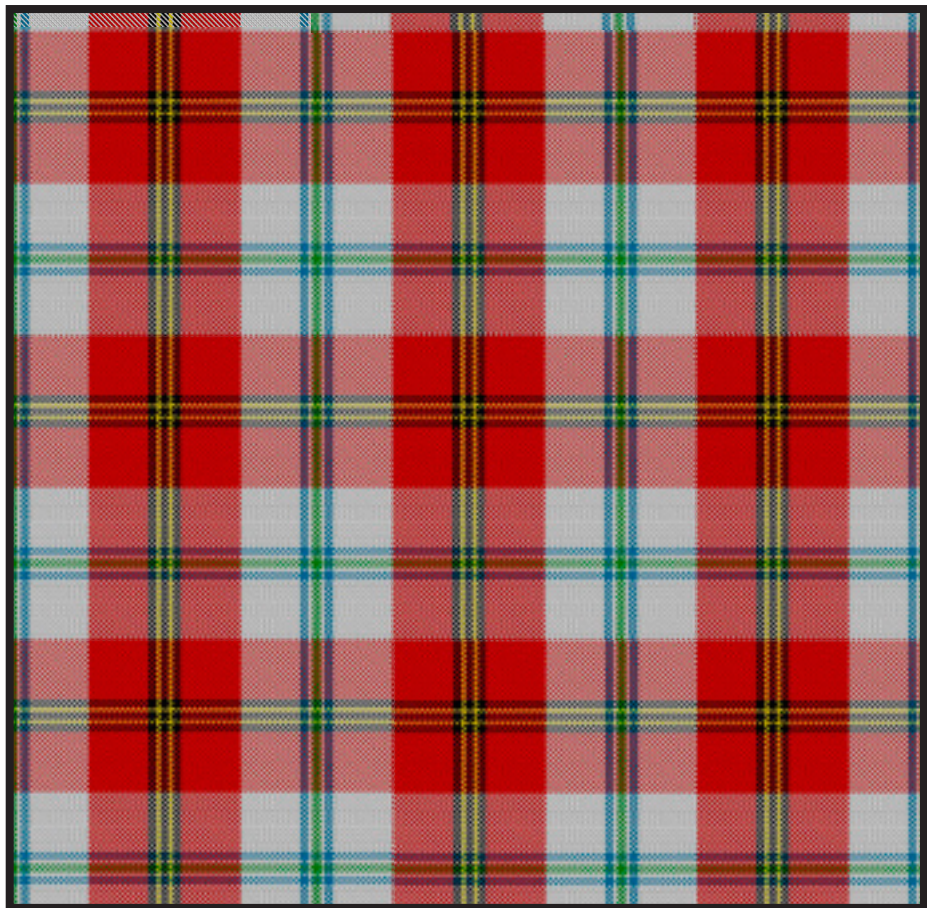




# The LEOD VOICE



CLAN M<sup>AC</sup>LEOD SOCIETIES  
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER # 62  
SPRING, 2015



# NEW TARTAN; CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES OF CANADA

BY IAN C. MACLEOD, PAST PRESIDENT (2004 – 2008)

With the support of, and input from, the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC), I have designed, and registered with The Scottish Register of Tartans ([www.tartanregister.gov.uk](http://www.tartanregister.gov.uk)) (December 15, 2014, under #11191), a new tartan called “Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada”.



The “Registration Note” states:

“Created to mark the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC), an umbrella organization for local Clan MacLeod societies across Canada, and a member of the international body, the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies, and for the 11th North American Gathering [*and 40th Anniversary of the first NAG in Ottawa/Glengarry in 1976*] of the Clan MacLeod, in Merritt, British Columbia in 2016.”

Here is the rationale for the choice of colours:

1. The background is a large grid or base of red and white, being Canada’s National colours (most notably in the Canadian “Maple Leaf” flag);
2. Another symbol of Canada is the maple leaf, and it’s fall colours, mixing green, red and yellow. Those colours have been included;
3. The three main tartans of the Clan MacLeod are predominantly green/blue (Harris), black/yellow (Lewis) and black/red (Raasay). One set of crossing lines is black and yellow and the other set is green and blue, which, with the red background, pick up all those colours.
4. The tartan is intentionally bright - reflecting our outlooks as MacLeods and Canadians.

I am also coordinating having the tartan woven. Here is an excerpt from the notice I am circulating:

**Fellow MacLeods, Septs and friends of MacLeods**

The Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada has a new tartan. It is bright and cheery, and would be a great addition to your other MacLeod tartans, or even a first time tartan.

In order to get the tartan woven, a minimum order of 25 metres will have to be placed (at 58” width, slightly under 4 metres would be needed for a kilt).

Once the order is placed, it would be up to 16 weeks before the tartan bolts would be delivered to Canada. The bolts would then have to be cut to order, and the ordered portions reshipped to the individual buyers.

The “all in” price per metre (13 ounce weight) is \$75CDN including all shipping and taxes (GST/HST/PST) (so about \$300 for enough tartan for one kilt).

Help may be possible in finding a kilt maker, if you need such help.

