



DUM SPIRO SPERO
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

MCLAN MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER
CANADA

Central Ontario Branch

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greeting to all,

As your new Pres., I hope I do not need an introduction as I have been the Editor since 1991 when I took over from Maybell. Melanie and Andy will continue to host the Clan web-site, Elizabeth continues to be the pivot which holds us all together and most of us have access to e-mail. I have asked Bob (Hamilton) to take over as Vice President because Angus is too busy at the moment.

I aim to ensure that the Newsletters get out on time and have more focus on the activities of our branch. Now that we have speedier, and cheaper communications in place, we need to show others that clan activities can be entertaining as well as informative. Apart from Fergus (55 clans represented) and Maxville (24 +), other Games have only small Clan displays but the numbers are growing.

We realize that the busy lives we lead and travel distances often deter members from attending picnics or dinners, so please let us know about your family events e.g. gatherings, memorable holidays, marriages, births etc. Sharing such events will bring us closer and better acquainted with each other. This has been done very well by the Melbourne (Australia) Branch and forms a large section of their Newsletters. We will continue to keep you informed of Clan activities elsewhere, but it is a wee bit embarrassing when you hear of the death of prominent Canadian Clan members from outside Canada.

HIGHLAND GAMES ATTENDED

Hamilton: Elizabeth and Bob took our tent to these games as the Fort Erie games coincided with a meeting. There were 10 clan tents there, which is double the number last year. Although we were near the grandstand, no visitors stopped to talk.

Maxville: These games are huge, drawing from the Glengarry area as well as Americans heading for the Montreal games, which are the following day. The emphasis is on bands (30+) and Highland dancing. Three of us marched in the Parade, but they let us off the field before the speeches, which was a blessing as three dancers fainted on the field from the heat. We had 27 sign in at our table (the clans are in barns, so we don't need a tent). Two new members, Raymond & Lorna from Tillsonberg, signed on and we also saw Marilyn Lawlor, but missed Bill & Ghislaine. We don't go to the Tattoo at these games because it is over an hour from Ottawa and runs well into the night.

Fergus: The weather was great, both for the Tattoo and the games. They had changed the field around from previous years and this caused a bit of confusion for people lining up for events. Eileen and I represented the Clan in the "Lighting" ceremony at the end. As Melanie has noted, John Allen Cameron attended in a wheelchair and he is facing an uncertain future.

We had about 20 behind our banner in the Parade and gave Chief Ruairidh a rousing cheer as he took the salute. The Hunters and the Stewarts were the honoured Clans this year-both are big Clans but we weren't outnumbered by any means. The Games were very well attended and there seemed to be queues everywhere. Our tent was close to the Heritage display where Diana Gabbledon was signing copies of her books, causing another queue.

We had lots of visitors at the tent, with 23 signing in, but packed up at 4-30 pm to get over to the Senior's Centre for the AGM (Minutes attached) where 32 members attended.

We are usually lucky to see a dozen come most years so it is a good thing we had a larger space.

The Clan Dinner was a great success, with 75 attendees including guests. After the meal, we were treated to a gently ribbing song by David and Kitty's son, Cameron., who can really play guitar. The draw for prizes saw a pretty good distribution, with another son of David's, David Scott, winning Elizabeth's brick and our caterer, Marilyn and a couple of her helpers also winning prizes. This took up a wee bit too much time, however, and we will need to speed it up a bit in future.

Our thanks to all who helped with the arrangements, particularly David (Dundas), Marilyn and her helpers for the meal and great service, Leni for selling the draw tickets and Elizabeth for the organization and gentle reminders of when things needed to be done. Outside of the Games, all our thanks to Melanie and Andrew, as well as Mary and Ed Kruker, for making Chief Ruairidh's stay comfortable.

Chief Ruairidh's speech gave us an insight into how busy he has been since he completed University, changing employers and coping with house renovations at Dores, fulfilling his Territorial Army commitments and keeping up with Clan business. It was not all serious, however, as he is a very entertaining speaker. At the end of the evening, as he himself says in his Email, he woke us all up with a bit of piping.

