



The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 59
FALL, 2013



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JIM MACLEOD, PRESIDENT CLAN
MACLEOD SOCIETIES OF CANADA

Welcome once again to your Fall edition of the *Leod Voice*. It seems like only a few days ago that I was setting 'fingers tapping' to write the Spring edition of this report. The summer has come and gone in a flash. But a good summer it was, in spite of the best intentions, I managed to get to only two Highland Games: Glengarry and Almonte Ontario.



It was once again a pleasure to be able to attend the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville Ontario and to take part in the Parade of the Clans in which the MacLeod's were well represented. The weather was a 'tad' threatening but any precipitation was held to a brief 'scottish mist' mid-afternoon.

National Council

This past June 28, your National Council held a teleconference meeting which was very well attended with: 7 attendees, 2 regrets, and 5 absentees (note: currently no Regional VP Atlantic). The meeting lasted just a bit over two hours and really could have gone longer given the number of issues to be discussed. Some of the more significant points discussed include the following.

This past June 11, I received a letter of resignation from Donald R MacLeod as the Vice President Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada. Don R. has always been a strong supporter of Clan MacLeod and in particular in Atlantic Canada. Thank you to Don for holding the VP position for the past year and I'm sure that he and Eleanor will continue in their supportive role in the years to come.

I am pleased to confirm that Judy Tipple has agreed to assume the Vice President Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada position for the remainder of the term. Thank you and congratulations, Judy.

As some of you may be aware, the Member Societies in PEI, Cape Breton and Halifax have temporarily suspended their operation. It was agreed at the National Council meeting that an offer be extended to those now inactive members to join any other Member Society across Canada on a 'Guest Membership' basis, with the understanding that once these Societies are reactivated their membership will return to their home

Society.

It should be noted that some members have already joined other Member Societies thus keeping in touch with the MacLeod World by continuing to receive the *Leod Voice* and the *Clan Magazine* through their paid membership.

We all must do what we can to facilitate the reestablishment of these three Maritime Member Societies. Any suggestions and any help to make this happen would be greatly appreciated.

CMSC Constitution

The CMSC Constitution was first formulated in 1993. Amendments were added in 1994 and again in 2008. Perhaps it may be time to give some consideration to making further amendments in response to current demands and environment. This was discussed at our June meeting. Some amendments may be minor but I feel that there is a need for a more robust and interactive relationship between National Council and the Membership Societies, by redefining the relationship between the Executives of both bodies.

To this end, please remember that this is *your* National Council and your Membership Societies – we need *your* opinions and/or suggestions to assist us in going forward. (glenelg.macleod@gmail.com)

Any proposed amendments will be discussed further at the next meeting of National Council and final approval will be voted on at the next General Meeting to be held at Parliament in July, 2014.

The next meeting of National Council is being held on Saturday, November 9, 2013. This meeting will be face-to-face and held in Caledon, Ontario. In the evening after the meeting National Council members will attend the Fall Ceilidh of the Clan MacLeod Society of Central Ontario in Toronto.

Parliament 2014

As I'm sure most of you are aware, Parliament 2014 is being held in Dunvegan, Isle of Skye from Saturday, July 19 to Saturday July 26, 2014. Although the program hasn't been released yet (as if this writing), CMSC will as usual hold our Annual General Meeting on one of the mornings – date and time to be determined, at which time we will also play host to the 'morning coffee' open to all attendees, immediately prior to our meeting. If you are planning on making the trip it may be wise to make your accommodation arrangements sooner rather than later. Many of the local B&Bs are already starting to fill up. There are several web

sites that you can use to see what's available, so a simple Google search (*Accommodation in Dunvegan Isle of Skye*, for example) should set you in the right direction. Hopefully Canada will be well represented.

Some History of Interest

From time to time while sitting at my computer I will go on to the BBC website and drill down through the 'UK' tab to the 'Scotland' tab just to see what our ancestors are concerning themselves with these days. Often there will be a story or article of interest. I will mention two of these here for you to take a look at.

The first one appeared a couple of years ago and it relates to the discovery of a Viking shipbuilding facility that has been discovered on The Isle of Skye. The article can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-13284989 .

The second article was sent to me by Neil F. MacLeod (our webmaster) and it is about a Polish girl's journey during the Second World War, from Warsaw to Skye. The story is a result of the research done by Dr. James Hunter for his book *Scottish Exodus, Travels Among a Worldwide Clan* (see page 54). The BBC article can be found at: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-23781404 .

Web Site

The updated web site has been on-line now for almost a year and so it is time for some updates, etc. over the next few weeks and months. We still need some information from Member Societies, so please send us your news/events/stories/etc. so we can make our Clan MacLeod web site a living place to visit. Visit www.clanmacleod-canada.com and let us know what you would like to see included.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful winter, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year no matter how and where you celebrate. For us, it is back to Portugal for much of the winter where this year I plan to seek out the St. Andrews Society of The Algarve. I am told that they do a great Burns dinner - just the requirement to fend off the chills of a late January evening.