Please contact Past President Ian MacLeod at [icmacleod@telus.net](mailto:icmacleod@telus.net) or 604-273-4238 with any orders. Payment should be made directly to him, at the time of ordering.

The deadline for orders from you is May 31, 2015, and may need to be extended to get sufficient orders. Don’t wait, decide now and place your order.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JIM MACLEOD, PRESIDENT  
CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES OF  
CANADA



Greetings once again, to everyone. It seems as I write this report that we have suddenly gone directly from winter into summer – not really much of a spring at all. It's always a welcome thing to feel the warmth of the summer's sun. I trust once again that all MacLeods and their families and friends have weathered the winter in one piece particularly those in PEI as that province seemed to get a little more than their fair share of the white stuff this year.

Now, how about our new tartan? I am sure that you were struck by the brilliant cover of this edition of the *Leod Voice* in its entire splendor. Once again a tremendous thank you to Ian C. MacLeod for taking the leadership on this initiative including not only the design and registration, but now the launching of the tartan into the world of MacLeods and beyond. You will read elsewhere in this newsletter about how to purchase our new tartan.

Once again Heather and I spent most of the winter in Portugal and this year I finally was able to attend the Saint Andrew's Society of the Algarve's annual Burns' Supper on January 24. There are two very active St. Andrew's Societies in Portugal, one in Lisbon and one in The Algarve (southern area of the country). It was a fabulous evening with most of the over 100 attendees in kilts or trowse and with lots of piping, haggis, Highland music, dancing, poetry, toasting and of course whisky. The Society has a weekly Scottish Country Dancing program with weekly dances held locally so the evening was completed with lots of dancing. I had the opportunity to meet and talk to a Jack (John) MacLeod who has a Canadian connection. In the late 1930s his parents immigrated to Calgary where his brother was born and then moved back to Scotland with the pending outbreak of the war. Jack told me the story of his brother's efforts to get a passport after their parents had passed away and him having no recollection or documentation to support his Canadian birth. Both government officials eventually sorted it out.

In mid-February, we made a little side trip to the city of Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site — a walled city towards the middle of Portugal which has the second oldest university in the country (established in 1559.) While having lunch one day, two gentlemen sat in the table beside us. It wasn't until we got up to leave that I looked down at the gentleman beside me and noticed he was wearing a very distinctive shirt: the beautiful MacLeod of Lewis tartan! I instinctively reached down and pulled back his jacket to make sure I was seeing what I was seeing – probably shouldn't have done that as I kind of startled the poor fellow, so I then had some fast talking to do. I showed him a business card I carry that has on it the CMSC logo and small pictures of the Harris and Lewis tartans. We had a good laugh in the end and he assured me that he would look up our web site.

The annual ACMS meeting was held in Edinburgh again this year on February 21. Once again I was able to attend the meeting via Skype (with video this time) which is great and thanks once again to Dorna Caskie (Honorary Secretary ACMS) for making that happen. This was the first ACMS meeting since Parliament last summer and was also the first chaired by the new ACMS President, Dr. Don MacLeod. I would invite anyone wishing to see all or parts of the minutes of the meeting to contact me directly by e-mail: [glenelg.macleod@gmail.com](mailto:glenelg.macleod@gmail.com) .

This year marks two important anniversary dates for MacLeod Clan Societies in Canada. The Central Ontario Society marks their 60th anniversary this year and as such on Saturday April 25 an evening of celebration was held in Toronto. Amongst those attending from out of town were Judy Tipple, CMSC Vice President, and John N. MacLeod, President Clan MacLeod USA. It was a great evening. Also this year the Glengarry Clan MacLeod Society marks its 80th anniversary. It was on November 2, 1935 that the first Clan MacLeod Society was formed outside of Scotland, in Glengarry. The following July 4, 1936 a picnic/gathering was held in Dunvegan, ON with the unanticipated attendance of over 1000 MacLeods from Canada and the USA. Plans to celebrate these events are under development by the Glengarry Society.

By the time you are reading this report, 425 days is the number of days (give or take a couple) until the start of the North American Gathering (NAG) 2016 in Merritt British Columbia, July 28-31, 2016. The Gathering will be held at “McLeod Castle”, which is the home of Dr. Don and

Chris McLeod. NAG 2016 is being hosted by the BC Interior Society under the leadership of Dr. Don MacLeod (Committee Chairman) and BC Interior Society President Neil R. MacLeod. So, start planning your trip! For information please visit the CMSC web site Home page at: [www.clanmacleod-canada.com](http://www.clanmacleod-canada.com) and follow the link to NAG 2016.

I would encourage folks to visit the CMSC web site Event page to see what is happening across the country this summer with regard to Scottish Festivals, highland games, etc. ([www.clanmacleod-canada.com](http://www.clanmacleod-canada.com)). Also, please feel free to send me any events that are not included on the web site including the events web site link if there is one.

Hold Fast & Shine Brightly; Jim

## 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ONTARIO

BY SHEILA MACLEOD

On April 25, 2015, clanspeople gathered at the Canadiana Restaurant and Banquet Hall, in Toronto, to celebrate 60 years of clanship in the Central Ontario Society. Over cocktails, friendships were renewed with members and guests, from this society and other societies. There were Scottish pins, tartan sashes, skirts, kilts, and good spirits.

