christmas each year. At the Kootenay Festival John represents his ancestral heritage on stage and at the entrance to welcome people to the festival.

John has a very amusing story that I will let him tell in his own words.

“One almost-event happened a few years ago when I was just learning to play. Our instructor, Gordon, and four of us students, were practicing one hot and humid evening in Gyro Park in Trail. Because it was so hot we decided to stand knee-deep in the river as we played. A boat came by and was



circling around out in the river as we played and left when we were done; nothing unusual in that as we often had people walking by stop to listen. At our next practice, though, one of my fellow students (Archie Stewart, also from Castlegar) said that when he was at work at the pulp mill the next day, one of his work-mates was telling everyone about some odd and obviously ancient Celtic Ceremony, celebrating the summer solstice, he had stumbled across while boating on the river in Trail. A group of bagpipers, he said, were standing in the water and piping for whoever the Celtic goddess of water happened to be! I’ve always thought we should turn that into an annual event.”

He does have his own Celtic tradition: Wherever he may be, at midnight on December 31 he steps outside to

pipe out the old year with Auld Lang Syne and welcome in the new year.

Traditions are important and John started a family tradition some years ago when he took his mum and any available siblings to the cemetery on the anniversary of his father's birth on October 26. John plays several selections by request and always ends with "Setting a course for Lewis" in honor of the family migration from Lemrerey.

This October is particularly memorable because it marks the 100th anniversary of his father's birth.

John is especially proud of his vintage pipes and they have a story of their own to tell!

John is still looking for the remnants of the families of his great grandfather's siblings. This is what he does know:

John MacLeod b. c1830 emigrated from Lemrerey, Lewis, Scotland in 1873, and settled in Hampden, Que. He returned to Stornoway, Scotland in 1888 and married his 2nd wife Catherine MacKenzie, of Keose, Lewis. His first wife was Flora Nicholson b. c1830 and died Nov. 16, 1887. She is buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Scotstown, Que. There is a stone there for her.

John and Flora had the following children:

1. Elizabeth or Betsy b. 1856. She married a John MacLean and stayed in Lewis.
2. Mary b. 1858 stayed in Lewis, nothing further known
3. Kenneth b. 1859 d. 1943. Married Annie Hatton, in Que., later settled in Maine. (They are John's great grandparents)
4. Catherine b. 1861
5. John 1. b. 1863 married Ellen

Boyle.

6. Louis b. 1866
7. Christy b. 1870
8. Malcolm b. 1872.
9. Marion b. 1873 d. 26 Jan 1896 and buried in Scotstown (No stone)
10. Alexander Murdo b. 5 Aug. 1876 d. Mar. 23, 1913 in Barre, Vt. Married Ann MacAulay.*

*Previously in contact with Alex's and Ann's granddaughter Jean Ely but has now lost touch with her.

If you have any info on John's family, please e-mail: perfectcircle@shaw.ca.

"A practitioner of the Great Highland Bagpipe, I play traditional pipe tunes to get the most hardened Sassenach wanting to dance, cry, march, sing and hit things with a sword." Δ



John Andrew McLeod is the brother of CMS Internet member Patricia Foodikoff who now lives in Surrey, BC.

CMS GREATER VANCOUVER

BY JUDY TIPPLE

At the meeting on Nov 4 the business of the Society was presented followed by the presentation of Outstanding

Clansperson Award to Ian C. MacLeod who had not been able to travel to the NAG in Alexandria in June. Ian served as CMSC President 2004-2008 when he travelled across Canada visiting most of the local Societies. He has been chair of the CMS Internet for the past several years, treasurer of the organizing committee for NAG 1992, as well as attending several Clan Parliaments and North American Gatherings. His work on the writing of the stories of the Clan has been much appreciated. He continues to be a diligent director for CMS Greater Vancouver

and brings us all joy as he brings members of his family to events, especially his delightful grand children.

Having been presented with my Award in Alexandria, I was especially honoured to have it presented again in front of my home Society friends. It has been an honour to be a part of the Clan MacLeod organization both at the local Society level and the National level.