Hold Fast & Shine Brightly; Jim

PAST PRESIDENT'S NEWS

BY DON M. MCLEOD



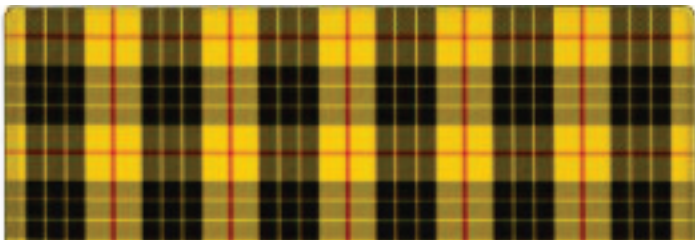
Another wonderful year and summer has cooled off and pear picking and plans for the new season of get togethers. For June 2013, Christine and I had a wonderful time visiting John Davidson Kelly and Roma with a get together in their back yard and then a fabulous dinner on the shores of Scotland's only fresh water lake.

Chris and I were the guests of Steven MacLeod at his Airth Castle near Edinburgh. This was followed by a visit to Ruari Halford MacLeod and Anne at their home and then to see Emma and Ruari at their Black Watch Museum where Emma is the curator. It was a very exhilarating display of memorabilia of one of the most famous of Scottish Regiments. A quick drive down to Maidenhead and a visit at home and with a dram shared with David and Leslie MacLeod. David is keen to be vice president ACMS and so we discussed plans for the new term coming up. Family stories were shared and David has the energy, travel history and computer at his side.

New Zealand and Nova Scotia, all in the next two months should get my Gaelic tongue wagging and my Nordic blood flowing (summer in New Zealand).

Clan Parliament is shaping up to be the highlight again and more details by the month will be coming. Remember that if your children haven't been to Dunvegan, then this is the time to acquaint them with the magical heritage of tartan, fairies, heather and stories from all of us. We cherish each new clan member that we meet and we want to hear your unique story. If there is any question or detail needed, then ask any of us by looking in the *Clan Magazine* for emails and phone numbers because we will give you Scottish advice (free).

Sincerely and Holding Fast the Shine, Dr. Don McLeod (Merritt)



CMS GREATER VANCOUVER

BY EDIE KERNIGHAN

A few photos of our scenic Fraser River Cruise on September 7. We enjoyed blue skies, warmth and sunshine for our paddle wheeler boat excursion with great companions. We set off from the New Westminster Quay and enjoyed lunch while we travelled up the Fraser River past New Westminster, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam to the mouth of the Pitt River and back down the Fraser River again. A great way to spend some time and see the scenery from the water.

More photos available on Flickr at [Flickrediek20121 photostream](#)



The Annual General Meeting of CMS Greater Vancouver was held at the historic Sylvia Hotel at the entrance to Stanley Park overlooking English Bay. Plans for the annual Burns Luncheon to be held January 19 at the Richmond Curling Club were finalized.

The executive elected remains the same with President Mark, Secretary-treasurer Edie Kernighan and directors MacLeods: Ian C., Jean, Ollie, Jack, Allan, Bill G. McLeod and Judy Tipple.

The plans for the North American Gathering July 2016 are beginning to come together.

All were encouraged to make their plans to attend Parliament 2014.

CMS CENTRAL ONTARIO FALL ceiliadh

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

We met at Olivet New Church at 5:00 pm on Saturday November 9. The Ceilidh was very well attended with numerous special guests. They included Jo-Ann Tuskin and Maureen Hardie from CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada), members of CMSC Jim MacLeod - President, Isabelle Johnston - Secretary, Judy Tipple - Membership Coordinator, and Editor of the *Leod Voice* (amongst many other hats), Grace and Doug Webbe, (Allan and Mary's daughter and son-in-law) and neighbour Geoffrey, Rod McLeod's daughter Cinders, who brought along copies of her handbook "Broomie Law", cartoons that tackle social issues with wit and Carol (McCrimmon) Pugliese's son Matthew and Jo Rutherford along with Matthew's delightful daughter Savannah. C'ead Mile Failte, a *Hundred Thousand Welcomes to all*.

Due to the huge summer flood in the area of the church, the kitchen facilities were not available as the reconstruction is on-going. In our tradition as persevering Scots, we were able to put on a great pot luck dinner including hot and cold food as a main course and some really decadent sweets for dessert.

Before giving the blessing, Allan spoke about why he was thankful on this Remembrance Day and briefly discussed his family members' participation in WW I and WW II.



In honour of Irene MacCrimmon's upcoming 90th birthday she was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a yummy birthday cake with the Clan Crest in impressive three-dimensions prominently displayed on top. Present to help Irene celebrate her milestone were four generations of MacCrimmon's. They included her daughter Carol, Carol's son Matthew and Matthew's daughter Savannah.