Don McCrimmon served as M.C. and gave a warm welcome to all. Grace was recited in Lowland Scots and then in the Gaelic by Allan MacLeod. We toasted the Queen and the Chiefs. Two of our younger members, Aiden and Wesley Gladish read the poem for the toast to the Tartan. Greetings came from the President of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada, Jim Macleod; from the President of the U.S. Societies, John MacLeod; from CASSOC; and from our Society President, Karen Macleod McCrimmon.

Dinner, which included haggis, was enjoyed with lively conversation at tables graced with centrepieces of heather plants.

A moment of silence was observed for members who have recently passed away. This was followed by, “The Last Goodbye,” sung by Rowan Gladish and playing guitar, and by her friend, Samantha Bursey, playing keyboard.

Karen Macleod McCrimmon gave a brief history of our clan society, starting with the incentive driven by Dame Flora Macleod’s welcome of servicemen to Dunvegan during World War 2.

Happy Birthday was sung to Allan MacLeod who was celebrating his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with many of his family members present.



Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese introduced the Celtic folk group, *Scantily Plaid*, who presented lively renditions of traditional and original music. Many took to their feet for ceilidh dancing with Carol’s leadership.

The evening ended with everyone hand in hand and singing, “Auld Lang Syne.”



*Scantily Plaid kept toes tapping  
Barb MacLeod Armstrong compliments Karen  
Macleod McCrimmon on a well run celebration*

## TOAST TO THE TARTAN

by Murdoch Maclean

Here's to it!

The fighting sheen of it,  
The yellow, the green of it,  
The white, the blue of it,  
The swing, the hue of it,  
The dark, the red of it,  
Every thread of it!

The fair have sighed for it,  
The brave have died for it,  
toemen sough for it,  
Heroes fought for it,  
Honour the name of it,  
Drink to the fame of it —  
The Tartan!

## GENEALOGY

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

I have been looking online under the word “genealogy”. Wikipedia states the following:

Genealogy (from Greek: γενεά *genea*, “generation”; and λόγος *logos*, “knowledge”), also known as family history, is the study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history. Genealogists use oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to

obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members. The results are often displayed in charts or written as narratives. The pursuit of family history and origins tends to be shaped by several motivations, including the desire to carve out a place for one’s family in the larger historical picture, a sense of responsibility to preserve the past for future generations, and a sense of self-satisfaction in accurate storytelling.

In this day and age, with the great advances in DNA research, it is also useful medically to ascertain a history of certain types of maladies that tend to run within families over the generations.





**HOW TO GET STARTED** First you start with what you know. Talk to your parents, grandparents and other family members. You may hear of family stories from the past and these can be the start of the building blocks for your family history, so be sure to record everything. The next step is to evaluate as much as possible the validity of the family stories and where possible find some kind of documentation to support your findings. As you are starting with the present and working your way backwards through the generations, it is easier to verify the most recent information.

Genealogists use a number of different records to aid in their research. To conduct proper research it is important to understand how the different records were created, what information is included in them, and how to access them. Prior to the advent of the internet this was a very laborious and time consuming process with many different types of records which needed to be researched to get a clear picture of a family history. These records included everything from Birth, Death, & Marriage records to records such as Ship Registries, Census Reports, Military Records, Criminal Records, and Wills & Probate.

The introduction of the internet has now made this a much more accessible process. However, it can still take many weeks, months and even years to get all the information you desire about who you are and where you came from. It almost seems that the more you learn the more information you want to get.

We, as Macleods and Septs of Macleods, are extremely fortunate that Irene MacCrimmon started a five year project to document the Genealogy of the MacLeod “family” in Canada. It was her desire to try and identify all the Macleods and Septs of Macleods who live or ever have lived, in Canada. This database continues to grow as people submit their family tree.

**SEPTS** (Branches of the MacLeod Family) include surnames (and all spellings) of Beaton, Bethune, Harold, MacCaig, MacClure, MacCrimmon, MacCuaig, MacRaid, MacWilliam, Norman, Tormod, Williamson as branches of MacLeod of Harris and Dunvegan; Callam/Callum, Caskie (MacCaskie), Lewis (Maclewis), MacAllum, MacAskill, MacCabe, Malcolmson, Nicol(MacNicol), Nicholson, Norie, Norris and Tolmie as branches of MacLeods of Lewis and Raasay.

**THE WORLD WIDE WEB** If you type in the word ‘genealogy’ you will be overwhelmed with the number of hits you get. There are sites that provide a ‘free trial period’ to search their site but you have to submit

your e-mail address, which may be a problem as you don't know what type of ongoing information you may get back from them.

Eg. Ancestry.ca gives you a free trial period, then you are charged a fee.

**FORMS** If you need forms, please let me know and I can send them to you (E-mail: [lmccrimmon@hotmail.com](mailto:lmccrimmon@hotmail.com) or regular mail: Lesley McCrimmon, 16619 Innis Lake Road, Caledon, ON L7C 3A4). When you have completed the information you have (whether it is a lot or a little), please consider sending it to me as I may have some additions to your family in the database.

