



The Rowan Tree



Number 50

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

www.clanlachlan.ca

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

President's Message

Greetings Clan Members,

First, I would like to wish you and your family Good Fortune & Happiness in 2018. I have had a stressful start to the New Year. Days before Xmas, I required some cancer surgery which should have been routine. It was not. I am just recovering from internal bleeding and pneumonia.

We have been going through a reappraisal of our life. After 53 years of ownership we have sold our lake property in Ontario. After 16 years, we have just sold our Florida property. I have played a leading role in the Clan Society for 39 years and now, I hope to reduce my role in the Society.

Until recently, the Society provided genealogy assistance to new members. This role is now largely filled by access to Genealogy web sites. The Clan Society can play a distinctive role by collecting Family Histories and making them available to members. Being a member of the Clan allows you to follow the lives of your ancestors through the years. You are not one of a nameless group of agricultural serfs or Victorian industrial workers.

I hope that you have a good spring and summer.

Duncan MacLachlan

Editor's Note: I have repeated the list of 'Volunteers Required' below, in hopes that someone would wish to volunteer for one of these positions. Note that, with e-mail, these can be done from anywhere in the world.

Volunteers Required

Webmaster who would be responsible for maintenance, upgrading, etc.

Assistant to David MacLachlan - re matters of the Lachlan Trust of Canada

Membership Secretary (contact point for Branch Membership Secretaries)
Librarians. (Hopefully there will be several - filing digital magazines, assisting with Family Histories etc., entering Members Data, etc.).

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>

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

Full Members

2641 Robert MacKay – Fenwick, Ontario, Canada – Welcome back as a *returning Member*

5281 Ronald Boysworth – Preston, Connecticut, USA

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

Thankfully, we have nothing to report in this section for this issue.

CLA Membership Renewals

Please check out the website at www.clanlachlan.ca. Remember your access codes are User ID (either macxxxx or LACHxxxx) and password is your postal/zip code!

You can renew easily via the secure on-line payment. CA-21 at \$25.00 for twelve months brings annual Lachlan Library Membership with the Clan Lachlan magazine and “The Rowan Tree” newsletter, Canadian Branch membership &, world-wide Clan Society membership; or CA19 at \$100.00 for five years! For web payment use www.clanlachlan.ca/paypal.php and select CA21.0 or CA19.0 and your currency. Cheques are payable to Clan Lachlan Association of Canada, and may be sent to Jim MacLachlan, 1639 Bateau Lane, RR3, Gananoque, ON, Canada, K7G 2V5 (20jrmac@gmail.com)

For those members with access to the Lachlan Library, you will have received a copy of the new electronic newsletter. We hope you enjoyed it. We are dependent on members to keep us supplied with new content.

Editor's Note: Since we are without a Membership Secretary at the present time, please check your own records, and keep your renewals up to date by payment through our website. If you are receiving this as a complimentary issue, and have not been a member for some time, we would welcome your return via membership payment at our website.

Genealogical News

The Remarkable Life of Eleanor Christina MacLachlan: 1914 to 2018

Eleanor Christina MacLachlan -

- born September 10, 1914 at Lochaber Bay, Quebec. This Scottish farming community in Lochaber Bay, Quebec is near the capital city of Ottawa, Ontario.
- February 10, 2018- died peacefully at age of 103 at Newmarket Health Centre

Eleanor was a descendent of Robert MacLachlan (1800 - 1894) and wife Mary MacDonald (1798 - 1879) who were born in Argyllshire, Scotland and immigrated to Canada in 1825, settling in Lochaber Bay, Quebec.

Their son, John MacLachlan (1824 - 1911), who was born in Argyllshire Scotland, married four times.

John's third wife, Sarah Campbell (died 1886) - bore twins - Jean and Rory MacLachlan (Eleanor's father) (1881 - 1966).

Rory MacLachlan married Jean Angus (1880 - 1971) in Lochaber Bay Quebec.

Eleanor, the second of four children, had no children herself, and never married, but was survived by one sister, Laurie (in Victoria, B.C.), and was predeceased by her brother, John, and another sister, Esther. She is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews. She was Elaine MacLachlan's paternal aunt, who submitted this account in her memory.

Submitted by Elaine MacLachlan - #1718

Editor's Note: The reason the above item is not contained in the "Flowers of the Forest" section of our newsletter, is that Eleanor was never a member, but we wanted to acknowledge her remarkable life and her longevity to over 103 years! May we all enjoy good health leading to such a long life!

