



The LEOD VOICE

CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES
CANADA NATIONAL COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER # 66
SPRING, 2017



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY JUDY TIPPLE, PRESIDENT CMSC

Greetings to all Clan MacLeod members and readers of The Leod Voice. What seems to have been a long, dark and wet winter is finally abating and the sun is warming the earth and encouraging growth and blossoms. Surrounded by flowering trees and bursting Highland Red rhododendron bushes, I welcome spring with the sound of hummingbirds, woodpeckers and bees.



Two events have been foremost on my mind over the past months: attending the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies meeting in February via Skype and then in April, seeing the launch of the revised CMSC website. Both were fascinating activities for me.

ACMS MEETING

From 2:30 AM until 9:30 AM, I was able to watch and participate in the discussions of business with members of the council from many of the ten countries in the association. Parliament 2018 will be held July 21 to 28 following the usual format of registration on Saturday July 21. A Pre-Parliament trip to Harris and Lewis is planned, lead by Kevin Tolmie. We look forward to receiving more details. The regular North Room Group (NRG) activities are being planned for July 14 to 21, 2018.

One of the major topics under discussion was updating the ACMS website and Webmasters Penny DeGraf and Ross deWynter were authorized to hire help to accomplish this task. The websites of Scotland, USA and Canada were held up as examples to follow. Many volunteer hours are needed to keep any website current and I want to express my appreciation to all Webmasters who take on that task.

I look forward to attending the next ACMS meeting in person. It will be held in conjunction with the CMS USA AGM in Wilmington, NC on Aug 6-11. Do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns you wish raised at that meeting.

CMSC NEW WEBSITE

Neil F MacLeod (of Almonte) has completed the reconfiguration of our website and is continually adding information to it as material is sent to him. The result is phenomenal and Neil's efforts are so very much appreciated. If you haven't visited the site yet, I would encourage you

to do so at www.clanmacleod-canada; you too will be impressed, I am certain. Many thanks, Neil, for the many, many hours you have spent and continue to spend on this important task.

At the Tartan Day event held outdoors at Centennial Square in Victoria, a small crowd of well bundled up on-lookers enjoyed an interesting demonstration of Highland Dancing featuring master dancers along with delightful very young novices. Onlookers responded enthusiastically to a demonstration of some novel heavyweight competitor demonstrations where one hundred pound weights were carried in each hand by a contestant running 20 feet forward and around a marker, setting them down then hoisting what looked to be a huge weight overhead five times. I look forward to seeing this sort of competition at the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival on May 20-22. Hopefully the weather will be somewhat more pleasant.

Highland Games season is almost upon us and a wide assortment of tartans will be on display along the Avenue of the Clans. Be sure to take advantage of events in your locality and make yourself known to those hosting the Clan MacLeod tents. An extensive list of Highland Games in Canada is included on the CMSC website.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly,
Judy



Tartan Day Victoria
Centennial Square



TARTAN DAY

On April 6, 1987, the House of Assembly in Halifax passed a resolution naming April 6 as Tartan Day in Nova Scotia. Like a pebble tossed into a pool, Tartan Day has been adopted by people of Scottish descent and celebrated worldwide since then.

The date chosen has particular significance. On April 6, 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath, in stirring words that have resonated down the centuries, stated, "It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom, for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."

At that time, the Declaration was a rallying cry for Scots to assert their independence from England and throughout history those words have been used by other nations to assert their own independence. finding their way into many constitutions.

So, when the Federation of Scottish Clans of Nova Scotia was looking for a date that they could claim as their own to honour the Scottish heritage of the province and of the country, April 6 made perfect sense. The fact that it has spread worldwide is due, in part, to the work of Jean Watson of Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, who has worked tirelessly to have that day adopted.

Tartan Day is celebrated in Australia and New Zealand and most especially in New York City, where Tartan Day has morphed into Tartan Week a major celebration with whisky tastings, giant parades and fashion shows featuring Scottish celebrities.

Thanks to Watson's tenacity and the help of Scottish associations across the country, every province has proclaimed April 6 as Tartan Day and under prime minister (Stephen) Harper, it was officially proclaimed by the federal government at the same time as the Maple Leaf Tartan was proclaimed the official tartan of Canada.

NEEDING A NEW HOME

A ladies long wool skirt-kilt is for sale. It is ancient (MacLeod of Harris) tartan with leather straps and buckles, and a kilt pin. The size is ladies size 40 (10) and in excellent condition. Made in Scotland, it is wool and is machine washable. Contact Mary MacLeod in Guelph by email: maryemacleod@sympatico.ca or by phone: 519-824-2070 for further details.

GENEALOGY REPORT

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON, CMSC GENEALOGY COORDINATOR

JB McCrummen of Washington State (jb@mccrummen.com or 360-515-6016) and Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese are co-administrators of the MacCrummen/MacCrimmon DNA Project.



This is a project, started in August 2016, to study and analyze DNA results from men and women for various MhicCruimein, MacCrimmon, MacCrummen and associated family tree branches. Our goal is to study and analyze DNA results including YDNA, mtDNA and autosomal DNA.

While this project is located at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), men and women who have tested at AncestryDNA can copy their results to our project at FTDNA, thus adding more people so we can further understand our genetic roots.

With an expansion of participants the project hopes to identify the diverse branches through both DNA testing and genealogy and support “paper” trail evidence documenting the various branches - thus a genetic genealogy project.

It is hoped we to have female and male participants from Scotland, North America, Australia, and other countries. Those with spelling variations of the ancestral Mhic Cruimein are encouraged to participate, including but are not limited to McCrummen, McCrimmon, McCrimon, McCriman, McRimmon, McGruyman, and several others. In addition, we encourage those of allied families that have intermarried with us to join, including, but not limited to McLean, McKenzie, MacLeod, MacDonald, MacRae, Bethune, Black, Campbell, Kelly, MacAskill, McDowell, Grant, and additional surnames.