Genealogy can be a fun and sometimes exciting project for family oriented people who have that itch to find out more about where they came from and how they got to where they are.

Who knows you may have extended family living close by that you never knew you had. It happened to my husband!

## DAVID PUGLIESE WEDS

Carol MacCrimmon and Rick Pugliese are pleased to announce the marriage of their eldest son, David, to Corrie Huntingdon on May 3, 2014 in Grimsby, Ontario.

David's brothers, Patrick and Matthew were groomsmen, and Matthew's five-year old daughter, Savannah, was the pretty flower girl. David's grandmother, Irene MacCrimmon (Guelph) was radiant as always and at 90 years of age, kicked up her heels on the dance floor with her grandsons.



The wedding had a Scottish flair. Matthew piped the guests into the chapel. The kilted wedding party wore the MacCrimmon from Skye tartan, and Corrie cleverly used the tartan in her own bouquet and throughout the venue. Carol welcomed Corrie to the MacCrimmon family by presenting her with a MacCrimmon Tartan sash for her to wear to the many Scottish events she and David hope to attend. The special dance for Carol and David began with a beautiful rendition of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" and ended with a lively Gay Gordon's dance. Isle of Skye and Talisker Whiskey found its way into flasks and was used for toasting the happy couple.

David and Corrie will belatedly honeymoon this summer with a week at Ardroag on the Isle of Skye and then a Mediterranean Cruise.



## HISTORY OF TARTAN

In every corner of the world, where Scotland and the Scots are known, two words evoke feelings of patriotism and kinship which mere language can never hope to describe.

These words are “Clan” and “Tartan”. The word Clan comes from a Gaelic word meaning family or children and clansmen were as family to the Clan Chief. When the Clan System was at its height (11th to 19th Century) clansmen would support their Chief with a fierce, unquestioning, loyalty and fight to the death, if necessary, in support of his and their rights. The Chief, in return, was the father figure who ate and slept with them and was their leader in all things.

Tartan, described in more detail later, symbolised, and still does, these feelings and represents many more things besides. Firstly it identifies clan members and in days of yore it was a distinct advantage to know friend from foe.

Tartan is popular throughout the world and immediately brings to mind the Highlands of Scotland and its people. The existence of Scottish tartans can be traced back to the 7th century although their origins are rather obscure. The earliest form of dress was the Saffron Shirt (Leine Croich) worn by the Irish Celts who later crossed the Irish Sea to settle in Scotland. That mode of dress had developed from the Roman tunic,

usually made of linen, and dyed saffron yellow. To display rank they marked their shirts with stripes - the more stripes, the higher the rank. The weather in the Scottish Highlands required something warmer than linen, and woollen garments became the norm and the belted plaid replaced the Saffron Shirt.

The kilt as we know it today developed out of the early one-piece overgarment known as the Feileadh Mor (Gaelic for Great Kilt) which consisted of about 15 yards of material. In these days that would be described as 12 ells - an ell being an old weaving term for about a yard and a quarter. The width would be governed by the reach of the weaver passing the weft from hand to hand in his handloom. This would be replaced in time by the flying shuttle. The first unsewn kilt was also known as the Breacan-feile (Gaelic for the belted plaid) and it was wrapped round the body and belted, to form the kilt. The other part of this continuous garment was flung loosely over the shoulder where it was pinned with a brooch at the shoulder and left to hang down the back. This was a very practical outfit for Highlanders as it left the arms free for fighting, while providing enough loose material to wrap round the body in bad weather and act as a primitive sleeping bag when the need arose. The material was quite closely woven and would swell and become quite watertight.

As time passed and industrialisation crept northwards, via the first new roads since Roman times, the upper half of the kilt became rather cumbersome and had to be discarded. The top half was separated and the lower half became known as the Feileadh Beg, or Little Kilt.

Early tartans were described as “the wont of the weaver”. In other words the weaver wove a pattern which he found convenient to weave and the convenience was based on the availability of local dyestuffs i.e. roots, berries, bark, lichens etc. Normally weaving was a family business in that father did the weaving, mother did the dyeing and any unmarried daughters still living at home did the spinning - hence the term “spinster”. If mother found it easy to make plenty of red dye father’s tartan contained plenty of red. If mother found it less easy to produce blue dye father’s pattern contained less blue and if mother found it difficult to produce green dye there was little green in father’s pattern. This led to a tendency where tartans from the same area might have a similarity in shade while tartans from another area or district might favour other shades. Thus, initially, setts became recognisable as District Tartans and in the process of time,

because of the clan system where nearly everyone in the district had the same clan name, that sett became synonymous with that clan name. As the popularity of tartan became established the system could be reversed in that as clans grew in size and number a Chief might go and commission a weaver to establish a sett for his clan. This is usually the starting point for those who study tartan setts, as opposed to clan histories, to start examining the construction of the patterns of the colours in order to establish the origins of the setts.

Around the late 17th, early 18th centuries many of the clans had their own identifying Tartans but, having said that, many Clans today do not have a tartan of their own and this is where the District Tartan comes into its own. If one cannot have a Clan Tartan it is most likely that he, or she, will claim a District Tartan.

