



# CLAN CAMERON The ONTARIO PIPER

Clan Plant Badge

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Christmas 2007

No. 4

## President's Homily

Merry Christmas to all our Cameron families as we near the Holiday Season. At this time of year we often consider the trials of war, poverty, disease and daily uncertainties of life. Let us all take a moment during this season and count our personal blessings. Not least, the support of our Clan ties.

We had a successful General Meeting in October, and 'officially' tidied up some out-dated wording in our Structure & by-Laws. One key change was changing our year end to the end of September, which means that annual dues now come due the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Please note and remit to Pat for 2008.

Our membership has stayed relatively steady, with 88 families as current members. The Executive group was rewarded for their fine efforts in 2007 with re-election. Unfortunately, Gayle Lunau will be unable to continue as Newsletter Editor, so we are searching for a new volunteer or combination for 2008.

We may have been to a record number of Highland events last year. Please do consider helping out at one. Jeanine Avigdor has undertaken to organize the Ontario Branch Archives. Please think if you might have some memorabilia or meeting minutes, pictures, correspondence etc. which might enhance these records, Mary Garrett has undertaken to update the Branch History.

The Cattle Reiving in September was a great success, and we had the opportunity not only to meet Cameron Folk, but other Clans as well. See Ewan Cameron's report inside. Beth Shepherd is planning to create a pictorial record scrapbook, which will be with us at the Games Tent.

It's not too early to be considering attending the Gathering at Achnarry July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. There are some interested people, but early decisions will be required in order to ensure space. Let me know if you do have an interest and I will circulate information as it arrives.

***Merry Christmas and "Lang May Yer Lum Reek"***

*Slainte, Glenn*

## ***The CLAN CAMERON In North America***

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You are part of the Clan Cameron if your family name or direct ancestry is any one of the following:

Chalmers, Chambers, Clark, Clarke,  
Clarkson, Cleary, Clerk, Dowie, Gibbon,  
Gilbertson, Kennedy, Leary, Lonie, Loney,  
MacAldowie, MacAlonie, MacCherlich,  
MacClair, MacChlery, MacLeary,  
MacGillery, MacGillonie, MacIldownie,  
MacKail, MacLear, MacCleary,  
MacClearie, MacMartin, MacOnie,  
MacOstrich, MacPhail, MacSorley,  
MacUlrig, Macvail, MacWalrick, Martin,  
Paul, Sorley, Sorlie, Taylor

*Do you know someone who might be in these families? Send us their name, and we will send Membership information to you to pass on, or mail directly to them with your compliments*

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ONTARIO BRANCH**

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**Clan Cameron Online  
Affiliate Program**

You can obtain password info for this  
Members only internet newsletter  
from:  
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User name  
/ password

**Branch  
Membership List:**

Our list of Ontario Branch  
Members is a resource for our  
members to maintain links with  
their extended Clan Family. This  
current list is provided for you.

It may not be used outside Ontario  
Branch Members in any fashion.

**Membership Secretary**



**Pat Jansen**

**Have You Renewed ?**  
2008 fees are due at the new  
date of October 1st. If you  
haven't already remitted,  
please do so as soon as  
possible. Dues remain the  
same as last year. If  
necessary, we will send  
reminders in the New Year.

(\$15.00) to:

**Pat Jansen**  
21 George St., Guelph, ON  
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**Crannachan  
or (Cream Crowdie)**

*The frugal, self-sufficient way of life  
that existed in Scotland and still exists  
in some parts today, is evident in this  
simple recipe.*

- 2 tablespoons medium oatmeal
- 1 cup whipping cream,
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp Scots whisky
- 500 grams raspberries
- 2 tbsp rolled oats toasted  
(place on small shallow tray.  
Toast under hot grill until  
lightly golden).

