

# A' BRATACH BHAN

*the White Banner*

the Newsletter of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada

Volume 24, Issue 2

Fall 2006



A' Bratach Bhan (*The White Banner*) is published by The Clan Mackay Association of Canada

Editor: Sarah Bain Mallalieu

741 Woodward Ave Unit 2, Milton, ON L9T 3T6

## *In This Issue*

Well, here it is. My second issue of the newsletter. I have made some changes, as I am sure all have noticed 😊 and I hope that the new format is easy to read and enjoyable for all.

I have enjoyed many activities in the past few months, but the one that stands out is the Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival in August. The event was an enjoyable celebration of all things Scottish from the Highland Dancing to the Heavy Events competition to the Bagpipes and bands. Look for the write up and photos in this edition.

There are few things to look for in this edition - the letter from the President, the raffle information, our Search for Connections and a few laughs along the way.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made contributions to this newsletter. Your submissions are always welcome!

Thank you all, and enjoy!

Sarah

## *Thanks to Our Contributors*

A special thanks to Mr. Christopher Mackie for the new banner – it is a wonderful addition to the newsletter.

Thank you also to Barbara and Mora for providing the pictures in this edition.

This newsletter is for the entire clan, and any news that you may like to share is always welcome. Contributions can be made via e-mail through the website at [www.clanmackay.ca](http://www.clanmackay.ca) or via mail to Sarah Mallalieu 741 Woodward Ave #2, Milton ON, L9T 3T6.



# *From the Desk of the President*

Dear Clansfolk

Fall Edition 2006

The flowers around our pool are so bright and cheery. Almost hate to think that "Jack Frost" will be coming soon and will be gone, except then we have the lovely autumn leaves.

We had 12 Canadians attend the Bicentenary of the Clan Mackay Society in Scotland. The hottest weather in 100 years, but the event was wonderful. Heather Mackay will write an article on the complete event to I will not steal her thunder.

However, I will tell you about the oil paintings we received from William or Bill Mackay from Scotland.

Lord Reay, Chief of the Clan Mackay, the Canadian and US Clan Mackay Presidents each received a painting. Bill is a noted sculptor and artist and his oil paintings are inspiring. Come to the next meeting of Clan Mackay at 3665 Autumn Leaf Cr, Mississauga ON October 21 at 1:30 PM and these paintings will be on display, two others given to me depict the antics of my own father, another William Mackay.

This fall we will be selling tickets on a painting donated by Nial Mackay. With the extra money we can run our Clan a little bit easier. Do fill out your tickets and send them in. You can also include your dues for the 2007 year.

John Allen Cameron, Past Cheiftain of the Fergus Scottish Games, is in ill health. Our thoughts and prayers are with him as he is waging a battle with bone marrow cancer and leukaemia.

At the Fergus Games we received three new members, sold some T-shirts and spoke with many Mackays and Septs. The parade featured 50 different clans with our own Barbara Bain Mallalieu in a striking early century dress in Mackay plaid. Also Jordan Morgan Welker of Ohio was in the march with us. It was interesting to see our Clan Mackay Crest as tattoos on some of our young Mackays.

Our web site is going strong. If anyone has information to add or information for our newsletter, just let us know. It will be appreciated by Barbara and Sarah.

Andrew and Sarah Betts, Past President of Clan Mackay USA paid a visit enroute from the Maxwell Scottish Games. Andrew was born in Nova Scotia.

In closing, it was an honour to meet Lord Reay, Chief of the Clan Mackay, as well as his charming wife and sisters. Let us hope they get a chance to visit with us here in Canada.

Have a great fall, see you October 21. If you are a new member and live around this area, please call (905) 820 5715 to reserve a seat for the next meeting of the Clan.

Sincerely,

*Mora Mackay Cairns*

President,  
The Clan Mackay Association of Canada

[morabob@rogers.com](mailto:morabob@rogers.com) 905-820-5715

Our web site is <http://www.clanmackay.ca>



# Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival

The Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival was held in August this year and was a wonderful, fun-filled celebration of all things Scottish. From the Caber-toss, sheaf-toss and other heavy events right through to the sheep-shearing, there was something for everyone.

In the Heavy Events competitions, we were treated to the sights of Caber-toss, sheaf-toss, hammer throw and other events. The divisions included both men and women participants – a site that some of us young feminists were very happy to see!



For people who think that they may be Scottish, or who know there is scots blood but not exactly what clan-affiliation they have, there is an Avenue of the Clans.

