



The Rowan Tree



Number 58

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

www.clanlachlan.ca

Hon. Patron, Euan Maclachlan of Maclachlan, Chief of Clan Lachlan

President's Message

Greetings Members & Friends of Clan Lachlan,

This may be the last membership letter which I write.

My present memory span is close to 100 years, going back to my parents in 1910. I have suffered direct hits from German bombs in the Clydeside blitz. Later, before the Berlin Wall came down, I negotiated major industrial projects for US & Swiss partners with German, Russian and Polish companies. My roots in Scotland & Canada were an advantage. Rabbie Burns was a plus in Russia.

I would like to thank Ken, Neil, Jean and David for their efforts to maintain Society Membership.

In the immediate future we need someone to act as Treasurer, as David MacLachlan is not in a position to act in that capacity.

With Best Wishes

Yours Aye

Duncan MacLachlan - #41

Chief's Commissioner,

Executive Trustee Lachlan Trust of Canada,

President Clan Lachlan Association of Canada.

Editor's Note: You probably will get a sense from the above message that our President, Duncan, may soon be contemplating formally stepping down from his position, and his many responsibilities on behalf of our Association.

Of course, if he decides to do so, we wish him well, and offer our thanks for his many years of dedication and service to the cause, not only of our Clan Lachlan Association, but also to the preservation of the Kilmorie

Chapel, and to Old Castle Lachlan, in Scotland. But, if the Association is to survive, and remain viable and meaningful, we will need a member to step forward and offer his or her services for the positions of President, as well as Treasurer. As well, there are currently other “interim”, and un-filled positions that you will see by looking at the last page of this newsletter.

So, I hope that this message does not cast a dark pall over our current situation, but rather outlines the pressing challenges that we face if we are to survive. I welcome any volunteers, and ideas, that would permit us to move forward, and embody our clan motto “Fortis er Fidus”.

Please contact me at ken.godfrey1@gmail.com if you are able to help.

Clan MacLachlan on Facebook

You might want to look at the CMS Facebook page, which enables you to post information, ask questions, and view updates (as they occur).

<http://www.facebook.com/ClanMacLachlanSociety>

Another website which may be of interest to you is the

Scots Tongue Website

<http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/general/scots.html>

Ceud Mile Failte: 100,000 Welcomes to our New Members

Full Members

There are no new members to welcome for this Spring issue of “The Rowan Tree”.

Note: Due to privacy concerns, stemming from new Federal legislation, we are no longer publishing full addresses of new members. However, should an individual member wish to contact another member, we can put both in touch with each other.

Flowers of the Forest

Helen Burtch (nee MacLachlan) Mulligan - #340



It is with heavy hearts that the family announces the sudden passing of Helen at her home, on October 28, 2021, in her 79th year. She has rejoined with her loving husband Ralph (2017) of 52 years. Cherished mother, and

proud “Grammar”, she will be lovingly remembered by Judith (Dale) and Brian (Jennifer), Grandchildren Anthony (Hope), Aiden Punturiero, Avery, Reese Mulligan and Nathan Hagedorn. Helen was predeceased by her parents Hugh and Mildred MacLachlan (1991).

Helen had a lifelong career in healthcare that started as a graduate of Brantford General Hospital School of Nursing in 1964. She continued as an active member of the Nurses Alumni Association serving as president for many years. Following her retirement from nursing, Helen served as an active member of the community on many boards and committees. She served as County Councillor of the County of Brant from 2000-2006, a volunteer board member of Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant, LHIN, Grand River Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team, and Brant Community Foundation. She was the former Chairman of the Board of the Brant County Health Unit, Grand River Community Health Centre, South Dumfries Non-Profit Housing Corporation, and Brantford General Hospital Foundation. She took great pleasure in her family, her travels and in her watercolor paintings. Helen loved living in St. George until her move to Paris.

In lieu of flowers, donations are greatly appreciated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Brantford General Hospital or Brant Community Health Care Foundation. In keeping with Helen's wishes, friends and family were invited to join in her celebration of life, which was held at the St. George Arena, 7 Gaukel Drive, St. George Ontario on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Cremation had taken place. Private family interment took place later.

Published on November 3, 2021, by the Brantford Expositor newspaper.

Submitted by Jane Thompson - #1475

Editor's Note: Helen Mulligan was Jane Thompson's cousin. Helen was an avid family historian and she and Jane shared photos and information in this pursuit.