Barbara Jean kindly provided a delicious haggis and arranged for Rory Sinclair to pipe it in. Not only did he pipe in the Haggis but gave us a great history lesson on Robbie Burns *Ode to the Haggis* which had everyone chuckling.



To start the entertainment portion of the evening Aidan and Wesley Gladish, took turns reading Canadian physician Lieutenant John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Field*.



In keeping with the Military theme around Remembrance Day, Rowan Gladish played her guitar and sang a great rendition of the song *One Tin Soldier* from the movie *Billy Jack*. She then entertained us with a very timely song she had written about pushing back against bullying called *Stand Up*. She is one very talented young lady.





Rachel Hillier, a student of Carol (MacCrimmon) Pugliese, put on a great demonstration of Scottish highland dancing. Carol then led us in three exhausting but fun rounds of Scottish Country Dancing. The dances included *The Canadian Barn Dance* and finished with the *Gay (happy) Gordon*. Young and old thoroughly enjoyed the spinning, clapping and stepping to the music.

To close the evening, we gathered in a circle, took our neighbour's hand and Diane led us in a rousing rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*. We all felt a sense of fellowship with one another and hope to meet again at the next ceilidh.

CMS BC INTERIOR AT THE KAMLOOPS HIGHLAND GAMES

Visitors with June, Phil and Pat at the tent on a hot day at the Games.



WEDDING OF SARAH BURNELL AND ERICK BRAHAM

BY LINDA CRAWFORD

On July 27, Clan MacLeod member Sarah Burnell, daughter of Linda Crawford and Bryn Burnell (Ottawa) was married to Erick Braham, son of Erick and Maria del Carmen Alcantara Braham (Mexico City). Many of you will remember Sarah from Clan gatherings, and from her success as an award-winning celtic fiddler.

In June, Barbara MacLeod Armstrong (Almonte) hosted a beautiful bridal shower for Sarah, hosting about a dozen of our Ottawa Clanswomen. Barb served a delicious luncheon, with help from Ann McCrimmon and Isabelle Johnston. It was a very happy afternoon, and Sarah really enjoyed re-connecting with the ladies of her Clan.

Sarah and Erick's wedding was at the Birks Chapel at McGill University, in Montréal, followed by a dinner and ceilidh at the McGill Faculty Club. The celebration included numerous celtic touches reflecting Sarah's MacLeod and Erick's MacKenzie roots.

Sarah and Erick first met through their mutual love of celtic music! Erick first visited Canada to compete at the Glengarry highland games, with the San Patricio pipe band (Mexico's only pipe band!). When Erick decided to immigrate to Canada, he choose Montréal as his new home. A mutual friend suggested that he join the Siamsa Singers choir, which Sarah conducts, and...!

For the wedding, Erick and his groomsmen wore formal highland dress, and many of the male guests wore kilts, too. Erick looked very dashing in his new MacKenzie kilt, made by Betty Gibson, of Carleton Place, ON. His best man (brother) Andrés also wore a MacKenzie kilt. Graham Lindsey (friend and member of Sarah's band) and Zephyr (Crawford) Pelletier (Sarah's young cousin) wore green MacLeod tartan kilts. Thanks to Jean McKenna (Ottawa), Barb Armstrong (Almonte), Jim MacLeod (Ottawa) and Jamie MacLeod (Casselman) for the loan of various items of highland regalia. Yeah Clan!

Sarah's was maid-of-honour Alana Viljoen, whom many of you remember from the Ottawa MacLeod NAG. The four bridesmaids and the flower girl wore gowns designed by Sarah, and made by Linda. Sarah and her cousin Pascale (Christopher Crawford's wife) created all the flower arrangements for the day. The bouquets were tied with MacLeod and MacKenzie ribbons. Each bouquet also carried a cairngorm brooch, several from Sarah's grandmother Katherine Crawford, and one from

Sarah's great-grandmother, Mae MacLeod Blackmore.

To bring a celtic touch to the Birks Chapel, Linda designed and made two antependia (banners). One featured a celtic triangle with a gold ring, and the other was decorated with a celtic cross.

Music, and especially celtic music, was an important part of the festivities. The bridal party was piped across McGill Common to the Chapel. The processional march was "Rob Fraser's Welcome to San Francisco" which was scored by Sarah for string quartet and highland pipes. The recessional pipe tune was "Murray's Fancy". Other instrumental selections during the service were Mozart's "Ave Verum" and "Blue Bonnets Over the Border". The 20-voice "The Friends and Family Choir sang "Ubi Caritas" (Durufié) and "Rise Up, My Love" (Willan). After the ceremony, the entire congregation was piped back across the Common, to the Faculty Club, for dinner and dancing.

The evening included a traditional celtic wedding scotch toast using two beautiful quiches. One belonged to Sarah's late uncle, Ed McKenna (Ottawa), and the second belonged to our Clan MacLeod Canada President, Jim MacLeod (Ottawa). Sarah and Erick really enjoyed moving from table-to-table, sharing the traditional cup with their guests.

