



The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 60
SPRING, 2014



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JIM MACLEOD, PRESIDENT
CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES OF
CANADA

Greetings once again fellow Clansmen/Clanswomen to this Spring 2014 edition of the *Leod Voice*. Well, how was that for a winter? I would think that the folks in the Maritimes are still in a state of not knowing what hit them – somewhat the same story for most of the country as the amount of snow with record breaking temperatures required not only we MacLeods to Hold Fast and Shine Brightly. Now with all of that behind us, we can look forward to the usual busy summer of Highland Games, Celtic Festivals and of course this is the year for Clan Parliament, in Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, July 19 - 26. Many Canadians will be making the trip to celebrate everything about being part of Clan MacLeod.



National Council

CMSC National Council met on November 9, 2013 in Caledon, Ontario. The meeting was very well attended with a very full agenda and a combination of in-person and teleconferencing as follows: 7 in person, 4 by teleconference, 2 regrets, and 3 absentees. The meeting started at a little before 9 am and finished a little after 3 pm with a lunch break in the middle. So lots of discussion. Some of those who attended by teleconference did so for specific agenda items (e.g. discussion on revisions to our Constitution and/or NAG 2016).

Considerable time was spent discussing amendments to the CMSC Constitution. Many proposed amendments can be considered as minor or housekeeping type amendments that deal with clarification of some terminology and phrasing, etc. However, as I reported in the last newsletter, amendments were being considered that will hopefully lead to more effective engagement between National Council and Member Societies and between Member Societies themselves. Draft versions of the Constitution are currently being fine-tuned for presentation and approval at our CMSC General Meeting to be held at Parliament 2014 this coming July.

One of the outcomes from these amendments that is hoped for is that

the details of the discussions that take place during these sometime lengthy National Council Meetings will be better communicated to Society members across Canada via closer involvement of Membership Societies in the dialogue. Clan Members must wonder “what in Heaven’s name do they talk about for close to six hours”? Space limitation in this newsletter does not facilitate the practicality of including the minutes of these meetings, so hopefully the dissemination of information will improve with closer communication ties between Council and Membership Societies.

On the evening after the Council meeting those who had attended in person had the pleasure of attending the Fall Ceilidh of the Clan MacLeod Society of Central Ontario to the enjoyment of all.

The week following the National Council meeting, Heather and I were pleased to welcome Judy Tipple into our home for a few days visit before she returned to Saturna Island. As pleased as everyone was that Judy had made the trip for the meeting, I was particularly pleased to have the opportunity to be able to travel with Judy to Glengarry with a stop in Dunvegan to give her an informative tour of the village. We continued on for a lunch get-together at the home of Doreen and Carmen Howes and were joined by Madeline MacCrimmon and Glengarry Society President Ray MacLeod. We had a great time discussing all things MacLeod. After lunch we paid a visit to the MacLeod Cairn commemorating the initial MacLeod settlement in Glengarry in 1794.



Left: Carmen and Doreen Howes, Ray MacLeod and Madeline MacCrimmon, Glengarry Cairn, Ray, Judy, Madeline and Doreen on a cold, windy day



ACMS Meeting

The most recent Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS) Management Council meeting was held in Edinburgh, Scotland on February 15, 2014. The meeting was chaired by John Davidson Kelly, President ACMS. This year there were six participants who joined the meeting by teleconferencing from Australia, London England, Texas, Seattle USA and Portugal. These calls were actually made this year using Skype conference telephone service which worked very well.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation from and welcoming into ACMS of Clan MacLeod Switzerland.

Parliament 2014

Got your bags packed yet? Reservations made? Everything you need to know about Parliament 2014 is available at: www.clanmacleodparliament.org

The Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning, July 22. I will chair this meeting and it is my expectation that we will have open discussions on many agenda items. This is also the meeting at which we will review and hopefully approve the amendments to the CMSC Constitution. Also, CMSC will be the host country for the morning coffee on Thursday, July 24. I hope to see many Canadian MacLeods at Parliament this summer and look forward to meeting all of you there.

I must also mention that Dr. Don MacLeod, current Executive Vice President of ACMS has been nominated for President ACMS. ACMS elections will take place on the Friday morning of Parliament, July 25. This meeting is open to all.

Tolmie - a Book Review

Last December I received an e-mail from Carol McKay of Clan MacLeod New Zealand. Carol explained that a book had been recently written by (her son) James G. H. McKay titled: *Four Sons of Skye, the History of a Tolmie Family from Skye Scotland to Otago, New Zealand*. The Tolmie's are a sept of the MacLeods of Lewis. Carol explained the premise for the book as follows:

“The Tolmies are a unique sept of Clan MacLeod as our name is actually MacLeod but over 400 years ago suffered a name change. The Tolmies are the direct descendants of the ancient MacLeods of Gairloch, the oldest cadet branch of the Lewis MacLeods.

This name change came about following the Tollaidh Murders of 1510 and the Isay Massacre of 1586, when the sole surviving MacLeod of Gairloch heir, John Tolmach MacRory MacLeod, fled to Skye to escape his enemies. He dropped the name MacLeod and was known as John Tolmach. Over time Tolmach became Tolme and later was anglicised to Tolmie. Thus Tolmies are of the MacLeod name and blood.”

A quick search on Google, reveals a few interesting references to this name Tolmie, such as:

Simon Fraser Tolmie was the 21st Premier of British Columbia;
There is a Mount Tomie Park just outside of Victoria, BC; and
Just west of Glengarry County, in (North) Stormont County of Eastern Ontario there is a Tolmies Corners and a Tolmies Corners Road.

The main purpose of Carol’s e-mail was to ask CMSC if someone would do a review of this book and perhaps publish the review in a Canadian clan magazine or newsletter. Barbara (MacLeod) Armstrong (CMSC Past President 1994 - 2000) agreed to do the review and it is published elsewhere in this edition of the *Leod Voice*.