As many people know, there have been various spellings of the surname and there are various ideas of the origins of the family. In particular, the MacCrummen is used to honour Donald Ruadh MacCrummen. As hereditary pipers to MacLeod of Harris, Donald Ruadh and his brother Iain Dubh were the last hereditary pipers to this branch of the MacLeod clan and ending with Donald’s death in 1825. In Donald Ruadh’s claims to the British government resulting from his service as a loyalist in the US Revolutionary War against Britain, he spelled his surname: MacCrummen. One of his brothers, Donald Daniel, used the MacCrimmon

spelling and was one of the original MacCrimmon's to settle in what is now Canada. A third brother, Iain Dubh, used the McCrimmon spelling. These and other spellings are examples that support the need to clarify the DNA for many people.

If you have any interest in finding out more about your DNA relationships we would be happy to have you join the project. The more participants we have, the greater the knowledge we will all get.

Look at the website www.familytreedna.com/public/MacCrummen-MacCrimmon/ for further information.

On a personal note, through this project we have discovered that my husband, Donald Gordon McCrimmon and Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese's brother Ian Ross MacCrimmon, have a 95% chance of sharing a common ancestor at eight generations ago.



OTHER GENEALOGY SOURCES

You will find that www.hebridespeople.com is a useful website for genealogists or casual researchers of ancestry. Excellent resources produced by Bill Lawson include such books as: *Lewis Families and How to Trace Them*, *A Register of Emigrant Families from the Western Isles of Scotland to the Prairie Provinces of Canada*, *Croft History Isle of Harris Volume 6* Scarasta, Northton, Pabbay, *The Isle of Scalpay and North Uist Families and How to Trace Them*.

You can also register to receive regular newsletters.

Bill Lawson has been specialising in the Family and Social History in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland for over 40 years and is widely recognised as an authority in the area. He recently celebrated the launch of his fiftieth book.

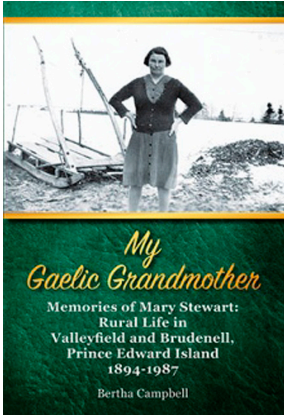
You may also want to browse Bill's website www.billlawson.com for ideas about genealogical research.

Another site of interest is by Christine Woodcock who has a blog you can follow <http://genealogytoursofscotland.blogspot.ca>

All MacLeods are invited to join the MacLeod Surname Project by following this link <https://www.familytreedna.com/project-join-request.aspx?group=MacLeod>

MY GAELIC GRANDMOTHER: TELLS HER STORY OF RURAL PEI

BY SARA FRASER



When Bertha Campbell sat down to chronicle her family's history, she quickly decided she needed a sharper focus for the unwieldy topic. She decided to highlight her maternal grandmother, Mary (Nicholson) Stewart from Valleyfield of PEI and thus was born her new book, *My Gaelic Grandmother, Memories of Mary Stewart: Rural Life in Valleyfield and Brudenell, Prince Edward Island 1894 – 1987*. Although Campbell had collected reams of family notes, stories and photos, she needed more. She phoned and visited relatives and friends in Montague and Brudenell, where her grandmother lived, to assemble their recollections.

Mary Stewart's husband died when she was a young wife, but she took over managing the farm on her own and was well-known in her community. She didn't have an easy life but she did have an interesting one.

The author combed the PEI archives, reading any documents from the area she could, including turn-of-the century school inspection reports and anything relating to the Valleyfield Church, because the family was Gaelic presbyterian. The most interesting moment of Campbell's research was when she came into possession of her grandmother's Gaelic Bible, published in 1839. "My husband and I were in Brudenell actually buying a potato harvester," she said. The man from whom they were buying the machine had known Campbell's grandmother. In fact, his father had purchased Stewart's property after her death, but before demolishing the house discovered an old family Bible in the rafters.

The book is part social history and part family history, painting a picture not only of Mary Stewart but of life in rural PEI decades ago.



INTERESTING READING

BY KEN MACLEOD, (CMS VAN ISLAND)

Betty Annand is a remarkable lady and a very dear friend. She has written numerous plays for the Evergreen Seniors Drama Club, some of which were awarded first prize in previous BC Summer Games. She has just released her first novel, *The Girl from Old Nichol*, about a girl, Gladys, who grows up in the slums of London and eventually ends up in the Dover area. I edited the first 20 odd chapters for her.

She has also written three community books, included *Voices of Courtenay Past*, where she interviewed over 90 pioneer families in the Comox Valley.

Annand's tale is filled with humour and historical interest. She brings her characters to life through their animated personalities and engaging dialogue. *The Girl From Old Nichol* has received excellent reviews from Good Reads and, once started, is hard to put down.



Ken MacLeod piping Betty in to her 90th Birthday Party

LOOKING FOR BOOKS

If you are looking for interesting, rare or topical books with a Scottish flavour go to Unicorn Books on the web, www.scotpress.com. Vicki MacLeod will be a great help.

The mailing address is:

Unicorn Limited, Inc.

P. O. Box 125 Loachapoka, AL 36865 USA

334.501.0202 mcleod@scotpress.com

YOUTH COORDINATOR REPORT

BY ROWAN GLEDISH

Dear clans folk, I hope this finds you well. I've recently been extremely busy with school work and music. I've been in contact with the Clan MacLeod USA Youth Coordinator, Sasha Macleod, who has given me some ideas on how we could use social media to engage the youth.