Brian MacLeod, a cancer survivor and brother of CMS GV President Mark MacLeod, gave us a talk on the work he has been doing with an organization dealing with liver tumors to fundraise and create awareness of those dealing with cancer. Δ



Past Presidents Neil R. and Dr Don M. present Outstanding Clansperson Award to Past President Ian C. at CMS G Van AGM



On the left side, Brian with his sons on the right side of the photo



Above: four Outstanding Clansperson Award recipients: Judy Tipple, CMSC Past Presidents Neil R. McLeod, Ian C. MacLeod; NAG Coordinator Bill G. McLeod, with Past CMSC President Dr Don M. McLeod (second from right)

NEW BOOKS FOR THE BAIRNS!

BY RENNY AND VICKI MCLEOD, UNICORN BOOKS

A favorite publishers of Scottish children's books has released a lovely group of new titles for the holidays. Here are a few of the titles and others can be found on the Internet web site Unicorn limited, Inc. You can order by email mcleod@scotpress.com or phone 334.501.0202. Happy reading,

Wee Granny's Magic Bag

By Elizabeth McKay and Maria Bogade. 32 pages. paperback. **\$11.95.** Ages 4-6. There's something very special about Wee Granny's tartan bag. Each time she reaches inside, she pulls out A BIG SURPRISE! Wee Granny's tartan bag holds an unbelievable array of everything one might need for any occasion. (For you Dr. Who fans, it even holds a red phone box and seems to expand infinitely on the inside while remaining the same size on the outside.) Wee Granny has a Westie for a companion; their adventures with grandchildren Emily and Harry will delight everyone.

You Can't Play Here!

By Angus Corby. 32 pages. paperback. **\$11.95.** Ages 3 and up. Gregor is thrilled when he gets a set of bagpipes for his birthday. But each time he plays, he makes an awful sound: Honk-eyyow! And everyone shouts, "YOU CAN'T PLAY HERE!" Where *would* Gregor practice? A strangely familiar-looking, grandmotherly lady with two attendant Corgis, asked him, "What about here?" And so, Gregor went back day after day to practice his pipes, and the nice lady gave him lemonade and biscuits when he got tired. He didn't think much about it until a beautifully lettered invitation came from Holyroodhouse, inviting him to



Long time CMS member Blanche sees her grand daughter Sarah married July 14
Back: Douglas (Ottawa), Beth (with Douglas), Nancy (Rae's wife), Ruth (Perth), Rae (Montreal), Chris Baldwin (groom of 20 minutes), Sarah MacLeod (bride of 20 minutes), Kenneth (Halifax), Carolyn MacLeod (Toronto - Rae's daughter), Len Sorensen (Carolyn's husband - wannabe MacLeod)
Front: Grandma Blanche MacLeod (97)- Mother of Rae, Ruth, Kenneth & Douglas - the first time all 4 children were in the same city at the same place in 25 years - kneeling Ken's son Timothy

participate in the Queen's birthday parade down Princes Street!

Pudding and Chips

By Penny Matthews and Janine Dawson. 32 pages. hardback. **\$17.95.** Ages 5 and up. Pudding the goose is as fierce as a tiger, as prickly as barbed wire, and as noisy as a street full of fire engines! Nobody tells Pudding what to do – not even Chips the sheepdog. Things are never quiet on Annie's farm! But one warm, windy night, a big red fox comes creeping through the paddocks, dreaming of chicken dinners, and things start to change.

My Cat Mac

By Margaret Forrester and Sandra Klaassen. 32 pages. paperback. **\$11.95.** Ages 3 and up. When a new family move into Mac the cat's Ed-

inburgh town house, he decides to let them stay. He has always wanted a special friend and the little girl Catriona seems very nice. But when Catriona decides to dress Mac up in doll's clothes and pushes him around in her pram, he is not impressed. Mac leaves home to teach Catriona a lesson. Catriona misses Mac, but will he miss her? And will Catriona learn to give Mac the respect he needs?

