



The Lead Voice



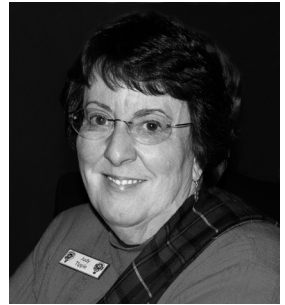
Clan MacLeod Societies Canada
National Council Newsletter # 69
Fall, 2018



President's Report

by Judy Tipple

Greetings fellow clan members and friends. Summer came and went with such speed it is hard to believe that it happened at all. Now fall is racing by with its show of colours on the trees and frequent rainy days. I hope that the months since my last report have given everyone happy and memorable time.



This report is very much the outline of my experiences this summer with details of happenings at Parliament. It is my hope of enticing many of you to put Dunvegan in your travel plans for 2022. It is also my desire to give all of our members the vicarious experience of being at Parliament. There were 33 Canadians of the 300 plus Parliament attendees who enjoyed the activities of this Parliament, an encouraging representation.

And so my summer began: At the end of June the weather cooperated to make the BC Highland Games a very satisfying experience producing leads for several new members. I also took custody of a carload of Scottish and MacLeod goods from Neil R.'s collection to relieve his widow June of the burden of storage as she sold the house and moved into a small apartment in Merritt.

My trip to Scotland began with a visit with Donald MacLeod at his home near London and meeting members of his delightful family who live nearby. Unfortunately Donald's wife Linda was needed in Cambridge to attend to her mother so I missed out on a visit with her.

Our drive to Dunvegan was most enjoyable with good weather and stops to see several sights.

The week at Parliament was memorable sharing Osdale House and Byre with wonderful long-time clan friends and a new friend Brenda from England. Leaving Dunvegan with Marian on Saturday, I was delighted to meet her mother and her welcoming lovely dogs when we arrived in Edinburgh. On Sunday I bid farewell to the UK and was greeted in Beziers, France by Bryan and Sharon Dixon, who are my neighbours on Saturna but now live in France. This was my first trip to continental Europe and my time with them was restful and entertaining. At their home in Nezignan l'Eveque, in the south west of France, the weather was hot but their pool was refreshing. My first experience with French train travel was most satisfying and from Charles DeGaul Airport I flew to Toronto to meet

with the executive of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada and visit with Beth, Karen and family in Caledon. It was another very relaxing time with good friends, along with an interesting time at the Fergus Highland Games and Festival. Cathie White and Lynn Bennett eagerly stamped children's passports and handed out tartan coloured jelly beans. Several new members signed up when offered a membership for the remainder of 2018 and all of 2019.

After four weeks away I arrived home to reflect on my holiday before I got back into my role of publishing the *Saturna Scribbler*.

Parliament is always a stimulating time, making new connections with first-time attenders and renewing connections with friends from the past. Communications continue as we exchange photos and remarks about parts of the experience that intrigued us most. Although the format of the week was similar to other Parliaments each event had something special to offer. The Sunday church service was conducted by Rev. Rory MacLeod of Glendale and following greetings of all over a quick cup of tea, we formed up with pipers and banners leading, to march down the main street of Dunvegan to the Village Hall. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a Welcome Luncheon supplied by the local Old School Restaurant.

Castle custodian Jeroen Roskam gave the Mervyl and Stanley McLeod Trust Memorial Lecture, a very interesting talk, relating the extensive renovation work recently done on the Castle and the impact it has had on the rest of the MacLeod Estate. The evening Whisky Tasting hosted by Albrecht Kurbjuhn of CMS Germany was very popular, so much so that a second session had to be scheduled.

Tours of the Castle were well subscribed on at least two mornings and dance practice got us into form for the evening Ceilidhs. The first evening reception was hosted by the Scotland Society where we had the opportunity to meet local members of the Dunvegan community. Canada hosted tea/coffee with Maple Leaf cookies aplenty on Monday morning. The other countries had their host mornings with groaning tables of national treats. Germany's Brats and Beer by the Pier on Thursday was a wonderful time, with very few midges this year and the bonfire held the attention of the several children attending this year.

On coach tours of the Waternish peninsula we were reminded of the history of the area and of the church and graveyard at Trumpan. The opening of the Emigration Wall at Orbost had Rachael as host. Her parents are Robert and Elspeth Staas and she is the grand daughter of the late Peggy Staas who many of us remember from past Parliaments and the Canadian visit of the New Zealand group many years ago now. Rachael

went to Skye as a member of the North Room Group (NRG) in 1994, met and married Keith who is a local and they have lived on the Orbst Estate since the late 1990s.

A new event on Raasay Day was a tour of the Raasay Distillery as well as of newly refurbished Walled Garden and Raasay House. The community ladies supplied a wonderful lunch after which the traditional Tug-of-War and the Swim in the Loch were witnessed.

The visit to MacCrimmon Cairn at Borreraig featured one of Scotland's leading pipers, Euan MacCrimmon, thrilling us with his traditional piping and Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese recounting the colourful history of Borreraig. Her parents Hugh and Irene had owned and operated the Piping School and Museum there for many years.

ACMS Youth Co-ordinator Bron McLeod (SA) gave a report focused on Future Priorities. She spoke of the NRG projects and suggested how the NRG could be made more effective between Parliaments. A very well prepared presentation was made by James (age 10) and Georgia (age 12) Walters on the South Australia initiative "The Mighty Mini MacLeods", a group of around 15 members who meet regularly for activities they enjoy and learn much about their heritage and Scottish history. These young folk are high tech and great organizers. Check out the South Australia website, www.cmssa.org.au/mmm

ACMS meetings occupied many of us from 10:30 to lunch time on four of the days with national reports, business of the organization with discussion of accomplishments of the past four years in terms of finances, communications, social and cultural activities. Determination of the important things hoped to be accomplished in the next four years, consisting of membership and outreach, genealogy, communications and administration with a working involvement of the National Societies brought about a healthy discussion. More details of ACMS business will likely be in the next *Clan MacLeod Magazine*, including details of the award made to Rauri Halford-MacLeod.