- 1) Place oatmeal in small pan.  
Stir over low heat 5 minutes or  
until lightly toasted. Remove  
from heat; cool completely.
- 2) Using electric beaters, beat  
cream in small mixing bowl  
until soft peaks form. Add  
honey and whisky; beat until  
just combined.
- 3) Fold cooled, toasted oatmeal  
into the cream mixture using a  
metal spoon.
- 4) Begin layering the  
raspberries and cream evenly  
between 6 tall dessert glasses  
ending with the cream.
- 5) Refrigerate for 2 hours. Serve  
sprinkled with toasted oats.

*Step By Step Scottish Cooking*



**Crannachan**

## Commissioner's Quarterly Autumn 2007

Lochaber – “Cameron Country.” I’ve just returned from a week in the West Highlands and am pleased to report that it’s as beautiful in the autumn as in the summer. The changing colors in the landscape, the smell of peat burning in the fireplaces of rural crofts and the absence of most tourists are simply three reasons of many to make the trip. It was my pleasure to meet with Lochiel at Clunes (Achnacarry is under construction at present, with roof and interior work ongoing) on numerous occasions during the visit, and he sent greetings to you all. Our Chief is doing well and he is quite pleased with the dedication, initiative and growth of the North American Branch. The Lochiel family is genuinely appreciative of all the work that our officers and members put forth.

The Scotland Branch of Clan Cameron was also present in Lochaber during my visit, attending the Royal National Mod, which was centered around Fort William. It is a stunning week-long event, with the Gaelic language very much center stage, featuring musical competitions and performances at structured venues and also within various hotels and pubs. The Clan Cameron Association had a “stall” (table) at the Mod, the first time any Scottish clan society has been invited to do so. The location of the Mod varies, but I’d recommend attending one if you ever have the opportunity.

One of my goals for this “working trip” was to institute a scanning initiative at the Clan

Cameron Museum. Over 225 pages of text were brought back to this side of the Atlantic, along with approximately 50 archival-quality photographs; all of these will be processed and added to Clan Cameron Online’s “Archives” in the coming months.

I also attended a 2009 Gathering meeting and did a great deal of “leg work,” speaking to local lodging proprietors and charting out driving distances and times between hotels and B&Bs to both Achnacarry and Fort William (especially helpful for those torn over whether they wish to lodge closer to the Gathering or the restaurants and shopping of Fort William). All of this information, along with a preliminary 2009 Gathering brochure – with events, dates and times – will be posted at Clan Cameron Online in the near future.



Back home within North America, the MoKan Branch recently celebrated the issuance of their Charter from Lochiel. From all reports, their celebration at the St. Louis Highland Games was legendary. South-Central U.S. Regional President Cerise Cameron Blair was pleased to be there, to share in the festivities, enthusiasm and kinship. Congratulations to Dale and Carol Cameron, along with the other dedicated, long-standing members of Missouri and Kansas. A job very well done!

*Thomas A. Cameron*  
*Commissioner North America*



### Clan Cameron Branches

<b>Auckland</b>	New Zealand
<b>Bay of Plenty</b>	New Zealand
<b>Camerons Line</b>	USA
<b>Canterbury</b>	New Zealand
<b>Edinburgh</b>	Scotland
<b>Gisborne</b>	New Zealand
<b>Grandfather Mtn</b>	USA
<b>Highland Prairie</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>Lake Michigan</b>	USA
<b>Lochaber</b>	Scotland
<b>Manawatu</b>	New Zealand
<b>Mokan</b>	USA
<b>New South Wales</b>	Australia
<b>North of England</b>	England
<b>North East</b>	USA
<b>North of England</b>	England
<b>Northern California</b>	USA
<b>Northern Lights</b>	USA
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>Ohio</b>	USA
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>Otago</b>	New Zealand
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	USA
<b>Red River</b>	USA
<b>Rocky Mountain</b>	USA
<b>Scotland</b>	Scotland
<b>South Australia</b>	Australia
<b>Southern California</b>	USA
<b>Stone Mountain</b>	USA
<b>Queensland</b>	Australia
<b>Wairarapa</b>	New Zealand
<b>Wanganui</b>	New Zealand

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### Family Memories ??