NAG 2016

July 28 – 31, 2016. Mark it on your calendars now and make your plans for the trip to Merritt, British Columbia for the Clan MacLeod North American Gathering (NAG) 2016. As you know, NAGs take place every four years, alternating between the United States and Canada and in 2016 it is our turn. NAG 2012 was held in Alexandria, Virginia, USA.

NAG 2016 is being hosted by the BC Interior Society and President Neil R. McLeod. The organizing committee has been put together under the chair of Dr. Don MacLeod. Both Neil and Don reside in Merritt. Plans are well under way so keep looking for further details in the *Leod Voice* and on our Canadian web site www.clanmacleod-canada.com .

CMSC Web Site

Speaking of the web site don’t forget to keep checking the Events Calendar for what is going on across the country in terms of Scottish Festivals, Highland Games, etc. As always, please feel free to send me any information or events that should be included at: glenelg.macleod@gmail.com .

Hold Fast & Shine Brightly, Jim

CIAMAR A THA THU?

SEO DHOMHNAILL MACLEOD

Dr. Don M. McLeod (Merritt)



The winter has been replaced with sunny blue skies, a warm breeze and green range land. Christine and I have built our Highland Cattle herd up and now are preparing to plant the field of barley and set up the irrigation. Hopefully as we travel to Scotland for the Robert the Bruce Bannockburn Anniversary and celebrate the 2014 MacLeod Parliament at Dunvegan, the farm left behind in the semi-desert of Merritt, BC will survive. Our last trip to Scotland was eventful as a February ACMS meeting in Edinburgh with business and a very successful dinner at the Murrayfield Hotel. Everyone was in fine form with tartan well displayed by the latest Clan MacLeod Society of Switzerland being welcomed to our family. Times are changing and always exciting. Getting the trip organized to Scotland can be daunting, especially as the one searches for the non-existing Scottish bargains for travel. We certainly love our sojourns to the countryside and wallow in the fantasy of our ancestors' lives, especially with the snow blanketing Scotland comparable to our Canada.

Preparations are under way for the NAG 2016 in Merritt hosted by the BC Interior Clan MacLeod Society. This is sponsored by Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada as Canada entertains the MacLeods of North America and visitors from around the world. With so much preparation, the program should be seamless and flowing with fun and endless (weekend at least) Scottish immersion.

The temporary website for information is McLeodCastle.ca and the preliminary program and timetable can be seen. The dates will not change but fine tuning and more features will be added. Special surprise guests have been invited and entertainers have been lined up that will be melodious to your ears. Do we have your attention?

See you at Parliament and keep up the dialogue.

Hold Fast the Shine



ADVERTISING CLAN MACLEOD WITHIN CANADA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

BY BETH MCLEOD, TREASURER, NATIONAL COUNCIL

On behalf of all Clan MacLeod Societies across Canada, National Council takes an active role in advertising to Canadians and worldwide the existence of our organization. In order to qualify, the venue for advertising must meet certain criteria. Basically it should have a wide distribution to people with like interest in their Scottish Heritage, be relevant to our Canadian Society and be cost efficient on an annual basis.

Currently, CMSC engages in advertising through three venues:

One is our own Canadian Website at www.clanmacleod-canada.com. This website has been in existence for just over one year and provides an enormous amount of information about current and past MacLeod endeavours. It is a contact point for those searching the web for all reasons of being a MacLeod and provides them with links to join one of our Societies across Canada.

The second Website is that of CASSOC, which stands for Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada. This organization was first established in 1975 and comprises Clans and other groups whose interests involve a Scottish theme. Their website is www.cassoc.ca and you will find Clan MacLeod represented among the member organizations. It again is a venue for each of our Societies to advertise special events of both a local and national interest.

Another advertising venue that we take advantage of is the magazine *Celtic Life International*. This magazine is published in Nova Scotia, a hot bed of all things Celtic, and has a wide distribution throughout Canada. The typical issue of this magazine may contain articles about people, places, music and events across the country and around the world centering on the Celtic experience. Like many Clans, CMSC has placed our advertisement within the clan advertisement section for the past several years. Contact information for the President and Membership Secretary of CMSC are available to interested individuals. The website is www.celticlifeca.com and you can subscribe for \$24.95 by post or \$10 digital.

There may be other opportunities for us to spread the word about the existence of the Clan Societies, however as mentioned above costs are definitely a factor. Please do not hesitate to bring to the attention of National Council an opportunity that you feel may meet the criteria we

have developed for this purpose.

We are extremely grateful to acknowledge the contribution of one of our members, Gordon McLeod of Pictou, Nova Scotia, who offered to fund the cost of advertising in the *Celtic Life* magazine for the 2014 calendar year. CMSC, on behalf of National Council and all of our members would like to thank Gordon and his wife Adrienne for their generosity of spirit and interest in the continued success of our organization in Canada.



2013 MACLEOD WORLD GATHERING

BY DR DON MACLEOD

The World Gathering of MacLeods in Auckland, New Zealand was a fabulous affair with a MacLeod Pipe Band from Bendigo, Australia and Gaelic spoken, Scottish whisky drunk, the best of company, New Zealand hospitality, fine music, terrific Highland Games and MacLeod speeches galore. Five days of fun and chatter interspersed with music, haggis, wine and meetings. My son Malcolm and I attended the gathering from Canada and were very impressed with the beautiful country and its friendly, helpful people.

The week started by visiting Waipu in the north to get pictures of George McLeod, the captain of the *Margaret*. Cave exploring and beaches and hot pools made the visit exciting. The country is so clean and inviting. We found ourselves in the middle of a Moari war re-enactment and we indulged in endless courses of meat pies. It is odd that we ignore all our dietary rules when we travel and justify the eating of pastries and custards on the excuse of sampling the local cuisine.

Laurence and Bruce McLeod spearheaded a great time and with help from all their committee, there could be no finer event. The Gaelic lesson from Cathie MacLeod and the history talks were exciting by all the speakers. Native Maoris welcomed ACMS president, John Davidson-Kelly at the end of a spear with many “Wh” words and the speeches by Clan MacLeod Chiefs Donald and John from Tasmania were well received. The finale banquet was filling with great fare and the dancing, cake and music finished the night with a flair of kinship.