The ceilidh dance featured the celtic trio, "Solstice". Caller Bill Gray directed traffic on the dance floor, and everybody had a wonderful time! Sarah and Erick's first dance together as husband and wife was to the lovely celtic ballad "Wild Mountain Thyme", with everyone singing along. For their father-daughter dance, Sarah and Bryn danced to the celtic waltz "The Wedding Gift". Towards the end of the evening, Sarah's friend and colleague Paul Mills (Toronto) grabbed a guitar and shared a beautiful rendition of the Stan Rogers classic, "45 Years". It was a touching and emotional moment, and the perfect ending to a very special evening.

Following the wedding, Erick's family visited in Ottawa, Montréal, and Québec City. They also attended the Glengarry Highland Games, at which Erick competed with the Montreal Black Watch (gr. 3) Band. Maricarmen and Maria del Carmen Braham proudly marched with the Mackenzies in the Parade of the Clans, while Sarah and Linda joined the large contingent of MacLeods.

Sarah and Erick enjoyed a "mini-moon" in Niagara wine country, and they are planning their "real" honeymoon in Scotland next summer, prior to attending Parliament in 2014.

Sarah and Erick live in Montreal, where Sarah teaches Music for

the Lester B. Pearson Board. Erick works for Fido, and is also a piper with the Black Watch Regiment band. Sarah conducts the Siamsa Singers (celtic/folk choir), and is preparing them to tour Newfoundland next summer. The Sarah Burnell Band is also recording a new CD, due for release in 2014.







CMS BC Vancouver Island group at the September BBQ held at the home of President Malcolm and Karen in Duncan, BC. Always a lively event.

A keen and frequent marathoner, Heather, daughter of Vancouver's Ian C. enjoyed her completion of this year's Victoria race. Heather makes her home in Edmonton, AB.



Scotch on the Rocks...

A DREAM FULLFILLED

BY CPL. JEN ALLAN, PORT ALBERNI RCMP MEDIA MANAGER

On June 28, 2013 a Port Alberni Mountie fulfilled a lifelong wish of a local senior citizen by visiting her at the Ty Watson Hospice House. The nursing staff contacted Cst. Scott MacLeod after learning that their 88 year old patient, Jenny Stewart, had always wanted to meet a Mountie dressed in their formal Red Serge uniform.

Jenny saw her first RCMP Officer dressed in his Red Serge in 1938, at the Empire Exhibition in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was 11 years old and she remembers that



moment as the one that sealed her decision to one day become a resident of Canada. She received this opportunity in 1945 when she married a Canadian soldier in Scotland, and six months later sailed on the *Aquitania* to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

While sipping tea with Jenny, Cst. MacLeod listened with great interest as she talked about her late husband and their life together in their newly adopted homeland. Photographs were taken to mark this exciting moment in Jenny's life and both she and Cst. MacLeod smiled proudly in every photograph. As Cst. MacLeod left Ty Watson House hours later, he marveled once again at the impact his iconic and historical red uniform continues to have on Canadians and those around the world.

[Editor's Note: Scott is the son of Donald R. and Eleanor MacLeod of Halifax and I can see the resemblance of Scott to his father.]



ACMS NEWS

We have just held our first “election” for a position on the ACMS Council by email, a remarkable twentieth century accomplishment.

Therefore we welcome our new joint Youth Membership Coordinators (YMC)-elect, Finlay MacLeod of Canada and Bronwyn McLeod of Australia. Again, with many thanks to our immediate past YMC, Christy MacLeod, for her contributions to our Clan youth activities over the past several years and for bringing forward such good candidates as her replacement.

The program for Parliament July 19-26 is to be available shortly along with the registration form. There is not a pre-Parliament seminar planned for this Parliament. Keep an eye on the internet address <http://www.clanmacleodparliament.org> for more information.

Intended to be dedicated during Parliament is the Memorial to Chief John, a gazebo in the Walled Garden at Dunvegan Castle, one of the areas of the Dunvegan Estate very dear to Chief John’s heart.

The North Room Group (age 16+) has the project of reconstructing the barbecue area by the Laundry Cottage where an event will be held during Parliament. The Dunvegan estate manager John Nicolson will supervise the NRG project during the week before Parliament.



Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

www.clanmacleod-canada.com

MEMBER SOCIETIES:

Glengarry
Vancouver Island
Central Ontario
(Cape Breton*)

Manitoba
Vancouver
Internet Society
Halifax*)
*Suspended

Southern Alberta
B.C. Interior
Ottawa

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Are you aware that we have a National Council comprised of people across our great country? Who are they? Did you know that we have a Constitution (you know, rules that govern how we operate)?