Mac's Christmas Star

By Margaret Forrester and Sandra Klaassen. 32 pages. paperback. **\$11.95.** It's Christmas Eve in Mac the cat's house and the family are busy preparing for Christmas Day. Catriona accidentally finds her Christmas present, some beautiful jewelry – but then loses the ring. Meanwhile the

family buy an enormous Christmas tree, which Mac is determined to climb...Can Mac and Catriona find the ring before Mum and Dad notice? And will Mac get his way and climb the now 'Much Decorated' tree? A warm and funny festive story from everyone's favorite Edinburgh cat.

Hungry Hettie

By Polly Larson and Jo Allan. 24 pages. paperback. **\$11.95.** Ages 4 and up. This is another Games favorite from this past season. Hettie the Highland cow is always hungry. She eats grass, thistles, hedges and even Granny Macleod's washing! When Callum and Kirsty visit her, they give her treats to eat — porridge, sandwiches, shortbread, fish suppers and ice cream! When the children arrive with a huge cake, Hettie starts to look worried. She's not feeling so hungry any more. Watch Hettie grow as she eats her way through many Scottish favorites, until she and the children finally learn their lesson.

Hairy Hettie

By Polly Larson and Jo Allan. 24 pages. paperback. **\$11.95.** Ages 4 and up. Hettie the Highland Cow is back for more adventures! She has lots of hair to keep her warm and cosy. But other animals want to be cosy too. In springtime two blackbirds stop by and build their nest in Hettie's hair. She's a cow not a hedge! In summertime some butterflies lay their eggs in Hettie's fur, which grow into wriggling caterpillars. In autumn a squirrel burrows in to hibernate. And in winter a mountain hare hops aboard too! Poor Hettie. She's a cow, not a hairy hotel! It might be time for a haircut. The second story about loveable Hettie the Highland cow takes us through the seasons in Scotland. Δ

WELL DONE, JUDY BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON AND BETH MCLEOD

Judy has been a friend of and steadfast participant in the activities of Clan MacLeod for forty years, initially, as a result of her membership in the Vancouver Society and latterly also with the Vancouver Island Society. She was President of CMS Greater Vancouver during the NAG 92 held at UBC and active on the organizational committee for the event. Attending Clan Parliaments and North American Gatherings over the years, combined with her wonderful outgoing personality, has meant that she has made many friends, not only in Canada but amongst the world wide Clan. Latterly she has been the Editor of the *Leod Voice*, produced twice each year. Because of her proactiveness and ability to connect with our many Canadian clansfolk, she manages to produce a newsletter that is both interesting and a must read for all of us with each issue. She is truly a deserving individual, for all of her work and dedication to the Clan, of Outstanding Clanswoman of the Year for Canada. Hugs from all of us. Δ

GOOD WORK, IAN BY JUDY TITTLE

Always eager, Ian can be counted on to entertain us with some of his writings for the *Leod Voice*. He faithfully attended ACMS meetings during his CMSC presidency and has worked tirelessly on CMSC projects including chairing the Internet Society. The NAG 92 benefitted greatly from his financial competence. At gatherings we get to see how his grand children have grown and enjoy being with him.

A well deserved award, Ian. Δ

WAR OF THE ONE-EYED WOMAN

BY IAN C. MACLEOD

The last major battle between the MacLeods and MacDonalds on Skye seems to have been in 1601, over 400 years ago, in the “War of the One Eyed Woman”.

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

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

Perhaps the worst of the vicious bloodletting led to the “Battle of the Spoiling of the Dyke”, in 1578. The MacLeods had raided the MacDonald-held Isle of Eigg a couple of years previously, and massacred hundreds of MacDonalds in the cave that was used as the place of worship. In revenge, the MacDonalds of Uist landed on Skye and barred the doors of Trumpan Church in Waternish, when it was full of worshippers, then set the church on fire. (Some stories suggest that the victims, in each case, were actually first herded into the cave / church before it was set afire.) No one escaped – except one girl who though fatally wounded managed to sound the alarm. The MacLeod chief then set off

for Ardmore Bay and caught up with and attacked the MacDonald raiders. Almost every MacDonald was killed in the ensuing battle. The corpses were dragged into a turf dyke, giving the conflict its name as the Battle of the Spoiling of the Dyke.