Invitation to View Contents of Electric Scotland Website

Alastair has a huge amount of Scottish content on his web site, and you are most welcome to view and enjoy its offerings. There are tons of humour, stories, recipes, children's stories, general articles, and much more.

Alastair McIntyre FSA Scot
Electric Scotland
<http://www.electricscotland.com>
<http://www.electriccanadian.com>

Scotland's Sacred Isles

There's a new TV series with Ben Fogle on Scotland's Sacred Isles. Episode one is the Inner Hebrides, taking in Tiree, Coll, Treshnish Isles and Iona.

It is now available to watch on YouTube here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S5nBCj1tIs>
Thanks to the Mull Genealogy Group for this web link.

Scottish Studies Foundation Spring 2022



The Centre will not be hosting a Spring Colloquium this year. Kevin James (the Chair) is on research leave this semester, so we have reduced the Centre's activities for the Spring.

There is a free livestream event presented by VisitScotland (see details below) that you can share widely with your Association.

The event will feature a Cabinet Secretary from the Scottish Parliament.

Below are the details, including the Zoom invitation. No registration is required.



Modern Day Scotland: Moving Forward with a Sustainable Recovery for the Travel & Tourism Industry

Join representatives from the **Scottish Government** and **VisitScotland**, together with a select panel of travel experts, for a presentation and Q&A session on the challenges and opportunities around sustainable recovery and responsible tourism in modern-day Scotland.

Date: Tuesday, 5 April 2022

Time: 9:45 – 10:40 AM (ET)

Chair: Dr Malcolm Campbell, Vice-President (Research)

Join us on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95897063048>

Presented by VisitScotland, in partnership with the Scottish Government Office in Ottawa and the University of Guelph's Centre for Scottish Studies.



New Gaspé Tartan

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/gasp%C3%A9-gets-an-official-tartan-1.6273841>

The Gaspé region of the Province of Québec, in Canada, now has its own official tartan, thanks to a team effort sparked by the initiative of a bagpipe player and brought to life by the knowledge and expertise of a Quebec City kilt-maker.

Benoît Poulin, a bagpipe player from Matane, Que., about 500 km north of the provincial capital, found the more he learned about Scottish culture and music, the more he grew to love it. Given Scotland's deep roots in the region of Gaspé, he felt that connection should be materialized.

"It happened about five years ago," he said. "The idea [to create a Gaspé tartan] came to me spontaneously and I started doing some research."

"Back then I knew that one was in the works for the Saguenay [region] and I said to myself, 'Well it would be good to have one for *chez nous* in Gaspésie?'"

Poulin reached out to Patrice MacLeod, a photographer, kilt-designer and kilt-maker in Quebec City, credited as the co-inventor of Gaspé's tartan.

"Patrice said it was doable and we just had to find a motif that corresponded to the region," said Poulin.

The pair found their source of inspiration in an unofficial Gaspé flag, created by historian Marc-Antoine Deroy in 2001, that Poulin says has been proudly adopted by people in the region.

Using the colours of the flag as a starting point, MacLeod completed a design that was sent off to Scotland to be evaluated by the Scottish Register of Tartans.

To be formally approved, tartans have to be new and unique, respect the criteria of the [Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008](#) and show a clear connection between the person registering the tartan and the proposed tartan name.



Poulin says the design was approved but the register told him they needed a person of authority for the Gaspé region to sign off on it. He says he contacted Jonatan Julien, the provincial minister responsible for the Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine region, who loved the idea and signed the letter needed to finalize the process.

Cultural connection

Patrice Lambert MacLeod, the 6th. Chieftain of the MacLeod clan of Saguenay, says the people of Quebec and Scotland don't just share a love for fiddle music, dancing and cheerful celebrations — they actually come from the same place.