After the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden, the English government passed in 1747 an Act for the Abolition and Proscription of Highland Dress “which decreed that no man or boy, within that part of Great Britain called Scotland, should wear the plaid or any other item of Highland dress. This ban was in force for 35 years during which time weavers moved on or died and many of “their” setts were lost.

The revival of Tartan was boosted in 1822 when, on the occasion of King George IV’s visit to Edinburgh, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott, the Clan Chiefs were invited to receive their Monarch while wearing Highland Dress in general and their own clan tartan in particular. It is interesting to note that where many tartan setts were known originally as a District Tartan or merely as a number in the pattern books of the famous weavers William Wilson of Bannockburn, these setts began to have Clan names appended.

Tartan has become the main symbol of Scotland and Scottish culture. It is an emblem for those of Scottish descent around the world. With Scottish National identity probably greater than at any time in recent centuries, the potency of Tartan as a symbol cannot be understated.

There is evidence that Celts have used striped and checked material for thousands of years. The Scots, who settled Western Scotland from 5-6<sup>th</sup> C onward and eventually gave the whole country their name, are said to have used striped garments to signify rank.

The origin of the word Tartan is uncertain. One possible derivation of the word comes from the Irish tarsna (crosswise) and also Gaelic word “tarsuinn” meaning across. Another suggestion is the Old French word “tiretaine” but this was merely a loose woven fabric. The word Tartan, like so many things in Scottish history, evolved over centuries of use.

The basis of the pattern, dress style and word may date back to the time when the Scots introduced their Gaelic culture into what was to become Scotland. If early Tartan, like the Gaelic language, were used across Scotland in the 10th C, by the 13th C it would have been confined to the Highlands because Lowland Scotland began adopting the language of the northern Angles and Norman social structure from the 12th C. Highlands.

In 1538 there is a reference to ‘Heland Tartan’. A Frenchman at the siege of Haddington in 1537 describes Highlanders who were present as wearing what appears to be Tartan. From 1581 there is a description of ‘variegated garments, especially stripes, and their favourite colours are purple and blue’. Poet John Taylor clearly describes the woollen Tartan garments of Highlanders at Braemar in 1618. Martin, a doctor on Skye around 1700, gave the first descriptions of Tartan and emphasised the significant regional influence. Martin stated that “It was possible to tell from a man’s plaid where he came from. There is no implication from any of these early records that specific families or Clans wore their “own” Tartans.

The battle of Culloden in 1746 saw the end of Jacobite claims to the throne. Many Highlanders, but by no means all, had backed the losing side of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. The great importance of Tartan and associated dress to Highland Culture at this time can be deduced from the fact that the government banned it from 1746-82. This proscription (banning) however applied only to common Highland men - not the upper echelons of Highland society, not to Lowland Scots and not to women. But most importantly, it did not apply to the Highland regiments that were being formed in the Government army.

The weaving of Tartan had previously been a cottage industry with each local weaver “doing his own thing” but the banning of tartan within the Highlands all but wiped this out. The fact that Wilsons were based in Bannockburn, which was considered to be outside the Highland line,

allowed this company to thrive and it has become a most important landmark in the history of tartan production. Although its origins are somewhat obscure it came into being officially in 1764 and traded until 1924. What made it so important to tartan scholars is that most of its pattern books were saved and are still in safe keeping today.

Although the wearing of Tartan had been banned it applied strictly to the normal Highlander but did not apply to the many Scottish Regiments which were being absorbed into the British Army. The Hanoverian Government of the day knew only too well, sometimes to their cost, the fighting qualities of the Highlander and they came to the conclusion that they wanted them with them rather than against them. Thus many Scottish Regiments were absorbed into the British Army and they retained the right to wear Highland Dress. Wilsons produced nearly all of these tartans and continued to produce other District and Clan Tartans after the ban was repealed in 1782.

The Wilson pattern books continue to be a great source of information to this day, not only on the setts themselves, including actual thread-counts of the patterns, but also on the processes of weaving and dyeing and the dyestuffs. Their instructions for dyeing Black were:- “Take 28 lbs of Logwood and 6 lbs of Shoemack which boil one hour, which take out, then put in your yarns and boil for two hours. Then coole them and add a shellful (10 lbs) of Coppars. When in two hours coole them and put them in other two hours.”

Tartans worn at the Battles of Sheriffmuir or Culloden have almost all been lost forever and with the loss of so much information from individual weavers as a result of the Proscription there is a great gap which tartan scholars still work on today. Some setts are known but their origins and connections have been lost.

### **THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF LONDON (HSL)**

The HSL was formed in 1778 and in 1815 Col. Alasdair MacDonnell of Glengarry set about urging the Clan Chiefs to submit a piece of their Clan Tartan, authenticated with their seal, to the collection being put together by the HSL. The idea was to preserve, before they too were lost, a collection of original Clan patterns. Most of the sealed pieces deposited with the HSL, on detailed inspection, appeared to have been woven and designed by Wilsons and this, of course, cast doubts on whether they

existed prior to 1765 when Wilsons started business. Although Tartan had always had strong Highland connections its growing popularity spread into Lowland Scotland and today Tartan is seen to be Scottish rather than Highland although certain sticklers will frown upon Lowland Tartans. Similarly, a distinction is sometimes drawn between Clan Tartans and Family Tartans.