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

Sometime in the 1590s, an attempt was made to mend the rivalry when Margaret, sister of Rory Mor MacLeod (15th Chief, Chief from 1595 to 1626) wed Donald Gorm Mor MacDonald. At that time, it was the custom in the Highlands for a marriage to have a trial period of one year, a tradition known as “hand-fasting”, or “left-handed marriage”. If the trial worked (to the satisfaction of the man, of course!) the marriage would become formal, and any children legitimized. If not, the trial could be terminated. Margaret bore no children. Sometime during the “trial year” she lost an eye. When the year was up, Donald MacDonald sent her back, on a one-eyed horse, led by a one-eyed man and accompanied by a one-eyed dog. Not surprisingly, Chief Rory Mor was outraged, and a new war began between the clans, called the “War of the One-Eyed Woman”. This culminated in 1601 in a battle in Coire na Creiche (the corrie of the spoils), beneath the Cuillins, when both clans suffered heavy losses.

The MacDonalds seem to have

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

Our ancestors were certainly a wild and vicious lot. In fact, in the

early 2000s, I recall listening to a BBC reporter in Afghanistan at the beginning of the Afghan War. He commented that the tribal warlords in the north of Afghanistan were not unlike the Highland Chiefs of 400 or 500 years earlier. Needless to say, the reporter was British (but he may have been right!). Δ

GAELIC LANGUAGE HISTORY

BY THE GAELIC COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA

Information Cards passed out at Celtic Colours Concerts this year contained this information.

“Celtic” is from the Greek “Keltoi”. It became the term used for peoples with similar languages and culture that existed right across western Europe during the Iron Age, 3000 years ago.

“Gaelic” is a branch of languages and cultures emerging from early Celtic Society. Irish, Scottish Gaelic, and Manx are Gaelic languages spoken today. Gaelic language and culture have played an important role in Nova Scotia for nearly 250 years. Gaelic carries a treasure of centuries-old songs, stories, music and dance which we, as Nova Scotia Gaels, share in our daily lives.

Do you know the tale of the Gaelic warrior Fionn MacCool and the salmon of knowledge? For the Gaels, the salmon represents the gift of knowledge bestowed upon Fionn.

The symbol of Gaelic Nova Scotia uses the salmon shaped as a “G” to represent Gaelic language, with ripples to convey how language comes to life through culture: song, story, music,

dance, food, custom and belief. Gaelic language shapes our identity and how we interpret the world around us.

The importance of a visual image for Gaelic Nova Scotia was first identified in the 2002 community consultation process undertaken jointly by the Gaelic Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage. Comhairle na Gàidhlig has made this project a priority and commissioned a visual artist to develop an image based on extensive consultation with the community. The image was unveiled in May, 2008 and we hope it will serve as a rallying point for Gaelic language and culture for years to come.



[You may remember seeing this flag held up at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver and shown in issue #52 on the LEOD VOICE]

Gaelic in Canada

BY IAN C. MACLEOD

Given the recent political discussion, following the most recent Census data, over the use of languages other than English and French in Canadian homes, it might be useful to have a look at our history.

At the time of Canadian Confederation (1867), there was no common language – initially there was English, French and Gaelic (in 1850, about 10% of the population spoke Gaelic) and a multitude of aboriginal languages, among at least 629 “First Nations”.

In 1850 Gaelic was the third most commonly spoken European language in British North America (*now Canada*), spoken by as many as 200,000 British North Americans of both Scottish and Irish origin. At that time, Gaelic was probably spoken by one out of every ten inhabitants of British North America.

In 1890 Senator Thomas Innis introduced a bill (never passed) into the Canadian Senate entitled *An Act to provide for the use of Gaelic in official proceedings*. He claimed that there were ten Scots senators and eight Irish ones who spoke Gaelic (out of the then total of about 85 Senators, or about 21%), and thirty-two members of the House of Commons (out of 263, or about 12%) who spoke either Gaelic or Erse (the Irish variety of Gaelic).