Following the election of the 2018-2022 Office Bearers, retiring ACMS President Dr Don McLeod was thanked for his leadership in the last four years. Peter Macleod of Australia accepted the Presidential Badge of Office; with Al McLeod of England, Vice-President; David MacLeod of England, Treasurer; and Dorna Caskie continuing as Secretary. The officers of ACMS earned a resounding round of appreciative applause from all of us attending. Δ

Clan MacLeod Society Glengarry

Glengarry continues to be a busy Society with a Picnic in June, Glengarry Highland Games tent in August, Golf Tournament in September and an ongoing book update. The Kilt Skate will likely be the next event in their busy calendar.

There was a newspaper notice sent to *The Leod Voice* where the Irvings of Dalkeith (Douglas, Stewart and the late Dorothy) were applauded for their deep rooted preservation and celebration of the history of the area. Their ancestors arrived from Aberfeldy, Scotland in 1859, bought the farm later named Irvinelea and four generations later are still working the farm. They are representative of the pioneering spirit upon which Glengarry was founded and earned the Glengarry Pioneer Museum's Pioneer Award in recognition of their many accomplishments and contributions to the township.

Congratulations on the recognition of such accomplishments.

The Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame recognized Duncan MacSweyn as their inductee at their May ceremony. Many of the CMS Glengarry members are descendants from this talented and honoured man. Δ



Most of the Canadians present at the final Ball on Friday evening.

Parliament 2018 Remembered

by Lynn Bennett

This was my third time attending a McLeod Parliament and each one is different from the one before: 2010 – very wet; 2014 – sunny, warm and royal; and 2018 – cool with rain and approximately 300 McLeods trying to squeeze into a Village Hall. We must have broken several fire codes over the course of the week! But – oh, what fun!

Canada had around 30 attendees, many displaying the new Canadian McLeod tartan. Of the 9 Young McLeod's (formerly NRG group) attending, 4 were Canadian first time parliamentarians. Proving that attending highland games and talking about Clan McLeod to McLeods works. Way to go Cathie!

Some of the highlights of the week included:

4 – coffee mornings and ceilidh workshops;

3 – ceilidhs, including dancing and entertainment from McLeods;

2 – chiefs and whisky tastings (the latter increased due to popular demand); and

1 – Waternish coach tour, one session tending bar (and no, I don't have Smart Serve), one parade through the village in all our McLeod finery, with flags and clan waving at on, creating a traffic snarl and finally, one day on Raasay – complete with a climb of Temptation Hill and a distillery tour (yes, it opened in 2017 – and it's whisky, of course) with a taste of “While We Wait”. Note that our “McLeod” cask will be uncorked in July 2022 at the next Parliament – so mark your calendars.

While these are just a few of the activities, the best highlights for me are always re-connecting with McLeod friends, making new ones and taking in all the magnificent scenery that Skye has to offer – and of course – dodging the sheep that dart onto the road in front of the rental car! Thanks to my wonderful navigator, Cathie – I missed every one! Δ

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The green dots on this Google Earth Map represent a radio station anywhere in the world. Simply click on any one of the dots and you will immediately be listening to that station with very good sound. Here is the link

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresence/> Δ

Visit to Scotland 2018

by Malcolm MacLeod, CMS Vancouver Island

Karen and I had five weeks in the UK this past summer, landing in Manchester and then visiting relatives in Wales, England and Scotland and putting 2213 miles on our rental car.

We drove up to John O'Goats and then did a day trip to Orkney. Highly recommended. Across the top of Scotland to Durness and down the west side, stopping at Ardvreck Castle on the way. On sailing from Uig to Stornoway, we stayed two days to take in as much of the area as we could, including the Eye peninsula and church, the Iolaire Memorial, Stornoway itself, the Castle and War Memorial. We also visited the Stones, Dun Carloway, the Island of Bernera where we saw an Iron Age house, sod roofed and sunk in the ground, with a graveyard nearby. I found a gravestone inscribed "In memory – Robin de Lalainne – Mirrlees, Comp de la Lanne & Prince of Coronata, Landlord of Great Bernera." It may be significant that it doesn't say "In loving memory!" Also the Black House Village was very interesting and we watched a weaving loom being operated.

The next day we travelled on to Harris, stopping at Rhenigidale and Amhuinnsuidhe out toward Scarp where there are no washrooms, hence all the bits of tissue marking the ladies' piddle puddles, very bleak and the road was very tortuous, up and down and around, much like the road into Rhenigidale and also the Golden Road from Tarbert to Rodel. On these roads, I sometimes had to lean forward to see over the next rise and sometimes look out the side window since the turn was so sharp. It was a challenge but I enjoyed driving there and also found the scenery quite intriguing. After stopping for a while in Tarbert where there is a new distillery run by a family of MacLeods, we watched another demonstration of the work of the loom and visited the local shops, then toured the area by car before continuing on to Rodel, then on to Leverborough where we did more touring of the local area and spent the night. The next morning while waiting for the ferry to Berneray, I watched a local boat bring a load of around 50 sheep from one of the nearby Isles, either Ensay or Killegray, after which they left and returned with another load before our ferry departed.

We spent three days in the Berneray/North Uist area. On Berneray, we visited relatives and caught up on news. My great grandfather, Malcolm MacLeod was on the Crofting (Napier) Commission in 1883 and is reputed to have said "If I tell the truth, I shall risk the displeasure of those in authority over us. If I do not, my conscious will condemn me and the

people will stone me.” His grave is marked by the largest white obelisk in the old graveyard on the hillside on the north end of the island. I have a copy of his submission to that Commission which is in Gaelic and I am trying to have it translated.