Everyone was happy and slept well preparing for the church service in the morning at St. Andrews Church. Rev. Norman did not make an appearance but we all felt his presence. After the event, Malcolm and I drove to visit Alec MacLeod at his superb condos on Lake Taupo with

a tour of the “craters of the moon”. Dinner with Ruth and Kirsteen MacLeod in Wellington at the museum, closed the week before heading back to Canada.

We found it interesting to have dinner in Auckland on the Friday night before getting back to Vancouver for lunch on the same Friday before rushing back to Merritt, BC for dinner and the Santa Claus parade in the snow on the same Friday evening. Thank God for soft mattresses, tartan flannel sheets and tartan pyjamas to end the most exciting week.

All of us await the meetings at Parliament at Dunvegan in July 2014. This will be an invaluable experience for all with clan ties to MacLeods by friendship or by family.

All those attending the World Gathering in Auckland, NZ enjoyed the clan fellowship evident throughout the event. Dr Don flanked by Chief John (Raasay) and Chief Donald (Lewes).

Below: Rosalie and Weeden Nichols, Dr Don, Heather and Chief Donald, Chief John, John N and Judy, Dr Malcolm MacLeod, back row Ruth, Clare Moncrieff, Kirsteen MacLeod



FOUR SONS OF SKYE

A BOOK WRITTEN BY JAMES G.H. MCKAY

REVIEWED BY BARBARA MACLEOD ARMSTRONG

Sometimes, mothers say the darndest things.

When James McKay and his wife moved to Dunedin, New Zealand in 2001, his mother, Carol (Tolmie) McKay just happened to mention that “a branch of the Tolmie family had lived in Dunedin in the early days.” And that’s how this book got started. James McKay was, and is, interested in the story of his family. He knew his great-grandfather, Gregory Tolmie had come to New Zealand as a young man, but what of these other Tolmies? Where did they come from — and why? McKay set about finding out.

The Tolme/Tolmies are a Sept of Clan MacLeod, the MacLeods of Lewis. At one time, way back in Clan history, they were MacLeods. Their progenitor was John Tolmach McRory MacLeod. How the name change came about is but one of the tales in the first part of the book in which we are led through the story of the MacLeods of Skye and Gairloch and their relationship with MacDonalds and MacKenzies.

At this point I should say that if the reader is a genealogist and has a specific interest in the Tolmies, it would be helpful to have a pen and paper handy to aid in keeping the names and events sorted out. Otherwise, just enjoy the book for the fascinating story it is.

James McKay found out that three Tolmie brothers emigrated from Skye to first, Australia, then to Dunedin in the early days of the colony there, the fourth brother went later to Australia. Their names were Donald Allan, William Alexander, Malcolm and Allan and they were born from 1829 to 1842. They were uncles of McKay’s great grandfather Gregory Tolmie. Now there was a whole new dimension to his family just waiting to be explored.

And explore, McKay has done, quite thoroughly, and using all the resources available to him. This, of course, makes for interesting reading. The families who came before the four brothers are described and this provides insight into the lives once lived on Skye. Some served the MacLeod Chief in responsible roles, some were in banking or farming, some served the church. The four Tolmie sons who left Skye to travel around the world to Australia and New Zealand took this life example with them and, in interesting ways, became quite successful, responsible members of colonial life in New Zealand, especially in and around Dunedin, Otago Province, in the South Island. Reading about their lives

paints a clear picture of the early days in New Zealand and how the Tolmie brothers helped to make its development successful.

An interesting feature of James McKay's book is the inclusion of many photographs as well as charts and maps. Among the most fascinating are photos of the old Tolmie homes on Skye and in New Zealand. As well, photos of so many of the folks he writes about make the book so much more personal. He must have been so caught up as the photos came in, some probably from relatives he hadn't know existed before he began his research. He also documents the many trips some of the Tolmies took back and forth, to and from Scotland, to visit family or to conduct business. It was a long voyage, especially before the Panama Canal.

The first run of *Four Sons of Skye* has completely sold out and a second edition is coming soon. (Perhaps some more Tolmies will have checked in with James McKay). You can order a copy from Carol Tolmie McKay cemckay@orcon.net.nz. Price is NZD\$45 plus postage and overseas buyers may use Paypal.

HECTOR SAILS AGAIN

Ship *Hector's* had her masts installed April 30 in preparation for the 2014 summer season. The ship features three Douglas fir masts, a new foremast and mizzen mast with the 2007 main mast fully rigged for visitors viewing. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall were the first visitors to the *Hector* on May 19 during their short visit to Canada.

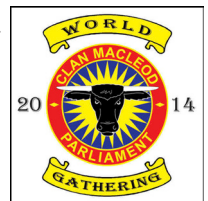


If you plan to visit Nova Scotia be sure to go to Pictou and tour the ship *Hector* which brought many of the clansfolk from Scotland during the Clearances.

PARLIAMENT ATTENDEES:

Don't forget to take some packages of [Mapleleaf Cookies](#) for our Duty Day and also items for the [Silent Auction](#).

Canadian flags and pins are always appreciated as well.



ALLAN AND MERYLE MACLEOD

CELEBRATE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



April 27, 2014 was a special day for Allan and Meryle MacLeod of Mission, BC, as family and friends gathered for dinner together, and then an evening of pictures, memories, singing and fellowship at the MacLeod home. Congratulations were received and read, from Prime Minister Stephen Harper and wife Lauren, from Christy Clark, Premier of BC, from the Director of Avant Ministries International, with whom Allan and Meryle had served in Africa, from the President of Clan MacLeod of Canada, and many others who had known them over the years.

Allan was born in Nova Scotia of Scottish Presbyterian ancestors who had come to Nova Scotia in 1817, and of a mother who came to Saskatchewan from England in 1907. Allan attended historic Pictou Academy and Mt. Allison University, then Bible and Missions studies at Millar College of the Bible in Saskatchewan.