(There is an excellent web site on the Scots, and other immigrant groups, in Canada, at www.multiculturalcanada.ca. (click through on: Encyclopedia-Group Entries-Scots-Culture). This site is partnered by Simon Fraser University (lead institution), Sien Lok Society of

Calgary, University of Calgary, Multicultural History Society of Ontario, Vancouver Public Library, University of Victoria Library and University of Toronto Library. It provides an excellent thumbnail history of the Scots in both Scotland and Canada.)

My Great-Grandfather (my Dad’s Mother’s Dad) even delivered an impassioned speech (perhaps a bit thick on the hyperbole) in the Nova Scotia Legislature in 1879. Following is a brief excerpt from my personal family stories:

Gaelic Speech in Nova Scotia Legislature (1879), by John A. Morrison

My Grandmother, Christena Rebecca (“Tena”) (Morrison) MacLeod (known to most as Tena) (November 24, 1874 to April 20, 1949) was also a second generation Canadian of Scottish ancestry, also raised on Cape Breton Island at St Ann’s. Tena went to Boston for a few years in her youth, working as a wireless operator.

She had grown up in a politically involved family. Her father, John A. (“Little John”) Morrison, had been elected from Victoria County to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly in 1878, as a Conservative. He served only one term. Late in 1879, during a debate as to whether French should be taught in the Nova Scotia schools, a proposal that he did not oppose, he suggested that it was equally appropriate to teach Gaelic. He was not successful on that suggestion. He made his speech entirely in Gaelic and he must have had to get a ruling from the Speaker to allow him to do so. About a century later I have been told that

that speech was used as a precedent by Sinn Fein, the Irish unionist party (they were first elected to the British Parliament in 1983, but due to their refusal to take the oath of allegiance, they did not take their seats until 1998 in the British Parliament) when the Irish Sinn Fein tried to speak Gaelic in either the British or Irish Parliaments. They lost too (I have been unable to locate the actual Hansard record of that speech or ruling).

Here is the English translation of his speech, from the book “The History of the Morison or Morrison Family” by Leonard A. Morrison, published 1880.

“Mr. Speaker, and honourable gentlemen.

I have been noticing that great initiatives have been set up, and great assent has been given them by some honourable Canadians here, and in other places, to establish the preservation of the French language in this corner of the Dominion, by more pay being given to schoolteachers who teach the French children, the French language.

But I am of the opinion that the venerable Gaelic is as precious and as useful to be taught as any other language; truly, Gaelic is the oldest language, and the best language that is in the world today.

The speakers of English believe that that language is more entitled to respect than Gaelic; but they are foolish, and I am sure that there won't be found today one person who speaks English correctly, except the man who has Gaelic.

Gaelic was the first language on earth, and when that language isn't around, there won't be need of any.

Therefore, if provision is made for the French language, certainly provision must be made for the Gaelic.

The great scholars in the old country tell us that Gaelic is the king of all

languages, that it is rich, perfected, artistic, melodious, and expressive, and very good for worship, and every other good thing.

Gaelic is the language that Adam spoke, in the garden, it's the language of the bards, and the historians, and it must be kept up.

There's nothing in the French language but poor sputtering; and part of English isn't much better.

Therefore, I say: Up with the Gaelic in School, and out of school; and if a shilling is obtained to keep up the confused awkward language of the French, let there be ten shillings for the great, honourable Gaelic. Do you hear?” Δ

WE SHALL REMEMBER PEGGY STAAS

Margaret Louise (MacLeod) Staas passed away peacefully on December 7, 2012, at 95 years. She was a devoted wife, Mum and Nana. Remembered by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

We remember Peggy and her family who accompanied her on her trips to



Canada and at various Parliaments and North American Gatherings. She always had a smile and a story; a proud member of the MacLeod Clan and

with an avid interest in race horses.

We send our sincere condolences to all of her family and friends in Australia and abroad.