By the early 19th century the Gaelic mythology of Ossian had been translated and had become popular. The exciting Waverley Novels of Sir Walter Scott stirred the imagination and did much to popularise the romance of Scotland. Queen Victoria, too, contributed greatly to reviving interest in Scotland and Tartan when she moved to Balmoral Castle and wrote her Highland Diaries.

The variety of Tartans has never stopped growing. Many Clan Tartans have become available in Ancient, Modern, Weathered and Dress or Hunting colours and today there are many tartans other than Clan or District. There are Corporate Tartans - one very recognisable being The Burberry Tartan. Almost every State in USA has its own Tartan as do the Provinces of Canada; Whisky Companies; Football Teams; Scottish Rugby Union; Scottish Commonwealth Games Teams etc.

Many names from the British Isles have been associated with a Clan or District Tartans and while people do want to wear 'their own' Tartan it is not always possible to find a connection down the Father's line of descent so, in that case, it is perfectly acceptable to show affiliation to the Mother's Clan. Similarly, in marriage the Wife should take the Husband's Tartan but if none is found, resorting to her own Clan connections is quite natural. At one time, in very early history, blood lines and titles were Matriarchal and showing affiliation to the Clan from which your Mother comes is quite customary.

## **WEBB SITES OF INTEREST**

Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada: [www.clanmacleod-canada.com](http://www.clanmacleod-canada.com)

Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada: [www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca)

Federation of Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia: [www.scotsns.ca](http://www.scotsns.ca)

International Gathering of the Clans: <http://www.celticlifeintl.com/2015-international-gathering-of-the-clans/>

Nova Scotia Gaelic Affairs Report: [www.gov.ns.ca/oga](http://www.gov.ns.ca/oga)





# PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY DR DON MACLEOD

The excitement is building and my wife and I lay awake at night discussing and dreaming of all the possibilities for the future with the Clan MacLeod Societies. We just arrived back from Scotland last night and we are tending to our chores on the farm. We have just finished scaring Bald eagles away from a calving Highland cow. There were several eagles scaring the cows and rushing them around the field. Something new every day.

We are very interested in getting Scottish outfits in the new MacLeod of Canada tartan that Ian C. MacLeod has graciously expedited. Our trip to Scotland in February 2015 was highlighted with a visit to Roddy MacLeod, perhaps one of the greatest living pipers today. We had a snack and talked the “piping world” at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.

We had a wonderful, collegial ACMS meeting with many new ideas and enthusiasm. The consensus is to have more events, more communication via the internet and new ways to harness the interest of all our Scottish aficionados with our Clan excitement. I never imagined that we would be wakened each morning by the screaming of monkeys disdaining the cold weather near the Holiday Inn, Glasgow.

We attended a wedding show at Carberry Castle, Edinburgh and it gave us ideas to relay on to our son, Lachlan, who is a director with CMS Vancouver. He is marrying Emma Moffatt at our home in May 2016. I will likely be chaperoning another Scottish Stag Party and so I will need to plan many thinking games and “bored” games to survive the night with the young men. Tomorrow we leave for Hong Kong and will try to survive the heat of Vietnam in a kilt as we do a tropical medicine course. We still have not decided whether cold weather or hot, humid weather is worse. We will keep you informed as if we ever have a choice with the weather.

We hope to be involved in the MacLeod activities at the CMS USA

meeting in Milwaukee June 4 to 7 and then go to South Carolina in September before visiting the Germany MacLeod meetings in October.

My wife Christine, is working on her Scottish cookbook and with all the cell phones ringing around me every day, I am trying to decide whether a *Modern Manners for the Cell Age* needs writing or just pushing for exclusively bagpipe ring tones. Christine is talking of global projects for the Alistair Crotach Committee to get some restoration and commemoration going.

We are planning and discussing the July 28-31, 2016 North American Gathering with all the MacLeods and friends and are looking forward to seeing everyone. If any information is needed just email Neil or myself in Merritt or visit the website [www.clanmacleod-canada.com](http://www.clanmacleod-canada.com) and click on the link for the NAG 2016.

Sincerely, Hold Fast the Shine, Dr. Don McLeod

## NORM MACLEOD GOES TO NAPAL

BY JUDY TUPPLE

Fire Chief Larry Watkinson and Captain Norm MacLeod, along with more than a dozen Metro Vancouver firefighters were part of Canada's response to the government of Nepal's request for International assistance following the earthquake April 25.

They took with them two dogs highly trained in search and rescue. The dogs zero in on finding live people by scratching and barking and when they find a deceased person they lie down and cry.