On the Sunday, I took Eileen to Guelph for the 7.00 am bus, and Elizabeth and I attended the Kirkin of the Tartans before heading home. We had the first rain of the weekend on Sunday morning, so we were very lucky. The following week a tornado touched down in Fergus and Elora, causing quite a bit of damage. If it had been a week earlier, the games venue could have been destroyed, because the tents and bleachers would have been damaged even by a near miss.

Almonte: These games near Ottawa are usually a week after Fergus. David (Ottawa) drove Eileen over and they also saw Finlay (Ottawa) there. There weren't too many visitors, but David chatted to other clans nearby who were interested in his tracing of family backgrounds. These are a small games, very relaxed and in a beautiful setting

CHIEF'S VISITS TO CANADA

Chief:
Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan
of MacLennan Nova
Chieftain:
Gregory Scott MacLennan

President:
Robin MacLennan,
2 Johnston St., St. Catharines, Ont.
L2N 5K4 Tel: (905)-935-7110

Vice President:
Robert MacLennan,
340 East 12th St.,
Hamilton, Ontario
L9A 3Y1 Tel: (905)-383-2805

Treasurer:
Elizabeth Prebble,
83-2301 Cavendish Dr.,
Burlington, Ontario
L7P 3M3 Tel: (905)-335-4199

Secretary:
Lois Walton, 20 Creighton Dr.,
Dundas, Ontario
L9H 3P7 Tel: (905)-628-8740

Committee:
David & Kitty MacLennan,
70 Pleasant Ave.,
Dundas, Ontario
L9H 3T4 Tel:(905)-627-0811

Melanie McLennan,
80 London Rd. W., Guelph, Ont.
N1H 2B7 Tel: (519)-823-0003

Angus MacLennan,
2832 J Cedarwood Dr.,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 7R1 Tel: (613)-731-5575

Bob & Kay MacLennan,
340 East 12th St.,
Hamilton, Ontario
L9A 3Y1 Tel: (905)-383-2805

Flora Asselstine,
602-4789 Riverside Dr. E.,
Windsor, Ontario
N8Y 5A2 Tel: (519)-944-4262

Karen Dunbabin
1-895 4th Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON
N4K 2N8 Tel: (519)-371-0162

David MacLennan
30 Sheahan Cres.
Nepean, ON
K2H 8M2 Tel: 613-828-3668

Past Presidents:
Doug MacLennan, Delta, B.C.
Elizabeth Prebble, Burlington, ON
David MacLennan, Dundas, ON
Melanie McLennan, Guelph, ON

The first trip was to Halifax, Nova Scotia where I participated with the 51st Highland Brigade Pipes & Drums at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo. The 51st Highlanders are a Territorial Unit (Army Reservists) and is the largest Territorial Force in the UK. The Brigade is made up of an amalgamation of three regiments, the Black Watch, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and the Highlanders. The photo which I sent across to you shows myself in the middle, cap badged and in the uniform of the Black Watch. Immediately to my left and right are two members of the 51st who are cap badged and in the uniform of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. They are both ex members of Aberdeen University Officer Training Corps who I previously served with from 1997 until 2003. The two pipers on the outside were both guesting with the 51st but are present members of Aberdeen Officer Training Corps. The one with the 4 stripes on his arm is the pipe major of Aberdeen and is my ex flatmate. Both of them are in the uniform of the Gordon Highlanders. At one time, all five of us served in the Aberdeen Officer Training Corps band as officer cadets. The picture was taken in July outside the Halifax Metro Centre, Nova Scotia shortly before a Tattoo performance. The trip was very enjoyable although fairly hectic. We did not get a full day off at all and started rehearsals on the first day at 5.30am which was somewhat unpleasant! We did manage a few short trips in and around Halifax including some fishing at sea.

After a few weeks back home, I then returned back out to Canada to attend the Fergus Highland Games in Ontario. I was hosted by Andy, Melanie and family for the majority of the visit and David MacLennan and his sister Mary for the latter part. I had to keep the trip very short due to a lack of holiday days available and was in Canada for just less than a week. The Games were very successful with an excellent turnout of MacLennan's, many of whom had travelled quite a distance to attend the Games. Some had come up from the US. I was one of three Clan Chiefs at the Games and enjoyed having a fairly low key role although I took the salute on the main stand as the Clans marched past and was introduced at the ceremonies along with the other Chiefs, both of whom I knew quite well.