It was there he met a lovely, vivacious young lady who came from Northern Manitoba, who had accepted Christ as her Savior, and felt led to serve Christ in Africa. With Allan having the same desire, they were married in Kelowna on April 27, 1954. In 1955 they were accepted by Gospel Missionary Union for service in West Africa. They spent 1956 in Switzerland studying French, and arrived in Africa on Valentine's Day, 1957. Two children, Murray and Marcia, were born in Africa, and finished their High School studies at Ivory Coast Academy, a Mission School, before continuing studies in Canada.

Meryle did medical dispensary work for 12 years, while Allan taught at an Elementary School, then at a Pastor's Training School, did church planting ministry, and directed several of the largest mission construction projects, such as the Literature and Radio/TV Center in Bamako, a Bible College campus in Bougouni, and Berea Dormitory in Ivory Coast, for the mission's children. He concluded as a member for six years of the Executive Council of the African churches that had grown up during their

29 years of service there.

Allan and Meryle felt they were very privileged to have been a part of the growth of the African Churches, from around a thousand Christians when they went to Africa, to the approximately 50,000 believers of a vibrant church by the year 2000!

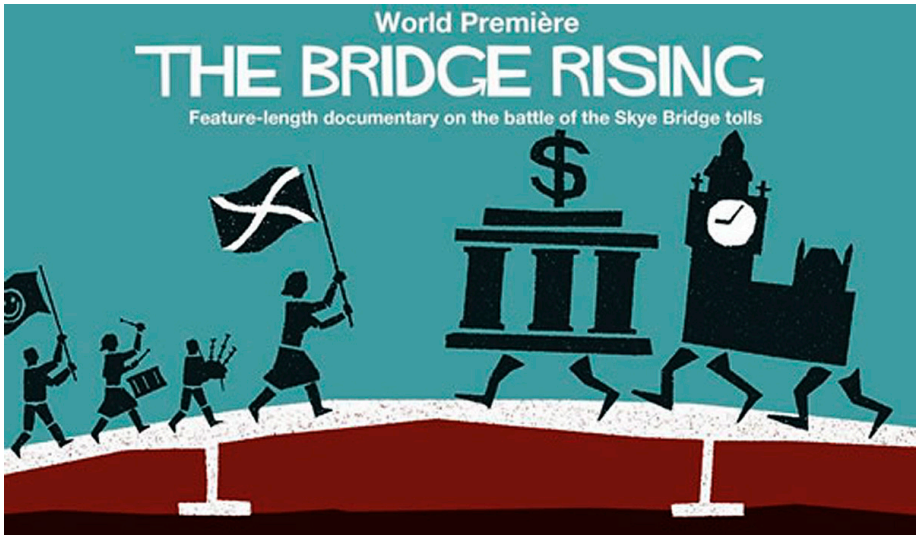
They came home to Canada in 1983 to see their children through college. Allan served as a Pastor of churches for five years, became involved with Missions Fest Vancouver, the largest Missions Conference in Canada, and was a Member of their Board of Directors for six years. He was on the Board of Directors of his Alma Mater, Millar College of the Bible for several years, and was President of the Clan MacLeod of Greater Vancouver for three years. Lastly, Allan became a representative for the past seven years of “Bridges for Peace,” an organization that serves in and supports Israel, and resulted in his two delightful trips to Israel.

Allan served as a Construction Foreman in Alabama following Hurricane “Katrina”, spent three months in St. Petersburg, Russia in renovation work at a Bible Seminary, and in his “spare” time, gathered information for his *McLeod Family History*, a 560-page story of his Scottish ancestors down to the present.

Now semi-retired, Allan and Meryle live with their daughter and family in Mission, while Allan still speaks in churches and schools, and serves as Asst. Chaplain of the Mission Legion Branch #57.



Dunvegan Estate Head Gardener David MacLean was presented with the “Beyond the Call of Duty” Hudson’s Heritage Award in recognition of special contribution for visitors.



THE EPIC, FEEL-GOOD STORY OF A MODERN REBELLION

BY ALEX GALLACHER

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the end of the tolls on the Skye Bridge. The Skye Bridge protest was one of the longest-running uprisings in modern Scottish history one that is hugely relevant to a new generation in 2014, the year of the Scottish referendum on independence. Packed with humour, twists and bittersweet surprises, *The Bridge Rising (An Drochaid)*, a feature documentary from Director Robbie Fraser, tells the inside story for the first time. From protesters to police to politicians, from the toll-collector to the Bridge engineer, this film takes you behind closed doors.

The story behind the documentary is this: The Skye Bridge which links the Isle of Skye, the largest and most northerly large island in the Inner Hebrides, with Mainland Scotland was officially opened on 16 Oct 1995. Those that lived on the island had no other means of getting to the mainland as the ferry was decommissioned once the bridge was open. Despite the Highlands & Islands being designated one of the poorest regions of Europe a toll was levied for crossing the bridge. Metre for metre, the Skye Bridge was the most expensive toll road in the world. The Bank of America raked in over £30 million in tolls.

At the peak of the toll regime, the toll to cross the bridge and return was £11.40 for a car, £57.80 for a lorry, and £82.40 for a bus. To place this in perspective this was fourteen times the round trip

price for a car charged by the Forth Road Bridge, a crossing over twice the length.

The Skye Bridge was the UK government's first and flagship PFI (Private Finance Initiative) project. Based on figures from Miller Construction and from the National Audit Office the Skye Bridge could have been delivered as a public project for approx £20m instead what cost a total £25m of private investment cost taxpayers and road-users over £74m. The campaign against the tolls on the Skye Bridge pitted plucky Scottish islanders against the might of the government and the Bank of America. After nearly a decade of campaigning, defiance, arrests and court cases, the tollbooths were bulldozed. The islanders' outrage against Westminster's policy of private funding for public works, and using Skye as a guinea-pig, led to victory...but at a high cost.