We ask Clan Members to recall early memories of your family.

**Share Your Stories!**

Glenn 519-284-0416



## Traditional Scottish Christmas

"How do you celebrate a traditional Scottish Christmas?" You'll find some very ancient, wonderful and interesting facts. But we live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and sadly many of the old traditions aren't kept today. Instead you will find a very modern Christmas in homes everywhere. Of course one thing that a traditional Scottish Christmas has is that normally at 3.00 pm on the television is the recording of the Queen's Speech. Some don't bother watching it, but it is a tradition.

**The Setting.** Please remember that in Scotland we have VERY short days at the end of December. It is dark until around 8.30 am and again about 3.30 pm. Indeed the shortest day is December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The weather is usually quite cold, but not as bitter as other countries. But these short days can be quite depressing. Christmas festivities and lights really cheer people up.

Many homes now do not have an 'open fire' as central heating and imitation gas and electric fires have taken over. I feel very fortunate in that we have a little inglenook fireplace and love to have a log fire on a cold, dark evening. We can do the traditional things like roasting chestnuts and I could sit for hours enjoying the glow of the embers. A tradition in our home is also to have lots of lovely candles around the place. Particularly the sweet-smelling cinnamon ones, or other warm and winter perfumes.

Traditional Scottish Christmas is on the **25<sup>th</sup> December**. The day before is **Christmas Eve**, and the day after **Boxing Day** also known as St. Stephen's Day (when Good King Wenceslas looked out). It is a National Holiday, in the whole UK.

**The Origins of Boxing Day** go back to when the rich, or the Lord and Lady of the Castle or Estate gathered together all their staff and distributed gifts according to status of the worker and the size of their family. Cloth, leather goods, new tools and supplies of salt and spices as well as food such as meat, fish, vegetables, and some fruit and cereals grown on the estate. They were presented in boxes, thus "Boxing Day".

Nowadays, Boxing Day usually hails the first day of the Winter Sales, and folk trail round the shops looking for bargains.

**The Tree** Use of the tree has its origins in Germany. Garden Centres etc. provide locally produced trees, natural or artificial. I personally think there is something wonderful about having the native Scots Pine as a traditional Scottish Christmas tree – it has such a lovely aroma and feels very festive. The lovely fresh smell of the pine against the cosy warmth of the indoors is delightful. Many put up brightly coloured lights.

**The Decorations.** Favourite decorations are to hang holly (with berries), making them into a fresh wreath and garlands up the stairs and over the mantle piece, over a log fire. I love to decorate the tree simply with tartan ribbon made into bows. I change the colour ie. blue tartan one year, reds another etc. I think I am unusual.

The trend for gaudy (and sometimes tacky) decorations has hit our stores. When I was young we put up lots of 'paper' chain decorations, and today you can buy every type; colour shape and size.

Many people decorate the outside of their homes, often on trees. There isn't really a set time for people putting up decorations and lights. Some at the beginning of December, others wait until Christmas Eve.



### Scottish Christmas Day Menu

A beautifully-laid table for Christmas Dinner is a sight to behold. One tradition is the use of Christmas Crackers. These are pulled, and create a wee 'bang'. Inside are trinkets, a joke, a wee toy or gift, and the inevitable paper hat. Yes, I think almost everyone sits though Christmas Dinner wearing a silly paper hat!

**Starters:** Perhaps it's because of the cold weather, but soup is often served. It could be Cock O Leekie Soup or Carrot and coriander. Smoked salmon, or something 'lighter' such as melon served with ginger and port.

**Mains:** The traditional Scottish Christmas Dinner is usually Roast Turkey, served with Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips, stuffing (either forcemeat and/or chestnut), bacon rolls and chipolata sausages, brussel sprouts, carrots, peas. This is usually served with gravy, bread sauce and cranberry jelly. Other choices are Roast Angus Beef, Roast Pork, Roast Goose, Venison, Salmon, Chicken, Pheasant or even steak pie.

