



## The Rowan Tree



Number 54

**Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.**

[www.clanlachlan.ca](http://www.clanlachlan.ca)

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

### President's Message

Greetings Clan Members,

I am writing this on March 21, 2020, as we await the unfolding of the COVID -19 virus crisis. We offer the deepest sympathy for those who may have suffered the loss of loved ones.

I want to give some thought to the future of the Clan Society.

The clan system was operative as a Celtic *clan lachlan* from about 1200AD to postwar 1920. The era of the Clan Society stretched from about postwar 1945 to about 2010 - 2015 when social media and the internet became the leading features.

(1) *Genealogy & Clan Records.* The Clan and later the Clan Society had the function of recording the genealogy and tales of the clan through the role of the Sennachie. Today we have the responsibility of maintaining the *Clan Lachlan Library*. Each generation can add and update individual Family records. The Library includes all the published genealogy work of Tom McLachlan, the Sennachie for 30 years. It includes all the past issues of the *Clan Lachlan* magazine from 1979.

(2) *Old Castle Lachlan and Kilmorie Chapel* are physical icons of *Clan Lachlan*. The Clan Society has established a restoration project for these icons. The main vehicles for fund raising are the *Lachlan Trust of Scotland* and the *Lachlan Trust of Canada*, which by their charters must be independent from the Clan Society.

(3) *Kinship.* Since about 1745 the members of the Clan have emigrated from their ancestral roots in Scotland and Ireland to Lowland Scotland, industrial England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America. Many family members have returned to Scotland as ancestral tourists.

The Branch system has been the main vehicle for nurturing Kinship among members of the clan. This has operated from about postwar 1945 to about say 2015. It was based on attendance at Clan Gatherings and Games. This allowed the social Gatherings of some Clan Members.

**(4) Future.** This Branch system is being replaced by a younger generation using the tools of social media and giving instant communication of video and audio on a one-on-one basis, within a world-wide group. A group of members with common interests can form an “*interest group*” and the output of the group can be stored in the Lachlan Library for the benefit of future generations. This is an operation of the Society with no need for going through a Branch.

**(5) Membership.** The basic membership in the Clan Lachlan Association of Canada (CLA) brings membership in the Clan Society and a membership number which identifies your place in the Society data base, the right to make a donation to the Lachlan Trust which qualifies for a Canadian Tax reduction.

**(6) Present Status.** I am maintaining the legal entities for the Clan Lachlan Society of Canada, and the Lachlan Trust of Canada. Individual memberships in the Clan MacLachlan Society, and Donations to the Lachlan Trust of Canada have Canadian Tax benefits.

**We can only hope and pray that our members and families are spared the worst impact of succumbing to this COVID-19 virus. One result is that we all now face a seemingly inevitable world-wide economic recession, and the need to tackle the problem of climate change.**

Duncan MacLachlan - #41

## **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**

There are no new members to welcome for this 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**

Thankfully, we have nothing to report in this section, for this issue. May you all stay healthy during this global health crisis.

*Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802*

## **Volunteers: The Heart and Soul of Any Organization**

Willing and able volunteers are the key core elements of many organizations, and our Clan Lachlan Association is no exception to this rule. Having said that, I wish to recognize and thank the following members, who have now stepped down, for their dedication and service over the past few years.

Firstly, on behalf of Clan Lachlan, I would like to thank **Jim MacLachlan (#352)** for his 7 years as our Treasurer. As some of our longer-standing members will recall, Jim's father Sandy MacLachlan, also held this position (as well as Membership Secretary) many years before. Now, Jim will have more time to devote to his teaching of Scottish Country Dancing, and his summer pursuit of canoe tripping on Canada's great northern rivers. David MacLachlan, who is currently managing the Lachlan Trust of Canada, has now also assumed the role of general Treasurer.

Secondly, I would like to thank the husband and wife team of **Rick and Brenda McLauchlan (#5215)**, who, as joint Membership Secretary for approximately the last 2 years, have taken our badly out-of-date Membership Records, and brought them into order, as well as gently reminding those who were overdue with their membership fee payments, and encouraging past members to consider re-joining our ranks. Now they will have more time to enjoy their home in Nepean (near Ottawa), and their Winters in Florida.