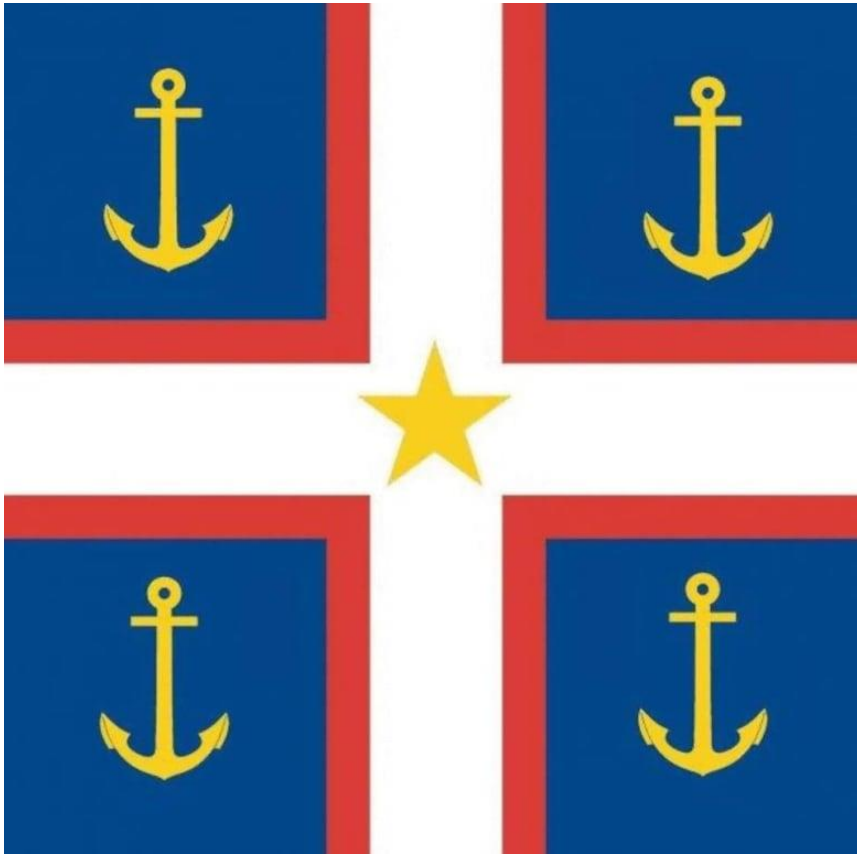
"It's important to not forget that Québécois culture is of French origin and France is Celtic," he said. "The Gaulois were a confederation of Celtic tribes."

MacLeod explains that while there were a great number of diverse Celtic tribes across Europe, culturally and linguistically they shared a lot of similarities and were able to communicate with each other.

"It's a culture that dates back to 2,000 BCE," he said, "and the tartan itself has existed since at least 3,500 years BCE."

"The tartan isn't necessarily Scottish," he said.

"The Scottish, particularly the Highlanders, adopted it as their national symbol but it doesn't necessarily belong to them, historically speaking. It's Celtic."



This unofficial Gaspé flag, created in 2001, has become popular among people in the region and inspired the design of the region's official tartan — an idea that started with Benoît Poulin and was brought to life by Patrice MacLeod.

Ancient history, modern art

MacLeod retired from commercial kilt-making last year but says he still has a workshop and is happy to lend his expertise to people like Poulin who come to him with passion projects like the Gaspé tartan.

He's been making kilts for 25 years and since he started, he's also studied Scottish history, genealogy and traditional weaving.

"I learned by making kilts," he said. "Making kilts got me interested in tartans, which in turn got me into weaving, learning all of the techniques behind it ... subtle rules that aren't necessarily written down and are part of the visual art."

MacLeod says the familiar plaid pattern is traditionally created by hand and involves weaving the vertical stripes, known as a warp, and the horizontal stripes, known as a weft, at sharp right angles.

"Real kits are made by hand and tailored," he said. "The tartan itself is the design, not the object."

He says kilts have different layers of symbolism and detail, depending on their significance.

"There's a dominant base colour, for example, hunting tartans will be predominantly green, while tartans for celebrations will be more colourful, they'll have more red, yellow, pale blues. The black line in a tartan, represents the ink of written history."



Patrice Lambert MacLeod is the 6th chieftain of the MacLeod clan of Saguenay and has been making kilts and studying both his family tree and Scottish history for 25 years. (Submitted by Patrice MacLeod)

MacLeod says tartans aren't just used to make kilts. Once a design is approved and registered in Scotland, it becomes part of the public domain and can be used in ties, scarves, shawls — anything made of wool.

Asked what having their own tartan means to people of a particular region like the Gaspé, MacLeod said it all comes down to an individual's sense of belonging, cultural pride and an understanding of their family and

regional history.

In his case, he's traced his family tree branch by branch over the years, visited Scotland to learn more about his heritage and created a tartan for his own region of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, along with the one he designed for the Gaspé .

"When I went to Scotland in 2013, I had the impression I was returning home," he said, "even though our family has been in Quebec for six generations. [The connection] is very deep, it's very hard to explain."

MacLeod says it costs a lot to have a tartan woven in Scotland, which is part of the reason it took some time to bring Poulin's idea to life. But now the design has been sent to a weaver there who will be sending fabric back to MacLeod, who will create a custom kilt for Poulin.