Scottish Studies Foundation News re Upcoming Events

April 14, 2018:

The Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies **2018 Spring Colloquium** will take place on Saturday, April 14, at Knox College at the University of Toronto. Registration commences at noon. Speakers include Dr. Catriona Macdonald, University of Glasgow, Dr. Donald Nerbas, Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University, Dr. Sarah Sharp, University of Otago, New Zealand and Dr. James E. Fraser, Chair of Scottish Studies and Director of the Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. More information at: <http://www.scottishstudies.com/520-spring-colloquium-2018.htm>

September 2, 2018:

Once again, the crew of the *Empire Sandy*, Canada's tallest sailing ship, will be hoisting her sails to get the Scottish Studies Foundation's annual cruise underway on Sunday, September 2, 2018 (Labour Day Weekend). More information at <http://www.scottishstudies.com/940-empiresandy-2018.htm>

The **Fall Colloquium** will take place at the University of Guelph, in Guelph, Ontario.

Unfortunately, at the time of publication, the list of speakers is not as yet finalized, so check out their website for exact details later in the summer.

For more information, please contact:

Centre for Scottish Studies | University of Guelph

MCKN 1008 | 50 Stone Rd E | Guelph, ON | Canada | N1G 2W1

(519) 824 4120 x 53209 | scottish@uoguelph.ca

www.uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish

Twitter: @ScottishStudies | Facebook: ScottishStudies

Email: scottish@uoguelph.ca

MacLachlans in the News

Canada Without Poverty



Harriett McLachlan, Deputy Director (interim) was interviewed on CBC Radio One on November 23, 2017, regarding the newly announced Federal Government ‘Affordable Housing Plan’. Harriett is the immediate past-President of the Board of Directors of ‘Canada Without Poverty’ (CWP) (2011 – 2017). She holds a Masters in Social Work degree from Carleton University, and has previously worked as Director in various community organizations as part of her over 25-year career. Harriett has presented at numerous Treaty Body reviews of Canada, to the Human Rights Committee at the United Nations in Geneva. Presentations to various parliamentary committees has permitted her to bring the first voice experience of poverty, and the human rights perspective, to the discussion table on policy recommendations. Her early life of childhood violence and sexual abuse, close to 35 years of poverty, 19 years as a single parent, has inspired her to effect positive change within the community sector and for those living in poverty across the country.

If you would like to read more about this organization, you can read Harriett’s *Spotlight on Poverty* blog at <http://www.cwp-csp.ca/2014/09/spotlight-on-poverty-harriett-mclachlan/>

Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802

Burns Supper at the University Club, Toronto, Ontario – January 19, 2018

My wife, Judy and I were fortunate to be able to attend the annual Burns Supper put on by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto, on Friday, January 19, 2018. At our table were seated friends Beth and John Court, Nikki and Paul Johnston, Joan McAulay and Doug Doughty, and Dr. Sandy Macpherson.

An initial reception (with bar) was held in a room on the main floor of the club, and then we were piped into the main dining room on the second floor, resplendent with Greek columns and crystal chandeliers. Of course, the Haggis was piped in, and was suitably addressed, and cut open. Our dinner started with Cock-a-Leekie Soup; followed by Haggis, tatties and neeps; and the main course was Arctic Char in a wonderful Whisky sauce, with a variety of vegetables. This was all capped off by Cranachan Cheesecake, and coffee for desert!



Friends of CLA: Beth and John Court



Judy Gauthier and Ken Godfrey

The usual toasts to the Lassies and Laddies were made, followed by the Immortal Memory to Burns, with the inclusions of 3 songs by our well-known Canadian singer, John McDermott, with guitar accompaniment.



Some of our Table Mates at the Burns Supper in Toronto



Doug and Joan and, Dr, Sandy Macpherson



John McDermott and Ken Godfrey

This splendid evening in Toronto was ended with the traditional singing of “Auld Lang Syne”.

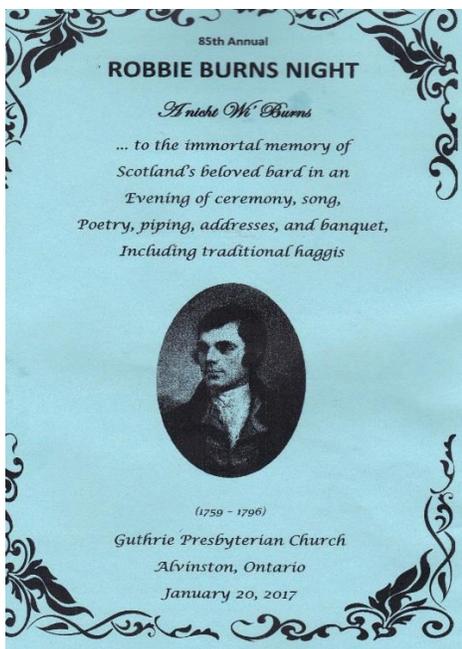
As well, CLA members Jean and Neil Armstrong reported their attendance at another Burns Supper in south-western Ontario on the same evening, as follows:

We celebrated Robbie Burns day last night at a dinner at the Guthrie Presbyterian Church in Alvinston. Haggis was delicious as were neeps and scallop tatties, ham, homemade scones and Christmas carrot pudding and brown sugar sauce. They sat 128 people. A retired history teacher with a Scottish background from Glencoe, Ontario, gave a very informative message, and a lady with a beautiful voice from near-by Appin, entertained us all with Celtic music. The evening closed with the singing of “Scots, Wha Hae” and “Auld Lang Syne”.

See below for photos and additional text describing the Burns Supper in Alvinston, Ontario.

Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802

85th Annual Robbie Burns Dinner, Alvinston, Ontario



Program – 85th Annual, Guest Speaker - Mr. & Mrs. James May in Scotland, Guthrie Presbyterian Church



Tom Rankin, Piper, Addressing the Haggis ----- Dolores and Ralph Ferguson

On January 19th, 2018, Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Alvinston, Ontario, held their 86th Annual dinner to celebrate Robbie Burns Birthday. Alvinston, a small village situated about half way between Sarnia and London, is in the center of an original Scottish settlement of emigrants, including McLachlans, mostly from Argyllshire, dating back to 1818. Other nearby communities bear the Scottish names of Glencoe, Appin, Kilmartin, Napier. Neil's mother, Helen (McLachlan) Armstrong was treasurer of this church for 35 years and my step-father, Rev. Gordier was minister of the church 1951-59.

128 people of Scottish ancestry from this village's surrounding area gathered to enjoy an evening of Haggis, Ham, Neeps and Scalloped Tatties, Baked beans and Cabbage salad, and home-made Scones followed by carrot puddings made by men and ladies of this church topped with their brown sugar and butter sauce. Members of the congregation made and sold 299 carrot puddings in November, 2017, for Christmas as they have done since 1949 – 68 years!

Tom Rankin of Corunna, Ontario, piped in the haggis carried by young men of the Sunday School and gave the "Address to the Haggis" in "Broad Scots". Alex Gray, Master of Ceremonies, paid tribute to Anne Redick and the ladies of the church for the delicious meal, and especially to Maxine McKellar and Dolores Ferguson for organizing of this event over many previous years. Dolores' husband, Ralph Ferguson, was a member of Parliament for Lambton Middlesex 1980-84, 1988-93 and for a short period was Minister of Agriculture for John Turner. (The Ferguson Clan will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of their arrival in Canada in July 2018 on their farm near Alvinston)

Those present were entertained by beautiful voice of Nola Dow accompanied by Mirah Simpson of Appin presenting a variety of old and new Celtic music. Jim May, a retired history teacher from Glencoe, was the Guest Speaker. He was pleased when asked if he would allow his very informative speech to be shared in The Rowan Tree, because he does have McLachlan family connections. The evening closed with the singing of "Scots, Wha Hae" and of course, "Auld Lang Syne."



Wall of Family Tartans, Guthrie Presbyterian Church basement

Submitted by Jean and Neil Armstrong - #1431

Presentation by James W. May for the Burns Supper at Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Alvinston, January 19th, 2018-01-23

“Mr. Chairman , head table, ladies and gentlemen.

When Anne Redick asked me to speak at a Burns supper I told her I had never done so before but I would give it a go. Then I got to considering what qualifications I have to do this! Well here are my credentials as I see it.

First credential: I’m a Presbyterian clerk of session. I figured that would get me through the door.

Second credential: My career was teaching history (as the chairman has already alluded to).

Third credential: My maternal grandmother (Betsy Jane Carruthers) was a McAlpine from Mosa Township. Her mother was a Walker from Metcalfe Township. So, my grandmother was descended from Gallic speaking Scots from Argyllshire.

My grandmother’s first language was Gallic. When she and her half siblings (Archibald McLachlan, Duncan Alexander McLachlan and Maggie Belle McLachlan) started to school at No. 9 Mosa, they couldn’t speak English.