Members of the Council of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC) are:

Jim MacLeod (Ottawa) – President

Isabelle Johnston (Ottawa) – Secretary

Beth Macleod (Central Ontario) – Treasurer

Dr. Don MacLeod (BC Interior) – Past President

Carol (MacCrimmon) Pugliese (Central Ontario) – Central Region
Vice President

Ken MacLeod (BC Interior) – Pacific Region Vice President

Bob McLeod (Manitoba) – Prairie Vice President

Lesley McCrimmon (Central Ontario) – Co-ordinating Genealogist

Judy Tipple (BC Greater Vancouver and Vancouver Island) – Vice
President, Membership Registrar and Newsletter Editor

Meetings are held at Parliament, North American Gatherings, at other times in person and by teleconference.

CMSC COUNCIL NOTES

Since the last issue of the *Leod Voice* there have been two Council meetings. The first was by teleconference June 28, chaired by President Jim and attended by treasurer Beth, secretary Isabelle Johnston, genealogist Lesley McCrimmon, membership registrar and newsletter editor Judy Tipple and past presidents Neil R. and Ian C.

In summarizing the 2012 financial information Beth highlighted the drop in membership due to the inactivity of the Atlantic Region Societies, the realignment of the Genealogy Fund to the Special Operating Fund and the transfer of the Internet Society Fund to Internet president Ian C. MacLeod.

In the 2013 review it was noted that membership is continuing to slip, from 292 in 2012 to 264 in 2013. We were all tasked with thinking of ways to hold and attract members. Input from the general membership is encouraged. President Jim will send an email letter to each of the members of the Nova Scotia societies encouraging them to join the Internet or one of the other Societies in order to remain in contact with their MacLeod family.

Webmaster Neil F. sent his thanks to Ian C. for the the files of in-

formation he had prepared for the web a couple of years ago and for the MacLeod stories he had written. The development of the web site is progressing admirably and will grow in depth as more information is sent in to either Jim or Neil F. (email addresses appear elsewhere in this issue.)



Discussion of the role of Regional Vice Presidents was introduced and will be dealt with in the Fall council meeting to be held in Toronto area in November.

The second council meeting was graciously hosted by Beth on November 9, chaired by Jim with Beth, Isabelle, Lesley, Carol MacCrimmon, Karen McCrimmon and Judy Tipple, attending (in the photo above), and Past Presidents Don (Merritt), Neil R. and Ian C. by teleconference.

Revision to the constitution with the removal of reference to Regions and the inclusion of Member Society Presidents or their delegates to become Council members being the main topic of discussion. The amended constitution will be brought to the CMSC AGM at Parliament 2014 for approval.

The CMSC web site is coming along well with Jim and Neil F. giving it their attention. Photos and notes of interest are welcome additions, just send them to either Jim (glenelg.macleod@gmail.com) or Neil F. (neil_macleod@rogers.com) for posting. We are grateful for their work on this important tool which allows us access to information.

Adventures of the Stone of Destiny

According to one Celtic legend the stone was once the pillow upon which the patriarch Jacob rested at Bethel when he beheld the visions of angels. From the Holy Land it purportedly traveled to Egypt, Sicily, and Spain and reached Ireland about bc 700 to be set upon the hills of Tara, where the ancient kings of Ireland were crowned. Thence it was taken by the Celtic Scots who invaded and occupied Scotland. About ad 840 it was taken by Kenneth MacAlpin to the village of Scone.



At Scone, historically, the stone came to be encased in the seat of a royal coronation chair. In 1292 John de Balliol was the last Scottish king crowned on it, before Edward I of England invaded Scotland in 1296 and moved the stone (and other Scottish regalia) to London. At Westminster Abbey in 1307, he had a special throne, called the Coronation Chair, built so that the stone fitted under it. This was to be a symbol that kings of England would be crowned as kings of Scotland also.

Kay Matheson was one of a group of four students who took the relic from Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1950. The stone was taken back to Scotland. Ms Matheson, who drove a car carrying the stone through police road blocks, died recently in Wester Ross at the age of 84.

During the raid on Westminster Abbey the stone broke into two pieces. Police launched a huge manhunt, but driving alone Ms Matheson was able to negotiate road blocks and cross the border into Scotland. Five months later the students placed the stone in Arbroath Abbey.

The authorities had it taken back to Westminster Abbey, but in 1996 it was returned to Scotland as a symbolic gesture and is now kept at Edinburgh Castle.

Ms Matheson and the others were not prosecuted. It was reported in *The Observer* newspaper in 2008 that when a film based on a book about the 1950s incident was released, that the government had feared Scots would take to the streets if the students had ended up in the courts.

Ms Matheson, who became a teacher and Gaelic scholar, was paid the tribute that “Her exploits in retrieving the stone made her one of the immortals in Scottish nationalist history” by Rob Gibson, SNP MSP for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross.



SKYE'S GAELIC COLLEGE

Sabhal Mor Ostaig is leading plans for a new £40m campus and housing development. Skye's Sabhal Mor Ostaig (SMO) is Scotland's National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture.

The college is leading plans to build a new campus and more than 90 homes. Called Kilbeg, the development could cost £40m in total to construct.