"It's a symbol that brings people together," he said. "If someone identifies more with Gaspésie, they'll choose the Gaspésie tartan. If they identify more with a Scottish family name, then they'll choose [that] tartan."

"Today, in a world of people who are scattered and caught up in the 'me, myself and I', having a clear path of identity is the best way to reconsider our community connections."

Submitted by Judy Gauthier #802

Scottish Recipes

The recipes came from Neil Armstrong's mother's hand-written cook book. Neil's mother was Helen [nee McLachlan] Armstrong (1913-2005), and probably got them from her Grandmother McLachlan (i.e. Margaret [McCallum] McLachlan) (1854-1941) as her mother died in child birth when Helen was about 4 years old. She and her brother Neil, who died when he was 5 years of age of the 1918/9 flu epidemic, lived with their Grandparents McLachlan until their father remarried. Their baby sister, Jean, was raised by their other Grandparents, who were Lamonts.



Above photos:

1. Archie & Margaret McLachlan on their 50th wedding anniversary, Nov. 29, 1927
2. Left to Right: Neil, Jean, and Helen McLachlan - (Neil died in 1919)

Carrot Pudding

Carrot pudding recipe is really the base, since Grandma “used up” the fruit and nuts not required for the Christmas cake.

1 cup grated raw carrots	1 cup suet
1 cup grated potatoes	1 cup currants
1 cup raisins	1 cup flour
1 cup sugar	1 tsp. soda

Pinch of salt, cinnamon, mace or nutmeg.

Combine, then pour into greased loaf tin, cover with foil and steam for 4 hours.

Sauce for Carrot Pudding

1 cup brown sugar	½ tsp salt
2 cup boiling water	2 tsp cornstarch
4 tbsp butter	

Mix sugar, cornstarch, salt and water gradually, stirring constantly. Boil for 5 minutes, till clear and thickened, remove from heat, add butter, stir until butter is melted. Keep warm to serve over pudding.

Submitted by Jean Armstrong - #1431

Editor's Note: I selected these 2 recipes from Jean's submission for this issue, as I fondly remember my grandmother, Laura (nee McLachlin) Godfrey making this same carrot pudding for me many years ago (about 65 years ago, in fact!). It was delicious then, and I'm sure will be delicious now!

Highland Games in Canada

Per our friends at CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada), you can check out the upcoming events of Highland Games and Scottish/Celtic Festivals in Canada from April to the end of 2022, by going to their website at www.cassoc.ca, and click on "Events List". This list is the most recent, as they make up-dates to the website as quickly as possible.

Tartan Day – April 6th. An excuse (not that you should need one) to wear a bit of tartan, and to enjoy a "wee dram" of your favourite Scotch Whisky – be it blended or a single malt!

MacLachlans in the News

From the Supreme Court to Mystery Writer

Former Canadian Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin's latest thriller is titled "***Denial***" (published by Simon and Shuster), which is her second courtroom drama featuring defense lawyer, Jilly Truit, the character she introduced in her debut novel, "***Full Disclosure***".

Submitted by Ken Godfrey #802

Ian MacLachlan – Covid's Forgotten Hero

Ian MacLachlan's research has been instrumental in providing the delivery system that made the break-through MNRA Covid vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna possible. However, despite this fact, he has received no royalties, and little recognition, from his contribution!

Read the entire fascinating story through the following web link:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nathanvardi/2021/08/17/covids-forgotten-hero-the-untold-story-of-the-scientist-whose-breakthrough-made-the-vaccines-possible/?sh=5582ffc8354f>

Submitted by Ken Godfrey #802

Scottish Humour



Submitted by Judy Gauthier #802



Editor's Message

Please tell me what you do and don't like about the items in "*The Rowan Tree*", so that we may try to improve its content. Remember, this is your newsletter, and it can only be as good as your input to it, so I welcome your submissions; especially those from new members, and those from outside of Ontario. It is only in this way, that we can expand the geographic appeal of the newsletter.

Ken Godfrey - #802

Remember: If you have moved recently, have you notified CLA of your new address, so you will receive all of your newsletters - i.e. *The Rowan Tree*, and your magazine - i.e. *Clan Lachlan*? Also, if you have recently changed your e-mail address, send any/all of your changes to Ken Godfrey, please, whose names and addresses appear below. Also, remember to keep your Membership Dues current as well. Thank you.

Officers of Branch

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