When I was a child whenever my grandmother’s brothers came home from Saskatchewan for a visit they always took time for a conversation in Gallic in the front parlour. The rest of us who didn’t have “the Gallic” had to be quiet or be banished from the parlour. We would stand outside the door for a while and listen although we couldn’t comprehend a word.

My maternal grandfather (James Andrew Carruthers) on the other hand was descended from lowland Scots from Dumfriesshire and Roxburghshire. They spoke Broad Scots- an English dialect. I still have cousins in Dumfriesshire and Roxburghshire who speak in the modernized version of Broad Scots. I have to listen carefully to catch it all. I will say more about Broad Scots in a few minutes.

Fourth credential: My wife Jane and I belonged to a Scottish country dance society when we were younger. We have a daughter and a grand daughter who are highland dancers. We have another daughter and a grandson who play the pipes plus another daughter who has recently started on the pipes. And I for a time played the bass drum in a small pipe band. I still have that drum. I don’t think Jane knows it’s still in a closet at home.

Fifth credential: Jane and I have taken three trips to Scotland. On our second trip we spent time visiting the Inner and Outer Hebridean islands. On the island of North Uist we stayed in the Gallic speaking home of Don Alex McKillop. I told him my grandmother always called it Gallic—NØT GAELIC—and I asked him which pronunciation was correct. His response was that my grandmother was correct. It is Gallic—not Gaelic (that is the Irish). We Canadians have got the pronunciation wrong if it is Scottish.

Sixth credential: I have eaten haggis in a number of Scottish pubs. It was always tasty BUT NOT better than Guthrie Alvinston haggis

So, these are my credentials for addressing this Burns supper this evening.

In 1759 James Wolfe sailed up the St. Lawrence River, defeated the French on the Plains of Abraham and “planted firm Britannia’s flag on Canada’s fair domain”.

That same year, 1759, on January 25, Robert Burns was born in a cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland. Jane and I once visited that cottage, now a museum.

Robert Burns would become known as the Bard of Ayrshire or the Ploughman Poet.

He only lived to the age of 37. He passed away on July 21, 1796, in Dumfries of heart failure.

I want to say three things about that half century during which Burns lived:

the first is about language

the second is about Scotland at that time

the third is about Burns himself

First:

In the second half of the 1700’s the Scots spoke two languages. The highlands were still basically Gallic speaking. The lowlands spoke Broad Scots, really an English dialect with many words, inflections and pronunciations peculiar to the lowland Scots.

This evening you have heard an example of eighteenth century Broad Scots in the Ode to the Haggis. On that trip to the Hebrides, Jane and I were waiting for the car ferry to the island of Arran. An older lady waiting in the car opposite to us rolled down her window and asked in modern Broad Scots: “Are ye gang awa to ARRRRRAN? It took me a moment to process her accent and then I said: “Oh yes we’re going to Arran.” Oh no laddie” she said: it’s ARRRRRAN no Arran.” Then she said; It’ll RAIIN in ARRRRRAN.” Again, it took me a moment to comprehend. Then I responded: “Oh I don’t think it will rain in ARRRRRAN.” Her reply: “Oh yes it will. It always RAIINS in ARRRRRAN.”

I thought she could have been one of Robert Burns descendants because he spoke and wrote equally well in Broad Scots and in English.

Second:

Scotland in the second half of the 1700’s (Robert Burns’ lifetime) was in considerable turmoil politically, economically and religiously.

Burns was born in the aftermath of Bonnie Prince Charlie’s failed 1745 attempt to regain the crown for the Stuarts. The penal laws suppressing the highland clans were still in force. It was still illegal to wear tartans or for highlanders to own “weapons of war”.

Many of Scotland’s best men in the highlands and lowlands were being recruited into highland and lowland

regiments and being sent off to fight in the British colonies and on the battlefields of Europe. Some of these regiments fought with Wolfe at Quebec in 1759. Some were left in Canada to police this new British colony.

Land clearances in both the highlands and lowlands were underway. Tenant farmers were being dispossessed of their homes and livelihood in favour of sheep grazing in the highlands and more modern mechanized farming in the lowlands. This was of course the reason for many of our ancestors leaving Scotland and ending up here.

The Presbyterian Church of Scotland had largely fallen into the hands of the landlords. In most parishes the ministers were being appointed by the landlords rather than being “called” by the congregations. The clergy were more likely to represent the landlords’ rather than the peoples’ interests. The great Free Church reforms by men like Thomas Guthrie, Thomas Chalmers, Alexander Duff and William Burns would not come about until after 1800.

Robert Burns was cognizant of Scotland’s social, religious, economic and political ills and turmoils and his concern was indicated in his songs and poetry.