I am very excited to be speaking at the annual Scottish North American Leadership (SNAL) Conference taking place August 10-12, 2017 at the University of Guelph. The purpose of the conference is to bring together representatives of Scottish groups from across the United States and Canada to discuss issues and challenges that face our individual societies. This year's theme is youth engagement, or the lack thereof, something I'm very close to. As Youth Coordinator of the Clan Macleod Societies of Canada, I am thankful to be involved in this conference.

It is my hope that the opportunity to talk to other groups and discuss plans to ensure the future of our Scottish Associations will be beneficial to everyone involved. The conference is planned to coincide with the Fergus Highland Festival, and I encourage anyone who is able, to take part in the discussion, and celebrate our shared heritage. I think it would be extremely helpful if all you young people reach out to me at youth.macleod.cmsc@gmail.com so I can set up a network for discussion about what we really want out of the Clan, and put together an action plan.

EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

2017 is Scotland's Year of Heritage, History and Archaeology, and the Tattoo has chosen to support this through the theme *A Splash of Tartan*, in all performances August 3-26. The Tattoo has allocated participating Clans their own evening performance: For Clan MacLeod, this will be for the Tuesday evening performance at 9pm, 15 August, sharing with Clan MacKenzie. This performance is one of five that will be filmed by the BBC.

The Clan Chiefs will march into the performance at the head of their kilted Clansmen and to take a Dram with the Pipe Major to open the performance and then all will make their way to their seats in the stand.

Clan and family from both home and abroad can apply to join in on the night and further information is available via the Clan MacLeod contact: raasymacleod@outlook.com.

WILLIAM FRASER TOLMIE, 1812-1886

BY MALCOLM MACLEOD, CMS VANCOUVER ISLAND

Information in this article has been taken from the book *Kilts On The Coast*. The history of the Hudson's Bay Company on southern Vancouver Island is yet another very interesting story.



The man of the hour here is William Fraser Tolmie, billed as Doctor, Botanist, Climber, and Librarian. Born in Inverness on Feb. 3, 1812 to Alexander Tolmie and Marjorie Fraser; his mother died when he was three and he was raised by an aunt. His early education was at Inverness, Perth and Edinburgh after which he studied medicine at University of Glasgow. Receiving his diploma in 1831 Tolmie was working in an emergency cholera hospital when he heard that the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada was looking for medical officers for the Columbia District of the Pacific Northwest. In 1832 he signed a five-year contract and sailed on the *Ganeymede* from Gravesend celebrating his 21st birthday on board. After an eight month trip around the Horn they arrived at Fort George on the Columbia River. Reporting to Dr John McLaughlin, the Chief Factor at Fort Vancouver, Tolmie was immediately put to work as medical officer at Fort Nisqually in the Willamette Valley and while there, he became the first white man to reach the summit of Mt Ranier in the Cascade Mountains, a point now known as Tolmie Peak.

Tolmie was transferred from Nisqually in 1833 to a newly constructed fur trading post of the HBC of Fort McLoughlin on Milbank(e) Sound on the west coast of BC. Fort McLoughlin was where Bella Bella is currently located. While there he and Donald Manson from Thurso in Caithness, Scotland started a circulating library. They ordered books from London which were sent to Fort Vancouver and then circulated to the different forts in the Pacific Northwest.

Tolmie also studied native languages and with Dr George Dawson compiled and published *The Comparative Vocabularies of the Indian Tribes of British Columbia* in 1884. While at Fort McLoughlin, a story is told that when a smithy was coaling his forge some natives asked where he got the soft black rocks he was using. They thought it funny when told how far the coal had come and how long it took to get it, relating that it could be had on Vancouver Island. This gave a start to the coal mining industry on Vancouver Island and the consequential arrival of many Scottish miners from Ayrshire.

In 1841, Tolmie made an overland trip across Canada by horse back and canoe “without taking a single drink of alcohol” in order to visit Scotland. While there he went to France to take a post-graduate medical degree and also acquire some knowledge of Spanish in case he was posted to San Francisco. On his return, he was posted back to Fort Nisqually and directed to organize the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the H.B.C. which at one time consisted of 8000 sheep, 3180 cattle and 300 horses. In March 1847, he was promoted to Chief Trader of Fort Nisqually and eight years later he became Chief Factor. In 1859 Tolmie moved to Fort Victoria as manager of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a position he held until his retirement in 1870.

In 1860 Tolmie was elected to the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island as member for Victoria. Re-elected in 1863, he remained a member until Vancouver Island was annexed by the mainland colony of British Columbia in 1866.

In 1865 the Vancouver Island Assembly passed the Common Schools Act, legislation which provided free, non-sectarian public schools. The colonial schools were administered by a General Board of Education and Dr Tolmie served as chairman from 1865 to 1867 and was an active member of the board until its disbandment in 1879.

Dr Tolmie married Jane Work, daughter of the Chief Factor in 1850 and had five daughters and seven sons including Simon Fraser Tolmie who later became Premier of British Columbia. In 1859 the Tolmies moved to Cloverdale Farm near Victoria. Their home was the first stone house built on Vancouver Island. He died there in 1886.

H H Bancroft, an historian who knew him at this time described Tolmie as “rather below medium height, broad shouldered and stout... high forehead, course features, round deep-set eyes glittering from under shaggy brows and a large round ruby nose.” Others admired his capacity to endure “irritations with calmness and courage” and that he was “a solemn man who could turn most anything into hard work for his conscience.”

DUNVEGAN CASTLE AND GARDENS



The Dunvegan Castle 10K race on April 29 had 62 racers covering the distance in from 37 minutes to just under 80 minutes. The weather was dry but windy, adding an additional challenge to the race.