While visiting the new graveyard on Berneray with my late cousin’s wife, Cathy Ann, we were approached by Mr McKillop who, when he heard that we were from Canada, started relating a story about a miner in a remote cabin by himself miles from anywhere when a knock came to the door and on answering, in walked a young native boy. After being offered tea, the introductions began. The native boy asks, “What’s your name?” “Donald!” was the reply. “Me too, what’s your other name?” “MacLeod!” was the reply. “Me too!” The lad then asked if he spoke Gaelic. The young fellow’s father had married a native woman and had raised his family to speak both Gaelic and English. The miner was my grandfather Donald, who was alone on the claim that night while his partners had gone for supplies. This was in the middle of Alaska in the early 1900s. The gentleman relating this story to us was the son of Splash MacKillop who we had met on an earlier trip to Berneray and who had made his croft into a B&B many years ago. As an aside, when Prince Charles was a young man and wanted to escape the pressures of royalty he would visit Berneray where he was able to experience the life of a crofter while staying at the B&B, until his destination was discovered by the press.

On North Uist, we visited Locheport, where the house that my grandmother was raised in, remains on “a portion of barren moor, quite unfit for cultivation” the location to which my great great grandfather Lachlan MacLean’s family along with his son Neil (my great grandfather) were cleared to by Lord MacDonald in 1849. His obituary states “At the age of 99, he was the last surviving direct link with the Solas evictions of 1849, being three years of age at the time. In his working years, besides crofting, he acted as sailor, fisherman, roadman, and anything where money could be earned. He is buried at ‘Clachan Sand’ along with his forbears.” We also attended the Solas Highland Games which while they had piping and dancing competitions, they definitely catered to the children with pillow fights and foot races, and such. The pipers had come from all over Scotland and were serious about competing and knew by name, if not personally, many of the pipers from the international community. We then left Lochmaddy for Skye and Clan MacLeod Parliament. While on the ferry we caught up with a Bill McAulay from Powell River, BC. A fellow that I had not previously met and who is a grandson of my



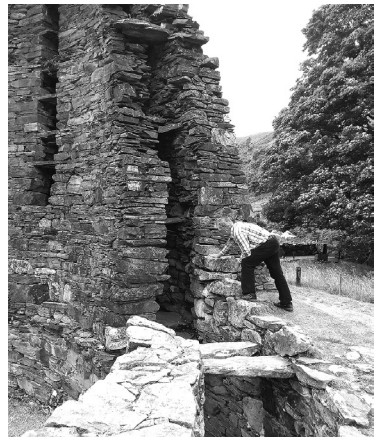
grandmother's sister.

One day while on Skye, Karen and I took a tour, stopping at Gesto, (one of the prettiest places on Skye) and carrying on past Carbost to Portnalong, Ferinlea and Fiscavaig on the Minganish peninsula across Loch Harport from Gesto. It was here starting in 1923, that 43 families had come from Harris,

20 from Lewis and 5 from Skye in a resettlement scheme to 68 crofts totalling about 400 people. Some of these had returned from Patagonia. We then proceeded on to Talisker where we parked at the end of the public road that was blocked with gates. There was a crew nearby shearing sheep and we walked down a lane bordered by a stone dyke until we came to Talisker House where we spoke with the gardener girl. She called out the present owner who works from his house but who took time out from his busy schedule to come out, along with his interesting cat, to talk to us and tell us some of the history. Unfortunately, we didn't write his name down.

We then walked down the long lane that goes between the hillside and the rich bottom land to the sea. It was very windy at times and on the far side of the bay there was a waterfall coming off a sheer 200 foot high cliff to the water. A very pretty place! One of our fellow Parliament attenders from Germany was looking for Gesto as they had ancestors from there. Gesto is a difficult place to find so I gave them explicit directions and they found it on the second or third try.

When we left Skye, we took the ferry from Kylerhey to Glenelg where we had a good look around, taking in the Bernera Barracks, built between 1717 and 1723 to subdue the population after the 1715 rebellion and also the two ancient brocks, Dun Telve and Dun Troddan, which are almost equal to Dun Carloway but unknown as they are so much off the beaten path.



We then stopped for a bite and pint at an Inn and then visited Christine MacDonald who has a shop adjacent, where Carol and Rick Pugliese had been before Parliament. This Glenelg to Skye ferry is the last turntable ferry in the world and is a local invention, community owned and now recognized as a national treasure. It comes in beside the jetty and holds its place by going slow against the restraining rope and the crew then turn the deck toward the jetty and lower the ramp by hand after which the vehicles drive off and on and then they lift and secure the ramp and then turn the deck fore and aft and secure it in place, all by hand. This is where the cattle drovers used to swim the cattle across



when they took them to market by tying them together nose to tail, five at a time and leading them across by row boat. The cattle could swim as fast as the boat could be rowed but they had to wait for a fairly slack tide as the current can reach 8 knots.

I have always wondered what route the drovers used and other than the road out of Glenelg, which was quite steep and high, the rest of the route to Sterling was gentle through low passes. I had always pictured high passes until I realized that some of our Canadian passes are higher than Ben Nevis. We continued on through Glen Shiel, stopping at the Commando Memorial and then on to Killiecrankie to Stirling where we climbed the Wallace Monument before continuing on to Glasgow where we had a few wonderful days before flying home via Iceland. Δ



Our Scotland Trip

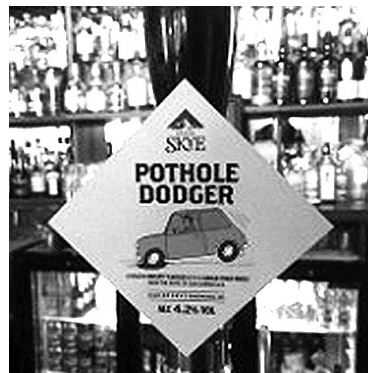
Heather MacLeod Waldon, CMS National

In fall 2017, my husband Robert and I started exploring the idea of attending the Clan MacLeod Parliament for the first time. I had heard that my cousin Randy and his family were attending and that his girls were taking part in the North Room Group (Young MacLeods). Since we had always wanted to visit our homeland on the Isle of Skye and our son Michael has a keen interest in early British history, it seemed like the perfect time to join in!

