



DUM SPIRO SPERO
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

CLAN MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER
Central Ontario Branch
CANADA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Games season is now over for another year and, regrettably, Fergus was virtually a complete washout- literally. We had the tent all set up and ready about 9am under mainly sunny skies but, by 10 am, dark clouds rolled in and the rain started. Apart from some 5-10 minute breaks occasionally, which were useful for washroom visits, we spent the day trying to keep our tables and ourselves reasonably dry. After a short consultation, the parade and the official opening were cancelled and the Highland dancing moved into the arena. We persevered until about 3.30 pm but had to abandon the tent because the water was starting to pool under our feet. By that time, it would have been a struggle even to get to the reserved committee room in the arena, so the AGM had to be postponed. We ran for the cars and went to the Angel Diner for the clan dinner and eleven members sat down eventually, so at least we did see most of our regulars. We also had our usual draw for prizes and Lorna (our new secretary) won Elizabeth's Brick. Now she is consulting Elizabeth on the wee details of how to finish the brick, so the craft can continue.

On a more cheerful note, we were represented at Cobourg, Georgetown, Maxville and Cambridge Games again, with better weather, thank goodness. At Maxville, the rain held off until just before 4.00 pm, which washed out the massed bands but, at least, the crowds got to see most of the show. Maybe I should inject a wee caution to those going to the Gathering in Edinburgh next year – it might be prudent to invest in an "Inverness" cape (the black nylon coverall all the bandsmen carry). These come with a small pouch, which the cape can be folded into so that it is easy to carry. Actually, it has loops on the pouch so it can be slipped onto a belt.

News from the 2009 Clan Gathering in Edinburgh has slowed in volume of late, apparently the "Gold" passports are sold out but you can still get silver and bronze ones. If you are considering a trip to this event, check our website for the latest details, it is being updated regularly. Melanie and Andy are definitely going, while some others are still finalizing details. I will miss it because it coincides with our main Games dates over here, It is a pity that the main Edinburgh Tattoo is a bit later, but I guess that would not be commercially prudent. As I am a first generation Canadian, I am familiar with both the venue and the pageantry in Edinburgh, as well as the good watering holes, so the attraction is not the same.

To date, we have not had feedback on the mailout invitation for new members but, considering the fiasco at Fergus, I hope that anyone considering new membership did not get there before the rain. As Burns wrote, "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley", so our next effort will have to be a more weatherproof strategy.

We are only sending out six reminders for late dues this year, a further improvement over previous years. On the other hand, the deaths of Lois Walton (notified previously), Harold Griffiths and Dr. Myles MacLennan (notified herein), mark the passing of more of our earliest members. We are all too well aware that younger folk have so many demands on their time that family and kinship tend to be filtered out as secondary concerns. Membership in the Clan MacLennan, however, provides a link that is affordable, does not make great demands on your schedule and keeps you informed of events and outings where you can meet others who share your background. Believe me, the Clans are more alive and active overseas than in Scotland. It is not any ancient allegiance or nostalgia that motivates members, it is a pride of race and kinship that drives us to foster friendship among those who share our roots. The Scots have migrated to all parts of the world, not as conquerors, but invariably as people who fixed things and made them work properly. That is why we are still welcomed as immigrants; we work well with everyone because we are proud to be part of our heritage.

Enough of sounding like a "Meenister"! (Oops, I outraged the spellcheck again). Anyway, as this is the last Newsletter this year, enjoy (and use) the Directory included and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. I know we needed the rain and less heat that we had this year, but I would love to have an email address for the local weather maker so that we could order up days for gentle sunshine that suits our clothes at the Games. Cheers

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Elizabeth Prebble, Burlington, ON
David MacLennan, Dundas, ON
Melanie MacLennan, Guelph, ON

EDITOR'S NOTES

We covered the earlier Games in previous letters, so Cambridge, Maxville and Fergus are covered here.

CAMBRIDGE- Elizabeth was recovering from a brief spell in hospital, which did not interrupt her attendance (her remark-not mine).

MAXVILLE-The first couple of hours were very quiet and the numbers seemed down from last year. We had 18 visitors but sales were miserable. Kristin Lawlor signed in, but I missed Marilyn. We packed up at 4.00 and just got out before the rain. Ray & Lorna wanted to see the massed bands but these were rained off.