For insight into the fracas from which the documentary obtained its material go to the web site at <http://www.folkradio.co.uk/2014/01/the-bridge-rising-the-epic-feel-good-story-of-a-modern-rebellion/?utm>

HIGHLANDERS' WINTER JOURNEY ONE OF MOST HEROIC FEATS IN MANITOBA'S HISTORY

BY ALEXANDRA PAUL, WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

James Hunter pieced together the story of the toughest of the tough settlers.

The aristocrat Lord Selkirk talked the British Hudson's Bay Company out of a chunk of fertile farmland on the grounds it would anchor their hold on the fur trade monopoly. And the Scottish lord moved heaven and earth to get dispossessed clansmen to the Red River. In the end, though it cost him dearly and perhaps led to an early grave, Selkirk created the first European colony in Western Canada.

Two hundred years later, their sheer grit and the triumph of their resilience is emerging from the shadows of history into the saga of how 90 Kildonan clan folk survived a harrowing ship passage in 1813 and a nightmare winter in Churchill.

In December, soft-spoken Scottish author James Hunter and his genial wife Evelyn made a pilgrimage from the Scottish Highlands to Churchill. Hunter's book is about the worst of the 18th and 19th century

Highland Clearances and, in the saga of Churchill, he believes he's found the toughest of the tough.

Of the 90 who made it, some would die on shore and more would die over the winter. Those who survived the Arctic would make the 1,000-kilometre journey south to the Red River the next spring, among them families named Matheson, Gunn, Sutherland and McKay.

It begins more than 200 years ago. On the evening of Aug. 19, 1813, a destitute, dying group of dispossessed Highlanders found themselves dumped on the shores of the Churchill River. Most had typhus. Their elder was dying and nobody wanted to be near them for fear of catching the deadly disease. The local Hudson's Bay Company post had pitched tents and retreated before they came ashore. The sick Scots didn't know it, but there was worse to come: a brutal winter they couldn't have imagined in their nightmares that had them huddling against -50 C temperatures in rough shanties of spruce logs.

These shivering Highlanders had shipped out of Stromness in Orkney with high hopes in June 1813. They were aboard the Hudson's Bay Company ship *Prince of Wales*, part of a mini-convoy with a second company ship and a British naval sloop Selkirk himself arranged.

When typhus broke out on board, it spread to the crew, earning the Highlanders the animosity of the ship's captain. When pack ice trapped the ship and turned the hold into a shallow slough of icy sea water, there was no turning back for the captain. Understandably, he wanted to be rid of the cursed Highlanders. Sixty were sick or dying the evening they sailed into Hudson Bay, where the *Prince of Wales* abruptly shifted tack and headed for shore at Churchill, about 240 kilometres north of York Factory, their intended destination. Meanwhile, boats waited at York Factory to speed the travellers south for their first winter on the Red River area.

These Highlanders weren't the poorest of the poor; they'd paid passage, roughly equivalent to \$1,500 a head to be among Selkirk's settlers. But in their contagious sickness, they posed a deadly threat.

Instead of York Factory, the ship deliberately stopped upriver from the other Hudson Bay port, Fort Churchill.

The sick Highlanders wouldn't have been welcome at York Factory, boats or no boats, and they weren't welcome here, either. So they were left at the damp marshy Sloops Cove in tents, within sight of the salty bay.

At the fort a few kilometres away, the ship's captain and the post commander argued over what to do with them.

The post commander lost the argument. He wanted the ship to take the sick and the healthy on to York Factory.

When that didn't happen he isolated the Highlanders, sending them 27 kilometres inland to a place called Herriot Creek to live or die that winter.

Some died. Only one, their leader, a Scottish tradition bearer, was honoured with a marked grave. The first to die, within hours of landing, John Sutherland, lies outside Prince of Wales Fort to this day.

Late last year, the Hunters — who know where the Highlanders came from and understand their story on the other side of the Atlantic — decided to see what an Arctic winter feels like.

Hunter, a former journalist, is a professor emeritus at the University of the Highlands and the Islands. He's the author of a dozen books chronicling the Clearances and their aftermath. He'd written about Sutherland before, as part of earlier books.

Now Hunter is writing about the Sutherland Clearances as a book on its own. He's giving Churchill its own chapter because of what happened here.

"In the course of that (work on a history centre for the university) I became interested again in the Sutherland Clearances," he said.

An online search of old journals and letters turned up plenty of source material.

Of all the Sutherland dispossessed, none had it harder than those 90 in Churchill in the winter of 1813, Hunter said.

"It could be said that these people had the toughest, longest journey of any European emigrant to North America. Ever."

All the families were from Sutherland, in the northeast corner of the Highlands, a place inhabited for thousands of years and rich in history.

Two thousand years ago, it was home to the aboriginal Picts, warriors and mystics with tattooed ritual swirls and symbols so ornate today's ink artists would weep with envy.

The sick Highlanders had been evicted from a place called the Strath of Kildonan, named for the Celtic monk Donan, who brought Christianity to the area around 600 A.D.

The descendants of the Scotts who came with Christianity, the Highlanders were evicted because they had no rights to the land despite their ancient roots.

In the Highlands, clan families farmed the land, raised the cattle and distilled the whiskey, but during a horrific period in British history known as the Highland Clearances, the old way of life was ripped apart.

A state policy to rid the Highlands of the rebellious, war-like clans and turn the land to more productive sheep farms saw thousands burned

out of their homes and turned out onto the roads in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Clans folk were scattered to the ends of the Earth in one of the world's longest drawn-out diasporas.

"I was particularly keen to tell this story about the people coming here and set that in the context of what was happening back in Scotland at the time. In Canada, there's history about what happened in Canada, and in Scotland, there's history about what happened in Scotland. But few people in Canada write about what was happening in Scotland at the time and equally, few in Scotland write about the people after they sailed over the horizon," Hunter said.

On the shore of Hudson Bay, the Highlanders had to get through the winter.

The post commander sent native builders up the creek before freeze-up to show the refugees how to throw together cabins from spruce logs and moss.