Over the next few months as we planned out our route and accommodations, we watched expectantly for updates on the official site (www.clanmacleod.org), Facebook page and twitter. Many questions came to mind: midges (Will they really be that bad?); driving (How will we manage the right-hand drive? Will the sheep really surround us on the road? Will we know what to do at the passing place or the roundabouts? What if we get lost?); clothing (How can we pack for four seasons? How much tartan should I wear?). Connecting with seasoned Parliament attendees through our National Society gave us insight into previous Parliament experiences.

Driving on the opposite side of the road from what you are familiar with is, well, let's just say, "an experience that is variable." Many travellers find it to be an easy task – a walk in the park. Others find it nerve-racking and a regrettable mistake. Making our way out of Glasgow to Spean Bridge on our first day in Scotland was definitely nerve-racking. "Regrettable" came later in the week as we made our way from the Orkney Islands back to Dunvegan. Large potholes resulted in a ripped tire and a scenic trip from Torridon to Lochcarron in a "recovery" (i.e. the back of a flatbed tow truck). Our recovery driver, Roddy, had Scottish charm and assured us that, "Aye, it happens aaaall the time!" The rows-upon-rows of new "tyres" in the Home Depot sized warehouse at the Lochcarron Garage outnumbered the 900 person population by at least 4 to 1, aptly proving Roddy to be right.

Mishaps behind us, we arrived at Parliament without many expectations other than to bring our smiles and enthusiasm. Registration went smoothly and we introduced ourselves to many Parliamentarians from different



parts of the world. The atmosphere was very welcoming and we looked forward to attending different events. The Opening of Parliament the next day showcased different MacLeod tartans and banners from each attending region or country. The rest of the week brought a wide variety of events, with a “wee something” for everyone.

Robert and I particularly enjoyed access to Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, as well as the evening on the Castle pier (Bratwurst and Beer). Everyone seemed to enjoy the weather, venue and good food, drink and company. The magic and history of Dunvegan is evident when you are at the Castle or in the gardens. We saw a young gardener trimming the grass edge with small scissors. That takes dedication! The bus trip to Trumpan Church was particularly poignant. It is a sad place where the past seems to linger, which makes it a compelling place to visit. The Clan Ball was simply a delightful way to end the week. There was a strong sense of joy and community with a mixture of young and old, dancing or chatting together. That’s what builds a strong and long lasting family! There were many activities that we did not participate in, and in retrospect, should have. A word of advice to others planning to attend for the first time would be to take part in as much as you can. You can sleep when you get home.

An event like the Parliament takes a lot of planning, hard work and many volunteers to make it successful. Each National Society hosted an event and there were many delicious lunches provided by local community groups. For every event, someone volunteered to lend a hand. The Young MacLeods were there to help as well. Our Parliament Organizer, Rory MacLeod did an amazing job. His dedication and enthusiasm were evident throughout the week. We especially appreciated the thoughtful report of the Young MacLeods, as a way forward to ensure the Clan MacLeod is something to be proud of — and to be a part of — for generations to come! Our son Michael had the opportunity to be part of the Young MacLeod’s week of “service and fun” prior to Parliament. During this time, the Young MacLeod’s worked most mornings patching part of the pier at Dunvegan Castle. Their afternoons were spent doing a variety of activities such as visiting the Fairy Pools, climbing MacLeod’s Tables (lots of midges), and exploring parts of the Castle not open to the public. They shared a rustic (haunted?) “cottage” on the MacLeod Estate, collaborating to prepare meals and enjoy the experience. Surrounded by dense woods, a walled garden and the ruins of horse stables, the cottage has an air of mystery. Sharing one “classic” style bathroom between ten people did not dampen their enthusiasm. This week was an exciting lead up to their participation in the Parliament.

Our visit to Scotland and the MacLeod Parliament was one of adventure. We had a chance to meet some lovely people, explore our Scottish heritage and admire the beautiful, rugged landscape. Scottish hospitality and pride were apparent throughout our travels to the Orkney Islands, across the northern coast of Scotland and back on the Isle of Skye. Whether you have an interest in history, landscapes, whisky, gin or “bagging a Munroe”, Scotland has something for everyone. Δ

Highlights of Scotland following Clan MacLeod Parliament 2018

by Mary Clark, Christchurch, New Zealand

St Kilda

Following a wonderful week on Skye for the Clan MacLeod Parliament, I was able to achieve a journey which had been on my bucket list for a number of years. It was the journey out to the Islands of St Kilda. Ever since 1974, when I was given a copy of the book “The Life and Death of St Kilda” by Tom Steel, I have been interested and the prospect of a trip there following Clan Parliament had me excited. My excitement turned to disappointment when I reached Skye and was told the boat was booked out for St Kilda. Not to be deterred, I went on the website GotoStKilda late one evening and there it was, one seat left for the Saturday sailing! Quick as a wink I placed my booking. From then on I mentally waved the Fairy Flag because we heard the weather was not favourable and the trips during the week had been cancelled.