Third:

Robert Burns’ father was a lowland tenant farmer so Rabbie grew up in poverty and severe manual labour which probably left him with a permanent stoop and weakened constitution. He nevertheless sired at least thirteen children during his 37 years.

He was labelled the ‘Ploughman Poet’ to suggest that he had original genius and was a prodigy lacking formal education. He himself often played up this image “of the simple bard-- unbroken by rules of art”.

However, in fact, he was a highly well-read and cultivated individual. He was schooled by a private tutor, John Murdoch, who was hired by Burns’ father in spite of their poverty; a good example of the importance the Scots placed on education.

He had a strong familiarity with Shakespeare, Milton, Locke and Pope. At his death he left an extensive library. He wrote poems and songs in both Broad Scots and English. He did not speak or write in Gallic. He did not compose music.

Many of his most famous poems are songs with music based upon older traditional songs; for example, ‘Auld Lang Syne’ and ‘A Red Red Rose’.

He wrote on a multitude of themes related to life in general and to the social, religious, economic and political ills and turmoils of his time.

Listen to a few examples of his poetry:

In ‘Scots What Hae’ he wrote:

Scots, wha hae wi’ Wallace bled
Scots, wham Bruce has often led;
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to victory!

What was his theme? Patriotism, veneration of Scottish heroes

In ‘A Red Red Rose’ he wrote:

And fare thee weel. My only luvie!
And fare thee weel, awhile!
And I will come again, my luvie

Though it were ten thousand mile.
What was his theme? Love, gender, sexuality

In 'Is There Honest Poverty' he wrote this famous line
A man's a man for a' that
What was his theme? Social inequality, egalitarianism

In 'Tam O' Shanter' he declared:
Wi' tippeny we fear nae evil;
Wi' usquabae we'll face the devil
What was his theme? The beneficial aspects of well-lubricated hospitality with usquabae (whisky).

And in 'To A Mouse' he declared:
The best laid schemes o' Mice and Men
Gang aft agley,
And lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promised joy!

Rabbie Burns was born and died in the eighteenth century BUT continues to hold people's attention over two hundred years later.
The first Burns supper was in 1802 in Greenock and then spread around the world including Alvinston, Ontario.
The format has changed little since including the address to the haggis and the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

His reputation is international:

His likeness has appeared on bank notes, postage stamps, Coca Cola bottles.
The first postage stamp on which he appeared was in Russia in 1956 where he continues to be popular to this day
His statues are world wide; the first was in Camperdown, Victoria, Australia.
John Steinbeck took the title for his 1937 novel 'Of Mice and Men' from Burns' poem "To A Mouse".
An edition of his poems has been sent into space.
Scottish soprano Jean Redpath has recorded many of his songs.

In 2009 he was chosen as the greatest Scot by the Scottish public in a vote run by Scottish television channel STV (narrowly beating William Wallace)

In 2014 during Scotland's independence referendum both sides claimed that Burns would have voted for their side—if he were still alive.

Today Burns has over 600 living descendants. I wonder if the lady who spoke to me (in Broad Scots) while waiting for the ferry to Arran is one of them.

Scottish poet Edwin Muir once remarked that Burns was a man for all people:
to some decent
to some bawdy
to some sentimental

to some pious
to some revolutionary
to some patriotic

I want to close with three stanzas from Burns' poem 'John Barleycorn':

John Barleycorn was a hero bold
Of noble enterprise;
For if you do but taste his blood
'Twill make your courage rise

'Twill make a man forget his woe;
'Twill heighten all his joy;
'Twill make the widow's heart to sing,
Tho' the tear were in her eye.

Then let us toast John Barleycorn,
Each man a glass in hand;
And may his great posterity
Ne'er fail in old Scotland

Or the last line could read: Ne'er fail in Al-vin-ston."



Clan MacAulay Gathering in 2018

Even if you have no MacAulay blood, or other ties to this clan, if you are planning a trip to Nova Scotia in 2018, I'm sure that you would be welcome to attend their gathering in historic Baddeck, Cape Breton Highlands. See contact information on the poster below.