SMO is also working with four universities on an online Gaelic dictionary that could take 30 years to complete.

Praising the work of SMO, First Minister Alex Salmond said: "What started as no more than a barn and an idea 40 years ago, now stands an established, globally recognised higher education institution charged with protecting, promoting and celebrating Scottish Gaelic."

He added: "It may not be our oldest university, but Sabhal Mor Ostaig has become the custodian of Scotland's oldest language.

"As many Gaels will attest, Gaelic is more than a language. It is an integral part of the identity and heritage of the Highlands and Islands, and thanks to Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Gaelic is as current and relevant today as it was 40, even 400, years ago."

GAELIC PHRASES

Duine gasta! Literal Meaning: A fine person. An open-handed and open-minded man.

Ma tha, mo thogair! Literal Meaning: If so, I don't care!

GENEALOGY REPORT

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

A picture of a piper in a magazine caught my eye. I have always loved hearing the mass bands at highland games. I have been fascinated by the various coloured kilts representing so many different clans. Even from within a clan there are many shades of tartans. These all have a history which brings me to the questions: Tartans — “where are they from?”, “how did they get here?” and “what were their struggles along the way?”

This particular piper (whose last name was Jones which is of English medieval origins) grew up in a proud Scottish home, picked up his first set of bagpipes when he was six and continued to play throughout his life. His brother played the drums and sisters participated in Highland Dancing. He joined various pipe bands throughout his life, depending on where life took him. At the age of 62, after coming off the field and remarking, “That was the best I have ever played”, he collapsed and died of a heart attack, doing something he dearly loved to do.

Does your family have a tartan? Do you know where they came from? People have trouble getting started in tracing the history of their family. My short answer is always start with yourself and slowly work backwards – your parents, your grandparents, your great-grandparents, etc. Enclosed in this issue of the *Leod Voice* are the forms I use to get people started. One is for parents and works backwards and the other is for siblings.

In the spring issue, I hope to start a list of “sources” which may help you trace your family. If you are already a genealogy buff, please e-mail me and share which sources you find helpful and which sources didn’t take you anywhere.

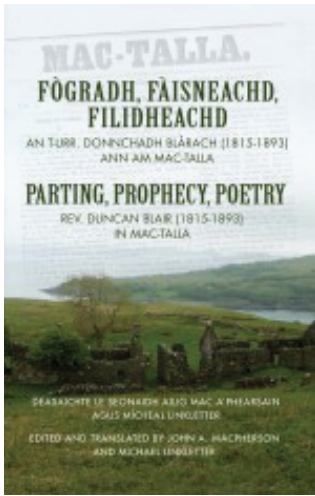
If anyone wants to send me their MacLeod (and Septs of MacLeod) family genealogy, I will put it in our database. If I come across any matches to your family, I will let you know.

Happy family hunting. Yours in
clanship. Lesley



This Celtic knot diagram reminds me of the interconnections we discover in our ancestry when we get involved in genealogical research.

PARTING, PROPHECY, POETRY



EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY
JOHN A. MACPHERSON AND
MICHAEL LINKLETTER

In the original Gaelic, with English translations this book includes Rev. Duncan Blair's articles about the Highland Clearances, a number of his poems, an account of a 16th-century seer who some say foretold of the Clearances and articles about Blair's travels around the Maritimes.

Rev. Duncan B. Blair (1815-1893) was “an excellent linguist, a good poet, and a devout man. As an accurate writer of Gaelic he had no superior.” Blair composed sacred poems, laments and secular poems and songs. *Mac-Talla*, the first Gaelic newspaper in the world was published in Sydney, Nova Scotia, between 1892 and 1904. Blair's contributions to *Mac-Talla* were extensive.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE HECTOR FROM N.S. GAELIC AFFAIRS MEDIA MONITORING REPORT

In the year when we celebrate the 240th anniversary of the arrival of the *Hector* in Pictou, Nova Scotia, it's worth considering again its significance to that province and to Canada. Its coming was precipitated by one of those hinge events on which the fates of people and countries turn, in this case the failure of the Jacobite cause at Culloden, the last battle on British soil, and what has been called its “aftermath”.

Four years after the battle (1750), a nameless government surveyor, touring the Forfeited Estates in the Highlands, wrote in his report that the landlord required sowing, tilling, harvesting cattle and sheep, cutting and fetching of peat, thatching — anything he demanded — of his tenants, a servitude that often left the tenants no time to do their own work. In addition, short-lease tenure of land left tenants uncertain of their future. Even the English sage Samuel Johnson, on touring Scotland, could not help but comment “...there remains only their language and their poverty.”

And so they “crossed estranging seas” — Camerons, Grants, Frasers, MacKenzies, MacKays, MacLeods, Rosses, Sutherlands, chiefly from Lovat Fraser lands, from Assynt and other parts of Sutherlandshire, and from the Loch Broom parish.