MURDOCH JAMES MACLEOD

BY TRACY EKELUND

As I sit to pen this musing the sun is shining and the bees are buzzing about the willows on the tree outside my window. The school children are yawning at their desks while gazing out the windows, longing to be out on the playground equipment, bidding farewell to the snow and greeting the approaching days of summer. Very few are thinking about the great Scotsman, Alexander Rutherford, except maybe those graduating from high school, young adults who are planning to pursue further education toward their careers at University with the financial assistance of a hard earned Rutherford Scholarship. The name of Alberta's first premier is synonymous with education and many other facets of early Alberta history, but what about the others who shared and supported those ideas and visions? The pioneering spirits who worked behind the scenes to lay the groundwork from which the province continues to grow and benefit. I asked my 9 year old grandson if he knew of the name Murdoch James MacLeod of Lacombe, Alberta. "Of course," he said, "I know the name MacLeod because I am one." Well, that is a good start I thought. He assured me that he knew of the City of Lacombe too because he lived there. I pressed further asking him if he knew about Murdoch James MacLeod who served the people of Lacombe on council in the early 1900s. The MacLeod who then travelled to the Alberta Legislature to serve the people of Alberta at the time it became a province? He didn't know but was excited to hear of the story as he likens all Scots in politics to John A. MacDonald, an impressive Prime Minister who duelled with his political counterparts with words, swords and fists when necessary.

Murdoch James MacLeod was involved in the management of urban details in many capacities. The hamlet of Lacombe was designated a Village on July 28, 1896 and incorporated as a Town on May 10, 1902. W. Burris was the first mayor and the first town councillors were M.J. McLeod, C.F. Morris, H.A. Day, H.B. Powell, W.F. Puffer and Joseph Tire.

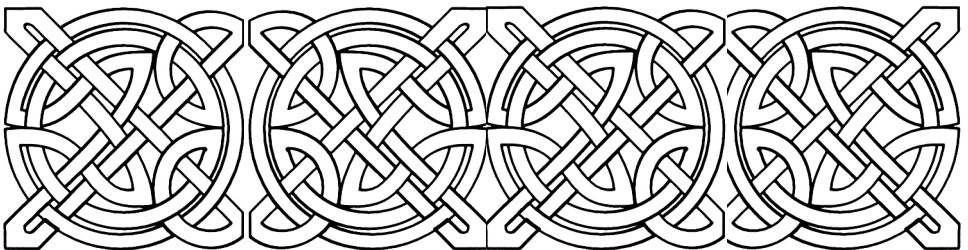
It appears that M.J. MacLeod possessed a sense for business as he constructed the building named The Leading Store in Lacombe, Alberta in 1896. The building still stands today with its eccentric peaked cornice which was emulated in the designs of later buildings. MacLeod sold the business in 1905 when he left Lacombe to become the first Deputy Treasurer of the Government of Alberta. In 1896 the Eureka #10 Masonic Lodge of Lacombe was granted dispensation and received its Charter in

1897. M.J. MacLeod held the position of Master of Lodge until he took the post of Deputy Minister of the Province of Alberta in 1905. Interestingly, it was customary for the Master-elect to provide a box of cigars for the enjoyment of those members who cared to smoke. It is noted in the record that membership petitions were so plentiful that they were presented for consideration at almost every meeting. Many applications were refused suggesting that the membership was to be quite select.

These early days were exciting times in Alberta as the Territory moved to become a Province with a new government. It was within the Executive Council Office that M.J. MacLeod plied his business skills in many positions and under many titles. He acted as Chief Officer from 1906 to 1912 and undertook the duties of the Clerk, a number of which are identified in the Provincial Acts, include overseeing the taking and subscription of oaths before the Lieutenant Governor, under the Statistics Bureau Act and the keeping of the records of such Oaths. Under the Evidence Act the Clerk provided evidence to prove proclamations, order regulations and appointments.

Acting in the capacity of Deputy Treasurer for the Government of Alberta, M.J. MacLeod finalized the negotiations to purchase the 258 acres of land known as River Lot 5. This was to be the site of the University of Alberta. The sum of \$150,000 was agreed to, making the purchase to be quite frugal as the City of Strathcona assessed the property that year to be \$258,000.

Reflecting on his work and presence in Alberta, reiterates for me, how the MacLeods contribute to the course of development of Canada. M.J. MacLeod shared his efforts, perseverance and determination through his entrepreneurial business skills and leadership qualities throughout the Province of Alberta, particularly within the hamlet of Lacombe where he originally lived. He was very much a part of the development of the early political landscape which has lent itself to defining the Alberta of today. The results of his dedication to progress continues to be a benefit.



MY VISIT TO SKYE

BY NATASJA MACKWOOD (CMS OTTAWA)

As I write this in the middle of a frigid Ottawa winter, I am kept warm thanks to some treasures I brought back from Scotland during my trip this past summer: a dram of Scotch which I procured at the Talisker distillery; a yellow wool Loud MacLeod blanket that I bought in the guest shop at Dunvegan castle; and a candle purchased at the Skye Candle company which fills my home with the sweet scent of heather and wild berries. Not only do these keepsakes serve as methods of keeping warm, but also serve as frequent reminders of my ancestry, as well as my unforgettable trip to Scotland.

In July, my partner and I rented a car and embarked on a week-long tour of Scotland, packing in as much sightseeing as possible during our short trip. While planning our trip, I insisted we spend a full two days on the Isle of Skye. I knew, ever before setting my sights on, or setting foot on Skye, that I would feel at home and connected with the land.

To give some context of my connection to the MacLeod clan, my maternal great-grandmother, Margaret Jemima MacLeod, emigrated



from Scotland to Canada. Her son, my grandfather, Samuel E. Milliken, a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force and stationed in York during WWII, flew a multitude of missions including two on D-Day. It is said that when he returned to the UK in the 1980s for a D-Day commemoration, he also felt a strong connection with Scotland during his brief visit.