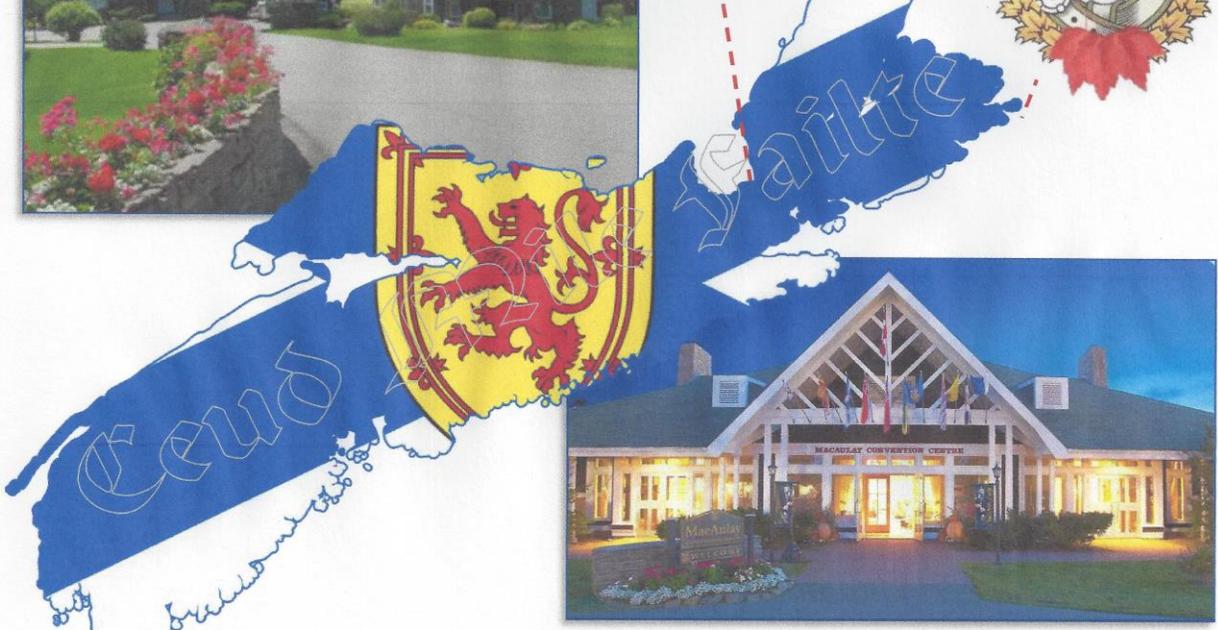
Macaulay

CLAN MACAULAY OF THE CANADAS

August 16th-19th, 2018

INVERARY RESORT
On Baddeck Bay

Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia



Web: clanmacaulay.ca ... FB: [clanmacaulayofthecanadas](https://www.facebook.com/clanmacaulayofthecanadas) ... email: bud@clanmacaulay.ca



Whisky Tasting at Albany Club

On Nov. 13, 2017, Judy & I joined friends Tom Allan and Sylvia Hope in a dinner and Whisky Tasting at the Albany Club located on King St. East in Toronto. We sampled Glenmorangie Original, Lasanta, Quinta Ruban, and lastly a very “peaty” Ardbeg 10! Each selection was preceded by a piper, and some of the folks from the Gaelic Society sang a few songs in Gaelic as well. Quite an enjoyable evening!

Join the Gaelic Society of Toronto

On Saturday, September 16th

From 2pm - till you go home!

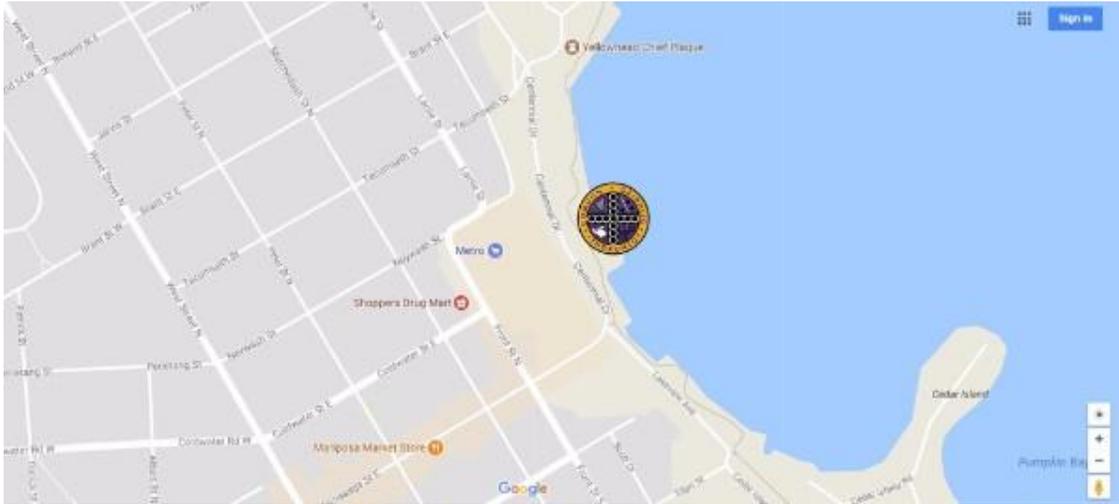
At Lake Couchiching Park, Orillia

This is a chance to meet members and share in our rich Gaelic Culture.