**Dessert:** The delicious and Traditional Scottish Christmas Pudding is usually served, either with brandy butter, rum sauce, custard or fresh cream. Others might make the similar dish of 'Cloutie Dumpling'. However, these are all 'heavy' desserts - lighter alternatives might be a trifle or Crannachan, made with raspberries, whisky, cream and oats.



Of course, the famous mince pie (sweet pie that is) is served some time throughout the day. The traditional Scottish Christmas Cake is also served during the day - this cake is a rich fruit cake with marzipan and royal icing on top. A variety of homemade Shortbread or sweets (candy) might also be available such as Tablet. Of course, many people still have fruit and nuts as well as chocolates and other 'fattening' stuff available.

From: [www.scotlands-enchanting-kingdom.com](http://www.scotlands-enchanting-kingdom.com)

## *The True Canadian*

In this day and age, to be a true Canadian is to be a pot pourri of wonderful genetic mixtures that makes each of us distinctive. If you have generations of history in this country, you **are** a true Canadian, blended by the hand of the creator.

It was easy to trace the proud Scottish heritage in my mother's family with names like Cameron, MacKenzie, Garvie and Hurd in the mixture. My great great grandfathers came to Canada in the early 1800s, in some cases very likely driven from their land by the Highland Clearance. They were tempted by the promise of new lands. They were true pioneers, facing many hardships, as they worked uncultivated land which became available by the Indian Treaties. Some of the men of these families were hired to build houses for the displaced aboriginal peoples.

My very Scottish mother fell in love with a young French Canadian fisherman, who had some aboriginal background, along with English and Irish. (Together they shared 70 years of marriage, still going strong, and all the ups and downs of life raising a family and making a living)

In the 1980's it became apparent that our French Canadian/Aboriginal ancestors were descended from the Fur-Trade era here. The early European voyageurs and courier de bois had intermarried with the native "maidens", creating a unique aboriginal people, called Métis.

The Couture name was found on the "Drummond Island" list. The story of Drummond Island was that the fur traders, natives and military situated on the island were removed by the Americans in the War of 1812, and were relocated to Penetanguishene, Ontario. From there they drifted around the Great Lakes and took advantage of the bountiful fishing. The "French Village" just outside the city of Owen Sound consisted of a group of these Métis fishermen. They were identified as "squatters" and were displaced as the settlers came into the territory.

In 1993 the Métis Nation of Ontario was formed. My father received his citizenship into the Métis Nation of Ontario and, at the age of 92, is an elder of that organization. My siblings and I also applied and received our citizenship. I have served as Senator in the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council for the past 4 years, representing my community as an elder.

In listening to and learning of the patterns of human behavior, it seems that every country, every nation has gone through a similar displacement. Powerful forces take control and the common people have to move on, to dislodge another community, who in turn, must uproot and take solace somewhere else.

History repeats itself over and over again. My hope is that there will come a time when we can all live in peace, as one people. After all, just look at the nations that I represent, and I am at complete peace with myself.

I proudly display my Scotch heritage, as a member of the Cameron Clan and the MacKenzie Clan. I am thrilled by the Celtic music and the Scottish traditions are a proud part of my legacy. The bagpipes touch my very soul.

I celebrate my Métis heritage as a Senator. I feel the heartbeat of Mother Earth in the drums of my aboriginal factors.

The French influence gives me pleasure in the old-time fiddle music. There are the English and Irish elements in my makeup also, all components of me as a person. I am distinctive, and I am indeed proud to be such a unique blend.

**I am a True Canadian!!!**

*Leora (Couture) Wilson  
Ontario Branch*



Metis Flag

The Métis flag was carried by the French 'half-breeds' with pride. The figure in the centre of a blue field represents the joining of two cultures and as an infinity symbol, represents the immortality of a nation.

As part of a gift giving ceremony in 1814, North West Company partner Alexander MacDonnell presented the Métis with this flag, which became a trademark for the nation. Today, the Métis flag is still used and carried as a symbol of continuity and pride.