The same post commander also took the firelocks from the Sutherlanders' muskets to keep them from hunting ptarmigan, a kind of Arctic partridge. He considered the birds Hudson Bay property.

Every bird supplied that winter was counted in a bill to be presented to Lord Selkirk. By Christmas the count stood at 1,763.

Hunter said the Sutherlanders depended on the birds: "They said there was partridge falling from the sky and it was like manna from Heaven." Losing the firelocks must have hurt.

In many other ways, the commander took pleasure in making life tough on the Sutherlanders, Hunter's research shows.

By the commander's order, no Sutherlander was allowed in the fort even after the typhus scare lifted. The closest they got was the so-called Indian House, a structure that was as far as aboriginal people got into the fort.

Somehow it caught fire the night three Sutherlanders were allowed to stay over, Hunter said.

The treatment the Sutherlanders suffered came from the old world, Hunter said. The commander's disdain and even open disgust was typical of the era.

"He had the prejudice of the time for Highlanders. He refers to these people as savages from Scotland. He wouldn't allow them in his fort."

This time, the Highlanders — the Hunters — were treated as honoured guests, given warm beds, hearty hospitality and non-stop tours. Former mayor and owner of North Star Tours, Mark Ingebritgson, met the couple

dressed in his clan tartan, despite the cold.

Churchill's connection with the Highlanders runs through family bloodlines and memories are as likely to run to Scottish stories as they are to Cree traditions.

Mayor Mike Spence, the town's first aboriginal mayor, told the Hunters the work they're doing makes a difference because people want to know more.

In his case, his mother's family name was McPherson, a Sutherland name. Spence is an Orkney name. Their Scottish ties were remembered in songs sung at family gatherings, he said.

"The family gathering would be held at our home... My father and my mother's brother and a few friends would sing a few Scottish songs like *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*. It was a reminder of their days of York Factory," Spence said.

On a night when it was -35° C, outside, the Hunters watched northern lights reel and sway like ghosts above the Big Dipper. By day, they saw plumes like grey smokestacks loom over the horizon. They learned the strange curtains of clouds were sweat from seams in the pack ice hitting the air.

They saw waves frozen solid in mid-air on shore, like teeth tugging at the lip of the bay.

And they felt the cold those settlers did, though their nylon winter coats were a better match for the Highland capital of Inverness, even though both locations share the same latitude.

"We're both at 58 degrees," Hunter told a gathering of about 30 in Churchill to mark the bicentennial of the 1813 Selkirk settlers.

But the two climates couldn't be more different. The wind and rain are fierce but average winter temperatures rarely drop below zero in the Highlands.

Still "I'm quite sure it's much better to come here in the winter," Hunter said. "It gives me a sense of what it's like."

Then he delivered the punchline: "Having been here for 24 hours, I will get on my knees every night and thank God for the Gulf Stream."

Far worse than cold would come for the Sutherlanders when the back of winter broke 200 years ago.

They still had to get to York Factory, 240 kilometres to the east, before the ice broke, then they had to get to Red River and plant the crops needed to survive the next winter.

In early April 1814, 51 of them walked there, stumbling on snowshoes across the muskeg, snow blind and crippled with leg cramps.



They crossed a landscape that must have felt familiar because muskeg is not much different from Highland heather moors.

But never had they walked it frozen like a sponge in snow. It took two weeks. And one of the women — there were 20 women and 31 men — trekked it four months pregnant.

St. Andrew's Society member Jim Osborne, who accompanied the Hunters to Churchill, said afterward this saga needs to be told. He'd never heard about it and he believed few people in Manitoba had, either.

"That walk to York Factory, that was one of the most amazing heroic feats in Manitoba history," Osborne said.

The bicentennial event celebrated in Churchill with the Hunters Dec. 3 was the second to be held last year. On the exact date the Sutherlanders were dumped ashore in August 1813, Ingebrigtsen accompanied another Scot, originally from New Zealand, all the way to Herriot Creek, the harrowing wintering ground.

"At Colony Creek, if you fly over, you can see some of the bare spots and I think that's where some of the cabins were," Ingebrigtsen said.

Hunter could have said, but didn't, that the same is likely true in the Highlands.

The stone foundations of some homes, like the ones the Sutherlanders left, are etched clearly against the Highland barrens.

alexandra.paul@freepress.mb.ca

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ST. KILDA TO SKYE BY ROWBOAT



Eight intrepid adventurers undertook the challenge to row a 120 year-old open wooden skiff the 100 miles from St. Kilda to Skye. Their 20 foot-long boat *Aurora* had lain in a boatshed on Skye since before the outbreak of World War I. The last run with the *Aurora* had been in 1913 when passengers needed to catch up with a steamship leaving Portree. Boat builder Iain MacLean restored the craft and relaunched it in April this year.

The rowers, who are raising money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers, had a support crew with them and had spent two years preparing for the venture.

They left Village Bay on St Kilda at 4 am May 30 and arrived in Portree 31 hours later.

Read more detail at <http://www.row-stkilda.co.uk/the-mission.html>

TODAY'S CHUCKLES

At the Scottish wedding reception the Master of Ceremonies yelled, "Would all married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living."

The bartender was almost crushed to death.

Scottish salesman to the lady of the house, "Lady, this vacuum cleaner will cut your work in half."

Quick thinking lady's reply, "Good. I'll take two of them."

THIS 'N THAT SUMMER READING

You can combine your interests in things Scottish with enjoyment of adventure stories reading Frank Demain's book of four short stories *Off the Beaten Track*. Available in digital form from Amazon.ca for \$1.43.

<http://www.amazon.ca/Off-the-Beaten-Track-ebook/dp/B0092PLCC4>

The Naughty Little Book of Gaelic is available at most chain and independent book stores, said Cape Breton University Press editor Mike Hunter. Sounds like an interesting book.

BATTLE OF CULLODEN REMEMBERED

A cairn erected at Knoydart, NS in 1938 to honour survivors of the Battle of Culloden who left Scotland to settle in this part of Nova Scotia, is the site of the annual remembrance of the Battle in 1746.