You will learn a few Gaelic phrases, sing Gallic songs, dance to traditional music, and compete for prizes in friendly games.

Bring 'your kit' and enjoy a swim in the lake. Also bring chairs, food, portable BBQs, and musical instruments.

This is a FREE event!

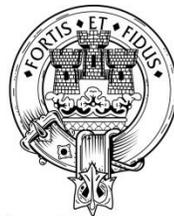


DIRECTIONS

#11 to Coldwater Road., Orillia.

Right 1 block to Mississauga, then ahead to the Waterfront.

If you can't find us, call 416-452-1263 or 705-706-2892 :)



CLAN MACLACHLAN
SOCIETY

2018 Clan MacLachlan Gathering
Castle Lachlan, Strathlachlan, Scotland
25-26-27 May

NOTE: This event is currently “Sold Out”, but it is possible to put your name on a “*Waiting List*”, if you should

so desire. Your contact for this would be Kaye Gilchrist, in the USA.

Members can find the registration form at www.maclachlanwusa.com under the 2018 Gathering Tab, **OR** by sending a cheque along with the registration form, made out to Clan MacLachlan Society to: Kaye Gilchrist, 11895 West Stillwater Drive, Boise, Idaho 83713, USA.

Ancestors in All Directions by Jane E. Thompson

Visiting ancestral homelands! I'd need a circle tour of Scotland to visit all sites relevant to my Scottish ancestors. Last June, I had the opportunity to make a start in the far north of Scotland, before meeting up with cousins who had rented a cottage in Ireland. I didn't expect to do research, but wanted to see the landscape, the villages, experience 'Simmer Dim' (when it never really gets dark), and take advantage of any research opportunities. But, sometimes serendipity takes over. I flew overnight via Dublin to Inverness, avoiding the crowds at Heathrow, and took a taxi to a hotel on the edge of Nairn.



The Author with a Scottish Signpost

Nairn and Cawdor

I walked through drizzle to the Nairn Museum, enjoying the beautiful gardens and huge azelea and fuschia bushes. I didn't know about the microclimate which makes the area so green.

Next morning, I took a taxi to **Cawdor Castle**. The very helpful driver had me sit in front and pointed out sites, took me through Cawdor village on the way, past the church, and pointed out a good pub for lunch, as well as the Estate Office in case I got lost walking back from the castle. I toured the Castle and gardens, then walked the suggested route back to the Pub for a venison burger, and had them call my driver to meet me in the Churchyard. I took photos of several McIntosh/Mackintosh graves.

My great-great grandmother, Janet Clunas, was christened in this church in 1830, a year after her father John Clunas and mother Elspat McIntosh, were married there. They emigrated in 1831, spent a few years in upstate New York where 2 sons were born, settling near Nairn, Ontario. I have no DNA matches yet on this family. On the way back, the cabby told me of another person he'd driven. They'd stopped at the Estate Office and found records of where the ancestors' home had been. They went to the site and, in the ruins, saw a stone carved with

the names and “gone to Canada”! Wish he’d told me sooner, but I plan to write. <http://www.cawdor.com/> He dropped me in central Nairn, and I walked back along the path beside the Moray Firth beach.



Cawdor Castle



Cawdor Church and Graveyard

Orkney

On Saturday morning, I caught the train from Nairn to Inverness and took the Orkney Bus through lovely highland scenery along the coast to John O’Groats, then sat on the open deck of the ferry to Orkney. A bus took us across the island (both buses and ferry were included in one fare). I was dropped in a parking lot, where all the other passengers disappeared, and I was told there were places to eat around the corner. After encountering a few helpful people, I found the only good fish and chips of my whole trip. Then I took a cab to the dock for the overnight ferry to Shetland.

After a week in the far north (which will be recounted in future issues), I returned to Inverness for one night in a hotel followed two nights in a B&B, both overlooking the River Ness.