Norm MacLeod, a member of the CMS Greater Vancouver, reported on his Facebook page, the following:

*Long day yesterday as we drove 3 hours North (of Katmandu) to a village that had been hit hard by the initial Earthquake and the large aftershock. Lots of buildings destroyed and in rubble. We had a Global Television crew with us and some of you saw our team on the evening news. The dogs performed very well, and aside from finding a number of*

*live chickens trapped under the rubble, they were able to identify the locations of several deceased victims. These areas are marked and recorded by GPS for the next phase of the rescue effort which is recovery.*

*It appears that our work here is done and we are currently preparing to leave Kathmandu tomorrow evening.*

*It has been quite an adventure and I am honoured to have worked along side Burnaby Firefighters IAFF Local 323, and the proud members of our Canadian Forces. Working here, helping the people of Nepal, has been an amazing opportunity and I hope our presence here has brought some measure of comfort.*

*Thank you again to all for your positive thoughts and well wishes, it has helped to boost our morale!*

All returned home safely and received accolades of thanks. Clan MacLeod can be very proud of the readiness to help shown by Norm and the Search and Rescue team.

## A NEW CLAN MEMBER

On December 19, Ian and Ardis MacLeod proudly announced that their daughter Heather MacLeod, and Eric MacDonald, had a baby boy. As Heather put it: “Without a doubt, our best accomplishment to date! Linden John MacDonald. December 19 arrived at 8:34 am. 9lbs, 7ozs. 22.5 inches. The true Big Mac!”

He is a big bruiser, and the first grandson for Ian C. And Ardis MacLeod to join our three ecstatic granddaughters.

Linden is usually seen sporting a Vancouver Canucks sweater in response to his mother’s avid support of the hockey team.



This is quite appropriate, as he is named, in part (Eric’s Mother is Linda) after Trevor Linden, the former Captain, and current President, of the Canucks. Trevor Linden was superb athlete and leader and is, by all reports, a prince of a person - a good role model to follow for a young person.

# FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

## BLANCHE MACLEOD 1915-2015

Evelyn Blanche MacLeod passed away peacefully in Charlottetown, PEI, in February aged 99 years. She trained as an R.N. and was a veteran of Second World War. Blanche was survived by her four children, Rae (Nancy) MacLeod of Montreal, QC, Ruth (Ian) MacLeod of Perth, Western Australia, Kenneth MacLeod of Charlottetown, P.E.I., and Douglas (Beth) MacLeod of Ottawa, ON. Grandmother of Carolyn, Robert, Kirsteen, Sarah, Shona and Timothy. Great-grandmother of Zachary, Eli, Ronja and Grayson. She was the last surviving member of her immediate MacRae family. Aunt to several nieces and nephews, and remembered fondly by cousins and close friends.



*Douglas,  
Ruth, Rae  
and Kenneth  
MacLeod*

Blanche's family were strongly influenced by the enthusiastic support of the Clan MacLeod which resulted when Blanche and Rodrick met Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod in Montreal when she was visiting her grandson John who was studying at McGill University. After reading the lesson at their church Dame Flora chatted with the congregation and inspired Rod and Blanche to make the huge effort to organize a Montreal clan group with encouragement from Arthur MacLeod Rogers, the first CMSC President. Events of welcome were held whenever clan folk from Scotland came to visit. Blanche maintained clan links in many countries and across Canada with her extensive correspondence as leader of the group in Montreal and then later in Charlottetown, PEI.

Each generation of Blanche's family have been involved in various aspects of the clan as well as in piping and drumming. Kenneth and Douglas

attended the first NRG events in 1965 and 1968 when their parents attended Parliament. Family members have been present at many activities in Montreal, Glengarry, Ottawa, Halifax, Toronto as well as North American Gatherings in Cornwall, Cape Breton, Chicago, Guelph, Ottawa, Vancouver, Alexandria and also at Parliaments in Dunvegan.

Ruth has been an active contributor to the Clan MacLeod Magazine for many years, keeping us up to date on news from Clan MacLeod Societies and maintaining links with members around the world, also keeping the executive changes in the Yellow Pages up to date.

Ruth visited her mother on a regular basis and here are some of her comments from her time in Charlottetown in February.

*I could not tell you how many times I was stopped this week, by someone wanting to share their favorite stories of Blanche, or Grandma Blanche as she was often called. There was always laughter, as people recalled their memories, and by the end of the story they often concluded with "She was just an incredible woman." She touched the lives of so many people. "When I first met Blanche I was struck by her wit, and her humor." This was echoed by countless people. One woman in the congregation here at the Kirk was involved with the building rentals where Blanche lived. She was telling me about a day when a small dog escaped in the building, and somehow found her way into Blanche's apartment. Within moments Blanche had sent a note along to the building manager that said "This place is really going to the dogs." The lady who told me this could not stop laughing as she retold this story, and she ended with the words "we are really going to miss Blanche." Another family friend remarked "Grandma Blanche was also pretty cool. At her 90th birthday party, a framed photograph of her was passed around. From the shoulders up Grandma Blanche was dressed in her Sunday best, hatted and gloved, with a big smile on her face. She was also sitting on a Harley! "*

*There were many words used to describe Grandma Blanche, words like fearless, an adventurer, kind, thoughtful, generous, loving, independent and strong. She was quite social, as one family member remarked "My, was she social. She had more going on in a week than I would have on in three months!" She loved to travel, and did so extensively throughout her life. I also heard she loved to take photos, and was often seen with a camera around her neck snapping pictures of family and friends. Family was important to her throughout her life. One longtime friend wrote a beautiful tribute about the love Blanche had for her family; she*

said “Blanche and her husband raised a wonderful family in Montreal — a daughter and three sons — and instilled in them their values of decency, kindness, courtesy, patience, steadfastness, loyalty and love. It is a tribute to her that they all visited her regularly, even though distance separated them.”