Saturday July 28 arrived and it was a very early start to be away from Osdale farm by 6 am and around to Waternish pier by 6:30 am. Dorna and I had our fingers crossed that the sailing would be on, however, there were repairs being done to the boat when we arrived. We were kitted out with waterproof clothing and lifejackets and given our briefing. The crew were hopeful the repairs would be done and that we would be away by 7:30 am, half an hour later than scheduled. We duly boarded and set off on the four hour boat journey, out past Harris and North Uist and onto Boreray and the Stacs of An Armin, Lee and Leveshin, and the island of Hirta. The Stacs were spectacular rising straight up out of the sea, with masses of seabirds nesting on the cliffs. The Captain of our boat cut the motors and we drifted in close to the cliffs, our tour guide remarked that it was the closest he had ever been to the cliffs. To land on Hirta we had to scramble onto the inflatable boat six at a time to be ferried to the jetty.

St Kilda these days is a World Heritage Site, administered by the National Trust of Scotland, with a small defense post for communications based there. St Kilda had been in the possession of the MacLeods



for centuries and in 1934 Sir Reginald MacLeod sold it to the 5th Marquis of Bute, who on his death bequeathed it to the National Trust.

Dorna had prepared for our arrival on St Kilda and supplied us each with a glove to wear, to cast ashore before we stepped onto Hirta. Legend has it, that centuries ago there was a race to claim St Kilda, and that a MacLeod lopped off his hand and threw it ashore to be first to lay claim to the islands. Hence, our re-enactment.



Life on St Kilda had been very hard for the inhabitants. They relied on the seabirds for their livelihood, for food, and the feathers for income. To capture birds and collect eggs from the nests, the St Kildans would be lowered down the cliffs by ropes, a very risky undertaking.

The landscape is steep, exposed to the Atlantic Ocean and treeless. It is marked with the remains of the stone houses, and many cleits (stone storehouses with turf roofs where food was stored.) Soay sheep, an ancient breed of sheep, roam freely these days. Life became so difficult, with so few able-bodied men that by 1930 the St Kildans requested to be evacuated off their islands, a sad situation. For us the day stayed fine, the sun almost



came out at lunchtime and it was clear of mist across the hilltops. We visited the school house, church and museum, all showing what life had been like for the St Kildans. At afternoon tea time, we were told that there was a large group of puffin birds swimming in the bay, so the decision was to board our vessel and go out and see them before heading back on our four hour journey back to Skye. The water stayed relatively calm on the return journey, with large black clouds to the south and over the mainland. Kevin



Tolmie who was with us requested that the boat come into Waternish via the entrance to Loch Dunvegan, and behind the islands where we saw the remains of the stone building believed to be involved in the MacDonald/MacLeod feud which also took place at Trumpan.

We arrived back at Waternish about 7:45 pm, 12 hours after leaving and the water was still flat and calm. Hunger pangs set in, so we made our way to the Stein Inn for a meal. Half an hour later, the view from the window had rain beating down; strong winds and a very rough sea had come up. How lucky we were to have a calm 12 hours to make this journey, the Fairy Flag had certainly been waved and blessed us with a once in a lifetime trip.

Dundee

Another highlight for me was a visit to Dundee, and the two museums I visited there. The Verdant Museum, a flax mill museum and the Discovery Museum, displaying *RSS Discovery*, Captain Robert Falcon Scott's ship for his first expedition to the Antarctic.

The flax mill museum had very good displays showing all the processes for milling the flax grown in Russia, and later jute from India. Dundee had many mills; many of the the sails for ships and covers for wagons that travelled across North America were made in such mills, along with many other products.

The Discovery Museum had the ship itself on display. It was possible to go aboard and walk through the cabins and areas below deck, such as the galley, chart room, laboratory etc. Coming from Christchurch NZ,

which has the Antarctic Centre and hosts the Deep Freeze Base to service the research projects on Antarctica, this museum was of particular interest to me.

The flax mill museum answered some questions that had arisen in my family research on the Kidd side of my family, I had come across births in Russia of British subjects in 1788 and 1790, and could not work out why the family was in Russia. In Scotland this year, I found out that the father was a flax merchant from Dundee, hence the reason they were in Russia in the late 1700s.

Helmsdale

Mentioning Dundee and the museums there made me think of The Timespan Museum in Helmsdale which was another very worthwhile visit, especially if you have ancestors from that part of Scotland. There were interesting displays and also an archives room upstairs with many copies of records and old photographs to look through. Δ



A Memorable Family Trip

by Christine McLeod

Here is a photo of our son Magnus, his wife Jodianne, and our granddaughter Breyenda, 6 years old, who live in Halifax Nova Scotia.

This was Brey's first time to Scotland. She loved all the sheep wandering around, loved dancing at the Ceilidhs during Parliament, loved Dunvegan Castle and the Castles in Edinburgh and Eilean Donan, she enjoyed all the other children at Parliament.

We all had a wonderful time which was made even better with our granddaughter with us, can't wait to take family again! Δ



Waternish bus crowd assembled on the Fairy Bridge

Skye clan chief's labour of love proves fruitful for local economy

by Mark Williamson, Reporter for heraldscotland.com

(reproduced by permission)

Clan MacLeod Chief Hugh MacLeod

What is your business called?

Dunvegan Castle & Gardens on the MacLeod Estate.

Where is it based?

Isle of Skye.

What does it produce, what services does it offer?

Dunvegan Castle & Gardens is at the heart of the 42,000-acre MacLeod Estate on the Isle of Skye. As the ancestral home of the Chiefs of clan MacLeod for 800 years, Dunvegan is a major heritage attraction and key driver of economic growth on Skye, acting as a magnet for over 168,000 UK and international visitors each year. The Estate also comprises the MacLeod Tables Cafe, four retail outlets, 5 holiday cottages, seal trips, amenity woodlands, Dunvegan Pier, Glenbrittle Campsite and Cuillin Coffee Co.