We were fortunate to have Mora and Bob Cairns in attendance again this year to represent the Clan. As Mora mentioned earlier in this edition, we had a lot of traffic

come by the booth and several names were added to the guest book.

As we see here, Barbara Bain Mallalieu and Mora Mackay Cairns were representing the clan in full garb and looked wonderful! They were not alone in sporting the traditional dress – everywhere you looked, there were participants and spectators wearing everything from the traditional tartans to the more modern take on Scottish garb (think “Utilikilt” as seen here)

There were competitions for Pipers, Bands and dancers as well as demonstrations on various aspects of traditional





Scottish crafts. The sheep-shearing was fascinating but there were also demonstrations of basket-weaving, quilting and weaving and spinning.



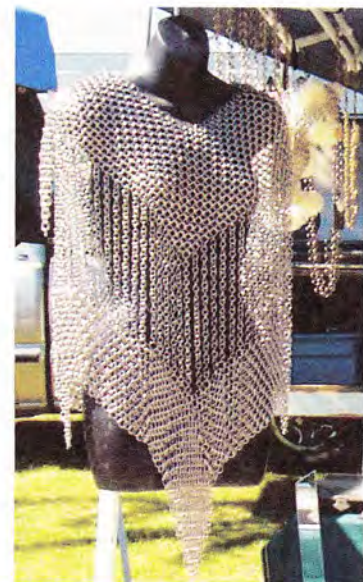
Included in the competitions are the Highland Dancing competitions. Throughout the weekend, you can stop by and watch the participants as they compete.

Every year, the Games have featured speakers and other guests. This year, the featured author was David R Ross who spent an hour giving a funny and educational talk about the history of Scotland and the nature of the Scottish people.

In addition to the scheduled speakers and demonstrations, there are vendors selling everything from Celtic jewellery to ancient garb to modern twists on Scottish traditions (did I mention the Utili-kilts?)

While a lot of these events sound great for adults, let's not forget that there are lots of scheduled activities for children. There are children's heavy events – including a miniature caber toss! – and sword-making, readings and more.

This three-day festival was packed with activities, music and fun, so much more than I've touched on here. I hope that everyone can come out next year and enjoy the games!



For more pictures, please see our website at [www.clanmackay.ca](http://www.clanmackay.ca)

#### A QUICK SMILE:

A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," says the mother, "What part is it?" The boy says "I play the part of the Scottish husband!" The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."



# Searching for Connections:

Hi,

I'm looking for information on a Grace Mackay and family from Scotland. She was born in 1856 in Reay, Caithness. I believe she married William Sinclair in 1869 in Lanark.

I'm trying to trace her ancestry. Her parents may have been Alexander Mackay and Margaret Munro?

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

H. Beal

[hbgolfpro@shaw.ca](mailto:hbgolfpro@shaw.ca)

## Famous Scot

### Alexander Graham Bell

A pioneer in the field of telecommunications, Alexander Graham Bell was born in 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He moved to Ontario, and then to the United States, settling in Boston, before beginning his career as an inventor. Throughout his life, Bell had been interested in the education of deaf people. This interest led him to invent the microphone and, in 1876, his "electrical speech machine," which we now call a telephone. News of his invention quickly spread throughout the country, even throughout Europe. By 1878, Bell had set up the first telephone exchange in New Haven, Connecticut. By 1884, long distance connections were made between Boston, Massachusetts and New York City.

In addition to the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell developed the telegraph, sound recording and photophone. He built a biplane in 1908 which flew the first official public flight in the US. He also designed a hydrofoil which gained the world water speed record in 1918.

Are there Scots you'd like to see featured here? Check out the Thanks to Our Contributors section on page two for information on how to reach us!

Five Englishmen boarded a train just behind five Scots, who, as a group had only purchased one ticket. Just before the conductor came through, all the Scots piled into the toilet stall at the back of the car. As the conductor passed the stall, he knocked and called "Tickets, please!" and one of the Scots slid a ticket under the door. It was punched, pushed back under the door, and when it was safe all the Scots came out and took their seats. The Englishmen were tremendously impressed by the Scots' ingenuity. On the trip back, the five Englishmen decided to try this themselves and purchased only one ticket. They noticed that, oddly, the Scots had not purchased any tickets this time. Anyway, again, just before the conductor came through, the Scots piled into one of the toilet stalls, the Englishmen into the other. Then one of the Scots leaned out, knocked on the Englishmen's stall and called "Ticket, Please!" When the ticket slid out under the door, he picked it up and quickly closed the door.