On the evening of the Games, there was a Clan MacLennan Ceilidh, which was well attended and good fun. During the proceedings, the "Wee Chiefy" video was shown and as this was filmed in 1990, it was a little embarrassing! It was of interest to many of the clansfolk present as it included footage of some people present at the Ceilidh.

It was also a reminder of the many clan people that have passed away in recent years. I spoke for a while at the Ceilidh and then proceeded to wake up my audience by playing a few tunes on the pipes!

The remainder of the trip was unusually relaxed for a clan visit which was most welcome! We had a family dinner at Andy and Melanie's on the Sunday after church and on the Monday we took a trip to Niagara Falls. I had visited the Falls with Doug, Elva, Smoky, Mary and my father in 1987 which I still recall. It was a fantastic day which certainly tired us all out. On the Tuesday I spent the day with David MacLennan and his wife Kitty. David is Doug's brother. I visited David's local Rotary Club where I did a presentation on the role of the modern day Clan Associations. Again I woke up my audience with a few pipe tunes! I then spent the last day sightseeing around the Hamilton area with David and Kitty and was hosted by David's sister Mary and husband Ed.

I returned back to Glasgow on the Thursday at 11am and was taking work calls on my mobile whilst collecting my luggage and all the way on the drive home before reaching the office, a little tired, mid afternoon. Since arriving home, things have been busy with work, a bit of DIY to the house, a trip to our wee housey up in Sheldaig for the village Gala day at which I piped. We then had the Dores Village Gala Day last weekend and I appear to have been designated as the announcer. I had to announce what was happening on the arena as well as give encouragement and some enthusiastic chat for 4 hours! People commented that I was doing what I am best at, talking uninterrupted!! Kirsteen and Lorna are both well. Neither of them were able to make it to Canada due to work commitments and other issues such as boyfriends. They both seem busy and presently Lorna is in Paris with her boyfriend, his mother and other friends and Kirsteen is somewhere exotic no doubt. Neither of them are home very often which allows my peace and quiet to get on wit things at the house. I hope that all is well in Melbourne and please pass on my love to the family and Clan. Hope that this finds you both well.

Regards
Mr Chief

(this was an e-mail copy to David(Dundas) of the e-mail to Max in Melbourne (Australia)

MELANIE’S ACCOUNT OF THE CHIEF’S VISIT

Our Chief, Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan, joined us from Scotland to celebrate our Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations of the Clan MacLennan Canada, Central Ontario Branch and the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of the Fergus Scottish Festival on August 12th & 13th, 2005.

As he had just returned from serving his military service as a piper with his regiment at the Nova Scotia Tattoo in Halifax, Nova Scotia, it was a bit of a scramble at work and home before jaunting off to Ontario barely weeks later.

Ruairidh arrived in good spirits and health, having slept most of the flight, on Thursday Aug. 11th, in time for a rib supper with our family at our local pub.

After a good night’s sleep and a few pots of tea, some errands and shopping were in order, before we suited up in Highland Garb and headed off to join the Games dignitaries for the Friday night Tattoo. At the VIP tent, Chief Ruairidh was warmly welcomed by John Campbell and his wife, who remembered him from his last visit in 2000. Although we were not a featured Clan this year, all courtesies were extended him and his hosts. Ruairidh enjoyed reacquainting with a number of people he knew and remembered both from his earlier visit to Fergus, and some of the Clan representatives and Chiefs that he had met at other international games, as well as at home in Scotland.

The Chief of Clan Hunter, Pauline, and Ruairidh enjoyed a good conversation regarding their mutual environmental concerns and issues at home, the subject of which our Chief has made his vocation. I was impressed by the opportunity afforded these leaders who choose to look to the future, and how they can make a significant statement by their course of action on the future health and well-being of their environment and their countrymen. Andy & Ruairidh shared piping commentaries on the various performances, and were very impressed by the 48th Highlanders Bagpipes and Brass bands. A very moving part of the evening is the Lightin’, made even more solemn this year, as each Clan’s representative carried a candle to the bonfire tended by John Allen Cameron, who was making his last appearance as the Games Chieftain, seated in a wheelchair, accompanied by his wife. I doubt there were many dry eyes, as the significance of the evening settled like the mist to the sound of the massed pipes and drums.