I have travelled extensively. By the time I turned 30, I had lived in five countries and travelled to over 30. And in all my travels, I have only once shed tears when both arriving and departing a place, and that was this past summer when I visited the Isle of Skye. As I took the ferry from Mallaig, the Skye Boat Song played in my mind. Both my grandmother and my mother sang the Skye Boat Song to me as

a bedtime lullaby when I was a young girl. Images of sailors desperately trying to help a prince flee to Skye by boat during stormy weather didn't necessarily serve to lull me to sleep as a child, but I always felt entranced by the melody and by the courage behind the lyrics. Our brief time in Skye began with dinner at the Old Schoolhouse where I ate locally-caught langoustine for the first time. Thankfully, we had thought ahead and had made dinner reservations! During our time on Skye, we stayed at the Brae Side B&B which was a lovely bed & breakfast run by kind and helpful innkeepers. My partner and I both slept more soundly than we had in months — I'm convinced it was the crisp fresh air which contributed, as well as our quiet and peaceful surroundings.

My visit to Dunvegan castle felt positively mystical! Upon entering the castle and mentioning off-hand I was descended from the MacLeod clan, I was directed to an exclusive guest book for MacLeod relatives only, which to my surprise, had almost as many signatures as the general guest book. While part of me felt somewhat less unique, I gained an appreciation of how many of my fellow distant kin also felt drawn to our ancestral land. Having never heard the tale of the Fairy Flag prior to visiting Dunvegan, I was immediately enthralled by the legends surrounding it, as well as the significance in itself that this piece of yellow silk had been dated back to the 4th century AD.

No trip to Skye would have been complete without frolicking around the lush green hills of Balnaknock, or the Fairy Glenn; admiring Kilt rock whilst simultaneously trying not to be blown off the edge by the roaring winds; searching for dinosaur footprints at Duntulm castle; proudly posing for a picture after a steep climb up to the base of Old Man of Storr; hopping stones while wandering the scenic fairy pools; and of course, touring the Talisker distillery and sampling several varieties of whisky, including the sweat-inducing, sinus-clearing 57° North.



Although my time on Skye was brief, it was memorable, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to set foot on the same soil from which my Scottish ancestors originated. If I am sure of anything, it's that my first trip to Skye will be far from my last.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

BY KEN MACLEOD (CMS VANCOUVER ISLAND)

On April 9, 2017, the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge will be commemorated in France. The battle was one of Canada's most famous victories during the First World War. It was the first time during the war that all four Canadian Divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought together, and it was the first major Allied land victory of the war after almost three years of static trench warfare.

Eleven MacLeod/McLeods, who fought for Canada, lost their lives in the battle. They were part of the 3,598 persons serving in the Canadian Corps who made the supreme sacrifice in the battle or who had died of wounds by April 16, 1917. These are:

Lance-Corporal Angus MacLeod, Corporal Donald Angus MacLeod, Privates Norman Neynoe MacLeod, Duncan Kenneth McLeod, Ernest Gordon McLeod, Lance-Corporal Herbert McLeod, and Privates Herbert McLeod, James Howard McLeod, John Murdock McLeod, James Stewart McLeod and Malcom John McLeod.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge is generally recognized by historians as the birth of Canadian Nationhood. Prior to the battle, Canadians were considered colonials. The victory brought international recognition to Canada and a seat at the Treaty of Versailles. The success at Vimy came after several successive Allied setbacks in the war: 1) the tremendous losses by British Empire forces in the Battle of the Somme in 1916; 2) German U-boats were sinking tens of thousands of tons of Allied shipping; 3) the French armies were plagued by mutinies after the tremendous losses at the Battle of Verdun in 1916 and the failure of their early spring offensives in 1917; 4) a rebellion occurred in Ireland on Easter Monday 1916, following which there was increasing pressure for the Irish to break away from Britain; 5) the first Russian Revolution had just occurred, and the collapse of the Russian armies on the Eastern Front was imminent.

The only spark of light had been the US entry into the war after Germany's indiscriminate sinking of neutral ships heading to Britain. However, American troops would not arrive in France until 1918.

I have conducted 28 military pilgrimages to Northwest Europe and Sicily-Italy since 1995 and have visited Vimy Ridge nine times. The monument, designed by Canadian sculptor Walter S. Allard, is majestic and overlooks the Douai Plain near Arras, France. I will again visit the monument to attend the 100th Anniversary Ceremony as part of a 120 person delegation from Special Travel International Tours, Vancouver, BC.

COLCHESTER HIGHLAND GAMES

An active committee has developed some ambitious fundraising events to establish a fund and get the Colchester Highland Games and Gathering underway. Chaired by Linda Finnie, a website www.colchester-highlandgames.com is filled with information and details for the event to be held September 9, 2017.

An imaginative list of fundraising events include a Bachelor Auction on June 24 at the Holiday Inn in Truro.

A new tartan has been registered for Colchester and will be introduced for the Games.



CALGARY SCOTS: UNLEASH YOUR INNER SCOT!

At a unique Cultural Gathering being held this Thanksgiving (October 6-9, 2017) in Canmore, Alberta, Canada you can explore the arts with dancing, music and needlework workshops.

Learn new things with whisky tasting and cultural lectures, enjoy meeting new friends at the classes, ceilidh and ball.

The event is hosted by St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Calgary Branch.

SCOTTISH WEEK 2017

Of interest to those fortunate enough to be travelling to Australia this summer:

The South Australian Heritage Council Newsletter of January 2017 reported that you are all invited to participate in Scottish Week 2017, June 23 to 27 with our Honoured Guests, Chief John Macleod of Raasay and his wife Elizabeth. More details can be obtained by viewing the Website: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

A STRANGER LUGGAGE

BY PETER MACRAILD

Stranger with a pile of luggage proudly labelled for Portree,
How I wish this night of August I were you and you were me.
Think of all that lies before you, as you journey on this day,
As Alba history and its beauty lies before you on the way.