Inverness

Monday morning, after a bus ride from Thurso, I was ready for my appointment with the much-in-demand Family Historian at the **Highland Archive Centre** in Inverness. <https://www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre/>

First thing she said was that I had done everything she would do, and would not take my money. I had assumed she would help me find unusual sources in the Archive, but what she does is compile a quick family tree using Ancestry, Findmypast, and Scotland’s People. The Archive assistant suggested the only thing that might help me were Kirk Session Minutes, which I started reading and found some of my names. I suddenly thought that since the Family Historian had reserved an hour for me, I would pay her to research for a cousin who said his mother’s parents came from near Culloden. He was happy with the result.

Next day I visited **Culloden**, and after walking through the displays in the new visitor centre, joined a battlefield tour led by a young French woman. She warned us not to think that the Clan markers indicated anyone of that name was buried at that spot, and was quite upset if anyone left the path and “walked over graves”. I’m sure there were burials under the path!



Highland Archive Centre in Inverness



MacLachlan Stone at Culloden



Culloden Moor



Culloden Visitors' Centre

My last bit of serendipity was telling my cab driver on the way to the Inverness Airport that I was researching

Clunas, which was her maiden name! I left my email for her brother who is the family researcher, but haven't heard from him as yet.

FREE ADVICE:

Check opening hours before you leave home. Many archives are not open to researchers every week-day. Be aware of Bank Holidays, and Saturday openings.

Contact Archives ahead of time by email or Facebook Messenger, to confirm hours, and availability of material of interest.

The Highland Archive Service has 2 smaller branches, in Lochaber and Skye.

You don't need to rent a car. Check, and if possible, book, ferries, flights, trains, and buses online.

Enjoy the scenery, and the seafood, and with luck you may make unexpected discoveries and meet interesting and helpful people!

Submitted by Jane E. Thompson - #1475

See the following page for a listing of many of the Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festivals to be held in Canada during the Spring and Summer of 2018.



Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals: Canada Spring & Summer 2018

This listing was compiled by our webmaster and is updated regularly on our website: www.cassoc.ca Information is provided for reference only. Please contact organizers of the event for up-to-date information. CASSOC cannot be held responsible for any errors that may occur. Member events are **highlighted**. Please Support Our Members!

Mar 24	Winnipeg Scottish Festival	Winnipeg, MB	www.winnipegscottishfestival.com
Apr 14	Scottish Studies Foundation – Spring Colloquium	Toronto, ON	www.scottishstudies.com/520-spring-colloquium-2018.htm
May 19-20	Regina Highland Games	Regina, SK	www.saskhighland.ca
May 19-21	Victoria Highland Games	Victoria, BC	www.victoriahighlandgames.com
May 26	Kingston Scottish Festival	Kingston, ON	www.kingstonscottishfestival.com
Jun 8-9	Clan Leslie International Gathering	Salt Lake City, UT	www.clanlesliesociety.org
Jun 9	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
Jun 9	Grande Prairie Highland Games	Grande Prairie, AB	www.gphighlandgames.com
Jun 15-16	Cobourg Highland Games	Cobourg, ON	www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
Jun 16	BC Highland Games	Coquitlam, BC	www.bchighlandgames.com
Jun 23	Red Deer Highland Games	Red Deer, AB	www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca
Jun 23-24	Manitoba Highland Gathering	Winnipeg, MB	www.manitobahighlandgathering.org
Jun 24	Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering	Edmonton, AB	https://sites.google.com/view/edmontonscottishsociety/highland-gathering
Jun 26-Jul 2	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo	Halifax, NS	www.nstatattoo.ca
Jun 29-Jul 7	Kitchenfest - Féis a'Chidsin	Cape Breton, NS	https://kitchenfest.ca/
Jul 1	Embro Highland Games	Embro, ON	www.embrohighlandgames.ca
Jul 1-8	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS	www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca
Jul 6-8	Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Kincardine, ON	www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca
Jul 21	Cambridge Scottish Festival	Cambridge, ON	www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca
Jul 20-22	Orillia Scottish Festival	Orillia, ON	www.orillia.ca/en/visitorillia/festivalsandevents.asp
Jul 27-29	New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Fredericton, NB	www.highlandgames.ca



Celtic Life International Magazine

Fàilte!

On behalf of our publisher, Angus M. Macquarrie, please enjoy the new edition of Celtic Life International Magazine!

Click the link here; [October 2017](#)

We invite you to share the above link with all members of your Clan, however we kindly ask that you **not** post the link publicly (for copyright reasons).

Slàinte mhath!

Stephen Patrick Clare ~ Celtic Life International

www.celticlif.com

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 James MacLachlan, our Treasurer, with a copy to Ken Godfrey, please, whose names and addresses appear below. Also, remember to keep your Membership Dues current as well. Thank you.

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