Attendance at the ceremony has increased steadily from the two men who attended in 1982 to upwards of 300 this year, including at least one descendant of those original settlers.

DOES A SECOND BATTLE LOOM AT CULLODEN MOOR?

A battle is being waged and your help is needed. A housing development is being proposed for the area where the Culloden Battlefields stand. Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc (COSCA) website details the ongoing conflict with proposed development of the area adjacent to the National Trust site. Go to the link to view the discussion of the problem and sign the petition. <http://www.cosca.net/01/does-a-second-battle-loom-at-culloden-moor/> Our ancestors need help to preserve their hallowed ground. Let's show the politicians that as a whole, we the descendants of the Scots who fell are a force to be reckoned with.

GAELIC PHRASES

Ma dh'fhaoidte gu robh It may be that it is so. Perhaps it was.

Fada 'nad chomain Far in your debt. Very obliged to you.

Cum do theanga! Hold your tongue! In other words, Keep Quiet!

FRIENDS OF THE GAELIC,

The [Atlantic Gaelic Academy \(AGA\)](#) website is now open for pre-registration for its “live” online classes, for the new school year starting in September 2014.

Learn Gaelic from the comfort of your own home in a “live” online class with a teacher and other students. No prior Gaelic experience is required to enrol in the Beginner level, and classes can be taken from anywhere in the world.

Enrol early to ensure a place in class, at your preferred time and day, by completing the Pre-Registration form on our website at www.gaelicacademy.ca.

If you have any questions, let us know.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

MARGARET (WOODHOUSE) MACLEOD, 1920-2014

Margaret passed away peacefully with family members around her on April 16, 2014 just short of her 94th birthday. She was the beloved wife of the late Donald MacLeod, a War Veteran and the dear mother of Yvonne and Lloyd. Margaret cherished her grandchildren John (Wendy) and Lloyd MacGregor (Ariel) and Jason, Kristopher and Nickolas MacLeod and great-grandchildren Dillon and Hannah MacGregor. Very much loved by her large family of Woodhouses in England and Kings of England and Belleville.



Margaret came to Canada as a war bride very bravely sailing across the Atlantic on the *Queen Mary* with her young daughter Yvonne. Yvonne thanks her Mom for all her love and support in her dancing career and for the support of Lloyd’s interest in horses and hobbies. Many thanks to caretakers Nickolas and Lloyd and the very kind service at Carlingview Manor during her short stay.

Gatherings of the Clan MacLeod members on Donald and Margaret’s farm will long be remembered. Our condolences go to Margaret’s family and friends.

ALISTAIR MACLEOD, 1936-2014

The funeral mass for writer Alistair MacLeod resembled one of his meticulously crafted stories, blending well-chosen words, Celtic lament and insights into a life. He died in Windsor, ON, at the age of 77 from complications arising from a stroke he suffered in January. Born in North Battleford, SK, MacLeod moved with his family to Cape Breton Island when he was 10 and worked as a logger, a miner and a fisherman to make money for his education.



After achieving his doctorate in literature, he evolved into an acclaimed short story writer. In 2001 he won the prestigious International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award as well as the Trillium Book Award and the Lannan Literary Award for *No Great Mischief*, published in 1999. MacLeod's other published works include the short story collection *The Lost Salt Gift of Blood* (1976) as well as *As Birds Bring Forth the Sun and Other Stories* (1986) and the illustrated story *To Everything There Is a Season: A Cape Breton Christmas Story* (2004). In 2008 he was appointed an Officer of Canada for his commitment to Canadian literature and influence on Canadian authors.

At MacLeod's funeral, his wife, Anita, was gently supported by their six children and grandchildren, one just 10 days old. Some of the sons and relatives wore the MacLeod yellow and black tartan ties — the tartan of their clan.

MacLeod's life and literature were examples of how communities and families are formed and bonded through acts of patience and kindness, as exemplified by the last line of the final scene of *No Great Mischief*. "All of us are better when we're loved."

We extend our sincere condolences to Anita and Alistair's family and friends; we will miss his wonderful humour and story telling at Clan MacLeod Gatherings.



ELIZABETH MACLEOD, 1931-2013

CMS Ottawa member and piper passed away peacefully in hospital on December 6, 2013 at the age of 82 years. Beloved mother of Gale Ramsden and Robert (Jackie). Loving grandmother of Jeremy (Rena), Christina (Jacob), Amanda (Jeremy) Matthew (Lauren), Connor and Caitlin. Great grandmother of Rowan and Reagan. Liz was the Past President of Sons of Scotland (Ottawa) and former Pipe Major of Camp Argyle 26 Pipe Band.

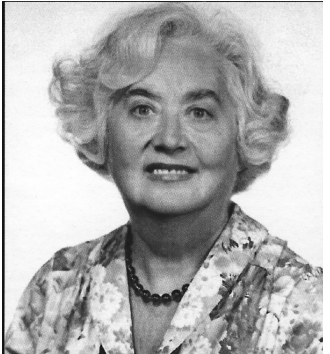


Our condolences are sent to her family and friends. She will be missed at Clan Macleod Gatherings and Highland Games in the Ottawa area.

ANN (MACLEOD) MOUNCE, 1923 – 2013

Ann Mounce, widow of M. Ross Mounce, passed away peacefully with her family by her side. The wonderful gift of her sharing of her life story contained, in part, the following:

“I have been truly fortunate and have thanked God many times for the good life I have led. I had the love of a good man. What more could anyone ask? His death on January 25, 1978 was devastating but somehow I managed to lead a worthwhile existence without his love and guidance. I loved to sing and did. I



often marvelled that my beloved parents, both of whom emigrated from the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, saw to it that my sister Peggy and I had piano lessons and later voice training despite the fact they had so little of this world’s material wealth. Music enriched my life. I preformed on CBC Radio and TV in the 50s and held the position of soprano soloist at Grace and Young United Churches for a total of 22 years. I found it most gratifying to continue being asked to sing even into my seventies.