When you pass the great Glen Fiddoch, where many clans so long ago,
Gathered round proud Charlie rampart, to defeat the foreign foe.
Encircled by the rugged mountains of empty glens and flowing streams,
Where once the smoke of a thousand peat fires vanished like a soldier dream.

Your eyes behold the vacant shielings, your soul discerns the ghosts of slaves,
Your heart is stilled in silent reverence as broken homes lie still like graves
You board the ship, McBraynes Loch Nevis, you smell the wind, the tar, the sea,
You sail to Broadford then to Raasey, before arriving at Portree.

Discovering that Skye, an island, a precious jewel of the sea,
A misty land, that holds past secrets, of mountains, caves and hidden quays.
Of all the journeys that you've taken, one stirs the heart and brings a tear,
Is a short and wooden gangway that stretches out from ship to pier.

The islanders who are there to greet you, are waiting for returning sons,
Who left their land for distant places, now returning to heath and home.
Buses line like locomotives amid the language of the Gael,
Will take them, to old Dunvegan, to Hallen, Geary and Glendale.

The Cuilins, moors, MacLeod Tables, the place of Kings and ancient clans,
The fox, the deer, the soaring eagle, are each a mystery in their psalms.
So amid the lochs and rugged places, the narrow roads like ribbon streams,
Is a place that calls you homeward to realize your heartfelt dreams.

So stranger with your pile of luggage proudly labelled for Portree,
May the Lord bless your journey, where land and sky embrace the sea.

MY LOVE OF HIGHLAND DANCING

BY SOPHIE MACLEOD (CMS S ALBERTA)

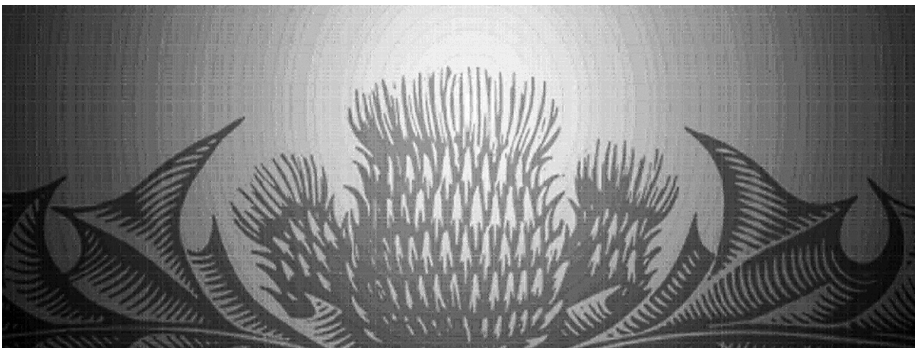
My parents put me in highland dance when I was three and a half and at the time they had no idea that it would later become one of my biggest passions in life. For me, highland dance is a fantastic way to stay fit and healthy, while going back to my Scottish roots.

My grandfather (Randy MacLeod, CMS S AB President) is quite involved in the Scottish community, showing a particular interest in weapons.



Highland dance is fantastic in the way that it opens up so many opportunities to get more involved in the Scottish community, be that in the old Scottish weapons area or even learning a traditional Scottish instrument. Dancing competitively also opens up a wide range of opportunities to travel for competitions. All in all, highland dancing makes me feel proud of my Scottish history and I feel that it is an awesome way to represent it.

What better way to represent your heritage than with strong, committed, hardworking people?





From top left: Three Doctors McLeod at a Medical conference; East meets West MacLeod cousins; Alma, Joy, Tracy, South Alberta; Ian C. and Ardis' new Granddaughter Hannah Elizabeth; Don and Chris' new Granddaughter Annika; Karen and Malcolm at Tartan Day in Victoria.



A LOCAL HERO REMEMBERED

LT ALAN ANNETT MCLEOD, VC



On 9 May 2017, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission stone marker and descriptive bronze plaque was placed next to the McLeod family plot, where he is buried alongside his mother (Margaret Annett McLeod 1877-1966) and father (Dr. Alexander Neil McLeod 1868-1940).

Alan Adams, nephew to Lt McLeod and members of the Clan MacLeod Society of Manitoba were also in attendance.

The following text has been taken from the biography by William Bjornstad.

Lt Alan McLeod is remembered as Canada's youngest Victoria Cross winner and the youngest winner of a Victoria Cross for an Air action. Born in Stonewall, Manitoba, Canada, his father was a doctor. As a young boy he became interested in the military and in 1913 he enrolled in the 34th Fort Garry Horse in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and did odd jobs.

After World War I broke out, he tried to enlist in the Canadian Army and then the Royal Flying Corps, but was rejected because he was not 18 years old. In 1917 as soon as he turned 18, he quit school and signed up for the Royal Flying Corps as a pilot-in-training and sent to flying school at Long Branch near Toronto, Ontario, Canada for pilot training, soloing on his 5th day of in-flight instruction. He then proceeded to Camp Borden in Ontario for intermediate training and graduated with his pilot wings and a commission as a 2nd lieutenant with only 50 hours of flying experience.

In August 1917 he was sent to Europe and arrived in London, England the following month. He was then sent to France assigned to the No. 2 Squadron near Hesdigneul-Les-Bethune, making first flight over France in November 1917 and engaging in aerial combat with the enemy on several occasions.