Alexander L. Fraser penned a sonnet to the pioneers, the first line of which is *Our sires—brave hearts that crossed estranging seas.....* In English, the phrase “our sires” suggests only men; the Gaelic word “sinnsirean”, ancestors, embraces male and female as is only proper. But it’s the phrase “estranging seas” that really should give pause. Yes, they were leaving their beloved homeland forever, but she (feminine noun in Gaelic), would never leave them!

The proverbs of a people reflect their character and world view. One Gaelic proverb says:

“No one can put off his country”; that is to say, his heritage’s influence upon him is ingrained in his innermost being; it remains in the folk memory, way beyond the 3rd and 4th generation, even in a distant land.

A still more powerful proverb is “Heredity will stand up to the very cliffs”. Perhaps this is why descendants of the Gael in Nova Scotia today are seeking to connect to what they recognize as their own language and culture.

The true legacy of the *Hector*, and of other such vessels, in my view, is the strong leaven of Gaelic culture and character its immigrants have added to the diverse province which is Nova Scotia.

Visit the web site <http://www.pictouliving.com/our-history.html> for several pictorial articles of the *Hector* story. Also www.shiphector.ca gives the information about the Hector Heritage Quay in Pictou.

CMS member Gordon McLeod of Pictou has been a central figure in having the replica of the *Hector* built and in the setting up of the Hector Heritage Quay. We are very proud of Gordon, and grateful to him, for his enthusiastic efforts on this project.

Re-enactments of the Highlanders arriving at Pictou on the *Hector* are held each summer.



THIS 'N THAT

Work on a landmark Gaelic dictionary which aims to secure the future of the language has taken a step forward with investment of £2 million from the Scottish Government.

The project will document the language and its history by tracing the development of every Gaelic word from its earliest written form to the present day.

The Scottish Government hopes the project will raise the profile of the Gaelic language and heritage. The £2m, distributed through the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), will pay for additional staff and computer software.

The project, entitled *Faclair na Gaidhlig (Scottish Gaelic Dictionary)*, is managed by Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture on Skye, and which is a department of the University of the Highlands and Islands. It is being run in partnership with the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde.

SFC chairman John McClelland said: “The Faclair na Gaidhlig project is vital to securing the future of the Gaelic language and is an essential resource for people across the world with an interest in Gaelic and Celtic studies.”

The dictionary will be a freely accessible online resource, with a collection of written work of around 30 million words forming the basis for the analysis.

It is hoped it will be used by those working in Celtic and Gaelic Studies, students, teachers and parents in Gaelic-medium education to everyday Gaelic speakers. It also aims to improve opportunities for research in linguistics and Scottish history and culture.

The dictionary has been welcomed by academics in Celtic studies from America, Australia, Germany, Poland, France, and also by the Oxford English Dictionary.

THE HIGHLAND GAMES

Author and compiler Danny Gillis has managed to capture the essence of the Highland Games in his new book *The Highland Games*. It is a hard cover, glossy-paged book interspersed with “Looking Back” sections with special full-colour features on each aspect of the modern Highland Games. The book celebrates the first 150 years of the Antigonish Highland Games. History buffs will love the limited edition book for the charming stories and the many characters whose names and faces appear on the pages.

MICHEAL NAM BUAIÐH – VIRTUOUS SAINT MICHAEL

*Thou wert the warrior of courage Going on the journey of prophecy,
Thou wouldst not travel on a cripple, Thou didst take the steed of the
god Michael, He was without bit in his mouth, Thou didst ride him on
the wing, Thou didst leap over the knowledge of Nature.*

St Michael is the Neptune of the Gael. He is the patron saint of the sea, and of maritime lands, of boats and boatmen, of horses and horsemen throughout the West. As patron saint of the sea St Michael had temples dedicated to him round the coast wherever Celts were situated. Examples of these are Mount St Michael in Brittany and in Cornwall, and Aird Michael in South and in North Uist, and elsewhere. Probably Milton had this phase of St Michael's character in view. As patron saint of the land St Michael is represented riding a milk-white steed, a three-pronged spear in his right hand and a three-cornered shield in his left. The shield is inscribed Quis ut Deus, a literal translation of the Hebrew Mi-cha-el. Britannia is substituted for the archangel on sea and St George on land.

On September 29 a festival in honour of St Michael is held throughout the Western Coasts and Isles. This is much the most imposing pageant and much the most popular demonstration of the Celtic year. Many causes conduce to this — causes which move the minds and the hearts of the people to their utmost tension. To the young the Day is a day of promise, to the old a day of fulfilment, to the aged a day of retrospect. It is a day when pagan cult and Christian doctrine meet and mingle like the lights and shadows on their own Highland hills.

The Eve of St Michael is the eve of bringing in the carrots, of baking the struan, of killing the lamb, of stealing the horses. The Day of St Michael is the Day of the early mass, the day of the sacrificial Lamb, the day of the oblation struan, the day of the distribution of the Lamb, the day of the distribution of the struan, the day of the pilgrimage to the burial-ground of their fathers, the day of the burial-ground service, the day of the burial-ground circuiting, the day of giving and receiving the carrots with their wishes and acknowledgments, and the day of the 'oda' — the athletics of the men and the racing of the horses.