FERGUS- As noted earlier, these Games were drowned out with the exception of the dancing and some competitions which could be moved into the arena. We did manage some sales, however, and we had almost a running dinner at the Angel over about two hours, finally gathering 11 members. We had to cancel the AGM due to crowding in the arena, but we covered most of the Agenda at our Executive meeting with the minutes included here. The Tattoo on Friday was blessed with a fine evening, well attended and went smoothly. We even had a low level fly past of 4 Gipsy Moth biplanes from a local club. They were low enough to even see the pilots waving as they went past- I bet you couldn't try that in a jet plane.

I guess that summarises the 2008 season as one that did not live up to the trend of global warming. It did, however, confirm that rain storms are getting much heavier, which may help the Great Lakes in the long run. I do have an Inverness cape- but I took it to the Tattoo and left it at the B&B on Saturday because it was sunny and cloudless at 8.30 when we left to set up the tent. I should have remembered what Scottish weather is like, so don't laugh at coats and jackets being carried- their owners may be cannier than you think. We will hope for kinder conditions next year because most of the field sports, such as tug-of-war, caber tossing and hammer throws are dangerous in confined spaces. I do love a pipe band, but massed bands in an arena are deafening to say

the least, apart from trying to countermarch an unwieldy mass of musicians.

I only hope the concession vendors do not give up, because the rain out can really cut into their sales. The trouble there is that areas in front of their tents get trampled down quickly so that rain tends to pool or run across in front of the tent preventing later visitors from coming near.

May I pass a word of warning to those who may be using internet lists to find addresses for groups. There are so many who live in apartments/condos, i.e separate units, where the unit number may be omitted from the list, that the address is deemed incomplete and the letter may be returned to the sender. Unless you know the area and can realize there is an omission, this can result in a return of up to 10% of a mailout, which can be frustrating to say the least.

I didn't use the shuttle this year because Elizabeth found me a B&B near the grounds. I noticed from a brochure that there is a – charge per ride now, but that is still a bargain compared to the \$5 parking and the cost of using your own gas. If you are hoping to find a B&B for next year, start early because, although new ones start up every year, there are still many visitors scrambling at the last minute to find a place.

Two Treasurer's reports are included here, the first being for the financial year 2007-2008 and the second taking account of changes since then. A brief account is also given of our latest Executive meeting, which covered most of the items originally intended for the AGM, which had to be cancelled for reasons beyond our control.

May I add a heartfelt vote of thanks to our Committee members for all their hard work in making the organization run smoothly while coping with all sorts of questions. The Clan MacLennan is very much a global concern now, but we need to cater for our own branch members primarily. To do this, we need to hear of your needs and wishes, so please let us know what you would like to check. We try to answer all queries and provide the best answer available, even if this requires some digging.

FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

Dr. Myles MacLennan of Chatham passed away at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance on Thursday, June 19th, 2008 in his 79th year. He was a loving son of the late Angus and Agnes MacLennan; beloved husband of Anne-Marie (McConnell); loving father of Nick of Hamilton, Gabrielle and her husband Tony Desbottes of Hillsburgh, Valerie and her husband Pat Consulanti of Chatham, and Mairi and her husband Cailean Lenover of Windsor; dear family friend Dr. Krystyna Gorzelska of Bismarck, N.D.

He will be lovingly remembered by his grandchildren Joshua, Christopher, Andrea, Shannen, Fiona, Catriona and Bronwyn; dear brother of Gerald and his wife Eileen of Regina, Saskatchewan, and James and his companion Rose of Burnaby, B.C. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Chrystal of Ottawa, and by his many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Donald.

Dr. MacLennan was a University of Manitoba Medical School graduate, and he completed his residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Toronto. Dr. MacLennan practiced radiology at St. Joseph's Hospital for over 38 years, from 1962 to 2000. Myles served on a number of boards in the community.

Family and friends were invited to the Alexander Funeral Home, 245 Wellington West, Chatham, on Sunday, June 22nd. A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church on Monday, June 23rd at 11.00 a.m. Cremation followed with interment in Maple Leaf Cemetery.

Friends planning an expression of remembrance are asked to consider the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance MRI Fund and Doctors Without Borders. Family and friends may send on-line condolences at www.alexanderfuneralhome.ca. Parish prayers were held at the funeral home on Sunday evening.

(Notice from the Inverness Oran, June 28, 2008, passed on by Mrs. Mabell LeClair)

Frederick Harold Griffiths (1918- 2008). Harold passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 2, 2008 in his 91st year, in the St. Catharines General Hospital. Dearly loved husband of Evelyn, his wife of 64 years, and father of Wynne (George) Nicholson, St. Catharines; Robert (Dawn), St. John's N.L., formerly Lindsay; Owen (Linda), Ottawa; and Rodger (Barb), Sarnia. Much loved grandfather of Scott, Ty (Laura), Torrey, Braden (Charlotte), James, Adam, Brianne (Jeff) and Garth, and of great nephew Tom. Predeceased by parents Fred and Olive, sisters Dorothy Lawson and Irene Griffiths, and grandson Joshua.