On March 27, 1918 while flying a mission over Albert, France with his observer Lieutenant Arthur Hammond, he destroyed an enemy triplane but was soon attacked by eight other aircraft, damaging his fuel



tank and causing it to burst into flames and crash. Seriously wounded and under heavy enemy fire, he managed to drag his observer to safety. He was sent back to England to recover from his wounds and the following September he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry. He returned to Winnipeg, Manitoba at the end of September and died there from the Spanish Influenza epidemic at the age of 19.

His Victoria Cross citation reads: "While flying with his Observer, Lt A.W. Hammond, M.C., attacking hostile forma-

tions by bombs and machine gun fire, he was assailed at a height of 5,000 feet by eight enemy tri-planes which dived at him from all directions, firing from their front guns. By skilful manoeuvring he enabled his observer to fire bursts at each machine in turn, shooting three of them down out of control. By this time Lt McLeod had received five wounds, and whilst continuing the engagement a bullet penetrated his petrol tank and set the machine afire. He then climbed out on to the left bottom plane, controlling his machine from side of the fuselage, and by side-slipping steeply kept the flames to one side, thus enabling the observer to continue firing until the ground was reached.

The observer had been wounded six times when the machine crashed in No Man's Land and the 2nd Lieutenant McLeod, notwithstanding his own wounds, dragged him away from the burning wreckage at great person risk from heavy machine-gun fire from the enemy's lines. This very gallant pilot was again wounded by a bomb whilst engaged in this act of rescue, but he preserved until he had placed Lt Hammond in comparative safety, before falling himself from exhaustion and lack of blood."

In 1918, Dr. David Christie, of Westminster Church, Winnipeg, wrote a moving tribute to Lt Alan Arnett McLeod which appeared in the Manitoba Free Press on the evening of 7 November, the day after his death.

"Alan McLeod was the finest flower of chivalry. The old days of knighthood are over, but for the very fairest blossoms of the spirit of knighthood the world has had to wait till the 20th Century. It was these dauntless boys who have saved civilization. The heroism of the Crusades pales before the incredible and quiet courage of such boys who gave us a new interpretation of Calvary. I saw Alan within a few hours of



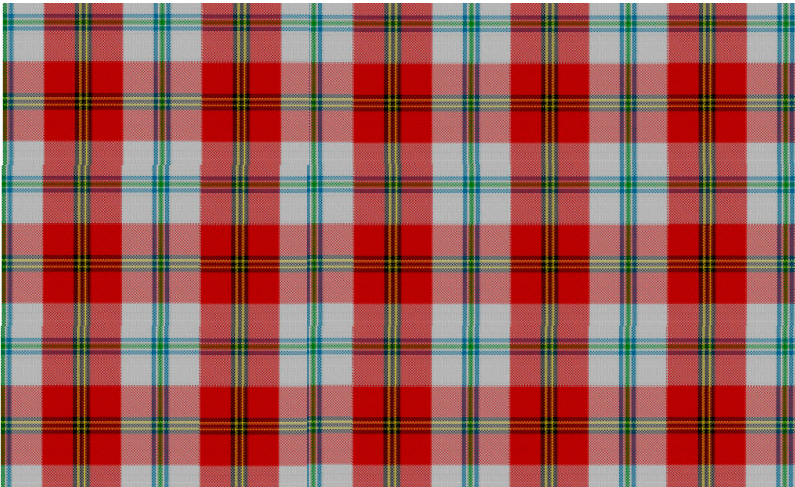
his death. He faced the last enemy with the same joyous confidence with which he started on what he called the very happiest part of his life. For our children's children names like Alan McLeod's will be written in letters of splendour in the annals of Canada."

As a final honour Alan McLeod was inducted into the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973.

Lt Alan McLeod is the only VC winner who died on active service to be buried in Canada.

The family home of Lt Alan McLeod at 292 Main St, Stonewall, MB is now a Tea Room and Gift Shop. All interested are invited to gather on June 17 at 1 pm.

CBC coverage of the dedication and tribute to Lt Alan McLeod can be viewed at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/alan-mcleod-victoria-cross-1.4106601>



Kilts & Tartan

Made Easy

An expert insider's frank views and simple tips

Dr Nicholas J. Fiddes

Founder, Scotweb
Governor,



**Why YOU should wear a kilt,
& what kind of kilt to get**

How to source true **quality**
& avoid the **swindlers**

Find **your own tartans**
& get the best **materials**

Know the **outfit** for any event
& understand **accessories**

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Save the Date!

Scottish North American Leadership Conference

SCOTTISH NORTH AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The Scottish North American Leadership Conference is coming to Canada in 2017 to celebrate the rich heritage and history of the Scots who shaped the fabric of our great nation. We will be pulling together the Scots diaspora from both Canada and the US to look at What the Relevance of Scottish History and Heritage is to the Future Generations.



University of Guelph

Fergus Highland Games

10-12 August 2017



Make Ontario YOUR destination for celebrating Canada's 150th birthday, a country shaped by Scots, built by Scots and governed by Scots.

<http://www.scottishleadershipconference.org/>

snalcanada17@gmail.com



WHY DO WE JOIN A GROUP BY JUDY TUPPLE

Prompted by the memory of Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs, I recall that a sense of belonging is a need fundamental to human nature.

Joining a Clan MacLeod Society fills that need but only superficially if we do not go beyond the interest level. It is my hope that most of our members wish to be involved in a level of participation and engagement, to more deeply achieve that sense of belonging.

We subscribe to a newsletter or magazine because we have an interest in the topics presented. We proceed to the participation level by actively taking part in and encouraging sponsored events as we are able, and progress to the level of engagement by contributing to the organization in whatever way we can.

It's an old adage that the more a person puts into an organization the more that person gets out of it.