Lastly, I ask any of our members who has a little extra time, a computer, and knowledge of basic spreadsheets, to consider taking over the Membership Secretary position from Brenda and Rick. If you can help out in this regard, please contact either Duncan (our President), or myself. Thank you very considering this important task.

May you all remain healthy by following the much-publicized guidelines of frequent hand-washing, coughing into a tissue or your sleeve, staying home if at all possible, and if not, maintaining a physical distance of at least 2 meters (i.e. 6 feet), and disinfecting all common surfaces such as kitchen counter-tops, bathroom sinks, door handles, knobs, chair arms, etc.

*Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802 – CLA Vice President, and Editor of “The Rowan Tree”*

## **Declaration of Arbroath – 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, will mark the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the famous Declaration made to the Pope on behalf of the Scottish barons, supporting Robert the Bruce as King of Scotland, and asking him to recognize Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king. {Note that April 6<sup>th</sup> is celebrated annually in Canada and many other countries as “Tartan Day!”}

The following excerpt from the larger original document, held by the National Records of Scotland, is its most famous:

**"As long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself".**



The above is the image of the Declaration held by the NRS, with some of its original wax seals – sealed by eight earls and about forty barons

If you wish to read more about the historical background of this document, or download a special 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet go to the following website:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/declaration#downloadable-resource>

*Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802*

## **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>

## Scottish Studies Foundation Spring Colloquium – 2020

As far as we know at the time of publication, the Spring Colloquium will be cancelled this year, due to the Covid-19 health crisis.

### **JOAN MCAULAY ELECTED CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACAULAY ASSOCIATION - ACCOMPLISHED CANADIAN IS FIRST WOMAN CHIEF, AND THE FIRST FROM THE DIASPORA**



Through a vote at the Clan **MacAulay Association's** annual meeting, held at Aviemore (Cairngorms) on September 7th, 2019, the Clan Commissioner for Western Canada and Secretary of our international society, Joan McAulay, was elected through in-person and online voting of subscribed members everywhere as the fourth elected Chief of this merged society of three hereditary Macaulay Clans: Ardincaple (first two Chiefs), Loch Broom (3rd Chief) and the Isle of Lewis – the 4th Chief, from which, by coincidence, both electoral candidates had emerged.

Until quite recently traditions have ruled the day. When I was privileged to attend the 2009 Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs' meeting as a Diaspora guest (one accompanying each chief attending), held in the elegant Scots' Parliament chamber, there were just a scant few women as hereditary chiefs and evidently none from a merged clan society such as ours. The past decade has seen consistent respect for traditions, along with tremendous organizational advances for all.

Joan was raised on a farm near Forgan, Saskatchewan that had been homesteaded by her grandfather, Donald Norman MacAulay (when he died in 1942 the government forced the change of spelling from MacAulay to McAulay as that is how it was listed on the homestead). Donald's grandfather Angus Iain MacAulay had 'emigrated' from Scotland circa 1855 during the time of the clearances from Crowlista, Uig, Isle of Lewis to the Eastern Townships of Quebec, where he and other family members are buried in the Gisla Cemetery near Milan, Quebec. Joan's Scottish ancestors are buried in the beautiful Baille na Cille cemetery near Crowlista, Uig.

Joan is understandably proud of her Scottish roots; Scotland was the first place she ever dreamed of visiting. As a child she was also disturbed by the government having forced the change to the spelling of their name; in Grade 1 she was consistently docked marks for spelling "MacAulay" in their traditional way. Joan was eventually persuaded to quit that habit. Sadly, we could fill whole books with the rueful accounts of all those immigration and other officious functionaries who bullied our people into altering their spellings, or even whole names. Our defence is bearing in mind that any/all English spellings are merely renderings for phonetic or other convenience, and that ultimately only the original Gaelic spellings matter. MacAmhlaidh gu brath!

Joan enjoyed life on the farm and went to school in Elrose from K-12, still feeling very grounded from the example set by her parents, Wilfred and Darline. Her favourite time of year was harvest; once she was tall enough to reach the clutch she was the one in the truck hauling grain. Joan feels blessed that her family had a cabin at Christopher Lake in northern Saskatchewan where they spent many happy times during the summer (when they weren't working in the fields or dealing with her Mom's massive garden – the garden area was so large that they actually crop-rotated it).