I loved to travel and was fortunate to visit many countries with Ross by car, plane and, best of all, by cruise ships.

I loved dogs, and in my lifetime had four. Two Scottish Terriers, both named Sandy, a beagle named Skipper and finally, Angus, the dear little Westie who brightened the last years of my life.”

Ann was a member of CMS Manitoba. Heartfelt condolences are extended to Ann’s family and friends.

MELVILLE MACLEOD, 1927-2013

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Melville Norman MacLeod in Cornwall, Ontario, on December 16, 2013 at the age of 86 years. Predeceased by parents Alexander MacLeod and Hattie (MacCrimmon) MacLeod, and sisters Pearl MacLeod and Myrtle Nelson; Mel is survived by his sisters Catherine Silmsler (Donald) and Sandra Andrews (late Charles) of Cornwall; his children Julie Tuton, Anne Marie MacLeod, Norma Bradley, and Grant MacLeod (Mary McMinniman); grandchildren Cole Tuton, Alexa Tuton, Ryan MacLeod, Justin MacLeod and Logan Bradley; and nieces and nephews. Mel had a long career in the pulp and paper industry across Canada, and was a proud Veteran and member of the Royal Canadian Legion. Honoring Mel's wishes there will be a private graveside service held at a later date in Dunvegan, Ontario remembering his life.

May the family of Mel know that his friends and family have the sympathy of his Clan MacLeod family.

DIANE SANKEY REMEMBERED

Diane Sankey passed away suddenly, on February 19, 2014, in her 71st year, at Scarborough General Hospital, Toronto. Diane leaves her two brothers, Michael and Eric, and their families and her many friends. Diane was the Vice President of the Central Ontario Society and will be sorely missed for her contribution to our Ceilidhs and presence at the Highland Games in the summer. Many MacLeods will remember Diane from the North American Gathering in 2000, hosted by Central Ontario, as the Choirmaster of the international choir led by Diane at the Opening Ceremonies and Church Service held at War Memorial Hall at the University of Guelph. Several Central Ontario members were able to attend the Service of Remembrance for Diane at the Jubilee United Church in March, where Karen Macleod MacCrimmon spoke to those attending on behalf of the Clan. The following are some personal thoughts from Karen about her friend, Diane.



Dearest Diane: I remember when I first saw you at Branksome Hall. Although it was some 21 years ago, I remember the day well. The sun was out and you were in your Lewis Tartan and decorated sun hat that

reminded me of a Black-Eyed Susan in a field of flowers. Between the call to our heritage and our shared interest in science fiction, we were soon fast friends. The years between us were never an issue. You were generous to a fault and always willing to help. When you volunteered to help on the program committee, our Ceilidhs were filled with a variety of musical guests as well as the sound of your sweet voice. Your direction and organization of a choir for Gathering 2000 in Guelph was a tremendous success and cemented our friendship. Later when I became President, you were my right hand, lending support and guidance through the last 10 years as our clan continues to serve our members. Every summer, I could count on you to help out our Games Co-ordinator, Cathie White at several of the Highland Games. It was a pleasure to see you as I trudged up to the tent with several young children in tow. I know that life was not always easy for you but you never let that get in the way of being there for me or the Clan. You were an anchor for us, helping to create a sense of family and community at our events.

I write this now to say thank you, knowing that you cannot read the words, but hoping that you will still hear the sincerity and gratitude in my heart and my prayers. Because goodbyes are never good things, I leave off with a traditional Gaelic blessing for you, in your place of peace and free of pain, “until we meet again”.

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

ANNA WILLIAMS 1924-2014

Anna passed away peacefully at the Glebe Centre in Ottawa January 27, 2014. A member of CMS Ottawa, she had long been a teacher retiring from Alta Vista Public School.

Anna is survived by her sister-in law Jean Williams of Alexandria, nephews Bruce, Ralph and Alan of Ottawa and many cousins and predeceased by her parents David Williams and Sara MacLeod, brothers: Alexander (2004) and Patrick (1944). Anna will be remembered by her effortless charm, wit and fun-loving spirit.

As a Memorial to Anna, a tree will be planted in Memory Woods. A tree grows – memories live.

Clan MacLeod extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of Anna.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Clan MacLeod Parliament 2014 is almost upon us; flights and accommodation arranged, and Maple Leaf Cookies have been purchased for Canada's duty day. The weatherman's predictions will be studied in July—not that it will change plans for what to pack, we all know that the *principle of layers* is the only thing that is foolproof. I look forward to meeting many of you at Dunvegan and sharing stories of travels and clan activities.



The CMSC Website calendar is filled with Scottish events being held across Canada, giving travellers ideas of places to go and things to see and do—thanks to our active Webmaster Neil F. MacLeod and his eager sidekick President Jim. If your events and Highland Games aren't included send the information along as well as photos and highlights of your Society's events.

With the *Clan MacLeod Magazine* aiming sharply for their publishing deadlines, I must have your current membership lists in by September 1 and March 1. It's a challenge to keep mailing lists up to date but with postage as high as it is now, accurate lists are essential.

This issue has been increased to 28 pages without changing the postage and it could be larger. Personal family genealogical histories and anecdotes would be interesting reading, also articles and photos of events, comments on your membership in a Clan MacLeod Society, what you like (and don't like) about the *Leod Voice* and any other topic you want to air would be welcome additions to future issues.

I thank those who send links to items they find interesting; it's feedback I greatly appreciate. In some ways, putting together an issue of is like carrying on a conversation with myself in a dark room. Let me hear from you, please.

Have a great summer, enjoy Highland Games and other Scottish events, then let me know about your experiences.

Hold Fast and Steady the Pace, Judy

My address: Judy Tipple, P.O. Box 111
Saturna Island, BC Canada V0N 2Y0

Phone: 250-539-5475

E-mail: jmtipple@gmail.com
leodvoice@gmail.com

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

March 1

and September 1