

A'BRATACH Bhan
the White Banner
the Newsletter of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada



A'Bratach Bhan (*The White Banner*) is published by
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Fall Newsletter 2011

Dear Clanfolk:

The summer is over and now we can look forward to a fall with many coloured leaves. Lord Beaverbrook, a native of New Brunswick always visited Canada in the fall so he could enjoy the amazing colours.

We attended a few Scottish Games this summer. Met many interesting Mackays and other clan members and had a few join our Clan Mackay. Heather Mackay was able to take her Dad to Nova Scotia to the Antigonish 148th Anniversary Highland Games to celebrate his 90th birthday. He met many old friends and had a great time. Also our Secretary, Patricia McKee, attended the Grandfather Mountain Games in USA.

We were intrigued in June when Robert Mackay was a savior in the British Columbia Riots. Robert held off a mob of rowdy men trying to destroy property. The crowd beat him to the ground before someone stepped in to stop them. Our Executive decided to honour Robert Mackay with an Honorary Membership in the Clan Mackay Association of Canada. Perhaps sometime we will get the chance to meet him, as Robert is originally from Ontario.

The Executive have decided to send out letters via mail to all delinquent Clan members. We need your participation and as many receive their newsletter on the computer, some forget to download the membership and ticket canvass. Do send in your dues so we can again become a strong Clan Mackay.

Interesting: 72 out of 100 people in Canada are using wireless cell phones, up from 60 out of 100 in 2008. The numbers of users is expected to climb to 93 out of 100 by 2014. So perhaps I should get a cell phone.

Marisa Sterling, an executive member, is running for the Provincial Riding of the Danforth. Good luck, Marisa.

October 15 is our next meeting, so if you are interested please give me a call.

*Your President,
Mora Mackay Cairns
905-820-5715
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Be an Early Bird with your Christmas Baking!

The following are three Christmas Fruitcakes that were woven into a novel. One of special interest was written around Sophie McKay, wife of Harry McKay. Her husband left for World War II and she sent along this special Chocolate Fruit Cake. He was especially fond of pecans and Chocolate, so Sophie created this wonderful recipe.

CHOCOLATE FRUITCAKE

(make 3 or 4 weeks in advance. Store in refrigerator)

Place into large bowl:

2 cups maraschino cherries,
sliced in half

2 cups pineapple tidbits, well drained.

1 cup coconut

2 cups walnuts

2 cups pecan halves

2 – 12 oz. packages semisweet chocolate chips

Beat the following ingredients on low for thirty seconds, then on high for three minutes.

3 cups flour

1 ½ cups sugar

1 tbsp baking powder

½ tsp salt

¾ cup butter

2/3 cup crème de cacao

½ cup cocoa powder

9 eggs

Pour batter over fruit mixture, pour into 2 well greased loaf pans.

Bake at 275° for 2 ½ to 3 hours

When cool, pour over a jigger of crème de cacao, wrap in plastic bag and refrigerate for 3-4 weeks.

They say Fruitcakes are like In-Laws. They show up at the holidays.

This cake invokes the happiness you feel as a kid at Christmas

Earleen's Masterpiece Fruitcake.

Her secret was applesauce, Brandy and Rum.

2 cups sugar

1 cup butter

2 ½ cups applesauce

2 eggs beaten

2 cups raisins

2 cups walnuts chopped

4 cups flour

1 tsp salt

1 tbsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp cloves

1 tsp nutmeg

2 tsp cinnamon

2 pounds candied dried fruit mix

1 ½ cups chopped dates

Cream butter and sugar, add beaten eggs and applesauce. Mix in flour and rest of dry

ingredients. Mix well, blend in fruit mixture and nuts. Mixture will be stiff. Bake at 315°

oven in 2 loaf pans, one hour. Cool, wrap in cheesecloth and add ½ cup rum or brandy.

Cover with plastic bag. Keep in refrigerator for up to 3 months.

Petty's No-Bake Fruitcake

The third fruitcake was designed so her 4 children could eat it the same day it was made.

1 cup raisins (dark or golden)

2 cups dates

2 cups mixed candied fruit

4 cups chopped nuts

¾ cup evaporated milk

2 cups marshmallows

2 cups crushed graham crackers, very fine.

Place milk and marshmallows in Microwave for 10 second increments, stirring in between until melted

Mix together fruit, etc. and add graham crackers and then milk mixture. Mix with wet hands.

Press down into a 9 x 3 inch loaf pan lined with wax paper. Let it stay in refrigerator for 3 days. Enjoy.



NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!
The Clan Mackay is on
Facebook!

Have you joined us on Facebook yet?
This is a forum for spreading news,
asking questions, (hopefully getting
answers) and keeping up with the
activities of your clansmen. Here is a
link to the group -
[http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/1](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/140776665960329/)
[40776665960329/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/140776665960329/) copy and paste this
into your Browser.