After high school Joan moved to Saskatoon to continue her education. Later, after a couple of years in Calgary, she returned to Saskatoon where she continues to reside with husband, Doug Doughty – who splits his time with working in Toronto – and their two rescue cats, Catriona (named after our late friend, Catriona MacAulay Mackenzie) and Morag. Joan's Mom celebrated her 95th birthday last month, and her sister, Kathy and brother-in-law, Jim live nearby. She's been with Concentra Trust (formerly Co-operative Trust) for over 25 years and is a Senior Trust Program Advisor specializing in estate and trust solutions for clients and partner advisors.

Joan's journey with Clan MacAulay began in 2012 when she was researching for a tattoo and came across the Clan MacAulay website. She and Doug discovered that a Gathering was to be held in 2013 and immediately started planning to attend. Obviously, they loved the experience, as they haven't missed a Gathering since!

Shortly after returning from Crieff, Joan met with our now Honourary Chieftain and High Commissioner for Canada, Dr. W.G. (Bud) MacAulay Lush, who convinced her to take on the role of Commissioner for Western Canada. In 2017, at Chief (now Emeritus) Hector's request, she took on the role of Secretary. That soon led to her leadership for updating the executive records and the Constitution to reflect today's values and ideals. After returning from Carrickfergus, Joan was further inspired by our members' enthusiasm, along with the need for enhancing web communication, to launch *MacAulay Matters*.

When Chief Hector announced his intention to retire – on so many high notes; thanks so much, Hector! – Joan was approached by many of us to stand for election. Despite the groundswell of encouragement, this was a daring move: there had not previously been a woman Clan Chief, nor one from outside Scotland. Auspiciously, Joan's invited election statement declared that, "This election isn't about geography. It's about vision. The vision to come up with a plan to increase membership here in Scotland *and* around the world. The vision to look at new opportunities to increase our presence and our standing, whether it be in the Clan system or at Highland Games.

The vision to identify new Commissioners who will bring enthusiasm and energy to our organization. To set a vision for our executive team and work together. We need to move forward. We need to keep the momentum going.”

With tremendous thanks from all of us, Joan, for your leadership thus far in so many creative ways, sometimes coming to the fore with creative community fun like the rollicking “Heavyish Events,” piloted at Cape Breton and then a great success at Aviemore.

Hail to the Chief!

Source: John Macaulay <https://www.facebook.com/JenTheBodyPainter/videos/bodypaint-suprise-on-st-patricks-day/1708276242565885/> MacAulay Matters newsletter, Fall 2019 <http://clanmacaulay.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/MacAulay-Matters-Fall-2019.pdf>

*Submitted by John Macaulay Court – A friend of CLA*

## **Genealogy Research**

Jane Thompson sent this small item from Florence, Italy, during her recent travels there. “My Ancestry tree gives hints on what happened “On This Day”, and January 26, 2020 was 81 years since great-grandpa Dugald McLachlan died on his Parents’ 100th wedding anniversary.”

So, that would put Dugald’s death on Jan. 26, 1939, and his parent’s wedding day in the year 1839. How many of you have good data as far back as that? I wish you good hunting for your ancestors!



**Photo of Dugald as a young man, Strathroy, Ontario**

*Submitted by Jane Thompson - #1475*

### Celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary... Jan. 9, 1960 – Jan. 9, 2020

To celebrate 60 years of marriage, we booked a 23 day-cruise on the Viking Star, from Athens, Greece to London, England over Christmas, New Year's and our anniversary. About 20 of our 930 fellow passengers did the whole trip, others departed in Rome and Barcelona, and new travelers came aboard.



**Captain of the Viking Star**

This was our first visit to the Mediterranean and to the ancient UNESCO World Heritage sites. We were surprised to learn this area was controlled by Muslims for over 800 years, after the Roman period. Mosques were built over Roman churches, then Christian churches replaced many of the mosques.

We flew into Athens on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Our first tour was, to the Acropolis climbing the 80 steps through the Propylaeum, the grand entrance to the plateau of the rock where the mighty Parthenon reigns high over Athens. It brought back memories of the history lessons in high school Latin classes.