What is its turnover?

£2.9 million

Annually the estate contributes an average of £800,000 to the local economy through employment and the purchase of goods and services.

How many employees?

We are one of the largest private sector employers on the island with 20 permanent staff and up to 50 seasonal employees.

When was it formed?

1200.

Why did you take the plunge?

It fell to me by an accident of birth. After becoming the 30th chief of the MacLeod clan in 2007 on the death of my father I could have hired a manager but I felt duty bound to take on the Herculean challenge myself. I take a low-key approach to the role of clan chief, preferring to focus my attention on running the MacLeod Estate which leaves me with very little time for anything else. I regard it as a huge privilege and see myself as a custodial link in a chain that stretches back 800 years. My aim is not to be a weak link.

What were you doing before you took the plunge?

Creative producer, director and writer working in film and TV. Although my MacLeod Estate workload has diverted around 80% of my time away

from my media career, I am currently working on a slate of two feature film projects which are at varying stages of development and packaging. Film is a very tough profession which requires bucket loads of commitment, talent, patience and luck to succeed in. For that reason, I see it more as a vocation rather than a job and after Dunvegan, it is my main passion.

How did you raise the start-up funding?

Despite receiving 35 per cent of the total castle restoration costs in grant aid funding from Historic Scotland back in 2009, the estate's debt levels increased as a result of the £1.4 million investment in the Dunvegan castle roof and garden restoration works alongside the other £2.6 million capital investment over the last ten years to further enhance our visitor facilities across the estate. Having no other funding options available, I decided to mortgage my London property and used the funds to invest in Dunvegan in order to conserve the fabric of the building which was in a very poor condition due to the failure of the roof, windows and cement harling. The wider estate was also in a parlous state and I made the decision to invest all the fruits of our seasonal labours back into the estate. Although still a work in progress, I am very proud of what we have achieved to date.

What was your biggest break?

Securing grant aid funding from Historic Scotland in 2009 which helped to part fund the major Dunvegan Castle roof and windows restoration in 2010.

What was your worst moment?

The financial crash in 2010 just before we were due to start major restoration works.

What do you most enjoy about running the business?

Working with my fantastic team and ploughing the seasonal proceeds of our various commercial tourism enterprises back into the estate to help create more jobs and underpin the local economy.

This month, Dunvegan Castle & Gardens was awarded the Tourism Award at the Scottish Land & Estates Helping it Happen Awards. These form part of a campaign to highlight how landowners and rural businesses across Scotland play a key role in enabling and supporting success in rural areas.

What is your biggest bugbear?

A lack of integrated public transport in the Highlands and a lack of investment in much needed infrastructure improvements on the Isle of Skye.



What are your ambitions for the firm?

The estate's mission is to preserve the unique heritage of the Macleod Estate by being commercially successful in all we do to enable continuous reinvestment and to develop and share the unique history of Dunvegan Castle & Gardens with our visitors. Our remote island location is a very challenging place to run a business from both a logistical and staffing point of view, especially due to seasonality. It is only commercially viable for us to be open between Easter and mid-October. However, Skye's remoteness is also part of its USP and we do our best to capitalise on this during the season in order to reinvest the proceeds to further enhance the visitor experience.

What single thing would most help?

A new airport. Skye remains the missing link in the Highlands and Islands' chain of airports and the MacLeod Estate has long been an active supporter of Skye's lobby group Fly Skye. My late father, John MacLeod, lobbied hard alongside Charles Kennedy MP in the 1980s to retain the flights at Broadford when they were facing the axe but to no avail. Skye has changed beyond all recognition since then and many of the people who live and work here desperately need flight links to Edinburgh and Glasgow as do our visitors.

What was the most valuable lesson that you learned?

To 'hold fast' in the face of adversity.

How do you relax?

I sit or lie down depending on my mood! Δ

Revisiting the Clearances

by Tom Devine

My new book, *The Scottish Clearances: A History Of The Dispossessed 1600 To 1900*, examines the enormous effects of such a rapid and massive revolution on an age old peasant society. I have been thinking, teaching and researching the subject off and on for nearly four decades but this book is my first attempt to bring together all the threads of a number of complex issues into a single volume.

The subject of the Highland Clearances has long entered the consciousness of Scots both for those at home and the millions across the global Scottish diaspora. Indeed, the clearances have become more than a historical process and are now firmly embedded in the cultural identity of the nation. One reason for this among several is the phenomenal success of the big-

gest selling Scottish history book of all time, John Prebble's *The Highland Clearances*, first published in 1963. In very readable prose Prebble presents a compelling story of betrayal, loss, tragedy and forced exile of the clans from their native glens, which in his interpretation, lie deserted to this day as silent memorials of man's inhumanity to man. Few books on the Scottish past have been so influential.

My new volume seeks to challenge the perspectives of Prebble and others on several fronts. But to do so meant in the first instance a long programme of intensive research on a vast array of original sources carried out intermittently over many years in gaps between university teaching and writing other books and essays. The oral traditions of the people, numerous sets of landed estate papers, sheriff court, kirk session and census records covering long periods of time and space were among the many sources considered in detail.

Historical research can be fascinating but it is also very labour intensive. But if I were to effectively challenge established opinion and belief on such an important and controversial subject nothing less than that exacting task had to be pursued and completed. The evidential base in support of my arguments would have to be as solid as I could make it.

Ideas and insights were also drawn from other social sciences such as geography, anthropology and demography as well as history. At the same time lucid and accessible presentation of the arguments was imperative. The book is designed not only to appeal to fellow scholars but to anyone interested in this most emotive and controversial topic in the history of Scotland. The finished volume covers a much longer time frame than the decades between the 1750s and 1850s which are usually seen as the classic period of clearance.

The analysis also ranges across the whole country and is not at all confined to the Highlands. A fundamental question is posed and an answer attempted: does the evidence assembled suggest we must now think in terms of the Scottish rather than the Highland Clearances? If clearances were indeed common south of the Highland line why have they been mainly ignored and forgotten? Did the people resist the policies of dispossession pursued by the landlord class? What happened to the many who lost farms, smallholdings and crofts? Where did they go?

These are just some of the many issues discussed at length in a book which seeks to conduct a root and branch reconsideration of some of Scotland's most cherished historical myths and assumptions. Whether I have succeeded in that objective is for readers of the volume to decide. Δ

Simon Fraser University Scottish Studies 20th Anniversary Celebration

by Allan MacLeod, CMS Vancouver

Twenty years ago my wife and I were managing high-rise apartments in Burnaby when Simon Fraser University decided to begin a new Scottish Studies program. Not a surprising venture, with a name like Simon Fraser on its title and a lot of Scottish history in BC's background. So hearing of this new program, I joined some of the introductory planning meetings and signed up for several months of Scottish Studies night classes dealing with Scottish immigration to Canada and of the heritage and great influence of Christianity and the churches on the culture and needs of the early Maritime Scottish settlements.

For me, it was a time of great pleasure. We had interesting professors, eager students, both young, middle aged and older, and good fellowship as we got to know one another and shared our backgrounds and mutual interest in our Scottish heritage. I requested to be put on their mailing list to be kept aware of the program, its changes and its courses.

Thus I was not surprised a few months ago to receive an invitation to the 20th Anniversary of their Scottish Studies program for October 27, 2018. I was delighted and signed up immediately.

On the designated afternoon about a hundred friendly people showed up for a pleasant afternoon. I was the only one there from our Clan MacLeod Society. The afternoon was sponsored by the Mary-Ann MacDougall family. The program began with several testimonies, both in person and by video, of some who had taken the Scottish Studies program over the years, now had graduate or Doctoral degrees, and they told how their Scottish Studies had helped their future direction and decisions.

Then we had an interesting lecture by Dr. S. Carly Kehoe, the Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada communities at St. Mary's University in Halifax, NS. Her research specialization is in religion, migration and the minority identities in the British Atlantic. She co-edits with Chris Dalgleish the *Histories of the Scottish North Atlantic* book series for Edinburgh University Press.

Her lecture concerned the History of the Scottish Atlantic Caribbean slavery between 1772 and the late 1820s, the Scottish church ministers influence in rebuking the practice, and the Highland diaspora in the Caribbean island colonies.

Following her lecture, The Vancouver Gaelic Choir sang several interesting and varied selections, then Keith Trusler from Corby/Pernod Ricard

gave a short talk about some of the tasting notes of the fine whiskies: Glenlivet, Scapa Skiren, and Aberlour. He generously offered five bottles of the best for a draw, along with some other gifts, but sadly I did not win any of them!

Nevertheless, we ended with a time of fellowship, tasty refreshments, and a wish to do the same again at some not-too-future date! Evidently the SFU Scottish Studies—and whisky tasting—is continuing alive and well! Δ



The Emmigration Wall at Orbost was a popular visiting site in spite of the showers. The special contributed stones are set along the top of the wall.





The official photo for Parliament 2018 was somewhat more informal this year. You might even recognize a few. Significant is the large number of people present.



ear, but most members were there and children in the foreground. Δ

Skye Pioneers and “The Island”

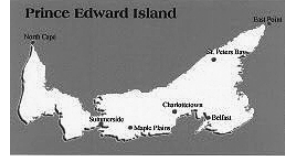
by Malcolm A. Macqueen

This is a reprint of Macqueen’s classic study of the Highland settlers of Prince Edward Island and their descendants. There is much genealogical information here (from both Canada and Scotland), including births, deaths, marriages, and land holdings, as well as an excellent overall history of the area. The families with more extensive genealogies include Munro, Mackinnon, MacLeod, MacDonald, MacQueen, Martin, Nicholson, and Ross. There are extended lists as well of settlers, of ministers, and of other prominent citizens throughout the history of the region. For the historian and the genealogist this is a reference book necessary for the working shelf. *Skye Pioneers* and the companion *Hebridean Pioneers* (below) are among our most popular titles and are enduring bestsellers.

118 pages. spiral binding. \$19.95

Skye Pioneers and “The Island”

Malcolm A. Macqueen



Hebridean Pioneers

by Malcolm A. Macqueen.

This work, the companion to Macqueen’s *Skye Pioneers and “The Island”*, concentrates almost exclusively upon those descended from Hebridean emigrants who came to Prince Edward Island in Canada in the 19th century. It is a detailed genealogical account of these families and their descendants, but it also is a history of Prince Edward Island itself and of the role these families played in its religious, political, and social life. There are extended genealogies of Hayden/Hadin, Jetson, Enman, Martin, Munro, Nicholson, MacQueen, Robertson, Ferguson, Tweedy, Irving, and others.

86 pages. spiral binding. \$19.95

Hebridean Pioneers

Malcolm A. Macqueen



These books are available from Unicorn Limited, Inc.

Mailing address is: PO Box 125, Loachapoka, AL 36865 USA

334.501.0202 mcleod@scotpress.com Δ



Delicious lunch served up by community group; Youth Group prepare the bonfire site; CMS Germany serves up Brat and Beer at the pier





The Memorial Swim at the dock; Gaelic Singing practice group; Chief John and family welcoming all to Raasay



Youth Co-ordinator Bronwyn;
Organizer par excellent Rory;

Noel and grand daughter watch the dancing from the gallery; Derek supplies the dance music; Olivia thrills the crowd

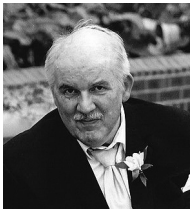


Flowers of the Forrest

Lorraine Caroline MacLeod

March 02, 1935 - September 03, 2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lorraine Caroline MacLeod (Nee Zelt) on September 3, 2018 in Peace Arch Hospital, White Rock, BC. She was born on March 2, 1935 in Edmonton, Alberta. Lorraine was predeceased by her loving husband, John Ronald (Ron) MacLeod, OC, and her two brothers, Wilfred and Vernon. She will be dearly missed by her two surviving brothers, Harold and Gordon (Eileen) and many nieces, nephews, and friends. A Memorial Service was held on September 24 at Morgan Creek Golf Course in Surrey, BC. Δ



Neil Godfrey Macleod

Neil Godfrey Macleod, age 70, of Stratford, passed away on September 8, 2018 at People Care Centre (Tavistock). Neil was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of the late Kenneth and Toni (Pelly) Macleod. In 1970 he immigrated to Stratford and was employed in manufacturing. He was an avid Boy-Scout in his youth and was a Scout leader for a time. He had a life-long interest in steam engines and locomotives. Survived by his wife Sheila (Tyler) Macleod. Loving father of Steven, Amy, Diana (Jeff), and Jeffrey (Jenna) and grandfather of Hailey, Blake, and Cole. Survived by his siblings Allison Fellows of Scotland and Flo Gilbert of England. Also survived by brother-in-law Jim Tyler (Marion), and sisters-in-law Marie Tyler (Tony), and Anita Sinkins (Mark). The family would like to express their appreciation to all the staff at People Care Centre for their wonderful care of Neil over several years.

A family service will take place at a later date on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. Δ



McLeod, Edith Louise

September 1920 – September 2018



Edith Louise (nee Keller) passed away peacefully on September 12, 2018 at Courtyard Gardens, Richmond, BC, just shy of her 98th birthday. Born in Vancouver in 1920, she graduated from Kitsilano High School. During WWII, Edith worked in her father's dental office located at the foot of Lonsdale Street in North Vancouver, often assisting with first aid care for industrial accident casualties from the nearby ship building yards. During the War, she also met Bill McLeod. They married in 1946 and raised their family in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Mississauga, Ottawa and finally moved to Richmond, BC in 1976. Throughout her life, Edith was a very active member of her community, often serving on United Church committees. Locally, she was a member of Brighthouse United Church, the Clan MacLeod Society of Vancouver, the Richmond Lawn Bowling Club, Regent's Gate Social Committee and the Courtyard Gardens Hand Chime Choir. Well known for her gardening "green thumb," she devotedly nurtured her family connections and continued to actively make new friends throughout her long and fulfilling life. Edith is lovingly remembered by her husband of 71 years, William G (Bill) McLeod, daughter Vickie McLeod, son Bruce and daughter-in-law Betty McLeod, grandchildren Kelly McLeod and Cameron McLeod, brother Laurie and sister-in-law Linda Keller, sister-in-law Eleanor Harrison, nieces and nephews and many friends. Her Memorial Service was held October 3. Δ

Philip Finlay MacLeod

September 09, 1935 - September 24, 2018

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Philip Finlay MacLeod. He leaves behind his wife Pat; daughter Cathie (Barb); grandchildren Jenny and Trevor and great-grandson Liam; sisters Mary (Ervin), Janet (Bob) and brother Ian (Anne) of Toronto. Pat and Phil had 35 happy years together and enjoyed their retirement in the Shuswap area. He loved crosswords, his cats, anything sci-fi and he was always up for a good conversation and debate. He was a proud Canadian/Scotsman with a great sense of humour. Phil was a proud Member of the Clan MacLeod Society and of the Elks of Canada. Brave to the end, Phil passed peacefully with his family by his side in the light of a beautiful harvest moon. Always in our hearts. A goodbye to Phil was held on October 13 at the Elks Hall, in Salmon Arm, BC. Δ



Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

Outstanding Clansperson Award - 2018

Cathie White

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



This prestigious honour is bestowed to Cathie White with the gratitude and affection of the Canadian members of this Ancient Clan, in recognition of many years of dedicated and outstanding service.

Cathie has been a member of the Central Ontario Society for over 35 years and her service and contributions has been both wide and deep, including:

- *Cathie has graciously hosted the Clan tent at numerous Highland Games;*
- *Cathie has attended Clan Parliaments and North American Gatherings (NAG's) since 1982;*
- *Cathie served on the Organizing Committee for NAG 2000 held in Guelph ON and on the Society Executive fulfilling many roles for the benefit of our Clan family.*

Cathie has shown, and continues to show, dedication & steady leadership. She is a true "Proud MacLeod".

Dated at Dunvegan, Isle of Skye this 27th day of July in the year AD 2018*

(*Clan MacLeod Parliament 2018)

Judy Tipple, President, 2016 - 2020

At the closing Ball of Parliament on July 27, 2018, I was extremely proud to invite the very hard working and dedicated clan member in the person of Cathie White to come forward to receive the honour of Outstanding Clansperson.

I am extremely grateful to Penny and Dale deGraf and others who have shared their images and writings about their time at Parliament and their Scotland travels.

My successor as editor of *The Leod Voice* has not yet come forward which makes me wonder about the future of this newsletter. Perhaps its life is ending and other forms of communication will replace it. Your suggestions are welcome.

Newsletter Timelines:

Spring—May 1

Fall—October 1

**Membership and
Executive Changes:**

*March 1 and
September 1*

The spring membership lists need to be sent to Diana Macleod by March 1, 2019 (CMSCmembership@gmail.com).

My best wishes to you all, good health, peace and happiness in the New Year.

My address: Judy Tipple, P.O. Box 111
Saturna Island, BC Canada V0N 2Y0
Phone: 250-539-5475
E-mail: jmtipple@gmail.com