The Night of St Michael is the night of the dance and the song, of the merry-making, of the love-making and of the love-gifts.

MARGARET MACLEOD HONOURED

BY YVONNE MACLEOD

Highland Dance Instructor, CMS Ottawa

On the occasion of my mother Margaret MacLeod's 93rd birthday and to welcome my son Lloyd's new bride Ariel, we had a joint celebration, complete with cake and all the trimmings. For many years Clan MacLeod Ottawa picnics were held at the farm of my parents, the late Don MacLeod and Margaret, until my Dad became very ill and passed away. Many of our members will remember the great times we had at their farm.



JACK ALEXANDER PASSES

BY KEN MACLEOD

One of my favourite entertainers died Nov 2 in Ayr: Jack Alexander of the Alexander Brothers. Jack, singer and accomplished pianist who with his brother Tom who played the accordion, were regular visitors to Vancouver, beginning in the 1960s with the White Heather Concerts with Andy Stewart, then headlining their own show at the QE Theatre in Vancouver. The brothers toured for over 50 years and appeared annually at the Scottish Cultural Centre in Vancouver. I saw them at least 20 times in Vancouver, Mission, Courtenay, and Kelowna. Our condolences to Tom and his wife and family, Jack's wife and family, and all those mourning the loss of a great Scottish entertainer and human being who, along with his brother Tom, brought joy to many hearts for many years.

Their recording of "Nobody's Child" in the mid-60s knocked the Beatles out of top position on the UK charts for 2 weeks.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

MIRIAM (JOYCE) MACLEOD

On August 30, 2013, at Christ Church NZ, aged 99 years. Joyce and her late husband Jock MacLeod had children Errol (Lorraine), Mary Clark, Jocelyn and the late Ian F. Macleod; grandchildren Brent, Melissa and Andrew Shipley, Jonathan, Geoffrey and Bradley Clark and six great-grandsons. A wonderful lady who always thought of others, will be sadly missed. 'Hold Fast.'

Joyce and Jock visited Canada on several occasions and will be remembered by many members of our clan.



Grandson Geoffrey Clark's tribute to his Gran

Selfless, altruistic, generous and caring. These are the words that come to mind for me when I am thinking of Gran. Gran was a very caring lady and an understanding person who had strong empathy for others and I feel this was a brilliant hallmark of her values. I remember spending a lot of time with Gran when I was much younger and I have very fond memories of sitting on the kitchen floor at the house on Yaldhurst Road at about the age of four

mixing different flavours of orange, apple and pineapple juices together, and Gran finding this very amusing. It is hard to put into words how strong the quality of Gran's character was and living to the age of 99 is testament to that.

Grandson Bradley Clark's tribute to his Gran

Although a sad day, it is also a happy day; a day that everyone can get together to remember and talk about what an amazing lady she was and the 99 years she spent with us. When sick from school, I would spend the day at her place, hanging out, I would be making a mess in her lounge, pulling all the old games and toys all over the floor. If it wasn't me making a mess in the lounge, it was the both of us making one in the kitchen, Bournvita Biscuits were my favourite and Gran's were the best of course. I'm sure there were countless times I only said I was 'sick', just so I could spend the day with Gran's making up a batch of biscuits.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

In assembling the material for this issue of the *Leod Voice*, I have been reflecting on the manner in which Scottish heritage has become such a large part of my life. Since joining CMS Vancouver in 1972, attending eight Parliaments, nine North American Gatherings as well as various CMS USA meetings, the feeling of warm worldwide friendship has been mine.



The friendships developed by being active in a local society and taking part in Ceilidhs and Gatherings enriches us; it informs us of how our ancestors lived, what they left behind when they came to Canada and other parts of the New World, how they established themselves in this new land, how they affected and changed various aspects of their adopted society and the culture they brought with them and passed on to their progeny; all of which helps to explain how we became who we are today, as individuals and as a nation.

Recently I enjoyed a week with other members of the National Council, folks at the Central Ontario Ceilidh, visiting in Ottawa, touring around Glengarry and getting to see the Cairn where MacLeods first gathered so long ago. The warm and generous hospitality extended to me by Beth, Jim and Heather, Neil F. and Doreen was overwhelming and all brought about as the result of belonging to the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada. My sincere thanks to everyone who made my visit to Ontario so memorable.

I applaud you, Neil F. and Jim for the yeoman job of developing and tending the CMSC Website. Have a look at their efforts at www.clanmacleod-canada.com and send them your news.

I hope to meet many of you on Skye in July (it has a ring to it!)

Please be mindful of the deadlines on the left.

Wishing everyone the very Best of the Season and a New Year where we all Hold Fast and Shine Brightly.

Judy Tipple

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Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1

and September 1