**Temples to Athena**

The next day we were in Ephesus, Turkey, a very clean city. Our tour took us to the ruins of the Basilica of St. John, the Apostle, where St John is believed was buried when he was in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. At the end of our tour our guide left us in a Turkish rug store where we were royally treated to wine and a display of their finest wool and silk rugs. I like the 3'X5' silk rug with 600 knots to the inch, costing \$7,000. Canadian... the men in the store tried hard to convince us to buy, but with great difficulty we managed to escape without the rug.



**The Ruins of the Basilica of St. John near Ephesus**

Today we are sad watching the TV news seeing refugees trying to leave Turkey and get into Greece and on to Europe.

Crete, Pompeii, Leonardo da Vinci's museum in Vinci were all learning experiences. We found Florence so uncomfortably busy. It was good to actually see the leaning tower of Pisa, but the line up to walk to the top was long. Believing that Rome at Christmas would also be busy, led us to take a tour in the Italian country side instead.



**A Street in Pompeii & The Tower of Pisa**

Monaco is the smallest country in the world after the Vatican. Monte Carlo is the home to society's richest people. Their magnificent yachts fill the harbor. A walk through the beautiful gardens led to the top of a hill, known as the Rock, the location of the castle home of Albert II, Prince of Monaco, son of Grace Kelly. From here we could see for miles in all directions.



**View of the Monte Carlo from the Rock area**

In Barcelona we saw the tall statue to Christopher Columbus from our ship. On our walking tour we viewed the unusual cathedral designed by Antoni Gaudi, a UNESCO world heritage site, which draws many tourists. The, construction started in 1882 and was half complete by 2010. Some of greatest challenges continue with the construction of ten more spires each symbolizing important biblical-figures in the New Testament. It is anticipated the building can be completed by 2026, the centenary of Gaudi's death.



**Basilica de La Sagrada Familia**

Along the Spanish coast we toured Cartagena, Malaga, then sailed at night through the Straits of Gibraltar, up the coast of Portugal to the northern Spanish city of Vigo. There our tour took us to the sea side fishing village of Bayona to tour the 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress. Christopher Columbus returned here after his first visit to the Americas and a replica of The Pinta is in the harbour. The pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela, known as "the Way of St. James (1568) passed through Bayona. According to medieval legend, the Milky Way was formed from the dust raised by travelling pilgrims.



**16<sup>th</sup> century Fortress high over the harbour of Bayona**

During our cruise there were five relaxing days at sea, filled with historical, architectural lectures, baking demonstrations and musical entertainment. It was a pleasure to spend the late evenings in the Atrium listening to a Russian pianist, or two young violinists and sharing a Rusty Nail or Irish Cream. On our anniversary we toured historic Winchester and its glorious Cathedral. Fifteen centuries of English history lie behind the massive cathedral you see today. It is one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in Europe, with the greatest overall length of 558 feet.

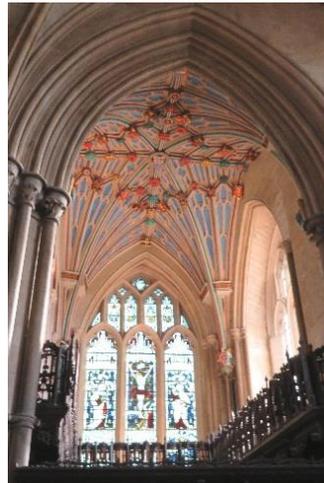


**Winchester Cathedral**



**Statue in the Crypt standing in water.**

Winchester Cathedral's early Norman roots can be seen in its massive round-arched crypt. In the crypt, we photographed the life-sized statue of man contemplating the water held in his cupped hands by Antony Gormley. This statue is often standing in water up to his knees when the crypt floods in rainy months. Powerful bishops put their stamp on the Norman cathedral. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the bishops remodeled the cathedral adding soaring Gothic arches that reach 78 feet above the marble floor, and made it more ornate in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sixteen bells ring from the bell tower. Its beautiful spaces continue to echo to the sound of daily prayers and glorious sacred music.