Harold was born in Sarnia, graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, (B.Sc. Eng.-1941; M.Sc. Eng.- 1942) and was a proud member of the Queen's Grant Hall Society and the Chemical Institute of Canada (MCIC). He spent all his working life at Imperial Oil in Sarnia, Edmonton and Toronto as Chief Chemist and Human Resources Specialist.

In 2001, he and Evelyn moved to Vineland. The family would like to thank his Heritage Village friends for their help and support, especially in Harold's later years. Harold was a devoted family man, never happier than hearing about, and enjoying the company of, his children and grandchildren..

A Memorial Service will be held in St. Thomas Anglican Church, 99 Ontario St. St. Catharines, on Tuesday, August 5, at 11a.m with interment occurring later in Lakeview Cemetery, Sarnia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Nature Conservancy of Canada or to a charity of choice. Arrangements entrusted with the George Darte Funeral Chapel, St. Catharines.

(Notice from the Toronto Star)

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

August 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008

Receipts

Bank Balance August 1, 2007			2,236.08
Member's Dues-			
2005-07	70.00		
2007-08	345.00		
2008-11	<u>250.00</u>	665.00	
Clan Sales – 2007		114.75	
Donation		30.00	
Fergus Dinner Draw		115.00	
G.I.C. Interest	53.00		
Bank	<u>.03</u>	<u>53.03</u>	<u>977.78</u>
			3,213.86

Disbursements

Newsletters	-Copy	148.90	
	Postage	107.83	
	Envelopes	9.11	
	Labels	<u>17.09</u>	282.93
Membership mail-out – Copy	37.97		
Post	<u>43.68</u>	81.65	
Fergus Games- 2008		68.00	
Royal Bank G.I.C.		1,000.00	
Service charges	<u>3.00</u>	<u>1,435.58</u>	
Bank Balance July 31, 2008			1,778.28
Royal Bank G.I.C.		<u>3,000.00</u>	
Branch Total			4,778.28

Members 73

Owing 2007-08	10
Paid 2008-11	61
Comp.	<u>2</u>
Total	73

(2008 Clan Dales to date \$92.00)

August 1 – September 13, 2008

Receipts

Bank Balance August 1, 2008				1,778.28
Members Due				
2007-2008	20.00			
2008-2011	<u>100.00</u>	120.00		
Clan Sales –Georgetown	15.00			
Cobourg	31.00			
Cambridge	46.00			
Fergus	<u>26.00</u>	118.00		
Fergus Dinner Draw			75.00	
Interest – G.I.C.	34.00			
Bank	<u>.32</u>	<u>34.32</u>	<u>347.32</u>	
				1,125.60

Disbursements

To date nil

Bank Balance September 12, 2008	2,125.60
Royal Bank G.I.C.	<u>3,000.00</u>
Branch Total	5,125.60

Members 73

Owing 2007-2008	9
Paid 2008-2011	62
Comp.	<u>2</u>
	73

DEFERRED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Fergus Games were effectively rained out this year and our AGM, which was to be held in a meeting room in the arena on the grounds, was abandoned because the building was so full of people that it would have required a major effort to pack our stuff in the car, reach the room and conduct a meeting without constant interruption. Although the AGM is open to all members, in practice we moved it to Fergus in the hope we would attract more members to attend when they were already there for the Games. This really worked when our Chief was also at Fergus, but other years have shown that we only gain, at most, four or five interested members.

Following the cancellation, it was decided to follow the Agenda prepared for the AGM at the final meeting of the Executive on 13th. September. Instead of our usual summary minutes, which record topics discussed and decisions taken, a brief account is given here of items more relevant to members:

- Financial Statements for 2007-2008 and to date of the last meeting are included. These were approved.
- Membership totals 73. There are six memberships still in arrears and if payment is not made before the March meeting, renewals will be considered as new applications at \$25 for the first year.
- Prospective new members of the Executive will be contacted to replace deceased or retiring members. It is normal that Executive members should seek re-election after 2-3 years, but, in practice you stay in until you resign, retire, or move away.
- 2009 Edinburgh Gathering "Passports", required for admittance for the Highland Games and Parades, are priced at Cdn. \$ 160 for Bronze, \$190 for silver and \$ 220 for Gold. Apparently the Gold ones are now sold out.. On top of these prices there are unspecified "fees", which may include help with additional items such as finding accommodation etc. A MacLennan tent is being arranged where our Clan members from all countries can meet. For available information, visit our website www.clanmaclennan.ca or the International Site www.clan.maclennan.com while Passports can be obtained at www.thegathering2009.com with method payment ready.
- A Proposal for a "Chief's Medal", to be awarded for outstanding service to the Clan in any capacity on the recommendation of the proposing country, had been received from Clan MacLennan USA and circulated to the Executive for comment.. Some comments have been returned and these were discussed at the meeting, but the general tone has been that, in a loose voluntary organization, such a distinction can generate resentment and lead to less teamwork where everyone pitches in to help. It was decided that, while we will contribute our ideas to help in finalizing the ground rules, Clan MacLennan Canada do not wish be involved at this stage. If a future Executive wishes to participate, they may apply to an international committee for inclusion.
- A further mail-out to attract new members from the Glengarry area will be discussed at the March meeting. The mail-out before the Fergus Games was well intentioned but ill timed, to say the least, in view of the weather we experienced. At the Glengarry Games held at Maxville, however, the clan tents are situated in barns, which always get busy if there is a passing shower. The Glengarry folk really support their Games, which feature a large numbers of pipe competitions and dancers, but they are a close- knit society and suspicious of outsiders that may try to organize them into groups. They even have a recognized Glengarry tartan, which is pretty colourful when viewed against the muted shades of traditional kilts. There are a large number of descendants of MacLennans among them, however, so we must keep trying.
- Earlier this year we received a letter from the Uxbridge Games who were looking for Clan representation. This is a comparatively new venue but I imagine the proximity of the eastern end of the 407 Highway has resulted in an influx of families moving into the area. Their dates were 25-26 July, which fall in the week between Cambridge and Maxville, both of which we had planned to attend. The overall body which controls the dates of the various Games has certain fixed slots for major events but there is some latitude for lesser and newer entrants, provided they are not in the same general area. We had discussed the justification of purchasing a second tent so that reps could attend different Games on the same week end but, at present, that would require a member or members in the area or who have been to Uxbridge before to lend a hand. We do have members all over, so if anyone has been to these Games, could you let us know how they are doing i.e general attendance, clans represented and main events, so that we can consider the situation. Most Games provide two free entrance tickets and a space for a tent for official reps, but that could change if local funding is restricted.

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- We considered that we need to have more small items for sale at our tent during the Games. The Clan coffee mugs, purchased some years ago have sold quite well but the minimum order is now 200, which would take too long to sell. Other small items, such as Clan pins and stationery, have not been great sellers. We are contacting Doug in B.C. to see if he can get more golf shirts and sweatshirts with the Clan badge on them as we only have size XXL ones left. These were very good sellers, in regular sizes of course. The only other items we have are those that Elizabeth has made using scraps of our tartan as decoration.

Other items being considered:

- Brief Clan History pamphlet, including present day Associations.
- Enquiry to Burnetts of Barrie on the availability and cost of small pieces of tartan for fridge magnets, bookmarks etc.
- Cards with samples of types of tartans (Hunting, Dress and Ancient).

If you have other ideas, please let us know about them.

A final item of news from Fergus: At our Clan dinner at the Angel Diner, we held our usual draw for donated prizes, Elizabeth's brick being the traditional first item. She crafted the first of these in 1989, and donated one per year since then, with three extras for the Chief and his sisters when they were here. The winners this year were:

1. Brick	Lorna	2. Clan Mug	Bernice	3. Clan Mug	Ray
4. Candle Holder	Kay	5. Scotland Tape	Lorna	6. Wine	Melanie
7. Wine	Eileen	8. Crown Royal	Bernice	9. Post It Notes	Elizabeth
10. Bacardi	Lorna	11. Red Wine & Cranberry Jelly	Lorna	12. Wine	Gord
13. Clock	Elizabeth	14. Peach Jam	Bob	15. Cherry Jam	Lorna
16. Pepper Jelly	John	17. Ancient to Modern Gaelic	Bernice	18. Voyageur (Book)	Robin

In closing, may all of us on the Executive wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2009. I know it seems a bit premature to say that but this is our last scheduled Newsletter for this year. I already have a growing carpet of leaves waiting to be raked in the garden, so Nature is saying it is time to put the shorts away and put the garden to bed.