On the Saturday, after meeting some of the visiting clansmen at the B&B, Ruairidh spent time preparing for his speech at the Ceilidh, and warming up his bagpipes, then it was off to the Games to be on hand for the Opening ceremonies. There was a good turnout for the parade of the Clans and our Chief received the salute from the platform. Afterwards, at the Clan tent in the Avenue of the Clans, many met Ruairidh in person. The Avenue of the Clans was treated to some piping by our Chief as well, then it was back to change for the AGM and Ceilidh

Sunday was a slower day with a later start. Sunday services were followed by lunch at our house. Katie prepared a delicious spicy soup for lunch, however things became a little animated after Ruairidh munched on what he thought was a date on the cutting board, which was really a dried hot pepper! Some bread and beer, calmed things down and the rest of lunch was quite enjoyed. Some of our friends who had met Ruairidh on his last visit in 2000, dropped by for a chat in the afternoon. Pizzas and a movie ended the day and a busy weekend.

Monday was our day to go touring. We started off after breakfast and headed for the Niagara Peninsula. Driving through the vineyards into the pretty town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, was first on our journey. We walked about town, and explored some of the shops. A number of houses were in the process of being lifted up and having full foundations built under them. Ruairidh found this an interesting process. Most of these houses were the original frame or log houses, having been built with simple dugout cellars, and obviously had been slated for preservation. Given that our “old heritage” buildings are only about 250 years old, it gives one pause to consider the youth of our country, compared to much of Scotland. We dropped into a few shops, one of which was the Scottish Gift Shop. Ruairidh finds our (and others elsewhere in the world) fascination with things Scottish somewhat bemusing. On behalf of the Clan, I picked out a warm wool scarf in the Maple Leaf Tartan for a souvenir gift for him. Ruairidh thought it would be a good conversation starter. He wears his “coonskin cap”, that he picked up at Algonquin Park on his last visit to Canada, to fancy dress occasions

We drove down the parkway to Fort George and took an interesting self-guided tour about the grounds. The history of the Fort and the War of 1812-1814, is a little known epic outside of Canada. The proximity of the American troops, their ships and their defense at Fort Niagara, to our own boundaries still is fascinating. Andy and Ruairidh in true manly fashion, analyzed the forts defenses and concluded with their own “improved” tactical recommendations. Maggie enjoyed “imprisoning the Chief in the Gaols” and then Ruairidh obligingly reciprocated. On we went to Queenston Heights where we enjoyed a very good lunch in the restaurant overlooking the scenic Niagara river, Fort Niagara and the mouth of Lake Ontario, and then trekked the walking trail of the various sites of the pivotal battles.

Our next stop was Niagara Falls itself, which Ruairidh well remembers visiting once before as a small boy of about ten years old, with his father on his first trip to Canada. It was a warm beautiful day to visit the Falls and the rainbows lasted most of the day. We took Ruairidh on his first visit to an Imax Theatre and watched the history of Niagara Falls. Afterwards, I think I was concerned that he had become a little too interested in the various vessels used to shoot the rapids that were on display in the foyer. It was now time for our party to go “behind the falls”, and we donned hideous yellow plastic bags and entered the passages. As none of us had done this before, we had great fun getting quite soaked by the spray while trying to get some pictures, all the while yelling to be heard. We dried off while watching the sun set on the falls, and the lights come on. Tired and hungry now, we had a quick supper and headed home.

Tuesday morning, we took Ruairidh to shop for a new digital camera, so that he can better record life at home and his travels abroad. Afterwards we drove to Dundas, where he was invited to speak to David MacLennans’ Rotary Group and play his pipes. Ruairidh stayed at Ed & Mary Krucker’s home in Dundas for Tuesday night, and then spent Wednesday visiting their son Chris’s organic vegetable farm.