**The Nave, the 15<sup>th</sup> century Great Screen, the arches**

Since the stone age the Pilgrim's Way went from Winchester Cathedral 137 miles to Canterbury. Today the cathedral is the starting point of the 34-mile St. Swithun's Way, a foot path which opened in 2002 to commemorated the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth.

The visit to Winchester Cathedral was a highlight of our cruise and certainly worth a longer visit. That night we sailed to Tilbury near London where we disembarked the next day. As I said we had 930 fellow passengers on the Viking Star. We had over 500 passengers on our Air Canada 777 flight home. We joked with our AC hostess and told her the day before had been our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Before we started our descent into Toronto the head steward brought us 2 glasses of Champagne. What a nice way to end our trip.



**Cats roamed freely in many cities. This fellow was at a KFC outdoor café in Ephesus.**

*Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431*

## **Report from Vancouver Island, British Columbia**

Due to the Public Health Order banning all gatherings greater than 50 people until May 30, the 157th Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival is being postponed until at least late summer.

There are some positive stories coming out of all the doom and gloom that we are experiencing right now, due to the Covid-19 crisis. It is hard to focus on the positive, but it can be more uplifting. For example, our local paper together with some local foundations, etc. in the community have started a Rapid Relief Fund campaign to try to raise \$1 Million in one week for those in need. The goal is: "They want to get money to as many important groups providing front-line help as possible with all the money to be put to use in Greater Victoria within days. After they raise the first million, they will go for another million, and then another million". You can read more about it on the website <https://www.timescolonist.com/news>

Also, I'm sure there are lessons we can learn from our ancestors in how to cope with major negative events in history. There are stories that we all remember our parents and grandparents telling us, of the effects of the First and Second World Wars, the depression, the dust storms and insect infestations destroying farm lands, the Spanish flu, Diphtheria, and other disease outbreaks, etc., and our own memories of the Viet Nam war, 911, SARS, H1N1, etc. I think our ancestors were a strong, resilient group, maybe more able to cope with these hardships, but this very uncertain time in history will test and determine how our current generations will cope and survive. Like other times in history, families are losing many members in a very short time, which is tragic.

We are trying to stay safe and isolated as much as possible, and hope that our fellow members are well and doing the same. The last week we had fairly warm and sunny weather, which has helped in coping with the restraints in movement now in place. But, life is anything but normal!

*Submitted by Cheryl Munkholm - #1715*

## **John McLaughlin – Contemporary World Music Musician**



**Album Musicians: John McLaughlin, Shankar Mahadevan, Zakir Hussain**



Six years in the making, “*Is that So?*”, is one of **John McLaughlin's** deepest and most profound musical collaborations with prolific Indian composer and vocalist **Shankar Mahadevan**. Joining the duo is their life-long friend and musical brother **Ustad Zakir Hussain** on the tabla, who has been collaborating with John since they founded Shakti in the early '70s, acknowledged by most to be the first groundbreaking crossover East-West musical group. The idea for this album appeared in my mind early 2013. Shankar and I had been touring with Shakti and I was constantly inspired by his superb voice and gigantic talent. Even though I had studied the theory

and practice of Indian music for years, I remain a 'Western' musician and one aspect of Western music is the magic of harmony', says John. 'From the outset in the early 1970's, I constantly researched the possibilities of integrating harmony into the traditions of North and South India while at the same time keeping as close as possible to the melodic rules of the Raga system. However, the idea I mention above, was to abandon the rules of the Raga system completely and apply my own western harmonic liberty to the amazing voice of Shankar Mahadevan. "Before concerts, John and I used to dabble with free improvisations using Indian scales (Ragas) and different harmonies backing them', says Shankar Mahadevan. 'The whole texture, color, feeling and the canvas of the music excited us as harmonic content does not exist in Indian classical music. In the beginning it was just a fun experiment, but it soon became larger than life and we knew we had to record it. When Zakir Hussain, the great tabla Maestro himself agreed to play in the improvisational sections we knew this would take our recording to a new level. We could not have asked for more. Is that So? is a new concept in the meeting of musicians, singers, percussionists and the musical cultures of the East and West and takes us into unexplored musical horizons.

If you wish to listen to some of his latest music in collaboration with musicians from India, you can click on the link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=381d\\_fkYCYc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=381d_fkYCYc)

**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Bruce Gauthier for making me aware of John McLaughlin and his music.