Clan Cameron  
*Cattle Reiving Creach*  
2007 Report

I'm happy to report that the cattle reiving on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in and around Dundas, Ontario was very successful. We were fortunate that there were **no injuries, deaths or significant damage** of property. The weather was excellent. There was a strong turnout of Camerons, as well as Clans; Graham, Rattray, Keith and Elliot. Conspicuously absent were the MacFarlanes. I expected them to skulk out from behind the trees, but alas, they did not appear this year.



'Wee Jock'

We enjoyed both variety and quality while toasting Donald Cameron of Lochiel, XXVII Chief of Clan Cameron.

As to the actual reiving, Clan Cameron numerically led the field, although we did suffer from considerable Cameron on Cameron violence. I myself was reived, terribly! I lost both a cow and a bull that day, which may be a record. Initially I thought Leighton had gone too far by **locking down his 'wee coo'**, but I soon learned that once again I was being naive.



Camerons at Work

Some relied mainly on stealth and cunning, Gayle Shepherd used brute force. Her reign of terror was only rivaled by that of Donna Goldstraw. Both of these women lived up to their own reputations that day, and helped the image of the Clan Cameron as a whole. The Cameron men accomplished somewhat less, but at least, it can be said that they marry well and hold their own.



Bill Richardson  
Clan Graham

Congratulations must also be given to Bill Richardson and the Clan Graham five for their strong participation, adroitness and answering the skill testing questions very well. They marched away with the coveted **'Best Reiving Clan in Canada'!**

(sending their 'brains' direct to the pub  
was a stroke of genius)

The Shepherd branch of the Camerons did as well as the Grahams on the questions, had the best turnout by far and dominated the field from end to end along our Bruce Trail excursion. In all, we mustered 29 Reivers including 2 Vikings, plus 4 dogs and 5 varieties of single malt for this years edition. Clan Rattray provided the 'oldest hiker' in the person of Joan Arrand.



Joan Arrand  
(39 years and some months)

I must again thank Dave Shepherd, Pat Jansen, Glenn Goldstraw and all the other Clan volunteers for making the whole day a success. Glenn came up with another impressive bull for us to rally around. Actually, this time it was an African Ox (of Scottish descent), named "Wee Jock," but he looked pretty big to me.

At the end of the day, although a few of us were worn out, I do not believe that anyone was permanently damaged.

We had some exercise, some whisky and a lot of fun with old friends and new.

We raised \$105 towards the Bruce Trail Association, and left the area cleaner than we found it.



14 'wee coos' are now stabled in the hospital Emergency Ward to comfort small patients. We also ended up with good memories, met great people and got a few great pictures.

When you go to the highland games or other Ontario branch events look for the book highlighting past Clan Cameron hikes and cattle reiving excursions. There are some classic pictures, with bold tartan against beautiful autumn colours.

If you were unfortunate enough to miss out in 2007 consider joining us next time. What have you got to lose, other than a few precious 'wee coos'?

*Ewan Cameron  
Ontario Branch*

*To: Glenn Goldstraw, Bill Richardson, Joanne Marshal*

There was on Sept. 29, 2007, positive proof that the old traits of yesterday, and the ancestral genetic make-up has been truly passed on thru the ages on to those members, that continue in the more modern times, their same age old practices.

I conclude, from witnessing first hand at the **Dundas Reiving Creach**, that the thievery gene still exists in all Clan Graham and Clan Cameron Members.



Toast to Lochiel (and Clan Graham!)

Hi Glenn, the pictures arrived OK. You Camerons certainly know how to bend the elbow. I expect there was a toast to the Grahams going on in that picture, but **maybe** not, eh? Cheers,

*Bill Richardson, Clan Graham*



Grahams & Camerons 'at it again'

### Notice to Clan Cameron

On this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2007, the Clan Cameron did not attend to their herd of Highland Coos and did allow the fence to be left wide open to permit strays, both the human type and the animal husbandry type, to wander at will in the unprotected pasture.