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

GEORGE OWEN TOLLER 1925-2016

After 91 wonderful years, George Toller died peacefully at Ottawa General Hospital on December 13, 2016, surrounded by his family. George was the beloved husband of Ruth (married for 54 years), father of Susan (Jeff), Carol (Chris) and Sheila, grandfather to Amber and Cormac and brother to Joan (Charlie) and the late Eric (Margot). Born in Ottawa, the son of Owen and Frances Toller and grandson of the Honourable George Bryson, he was a loyal alumnus of Lisgar Collegiate and of Queen's University, from which he proudly graduated in 1949. George remained a dedicated member of the Queen's community throughout his life, eventually holding positions on the Board of Trustees and the Theological College Board. Queen's was an important part of George's life, as were the many communities to which he belonged, which included St. Timothy's Church, Red Pine Camp, the Chataqua Institution, the Clan MacLeod Society, the Old Hats hiking group, Wood Gundy (his workplace for more than 50 years) and Fort Coulonge, Quebec, where his maternal grandparents first settled and built Spruceholme. George had a fondness for history, canoeing, Robbie Burns poetry and, most of all, people, and was a warm and generous friend to many. Those who knew him will always remember the twinkle in his eye and his ready smile. In the words of his favourite Gaelic saying, Lang may his lum reek.

ELSA MARION (MCLEOD) CLARKE

1927 – 2017

Elsa was a valued Member of CMS Central Ontario for many years.

Elsa studied nursing at Toronto General Hospital, graduating in the class of 1950. In later years she volunteered much of her time at TGH with the Chaplaincy group. In 1977, Elsa married the love of her life, George Clarke. They had wonderful travels together before and after George's retirement. They divided their time between life in Toronto and Creemore, Ontario.

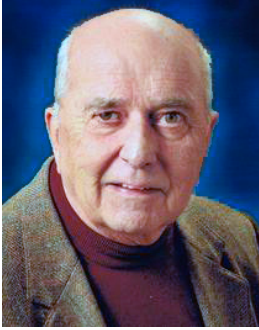


To her children, to her brothers Rod (Sue) and Norm (Joyce) and to her extended family we extend our sympathy on your great loss of such a wonderful mother, grandmother, sister and friend.

CMS Central Ontario will miss her smiling face and the dignity and grace that she carried with her and was so much of the Elsa we enjoyed at our gatherings.

FATHER GREG MACLEOD – 1935-2017

FORMER PRESIDENT OF CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY OF CAPE BRETON



We regret to announce the passing of Father Gregory Jerome MacLeod aged 81, on May 3, 2017 in Sydney. Born in Sydney on November 24, 1935, he was a son of the late John T. and Rose (Turner) MacLeod. He received his early education from the able hands of the sisters of Notre Dame in Sydney Mines. Ordained to the priesthood May 27, 1961, he served in several parishes for a year, firstly with Father Michael Gillis in Stellarton, from whom he learned the social teachings of the church as being put into practice at the parish level and then was appointed to teach at Xavier Junior

College. He went to the University of Louvain in Belgium where he obtained a doctorate in Philosophy, continuing with post-doctoral studies at Oxford University in England. When he returned to teach at Xavier College in 1969, he quickly became involved in the economic problems of the area becoming a founder of New Dawn Enterprises in Sydney; New Deal Development in Sydney Mines; BCA with its various subsidiaries, and the Tompkins Institute. These institutions gave birth to a number of projects and companies too numerous to mention.

From the time of his surgery to the time of his death three months later, he continued completing projects and initiated several new ones. He was intimately involved in the struggle to grow Xavier College into the University College of Cape Breton. His work spilled over into other countries, most notably in the Yucatan region of Mexico, where a number of community projects credit him as their visionary founder. He was an avid promoter of Cape Breton music and culture, and the jovial host of his house ceilidhs, where hundreds of musicians joyfully played over a period of some 40 years. He was a friend of both Mi'kmaq and Acadian studies at the University College of Cape Breton.

Father Greg was an internationally respected writer on the topic of community development. His works were translated in Spanish, Japanese and Korean. On the occasion of the launching of one of his books in South Korea, he was made an honorary citizen. He was the recipient of the Order of Canada, as well as honorary degrees from Dalhousie University, The Atlantic School of Theology and Saint Francis Xavier University.

He is survived by sister Bed (Mitchelitis) (John Dan) Sydney Mines; brother Jack (Anita) Ingonish, and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers, Melvin, Michael, Bob, Jim, Bill and sister Theresa.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

It has been very encouraging to receive such a variety of materials for this issue of *The Leod Voice* and I thank each of the contributors very much. Please continue to share your thoughts and feelings of membership in a Clan MacLeod Society and what you think would encourage others to become members.



It is my belief that we subscribe to a newsletter or magazine because we have an interest in the topics presented. We proceed to the participation level by actively taking part in and encouraging sponsored events as we are able, and progress to the level of engagement by contributing to the organization in whatever way we can.

I'm beginning to feel that we are progressing toward a much more two-way communication. A newsletter which is limited to reviews of what has happened and announcements of what is going to happen lacks a personal feel for its readers. On the other hand tales of travel, personal accomplishments, aspirations and goals, family histories and reminiscences, genealogical studies, all enrich the collective feeling of being part of a family and are ways in which we can be engaged in the organization.

Offering membership in a Clan MacLeod Society is an important activity that occurs at the clan tent at Highland Games or Scottish Festivals. This takes the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers. The retention of membership is influenced by the welcome at the clan tent and at events and by means of the production of interesting communications such as *The Leod Voice* and the *Clan MacLeod Magazine*, as are regional newsletters and various social media sites. The later will be the likely venue of the younger generation.

I am looking forward to renewing friendships and making new ones as I attend several Highland Games this summer and also the CMS USA

AGM in Wilmington, NC in August.
May your summer be peaceful and refreshing.
Holding Fast while Shining Brightly.

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—April 1

Fall—September 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

*March 1 and
September 1*

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