Letters to the Editor:

Thanks Barbara, really good newsletter, I especially liked the story of Cairine, interesting historical reading. I wonder where it came from, it looked like she was a senator in the 1950's, but I've never heard of her, or her work helping Jewish refugees, I do know that many were turned away from Canada. There is a new plaque, in Halifax at Pier 4 (not sure of exact name) where our Scottish immigrants landed, noting the inadmissibility to Canada of many German Jews.

Patricia McKee, Toronto, Ontario

Editors Reply:

Thanks, Patricia:

The information for this story came from her Biography - "FIRST PERSON, A Biography of Cairine Wilson, Canada's First Woman Senator" by Valerie Knowles; published by Dundurn Press Limited. I'm glad you enjoyed it. BBM

Great Newsletter. I would love to know how to attempt to connect with any Scots who came from the cleared village of Grudy near Rogart in Sutherlandshire. My family of Mackay emigrated to the Zorro area of Ontario. My Mackay Great Great Grandfather married a Doll (Dorothy) Macdonald after coming to Canada and she was born on a farm called Kinvonvie on the outskirts of Lairg in Sutherland. is there a place to post this information to possibly connect with some family? I now have a summer home in Dornoch in Sutherland, about 20 minutes from the Grudy ruins.

Cynthia Scott Morcott, Hobe Sound, Florida

Editors Reply:

[I have posted your enquiry on our Facebook page – I will forward any replies to you. BBM](#)

Dear Ms. Mallalieu: In response to your enquiry regarding the whereabouts of “the Book of Mackay” I have in my possession number 350.

This copy of the book was first acquired by my grandfather, Kenneth Weir McKay. On his death it was passed to my father, William Scott McKay and then to me.

Kenneth McKay succeeded his father, William McKay as Elgin County Clerk, County Seat, St. Thomas, Ontario. William McKay served as the County's first Clerk from 1854 – 1882 and his son Kenneth from 1882 – 1932. My father, William Scott McKay, was a lawyer in St. Thomas.

I am not sure why the address is given as St. Thomas, Montreal, Canada – perhaps a postal aid. The McKay family has resided in St. Thomas since 1832.

Ian McKay, Baden, Ontario

Editors Reply:

[Thanks for the information – there are several members who are interested in this subject - hopefully we will hear from others as well. BBM](#)

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES, 2011

Submitted by: Patricia McKee, September 11, 2011

The annual Grandfather Mountain Games were held this year on July 7-10, as usual at Grandfather Mountain one of the larger mountain areas nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the Appalachian Mountain chain that reaches as far east as Nova Scotia, which includes several small towns and mountain resorts in North Carolina, U.S.A.

Three Canadian Mackays attended arriving on July 7 at Charlotte, N.C. One from the Ottawa Valley, one from Kamloops, B.C., and me, the Torontonians. We joined up with a couple of American Mackies, our guides & chauffeurs (my cousins), at the airport in Charlotte and continued on to Grandfather Mountain, a three-hour drive, to where we had rented a house at the bottom of G.F. Mountain, called Sugar Mountain, our home for the weekend.

That night sparked the opening of the Games, the event being a Torch Light Ceremony, and was our first trip up the mountain that was hosting all the events; we would take many more up and down. The Torch Light Ceremony began at dark and all the clans were included each one calling out loudly their 'Raison d'être' (reason for being) some in Gaelic, then lighting their torch and forming a circle, eventually, filling the whole field. All were wearing their own Tartan, it turned out to be a remarkable sight, as goats serving as sheep and the sheep dogs, lined the field as well. You would have thought you were in the Highlands of Scotland.



Mackay Tent



Celt Celtic Rock Band



Do these look like sheep?

The next day, July 8, was dedicated to international Scottish Country Dancers at various locations. We chose one in an arena at the bottom of the mountain, all the dancers displaying their Tartans. A party atmosphere, where Scottish food was also served. Saturday, July 9th, was the day of the Games, so up the mountain we went early in the morning, to view the marathon runners straggling in. As is at Fergus, different events were happening all over at the same time. There was no Avenue of Clans; Clan booths were lined up all around the field. I managed to find the Mackay tent and met up with the three invited Edinburgh Mackays attending from Scotland. I also met up with Andrew Betts and his wife; they were with the Scotland three, under a separate Mackay tent. Particularly interesting were a group of Celtic Scots, playing Celtic Rock on the pipes and drums amongst the trees, actually, that was where I ran into Mrs. Betts.

Sunday, July 10th, G.M.H.G. wound down with a 'Kirking of the Tartans' and church service at the top of the mountain. The service was really quite lovely. The pipe band that piped in the Tartans was the only one I saw the whole weekend. A single piper played following the benediction. