

THE LEOD

FALL 2025
ISSUE #83

VOICE

CMSC NATIONAL
MAGAZINE



SCAN ME! CMSC WEBSITE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

PRESIDENT'S FALL
MESSAGE

PARLIAMENT UPDATE
2026

& CALLING VOLUNTEERS



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President's Report - Leod Voice Fall 2025

Greetings to all MacLeods here in Canada, and to those internationally reading our magazine aswell! With all of our summer activities over, I hope that you all had fun meeting up with one another and attending Highland Games and Clan Gatherings.

I spent the latter part of this spring walking through Portugal and Spain on the last 140kms of the Camino de Santiago with my wife, Lindsay, two of her sisters, and their husbands. It was a truly amazing experience in some of the most beautiful parts of both countries. Shortly after our return, we jumped straight into business, preparing for ScotFest and the Highland Games in Vancouver with the Greater Vancouver Society. This year we were fortunate to have some very nice weather – unusual for Vancouver at that time of year, lol! It was a great highland games with a very busy MacLeod tent, and we actually performed double duties by staffing the Scots of Canada tent as well. We loved the chance to catch up and talk with so many people interested in their Scottish heritage and family history.

On a more somber note, it is with great sadness that we report the passing of our dear friend and Clansperson, Irene MacCrimmon, at the age of 102. She was known globally amongst the Clan MacLeod Societies through her decades of service, and she will be dearly missed.

As winter approaches, I'm sure most of us will be buckling down for the colder months and staying indoors, but there will still be some interesting and fun activities to warm your spirits and keep the blood pumping nonetheless. Scottish events of note that may be happening in your area include: local society get togethers and meet-ups, St Andrews Day Balls, Hogmanay, Robbie Burns Night celebrations, local Ceilidhs, The Great Canadian Kilt Skate, Celtic Festivals, various Highland Dancing and Piping competitions, Whisky tastings, Tartan Day, and then before you know it, we are back into Highland Games season. If you are ever looking for events to attend, please reach out to your local society for more information and join in the fun.

After having members of the executive council take turns editing the magazine for the last few issues, we have now found someone to step up and take on the role. I'd like to extend a warm welcome our new Leod Voice editor, Ealasaid McLeod-Rivera.

On a similar note, we are looking for volunteers to fill two other roles within the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada (CMSC); A website coordinator, and (a newly created position) the social media coordinator. If you have any interest in contributing to either of these roles, or have any questions about them, please let me know. We are eager to fill these positions as soon as possible. Perhaps some of the younger or more tech savvy MacLeods out there might want to give it some consideration? As for news around the world of MacLeod, we have some updates that will be covered in greater detail within the pages of the Leod Voice. Of note is:

- *The archiving project of the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS) records is in progress. This will collect and store all of the ACMS' records in one central place after they have been scanned. All physical copies of items will be archived at the National Library of Scotland, and digital copies will be made available online.
- *The complete collection of Clam MacLeod Magazines (the international publication) has been digitized and is available online, as have magazines and newsletters from MacLeod societies around the world. For access, please speak to your local society council and they will supply you with the login details.
- *Another MacLeod book has been re-published by the ACMS and is available for purchase through Amazon – see the ACMS Website for more information.
- *Canada has officially selected our Young MacLeod delegate to represent us at the 2026 Gathering and Parliament. Young MacLeods arrive a week before to help organizers prepare for the upcoming events. It is a wonderful chance for the next generation of MacLeods from around the world meet and form friendships that often last a lifetime.
- * A new logo for the Young MacLeods has been created, and the draft schedule of events for Parliament has been released. These will be shared in the Magazine.
- *The ACMS has put out a call for pipers to attend parliament – if you are interested please get in touch.

As this will be the last issue of the Leod Voice before Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Boisterous Hogmanay! Happy Holidays, and we will see you all next year!

Chris Hodge

President

Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada and Greater Vancouver

archiehodge76@gmail.com



Gathering and Parliament 2026

Planning continues for the Gathering and Parliament (G and P) 2026 and there have been some changes since I last wrote in April 2025. In the next couple of pages you will see the updated outline programme. I will reiterate most of the information that I gave in April (so you do not have to find that issue!) but remember that information will be updated on the ACMS website.

We will be mixing old and new, taking account of feedback from the last event in 2023. We are having a 'Gathering' as well as a 'Parliament'. This has been the case in fact for many years but was not reflected in the name (Parliament) which people thought was rather stuffy. It was largely about meeting and deciding things which is what a parliament does. Over the years more fun elements were introduced and these are most of the activities. It was therefore decided that the emphasis should be on this gathering together for fun. Nevertheless there is business to be done and so the 'Parliament' part stays. Remember this is when we decide who is going to run the Clan for the four subsequent years.

The theme for the G and P is 'Cùm greim gu dliùth do sinnsearan (Hold fast to the honour of your ancestors)'. Our ancestors spoke the Gaelic language as many local people still do today. Gaelic being more evident at the G and P is a way to honour both our ancestors and show respect to the present-day inhabitants of Skye – and you might even learn some words and phrases. In an addition to the programme, Ross McEwan, Secretary of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies will deliver a presentation on the Heraldry of Highland Chiefs. Due to the popularity of the dinners at Dunvegan Castle's Tables Restaurant last time, this has been extended to include Wednesday as well as Monday and Tuesday.

In addition to the programme, DNA Project Administrator, Mark MacLeod has kindly offered to conduct one-to-one advice sessions during G and P week for those who have questions about their DNA test. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, we will be running excursions to a local croft where you can get close to native breeds of livestock and maybe even feed them. This will especially appeal to the children. On Thursday there will be a Fèis or Fair where local makers and vendors will have their products for sale. Please do support them by buying a souvenir!

At the Thursday evening barbeque we will be joined by 'The Sword Experience' led by Adrian Paul, aka Duncan MacLeod from the TV series Highlander. With his group, Adrian will be demonstrating sword techniques.

Another important aspect of the event next year is the Activity Week in the seven days immediately before the G and P. This is primarily for Young MacLeods (YM) between the ages of 18-30 to support the Village as well as the Castle and Estate. In years past young adults called themselves the North Room Group (NRG = Energy!). Nowadays many of these former NRG participants are more mature MacLeods. Although the Activity Week is aimed at YMs, former NRGs and others who simply want to help are welcome.

In response to enquiries received I must mention that special arrangements will have to be made for any under the age of eighteen who wish to participate. This is due to Scotland's safeguarding laws. Under-eighteens can participate but a parent or guardian must be nearby and contactable. Places for ten YMs (18-30) are subsidised by ACMS who have arranged accommodation and transport. ACMS will also provide comestibles for breakfast.

Beyond that the YM's will arrange things for themselves. YMs will be able to live together for the entire two weeks should they wish as accommodation has been arranged for the fortnight.

More mature MacLeods will need to find their own accommodation for their time on Skye whether that is for one or two weeks. Robin McLeod Ingram is the Organiser for Activity Week with me remaining as overall Coordinator. Another important additional benefit is the possibility for YMs to be transported by mini-busto Skye if they can be in Glasgow by the morning of 25 July. Robin McLeod Ingram is flying to Inverness (not a transatlantic airport), also on 25 July and has offered to give lifts to YMs from there if timings coincide. Registration is planned to go live in mid-December via the ACMS website. As usual there will be an overall cost to register which will include most elements of the G and P. However, there will be optional extras which will be charged separately. I am sorry but we have had to increase our estimate of cost per head to between £200-£250 adult price for the main package. We are hoping to see many Mighty Mini MacLeods otherwise known as children, of various ages. Planning of activities for the children depends on how many attend and of course what their parents plan.

Advance notice of your intentions would be helpful to me as Coordinator, particularly if you want to participate in the Activity Week or if you plan to attend with children.

The programme is also on the ACMS web site. Check there for updates.

If you have information or questions please send them to parliament@clanmacleod.org.

by Kevin John Tolmie FSA Scot



Gathering & Parliament 2026 Programme

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9am		War Memorial	Ceilidh practice Gaelic practice	Ceilidh practice Gaelic practice	Raasay Coach to Sconser Ferry Raasay mini-bus tour or rib buzz Lunch by community Raasay mini-bus tour and rib buzz Tug-o-war Heritage Centre Official Opening Return Ferry	Ceilidh practice Gaelic practice	Ceilidh practice Gaelic practice
10am		Morning worship at Duirinish Church	Refreshments by CMS Canada	Refreshments by CMS USA		Refreshments by the Pacific CMSs	Refreshments by Europe CMSs
11am		Parade	Parliament open meeting	Parliament open meeting		Craft Fair	Parliament open meeting
12pm	Registration opens	Welcome lunch	Lunch available, hosted by community groups		Lunch available, hosted by community groups	Lunch available, hosted by community groups	
1pm		Opening of Parliament	Art Workshop	Heraldry of the Chiefs		Craft Fair or Croft Visit	MacLeods Tables climb Beach hike Rededication of Emigrants Wall
2pm				DNA Update			
3pm			Croft visit	Croft Visit			
4pm							
5pm		Mervyl and Stanley McLeod Trust Memorial Lecture					
6pm			Tables Dinner	Tables Dinner	Tables Dinner	The Sword Experience	
7pm	Wine and cheese reception, hosted by CMS England	Community reception hosted by CMS Scotland	Ceilidh	Silent auction	Whisky Tasting	Bratwurst and beer on the pier Group photo	Clan Ball Presentation of Bill and Ceebee McLeod Memorial Award
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							

“Get Your Gaelic On!”

A new column in ‘The Leod Voice’ will feature a Scots Gaelic word or phrase.
Need a phrase for your 2026 trip to Skye or your next Scottish event
Send in your request to the editor , see if your word will be selected
in the Spring 2026 issue.

Let’s Begin!

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!”

is

“Nollaig Chrìdheil agus Bladhna Mhath Ùr!”

Pronounced as: NO-lik KHREE-yel ah-gus BLEE-e-na VAH OOR

Click the links below for audio - be a pro at your holiday dinners and events:

NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL

AGUS

BLIADHNA MHATH ÙR



Clan MacLeod Society of Canterbury
November 2025

Greetings Clansfolk,

A week has flown by since last Saturday and the Hororata Highland Games. It was good to welcome Bruce McLeod from Helensville this year. Bruce is the President of Clan MacLeod Auckland these days. Last year at Hororata I was surprised to meet Bruce's identical twin brother Stewart who was on holiday in the South Island and attended the Games in his MacLeod kilt. The joke was I had not realised Bruce was a twin and Stewart kept getting called "Bruce" all day!! Stewart and I had a laugh texting Bruce saying he could have told me he was coming!! The outcome was I invited Bruce to come down to Canterbury this year, which he duly did, so as to go onto Greymouth and visit his son Robert. Thank you, Bruce for coming and carrying the MacLeod banner in the Opening Parade. It was also good to see June Sinclair, Secretary of Clan MacLeod Central Otago there with her sister Pearl and niece, and to have a quick word with another member Peter Bowmar from Wanaka. Quite a little gathering! It was a great day out, with the weather treating us very kindly and a crowd of 11,000. I take my hat off to the HHG Organising committee with emails the day before to ticket holders welcoming us to the Games the next day and 2 days later, a 'Thank you for coming' email as well.

Hororata Highland Games Christmas Get Together : Wednesday 3rd December 2025 6 pm at the Rose & Thistle Tavern, Main North Road, Papanui Christmas Dinner get together. This is an invitation to members to join clansfolk from other Clans . The Scottish Heritage group are organising this and are inviting members of the Clans to join us. Paul the Publican of the Rose & Thistle kindly sponsors Willie McArthur as an attraction in Clan Square at the Hororata Highland Games. He also runs the monthly Scottish Fling at the Rose & Thistle on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4.30pm – 7.30pm with Willie entertaining . Many of us from the various meet on these occasions. Last year we held our Christmas meal at the Rose & Thistle instead of the Hornby Workingmens' Club. We enjoyed it last year with the room practically to ourselves and a Christmas meal on the menu at a reasonable price. As almost half our groups membership live outside of Christchurch, this is an opportunity for the members from Christchurch to get together. RSVP to me 027 758n 4485 or clanmamcleodcanterburynz@gmail.com by 1st December , so I can let Ann Smith of Clan Donald and the Scottish Heritage Council know the numbers. St Andrew's Day Sunday 30 November 2025 – Rose & Thistle Tavern, 5pm are putting on an evening of celebration of things Scottish from 5pm see the poster at end of this newsletter. Let me know if you plan on coming as we have to book .

Forthcoming events in 2026: Clan MacLeod New Zealand Annual General Meeting in May 2026, It is Clan MacLeod Canterbury's turn to organise this for May. We have representatives from the 6 Clan MacLeod groups in NZ come for a business meeting. Our branch usually provide the morning tea and lunch on the day. It is also an opportunity for local members to sit in and see the proceedings on the day.

Secretary Treasurer,
Mary Clark Fiona White



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY OF CENTRAL ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Greetings Clansfolk,

It is now halfway through October and the weather is confusing us all. While there were a few days of fall temperatures, this weekend was a balmy 20 degrees and my sons were walking around in shorts. I hope that this finds you all in good health and that you were able to spend quality time with family this month - even if it was gathered around the television to catch the Jays playoff games!



We had a fantastic ceilidh at the end of May and I was so thrilled to see so many of you there. The venue seemed to be a great fit for many and we hope to use the facility again in the spring. A special thank you to Grace and Doug Wiebe for hosting us at their church. Connections are the lifeblood of the clan society and you two have been so helpful in offering us opportunities to try new places and activities.

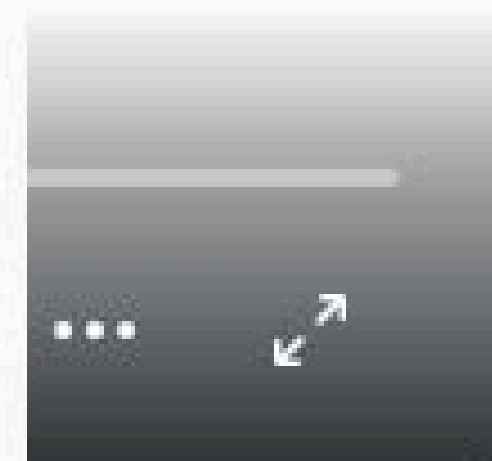
This coming summer is Parliament and I hope that many of you are considering attending. It is an amazing experience and helps to really connect you to the land and the history of our ancestors. When I talk to my students in class, many do not know the history of their families. Beyond their immediate ancestry (many can only trace their family to their grandparents), they do not know much about the land of their immigrant parents or grandparents, and there is little opportunity in our educational system for them to explore the events and the circumstances that shaped the journey of those that came before them.

We are trying something new for our Fall Social this year. Although I love our ceilidhs, I often feel that I have not had enough time to simply talk to my fellow clansfolk, most of whom I only see once or twice a year. This year, the executive has opted to meet for a brunch at the Canadiana in west end Etobicoke (not far from the 427). The menu has many options and we have reserved a private room on November 22nd. I hope you are able to join us.

Hold Fast,

Karen Macleod McCrimmon

President, Clan MacLeod Society of Central Ontario



[CMS Central Ontario Interactive Fall Magazine](#)

Why Should You Submit Your DNA?

I joined a DNA project with the Clan MacLeod Society in 2006, which was to find the descendants of MacLeod's as well as other sept's, Norse etc. That same year we visited the island of Berneray where my forefathers are from and met cousins for the first time. Cousin Mary Ann MacDonald did up our family tree descending from Sir Norman MacLeod in the 1640's for me.

Over the years I would occasionally be emailed from Family Tree DNA about a match. I originally started with a few markers but over the years it became evident that you may as well go for the top right off the bat, which is called the big Y, which is 111 markers it is more expensive but worth it in the long run. My first contact was Ronnie MacLeod who was very skeptical about being related to me, so I consulted my family tree that Mary Anne had drawn up for me and told him that his grandfather was my grandfather's oldest brother. He had been married twice, his first wife having died from the Spanish flu in 1918, after which he adopted his first children out and took a new wife. He had 3 children from the first wife and 6 children from the second marriage which Ronnie was descended from. So, I was able to put Ronnie in touch with his older half-brother Allan, and he was blown away.

The next DNA story concerns Norman Malcolm MacLeod who lives in London England and is a DNA match to me.

We were able to visit him in 2018 and saw that he is on his computer many hours of the day trying to find where he comes off the tree. Through these investigations he has found other relatives through another DNA lab, one being Neil McConnell and another Allan MacLeod. This Allan MacLeod, who I met in 1972 at a youth hostel in Zermatt Switzerland, blew me a few tunes on his pipes, so I suggested we go to the pub after supper, but he said he couldn't afford to, so I gave him my peaked Royal Stewart cap and told him to go busk on the corner. He busked for about an hour and made 47 francs, whereas I had been making 9 francs an hour operating a hammer head crane in construction, so he did very good. He couldn't believe it last year when I emailed him making inquiries about piping in Zermatt. My comment was "where do you think you got the peaked cap from". I scanned a picture that I had of him playing his pipes in the pub and sent it to him. After 50 years we met again here in my home in Duncan, where we had a wonderful time.

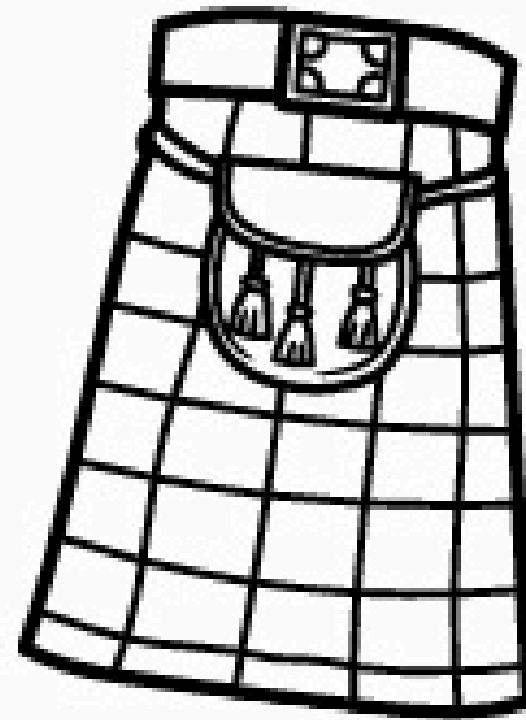
I would highly recommend everyone to send in your DNA to Family Tree. It is a good company with a huge MacLeod database. Higher marker testing is expensive, but it is the only way to get real meaningful results. The more people who test, adds greatly to the end result.

Malcolm MacLeod, President
CMS Vancouver Island

CANADA MACLEOD TARTAN MERCHANDISE

**Ever felt like you didn't quite fit in?
We've got just the thing!**

Buy some Clan MacLeod
Canada Tartan gear and
become the talk of the
ceilidh!



Heavy wool perfect
for kilts also
available!



Lightweight Tartan - \$65/m

Tam - \$50

Tie - \$25

Serape Cape - \$150

Long Sash - \$40

Shipping separate

For all inquiries,
please contact

Carol MacCrimmon at

c_maccrimmon@hotmail.com

scottish history

U P X S T O Q D Z Q B T R A P L Q P A T R I O T
H X Q P R L E G D I R B G N I L R I T S R B L G
F T R O R K P W A L T E R S C O T T C G A S L Y
D L A J J D Y N P W A L L A C E M O N U M E N T
Q Y D E D R A W D E G N I K M B E C O A A I F G
H V E V D W J A K X W Q Y I M G J A F F W Y R C
S A F E W Y P N C K M H J Z S W N S J D U A E U
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T B A T T L E O F F A L K I R K R A I Q R Z D T
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D G X D J W Y H E V Q J L T B D K T A H V P M D
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K R B N S C Z L I X I D I B T U Q E E O G M E G
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H R Y R E N F R E W O M L P G E K I F K R G M A
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X A M A R Y G U E E N O F S C O T S C X N A O N
Q D G O D U Z D R S B W H Z C S C O N E R L G Z

mary queen of scots
wallace monument
andrew de mory
king edward
ayrshire
renfrew
death

war for indpendence
wallace's sword
walter scott
casualties
patriot
escape
scone

battle of falkirk
stirling bridge
abbey Craig
execution
freedom
defeat
trap

Answer Key on Page 26

Calling All Volunteers!

Our national president Chris Hodge has put out a call seeking individuals who have a passion and knowledge to help modernize and expand our communication efforts for members and friends of the CMSC. Opportunities listed below:

Webmaster
and
Social Media Coordinator

If you are interested in either of these volunteer roles please reach out to Chris Hodge via email at

archiehodge76@gmail.com

Thank you!



Tributes
for
Irene MacCrimmon

on behalf of the Clan MacLeod Societies Worldwide

It was with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Irene and on behalf of all at ACMS I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Carol and to her family. Irene will be greatly missed all those who knew her, both Clan MacLeod in Canada and in other Clan MacLeod Societies around the world. Our thoughts are with you all at this sad time.

With Our Very Best Wishes,

Alasdair McLeod

President | Associated Clan MacLeod Societies | www.clanmacleod.org | Email: president@clanmacleod.org

With thanks to President Alasdair I have been made aware of the major event that took place for Clan MacLeod in Canada, when the special portal was opened and the loving and superb person of Irene was welcomed to the vault of heaven, which lies above Canada and every other sovereign nation that preaches love, compassion, joy, happiness and forgiveness for all and one and one and all.. Memories of her hugs and welcomes to Skye, to Parliament and to Guelph and other North American gatherings will abide with me until that time when I will leave this earth and try my luck in the next. She was such an amazing woman whose hallmarks were generosity, a dazzling smile and an unstoppable love for people. May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Yours Aye,

Ian of Perth

President of the Clan MacLeod Society in Western Australia



Tributes
for

Irene MacCrimmon

on behalf of the Clan MacLeod Societies Worldwide

I was saddened to learn of Irene's passing and send my deepest sympathy to Carol and all the family. Such a Monarch she was and the Matriarch to the Clan and of her family. Visiting clansfolk at Borreraig in Scotland and at home in Guelph always cheered her. I recall our boat trip to their island in Georgian Bay with such pleasure. I don't know where to start in expressing my respect and love for Irene. I will reflect on our several visits each time I wear the artistic hummingbird top she painted for me; our mutual love of the delicate birds brings her image to my mind so frequently.

I am thankful that she ensured Carol's active interest and participation in Clan MacLeod and that I was honoured to pass on the CMSC Presidential Chain of Office to her that day at the Victoria Scottish Centre. Irene's diligent work of getting the MacLeod Genealogical Records started was most impressive and useful to those who want to research their ancestry.

Irene was very involved in many aspects of CMS Central Ontario in her quiet and thoughtful way, supporting Hugh when he was CMSC President and receiving the Clans Family of the Year many years ago at Parliament in Dunvegan. Such are my warm thoughts and reflections of Irene and Hugh as a couple dedicated to growing the clan and educating so many of us in its history and past activities. A great lady has passed through my life and I look forward to reliving our travels sometime in the future.

Sincere Regards,
Judy Tipple
Past President of CMSC
and 'The Leod Voice' Editor

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Irene MacCrimmon this September in her 102nd year. She and her late husband Hugh MacCrimmon joined the Clan MacLeod Society of Ontario in the 1960s. Hugh took on many leadership roles within the clan, including the role of President of the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada, but Irene was not to be outdone by her spouse. Over the years she participated in all areas of Clan life, including entertainment, ceilidhs, Clan events such as North American Gatherings, Clan Parliaments in Dunvegan, and planning events for our membership. She had a keen interest in genealogy and produced three books of her collections of data and encouraged our members to pursue their own histories and connections to their Scottish inheritance.

We extend our deepest condolences to members of her family on their loss.

I was at Parliament in 1982 when I first met Irene (and husband Hugh and daughter Carol). Over the years, we met at local ceilidhs, NAGs and Parliaments. Eventually, I was invited to visit at their cottage on Honey Harbour. The last few years (pre-Covid), Irene and I travelled together to Honey Harbour several times a year. Each drive gave Irene and I lots of time to talk about many things. How lucky I was to have these special times with such a dear friend. I will miss her. Goodnight Irene.

Cathy White

Flowers of the Forest



It was with sadness that I learnt this afternoon from former CMS Scotland president Rory McLeod of the passing of his mother Pat McLeod. Pat was well known to many of you from Clan MacLeod societies around the world and had many friends through Parliaments and other events over a lifetime of close involvement with the Society. On behalf of all at ACMS I have extended our sincere condolences to Rory, Pat's husband Derek, and the family. Pat will be greatly missed by all those who knew her; both Clan MacLeod in Scotland, and around the world. Our thoughts are with them all at this sad time.

Alasdair McLeod | President | Associated Clan MacLeod



Allan Willard MacLeod, born April 29th, 1930 in Antigonish N.S. and raised in Mulgrave N.S. was promoted to glory November 28th, 2025. A graduate of London Bible Institute and Wheaton College, he was called to be the 1st pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Huntsville. Allan also started another church plant in southern France. He continued preaching in his retirement in northern Quebec, Cape Breton, and wherever needed. He also taught Bible Studies for many years. Volunteering in at a myriad of charities and CMS Central Ontario, for his great service to the community, Allan was honoured with an award from Mayor Hazel McCallion. A man of deep faith and strong principles; he was loved, respected, and will be missed by many.

Clan MacLeod Society of Central Ontario



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of our dear friend and Clansperson, Irene MacCrimmon, at the age of 102. She was known globally amongst the Clan MacLeod Societies through her decades of service, and she will be dearly missed.

Chris Hodge
President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada and Greater Vancouver



A Sneak Peek ...

to an exciting soon to be published book from our own Ian MacLeod, release date and more info in *'The Lead Voice'* Spring 2026.

"It's Been a Blast! My Sometimes Interesting, Humorous and Unique Life Stories"

Here is what the editor for Archway Publishing (agents for Simon & Shuster) had to say about it:

"a lively, interesting overview of your life experiences in many diverse areas from politics to ice hockey. It is no easy feat to engage and entertain a reader with a memoir of someone they don't know, but you have succeeded at this by providing enough interesting information, comedic experiences and human interest to cause the book to be read more as a story than a list of accomplishments and life events with a bit of exposition thrown in."



The book cover photo, 1999 I was dressed in my formal kilted regalia and seated at the head table at the wrap up gala at a BC Chamber AGM. The after-dinner entertainer called me up on stage for some "volunteer" participation. So, I entertained, by showing a bit of leg!

(I was wearing the MacLeod of Lewis tartan, aka the "loud MacLeod" – a fitting description.)

Ian MacLeod

Former CMSC President 2004-2008

Reminder!

2026 is just around the corner;
contact your local society to renew
your annual membership with Clan
MacLeod Societies of Canada.

The New Year also brings exciting
Scottish cultural events such as
Hogmanay and **Burns Night**,
gatherings not to missed by our
members and community. Reach
out to your society for ticket and
event information near you!

ROBERT BURNS DINNER

*University Club
of Toronto*

*Friday Jan 23rd
6.30pm-10pm*

\$155 for members

*\$165 for non-
members*



Hosted by St. Andrew's Society of Toronto

Click Below to Purchase Tickets

Robbie Burns 2026



PETERBOROUGH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOGOJIWANONG EST. 1897



Help us ring in the New Year at Hutchison House with a Hogmanay celebration from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on, January 1, 2026. Our first-footer will be “piped in” at precisely 1 p.m. January 1st with a rousing rendition of ‘Burns’ Address to a Haggis’ to follow shortly thereafter. Visitors will enjoy tours of the museum as well as samples of the taste of Scotland throughout the afternoon. Fiddle music, dancing and the skirl of the bagpipe and drum will round out the day. Plan to drop in to wish new friends and old neighbours the best for the coming year.

Admission prices: adults \$15.00; children \$10.00; family rate \$40.00 (2adults/2+ children). Athol Brose sold separately. This is a ‘drop-in’ affair. Space at the museum is limited and in order to accommodate visitors to this popular event and we would respectfully ask participants to keep the length of their visit as short as possible to avoid overcrowding. For more information call the museum at (705) 743-9710.

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A Prospectors Golden Tale

My grandfather, Donald MacLeod was in Montréal in 1905 at the age of 18. Shortly thereafter he spent some time in Glengarry County Ontario before making his way to Victoria British Columbia where there was a community of Scottish people, predominantly from the Western Isles. From there he travelled to the Yukon where he met two fellows, Alex Matheson and John Beaton whom he befriended and partnered with.

In 1907 my grandfather and Matheson were prospecting west of Fairbanks and Beaton had continued downriver to Ruby. Apparently, one cold wintery night my grandfather was alone in their cabin, Matheson having gone for supplies, grandfather was reading the Bible, the only reading material he had, something about Satan. Suddenly he was startled by a knock at the door, and he thought that must be Satan. On answering the door there was a young native boy asking if he could come in and get warmed up and have a cup of coffee. The following conversation took place.

The young lad asked,

“What’s your name?” “Donald” was the answer, “Mine too, what’s your other

name?” “MacLeod.” “Mine too!” then he asked my grandfather in Gaelic, “Do you speak Gaelic?” His father was of Highland origin who had taken a native wife and taught his children to speak Gaelic as well as English.

There was a Donald MacLeod mentioned as helping the first Franklin overland expedition in the 1840s. They called him the ever-reliable Donald MacLeod. The native lad could have been one of his descendants.

Grandfather and Matheson continued prospecting where they were, while Beaton had found another partner called Dikeman. They had made their way into the Iditarod country and were prospecting Otter Creek where they struck gold. Grandfather and Matheson joined him there later when a community had grown up called Flat Creek which was a tributary of Otter Creek. Quite often he would travel to Victoria in the wintertime where there were lots of Berneray people.

I don't know if my grandparents knew each other in Scotland or did they meet in Victoria, but they were married there on November 4, 1914, and my father was born in Alaska on 30 August 1915. The wedding was held at the home of the Munro's who could have been related to my grandfather since his mother was a Munro, and the bride was given away by Norman Patterson MacDonald who was a good friend of the groom, and from Berneray as well.

Grandfather was also a poet and his poetry was published in newspapers as far south as California. There was a lot of Gaelic spoken in those days, I think second only to English. One day Granddad and a friend were taking a tour on the trolley bus and when a very stout lady got on board and asked the conductor for a transfer and his friend said in Gaelic, "it's a truck she needs, rather than a transfer." She turned around and slapped his face.

Malcolm MacLeod, President
CMS Vancouver Island



EDITOR'S NOTES



Greetings to the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada and our members world wide!

I hope you find yourself reading our 2025 fall edition of 'The Leod Voice' throughly enjoying your holidays with family and friends. A bit of my background for our readers; I joined the CMS of Greater Vancouver in the early 2000's and having moved back east to Northern Ontario I renewed as a national member. Clan MacLeod members and friends who purchased the 'Scottish Exodus' novel by Dr. James Hunter would have read the immigration story of my ancestors on pages 304-305 (a small typo, I am 4th generation Scottish Canadian). More recently a brief autobiography and history with CMSC in the 'Clan MacLeod Magazine' ,No. 139 October 2024,pages 20-22 distributed by the ACMS.

I am honoured to have been selected as 'The Leod Voice' editor by our societies executives and grateful for the opportunity to assist the CMSC and its members with our national clan communications. I will do my utmost to uphold and reflect our values, heritage, and culture. Looking forward to working alongside our volunteers, members, and directors at a local, national, and global level.

Hold Fast and Shine Brightly,

Ealasaid (Elizabeth) McLeod-Rivera, cMLA/T ^{MLPAO}

'The Leod Voice' Editor

E-Mail: ealasaidr@gmail.com



EDITOR'S NOTES



scottish history

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- mary guen of scots
- wallace monument
- andrew de mory
- king edward
- ayrshire
- renfrew
- death
- war for indpendence
- wallace's sword
- walter scott
- casualties
- patriot
- escape
- scone
- battle of falkirk
- stirling bridge
- abbey Craig
- execution
- freedom
- defeat
- trap