It was off to the airport for an evening flight back to Glasgow, arriving in the morning, in time to drive 3 ½ hours into work for a few hours, before heading home to Dores for a good sleep and a quiet weekend.

We’ve all agreed that this trip, although short in length this time, only whetted his appetite for another visit; perhaps to see what Canadian winters are really like!

Common Gaelic Phrases

Subject: The following are taken from a series of cards that were handed to us at Fergus. They are useful because a guide to pronunciation is included.

Gaelic:	Ciamar a tha thu?	De an t-ainm a tha ort ?	Thig a-staigh.	Chi mi a-rithist sibh.
Pronounced:	(Kimer a ha oo ?)	(Jay an ten-um a ha orsh?)	(Hig a sty.)	(He me a-reesht shiv.)

Meaning: How are you? What’s your name? Come in. I will see you again Practice these a bit and see if you can start to use them. We have no hopes of a Gaelic revival and promise not to set an exam., but it would be different if we could greet each other in Gaelic at Highland Games: it might make quite an impression, provided you used the last example soon after the first !

Clan MacLennan Canada

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Saturday, August 13, 2005-Sunroom, Victoria Park Seniors' Centre

President Melanie welcomed the members, especially those who have travelled some distance and those who had come for the feast. She noted that the meeting would be short so there would be time to visit with the Chief.

The minutes of the 2004 AGM had been circulated. It was moved by Lois and seconded by Robin that the minutes be approved. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth presented the year end statement noting the new year end of July 31. The Bank Balance at year end was \$3,101.41 and the GIC TOTALS \$2,000.00

It was moved by Karen Dunbabin and seconded by Flora Asseltine that the report be accepted. Carried.

Business Arising:

- Membership now stands at 81. Renewal forms are now included with the newsletter as a separate sheet to encourage joining.
- Dave (Ottawa) complimented Andy McLennan on the work done in maintaining the MacLennan website. Andy will continue to perform this valuable function.
- President Melanie summarized the developments of the Clan during her term as President: - use of e-mail and websites as listed in the Membership directory which is published each September,
 - newsletter - four times a year.
 - Chief's visit
- Affirmation of Executive - New President - Robin MacLennan
 - Past President - Melanie McLennan
 - Vice President - Angus MacLennan
 - Treasurer - Elizabeth Prebble
 - Secretary - Lois Walton
 - Committee - David and Kitty MacLennan, Robert and Kay MacLennan,
 - Flora Asseltine, Karen Dunbabin, David MacLennan (Ottawa)

New Business

- Brochure-There is a need to create a brochure of the Clan MacLennan, as requests have been made for a copy, especially from Culloden, Scotland. Robin will discuss this with Chief Ruairidh.
- Games - Volunteers are needed to represent the Clan at Highland Games across Canada. Lynne Borne (Utterson) volunteered to attend the Orillia games.
- Dave (Dundas) expressed appreciation of the Clan to Elizabeth Prebble for her dedication and expertise as keeper of the funds as well as her skill in making The Bricks

News from Members.

Subject: **Konnor Donald Bois- McLennan-NEW ARRIVAL**

I am the youngest of our McLennan lineage !

My proud grandparents, Raymond and Lorna, want to keep up with Clan MacLennan news around the world and I have found remarkable analogies and theories of our origins and such. Raymond's great-grandparents, Donald and Margaret, immigrated to Canada as a new bride and groom around 1870 to settle in the most fantastic country in the world. Their arrival placed them in Lochiel Township, Glengarry County, Ontario, where they created a homestead, toiling as farmers amongst many other Scottish Clans in the area.

The 1881 Canadian census lists McLennen (some Canadian census takers were terrible writers and spellers) shows how their family grew, and like many nomadic McLennan/ MacLennans, the offspring branched out to the Province of Saskatchewan and other points west in Canada. Lorna and Raymond are new Clan MacLennan members of the Ontario Branch and first came into contact with Clan MacLennan Canada at the Glengarry Highland Games (the massed bands totaled 85 bands) where we met Eileen and Robin MacLennan.