As a consequence of this act, Holstein Friesian bulls from Clan Elliot and Clan Rattray were seen mingling with the Clan Cameron coos. Such an act is forgivable only if the fence was not left open intentionally but just a random act of forgetfulness. If Clan Cameron is sorry, and lets Clan Elliot and Clan Rattray participate in the Cattle Reiving then all will be forgiven.

Allan Nickels Clan Elliot Joan Arrand Clan Rattray  
Carole Nickels Clan Rattray

It should also be noted that Clan Keith, in their protecting of, and the safe caring of prized Possessions, have demonstrated much more noble character traits, again in these lands of great danger around Dundas.

And by the boasting of those same members, while consuming of much ale was practiced at the inn later, we should all come to the same conclusion, that they were **"NOT"** successful with their efforts, toward running off with our Prized Coo.

It is a fact also, that they may, and I repeat, may, also look forward to some sort of retaliation in the future for their unsuccessful attacks. If they step foot in our noble doings, then they shall reap the consequences.

And now, I say to these clans, "Ye continue on with your consumption of ale and your boasting, but step lightly around us Keith's". May I suggest to you all, sleep with caution for fear of retaliation from the noble ones in your presence.

*Ernie Blair  
Clan Keith*



## 'Auld Lang Syne' a Christmas & Hogmanay poem by Robert Burns

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,  
And surely I'll be mine!  
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,  
And pu'd the gowans fine;  
But we've wandered mony a weary fit  
Sin' auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidled i' the burn,  
Frae morning sun till dine;  
But seas between us braid hae roared  
Sin' auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere,  
And gie's a hand o' thine!  
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught  
For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.

**Hogmanay** in Scotland is a great festive time, steeped in many customs and traditions. Here are a brief few.

During the day of Hogmanay the household would be busy cleaning so that the New Year could be welcomed into a tidy and neat house. It is considered ill luck to welcome in the New Year in a dirty uncleaned house. Fireplaces would be swept out and polished and some people would read the ashes of the very last fire of the year, to see what the New Year would hold. The act of cleaning the entire house was called **the redding**, ie getting ready for the New Year.

Pieces from a **Rowan** tree would be placed above a door to bring luck. In the house would be placed a piece of **mistletoe**, not for kissing under like at Christmas, but to prevent illness to the householders. Pieces of **holly** would be placed to keep out mischievous fairies and pieces of **hazel and yew** which were thought to have magical powers and would protect the house and the people who lived in it. **Juniper** would be burnt throughout the house, then all the doors of the home would be opened to bring in fresh air. The house was then considered ready to bring in the New Year.

**Debts** would be paid by New Year's Eve because it was considered bad luck to see in a new year owing one.

**Early visitors** who arrive before the chimes of midnight on New Year's Eve would have to be violently shooed away to prevent bad luck. At midnight the man of the house would **open the back door** to let the old year out and then **open the front door** of the

house to let in the new year. The household would also make as much **noise** as possible to scare off evil spirits. Fishermen and sailors will sound their horns

### New Year Bells

The first stroke of the chimes at New Year is known as The Bells. People would sing Auld Lang Syne together whilst linking arms.

After the bells have rung people would go visiting friends and family, or **first footing** as it is known in Scotland. This would involve carrying a bottle of spirit such as whisky to offer people a new year dram. In olden days when people could only afford one bottle of spirit's a year this bottle would take pride of place on the mantelpiece or by the fireplace and only be opened at the stroke of midnight.

### Hogmanay Toasts

As people wish each other a Happy New Year there are some hogmanay toasts that can be said. A traditional Scottish New Year toast is:

*Lang may yer lum reek!*

Which means long may your chimney smoke and originated when people had coal fires. If the chimney was smoking it meant that you could afford coal and keep warm.

Another New Year toast said by Scottish people is:

*A guid New Year to ane an'  
a' and mony may ye see"*

Which translates to English from Scots as - A good New Year to one and all, and many may you see.