### **Royal Tour of Canada with a McLachlin Connection!**

In 1857, Queen Victoria selected Ottawa as the capital of the Province of Canada, and, although she never visited Canada, she sent her son, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), to make the first official royal visit to what is now Canada in 1860. During a 2-month tour of Newfoundland, the Maritimes and the Province of Canada (later Ontario and Québec), highlighted by the opening of the Victoria Bridge between the Island of Montréal and the south shore of the St Lawrence River, and the laying of the cornerstone for the Parliament Building in Ottawa, the prince was honoured as a visible symbol of monarchy and empire.

When the Prince arrived in Upper Canada (now the Province of Ontario), he sailed up the Ottawa River from Montreal, Quebec to Fitzroy Harbour, and stayed overnight with Mr. McLachlin, a well-to-do lumber baron of the time. The next day, the Prince went by carriage to the town of Almonte, by way of the small hamlet of Bennie's Corners, where he was heartily cheered by its citizens. The Prince then took the train of the Canada Central Railway back to Bytown (now Ottawa).



The Mr. McLachlin in question was in fact **Daniel McLachlin (1810 to 1872)**, (see photo above) who was born to Hugh McLachlin, son of Donald McLachlin, and Janet (née McLean). He had many siblings; Mary (born 1795), Alexander (b. 1796), John (b. 1798), Flora (b. 1800), Janet (b. 1802), Dorothy (b. 1804), Ann (b. 1806), Catharine (b. 1810), William (b. 1813), Hugh (b. 1816), Sara (b. 1820), and Christina. Daniel McLachlin had eight children with Maria Harrington; Jessie, William, Harriet, Hugh, John, Daniel, Eric, and Claude.

*Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802*

## **“Happily Scottish and Proudly Canadian”: The Sons of Scotland at ROAAr, McGill University**



# **ROAAr**

Rare & Special Collections, Osler, Art, and Archives

By Olivia Kurajian, Rare Books and Special Collections Summer Intern, August 2018



Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association regalia.

Our community is beholden to the Scots. James McGill, a Scottish immigrant, formed McGill University's precursor, McGill College, and is the namesake of the current institution. Now, Scottish-Canadians have once again contributed to the University with the generous donation of archival material from the **Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association (S.O.S.B.A)**.

In 1876, the Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association was established as a male-only fraternal association aimed at supporting Scottish immigrants in Canada. The Association emphasized the importance of retaining a sense of Scottish culture amongst immigrants and their descendants. Through a focus on Scottish dress, customs, sports, history, music and literature, the Association helped maintain a Scottish spirit in the Dominion of Canada.

Originally comprised of three "camps", or groups of members, the Association grew to incorporate dozens of camps throughout Canada. At the Association's height, there were five district camps in Montreal. The original three camps (Robert Burns #1, Robert the Bruce #2, and St. Andrew #3) united to form a "Grand Camp" that still serves as an administrative head for all other district camps.



Plaque presented to the Sons of Scotland Grand Camp in British Columbia, 1991. Depicting a 'Thunder Bird', it was carved by W. Stevenson, a local Wolf Clan artist.

Originally a fraternal association, the Association was also beneficial to the Scottish community in other ways. For example, it provided various types of insurance policies to Scottish newcomers. Furthermore, insurance plans were created to aid the sick, poor, widowed, and orphaned members of the Canadian-Scottish community. These plans served as a level of economic security for Scottish communities in the case of the death of loved ones. The plight of immigrants was often partially alleviated through these programs. As widows or mothers, women were particularly supported through these plans.

Scottish-Canadian women were granted official membership in 1909, though they played a peripheral role in the Association since its beginning. Interestingly, the first initiation of "lady members" did not occur until 1919, a decade following the permission to join.



Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association plaque.

Since 1919, some of the predominantly-male positions in the Association have been held by female members. These positions include Chief, Chieftain, Past Chief, Chaplain, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer, amongst others. Women have made extraordinary contributions to fraternal organizations in Montreal, and the Sons of Scotland has surely benefited from their actions and commitment.

The Sons of Scotland have organized an abundance of social activities for the public and for its members. These events range from barbecues to traditional Scottish Burns suppers. Members and nonmembers are encouraged to celebrate Scottish dress, customs, food, music, history, and sports.

The Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association, throughout its nearly 150 years of existence, has touched other communities apart from its Scottish-Canadian base. Now, McGill University's Rare Books and Special Collections is the fortunate beneficiary of this unique collection, which will soon be processed and made available to researchers.

"Fraternally yours",



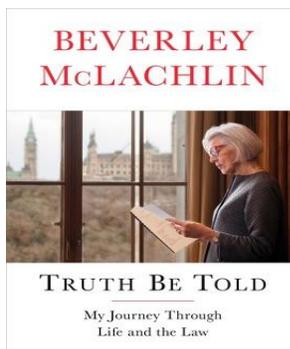
Olivia surrounded by some unique items in the Sons of Scotland collection

Olivia Kurajian

*The Sons of Scotland fonds (MSG 1205) and the Scottish Centre of Montreal fonds (MSG 1206) are both available to researchers by request.*

*Submitted by John Macaulay Court – a Friend of CLA*

## Truth Be Told: My Journey through Life and the Law – new book by Beverley McLachlin



Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, **Beverley McLachlin**, offers an intimate and revealing look at her life, from her childhood in the Alberta foothills to her career on the Supreme Court, where she helped to shape the social and moral fabric of the country.

As a young girl, Beverley McLachlin's world was often full of wonder—at the expansive prairie vistas around her, at the stories she discovered in the books at her local library, and at the diverse people who passed through her parents' door. While her family was poor, their lives were rich in the ways that mattered most. Even at a young age, she had an innate sense of justice, which was reinforced by the lessons her parents taught her: Everyone deserves dignity. All people are equal. Those who work hard reap the rewards. Willful, spirited, and unusually intelligent, she discovered in Pincher Creek an extraordinary tapestry of people and perspectives that informed her worldview going forward.

Still, life in the rural Prairies was lonely, and gaining access to education—especially for girls—wasn't always easy. As a young woman, McLachlin moved to Edmonton to pursue a degree in philosophy. There, she discovered her passion lay not in academia, but in the real world, solving problems directly related to the lives of the people around her. And in the law, she found the tools to do exactly that.

She soon realized, though, that the world was not always willing to accept her. In her early years as an articling student and lawyer, she encountered sexism, exclusion, and old boys' clubs at every turn. And outside the courtroom, personal loss and tragedies struck close to home. Nonetheless, McLachlin was determined to prove her worth, and her love of the law and the pursuit of justice pulled her through the darkest moments.

McLachlin's meteoric rise through the courts soon found her serving on the highest court in the country, becoming the first woman to be named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. She rapidly distinguished herself as a judge of renown, one who was never afraid to take on morally complex or charged debates. Over the next eighteen years, McLachlin presided over the most prominent cases in the country—involving Charter challenges, same-sex marriage, and euthanasia. One judgment at a time, she laid down a legal legacy that proved that fairness and justice were not luxuries of the powerful but rather obligations owed to each and every one of us.

With warmth, honesty, and deep wisdom, McLachlin invites us into her legal and personal life—into the hopes and doubts, the triumphs and losses on and off the bench. Through it all, her constant faith in justice remained her true north. In an age of division and uncertainty, McLachlin's memoir is a reminder that justice and the rule of law remain our best hope for a progressive and bright future.

**Editor's Note:** Re-printing this article in "The Rowan Tree" in no way should be construed as an endorsement or recommendation of this new book by Clan Lachlan Association of Canada. However, if you should be interested in obtaining a copy for yourself, it is available from several sources, including a hard-cover version from Amazon at the current price of \$22.99 Canadian.

## Scottish Humour



## The incredibly rare Scottish Hummingbird.



*Submitted by Judy Gauthier - #802*

**Tartan Everything!**



Besides the rare tartan sheep above, did you know that there is also a tartan paint:

<https://www.facebook.com/PaintLikePro/videos/2277636222261944/>

...and tartan paint rollers: <http://www.diyweek.net/valspar-world-first-delivers-tartan-paint>

So, it MUST be true.

**Editor's Note:** Thanks to a friend, Bob Bissett, for supplying the URL links above.



### 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*

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**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 David 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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