Last weekend we were fortunate enough to take in the Fergus Games, and as the Glengarry Games, the colour and pageantry was unbelievable. The highlight of the day was our Clan MacLennan Dinner and Ceilidh, where we mingled with McLennans/ MacLennans from across Canada and USA. The fanfare was the attendance of our Clan Chief Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan, who entertained us with his bagpipes as the finale of the Ceilidh. Our new President, Robin MacLennan, was sworn in during the meeting and handed the gavel by outgoing president, Melanie McLennan.

Feumaidh mi falbh, a-nis;
Raymond and Lorna McLennan

(this was a copy of a message first posted on clanmacleannan@yahogroups.com . and copied to us by Max in Australia.) May we add our Congratulations and best wishes to Lorna and Raymond -Robin

FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

DONALD WALLACE MacLENNAN PhD. (Wee Donald) passed away on 10 June, 2005 in Greensburg, PA, aged 68. He was one of the founding members of the Clan Association and succeeded Woody Woodward as the Chief's Lieutenant for the Eastern U.S. Wee Donald was a scholar, taught media studies at Brooklyn College (a unit of the City University of New York or CUNY) and had a great knowledge of Scottish history and Clan traditions. We remember him as a great listener who was always ready to explain how customs and traditions arose, no matter what the question.

When the late Chief Ronnie visited Fergus in 1988, Donald and Dorothy came to the Games and he became a member of our Branch. We saw them again in 1989 and at Maxville in 1994, 1995 and 1997; he had planned to go on to Fergus in 1997 but did not feel well enough and returned home. A further connection to Canada is a sponsored native Community Centre in Northern Ontario, whose entrance from the main road is marked by a large stone with MACLENNAN engraved on it.

At our dinner this year for Chief Ruairidh, we ran a BBC film entitled "Wee Chiefie", about Ruairidh's activities following the death of his father. Scenes from the Clan Parliament in 1990 included an on-camera interview with Wee Donald, with Doug & Elva (Vancouver), Prof. Hugh, Smoky, Clarence and Eileen (Ottawa) in the crowd at the opening.

We extend our deep sympathy to Dorothy and the family but with sadness must add "Donald, we hardly knew ye".

JAMES (JIMMY) McLENNAN (GLASGOW). Jimmy passed away on 6th. July, 2005, in his 76th year. He was a member of the Clan Council, as was his late wife, Ellen, who served as General Secretary. Although most of our members might not have known Jimmy personally, he worked with Malcolm Lobban on the book "*In Search of Clan MacLennan*" and also assisted the late Dr. Jon G. McLennan with "*The History and Traditions of the MacLennans of Kintail*".

(An extensive memorial to Jimmy by his friend, Malcolm Lobban, was e-mailed to me. It contains a half page account of Jimmy's family going back to 1805.

If any members would like a copy, please let me know and I will send it on. Robin.)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions for the year 2005-2006 are due on **1 August, 2005** and are \$10 per family (single address). New memberships are \$25 for the first year and \$10 thereafter.

Please make cheques payable to Clan MacLennan COB and send to:

Elizabeth Prebble, 83-2301 Cavendish Dr., Burlington, ON, L7P 3M3

We would appreciate attention to this notice early as the next Newsletter will be in the spring of 2006. On payment, you will receive your new membership card for 2005-2006.

Scottish Country Dancing

During the last visit of the Chief to Canada, we did some Scottish Country Dancing at the Ceilidh in Fergus. We were fortunate to have with us John Middleton from the Hamilton Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) who led us in several lively dances to help settle the meal. This was my first experience with the art.

That fall, back in Ottawa, we saw an ad for classes presented by the Ottawa Branch of the RSCDS. Judy and I enrolled and have been dancing ever since. Dancing has proved to be an exercise for both the mind (remembering what to do) and body (doing it). It appeals to all ages from children to those of us of more advanced years.

Also of significance is the fact that Branches of the Society exist in towns and cities all around the world, and Scottish Country Dancers are a very welcoming crowd. We have since moved from Ottawa to Vancouver and were able to move right into the Vancouver Branch. Visitors who are in town only for a short time are also welcomed at weekly classes or monthly events. No more nights alone in the hotel on business trips.

(this was emailed by Phil Holton from Vancouver)

Thanks for the tip,