*Blanche was a pillar in the life of those around her. I really cannot express how many people have spoken about how she touched their lives, and welcomed people in. These stories and memories are a testament to a life well lived, and I know she is going to be missed. One long time family friend said that Blanche was often heard to counsel Hold Fast which is also the MacLeod clan motto. These are important words for us today, as we hold fast to the lessons, the memories, and the laughter she filled our lives with. As her friend concluded when reflecting on the life of Blanche “The Island has lost an anchor.” A testimony to her strength, and her character that has impacted so many people in positive ways.*

We extend condolences to all of Blanche's family, with heartfelt thanks for her inspiration and example.

## JOHN RONALD MACLEOD O.C. 1924-2015

Ron passed way leaving his beloved wife Lorraine of 57 years to mourn. Ron was predeceased by his father Murdo, mother Julia and brother Ian Charles. Ron was raised in Tofino where his father was the federal Fisheries Inspector. After some years of fishing and logging, Ron joined the Department of Fisheries in 1956, rising to a Director General at retirement. Ron directed the development of the Pacific Salmonid Enhancement Program, the highlight of which for Ron was the introduction of Salmonids in the classroom, a school-based program that introduced over a million school children to conservation ethic. On retirement in 1984, Ron was an active volunteer with 411 Seniors Centre, Federal Superannuates, CARP, BC Pipers Assn. and SFU's Studies in Science. Ron was one of the founding member of SFU's Centre for Scottish Studies. In 2002 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Ron was also an expert in Piobaireachd, enjoyed all things Scottish and was a strong supporter of Clan MacLeod Society of Greater Vancouver.



# THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Putting together this issue of the *Leod Voice* has been exciting with the colour cover to illustrate the new CMSC tartan. I needed to come up with something in colour for the back cover and hope that you like my choice of displayed tartans. This issue has been a hurried one resulting in some articles being held over for the Fall issue.



I was pleased to be a part of CMS Central Ontario's 60th Anniversary event and wish the Glengarry Society well in their planning of their 80th Anniversary.

You might remember the 2013 Spring issue with the photo of Norman G. MacLeod on the cover. With the tragic earthquakes in Nepal, it was interesting to find Norm again part of a team contributing to the search and rescue efforts there. We can be justifiably proud of this young CMS member.

I have listed a variety of web sites that you may find interesting and I would encourage you to bookmark [www.clanmacleod-canada.com](http://www.clanmacleod-canada.com) and examine the various parts at your leisure. Webmaster Neil F. and President Jim would appreciate receiving your contributions and comments. If we can't physically travel to various celebrations, we can at least enjoy the fellowship through reports and photos on the web site.

The tribute to Blanche MacLeod illustrates the tremendous affect that family have on the attitudes and interests of offspring. Consider the steps you take or could take to encourage your family members (or friends) to share your interest in Clan MacLeod, ancestry, Highland Games, Scottish history, etc. Then share them with others in your clan society.

The season of Highland Games is upon us. Be sure to seek out the Clan MacLeod tent and share your enthusiasm with those welcoming visitors.

Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese will be judging dancing at the Victoria Games this weekend and I hope to give her a tour of BC's capital city while she is here.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly, always.

## Newsletter Timelines:

*Spring—May 1*

*Fall—October 1*

**Membership and  
Executive Changes:**

*March 1 and  
September 1*

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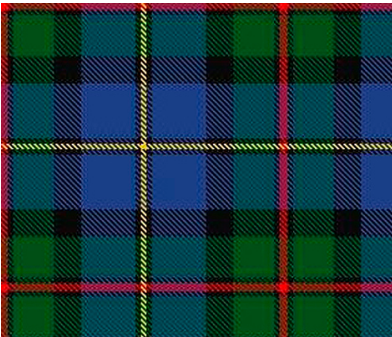
# CANADIAN PROVINCIAL TARTANS



1. Canadian Maple Leaf
2. Newfoundland and Labrador
3. Prince Edward Island
4. Nova Scotia
5. New Brunswick
6. Quebec
7. Ontario
8. Manitoba
9. Saskatchewan
10. Alberta
11. British Columbia
12. Northwest Territories
13. Yukon

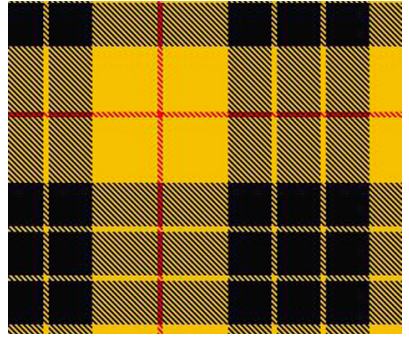


## POPULAR MACLEOD TARTANS



*MacLeod of MacLeod/Harris pre 1831*

*MacLeod of Raasay pre 1829*



*MacLeod of Lewis pre 1842*

*Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada 2014*