Forever In Our Hearts
“HOLD FAST”

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

NORMAN MACLEOD ROGERS

BY KAREN MACLEOD MCCRIMMON, PRESIDENT CMS CENTRAL ONTARIO



Norman died peacefully, aged 90 years, in Toronto on October 8, 2012. He was the son of the Clan's beloved Arthur MacLeod Rogers and the husband of Joan who died in 2011 after 65 years of marriage. Our thoughts go out to his children, Brian, Carol and Dean and his extended family.

Norman had an illustrious career in law, graduating from Queen's University, in Arts, and Osgood Hall, in Law, in 1948. He met his bride, Joan, in Vancouver while serving with the artillery in World War II and they spent many winters on the west coast, where they had family and friends and while there they were able to maintain close ties with our clan family in the area.

Norman was a staunch supporter of Clan MacLeod in Canada and served both the CMSC (Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada) and the Central Ontario Society in various roles throughout the years. He, together with Ed McKenna (a specialist in constitutional law and member of the

Ottawa Society) worked together in the development of the Constitution governing the operations of CMSC. In addition, he was instrumental in having the Clan MacLeod Foundation of Canada incorporated as a charity registered under the *Income Tax Act*. Funds donated were required to be used within Canada and thus were ultimately used to fund the travels of Jim Hunter throughout Canada, as he interviewed Canadian MacLeods for his book entitled *Scottish Exodus: Travels Among a Worldwide Clan*.

In 1999, while the Central Ontario Society was totally involved in the forthcoming year 2000 North American Gathering held in Guelph, Ontario, Norman graciously stepped in to serve as the Interim President. During this period, both he and Joan supported CMS Central Ontario in providing a meeting place and entertainment for its Ceilidhs and in assisting the Organizing Committee in its endeavours. His commitment was truly appreciated at that busy time.

Norman and Joan were never happier than at Dunvegan Farm in Grey County, Ontario, their country retreat, where he and Joan grew flowers, trees and trout and hosted family and friends.

Our sincere condolences to Brian, Carol, Dean and their families.

His support and friendship will be truly missed by all of his clan friends. Δ

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

I am saddened to report the passing of two dear personal friends of mine and of the Clan in Norman MacLeod Rogers of Toronto and Peggy Staas of Australia. Many of us have enjoyed the humour and friendship of each over the years and their bright spirits and energy will be missed.



Each issue of the *Leod Voice* seems to generate it's own theme depending on the various activities of our members. This issue contains news of the North American Gathering in Alexandria, VA from several of our members, all having similar comments of harsh, hot, humid weather but wonderful warm times of fellowship. Steve did a tremendous job of keeping the program running in spite of the the storm and power outage which simply brought us all together, determined to enjoy our less formal gathering. Well done, Stephen.

The history of the Gaelic language in Canada and the current promotion of the study of Gaelic in Nova Scotia is a result of my reading of the *Gaelic Affairs Reports* so ably published by Pauline MacDonald for the Nova Scotia government and of the promotion of the use of Gaelic in Canadian government as told in the story of Ian C. MacLeod's (Greater Vancouver) grandfather's speech.

At the CMSC AGM we transferred the Chain of Office of the President from Dr Don MacLeod (BC Interior) to Jim MacLeod (Ottawa) and heard of the energetic plans for the next NAG in 2016. Outstanding Clansperson Awards honoured your truly and also Ian C. MacLeod, both of us very proud to be able to contribute to the workings of our local societies and also the overseeing Clan MacLeod Society of Canada.

This has been an exciting year for Clan MacLeod and I look forward to the build up toward the next Clan Gatherings at the Sterling Gathering of the Clans and at Parliament 2014.

I will be especially pleased to hear from more of you with stories of your own for coming issues of the *Leod Voice* and especially members whose ancestry included settlers of Brandon Hills, Manitoba in the 1800s. I have an interesting article about the establishment of this settlement but want to be able to tie it to MacLeods in some way.

Season's Greetings to all, and the very best to everyone for the coming year.



Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1

and September 1

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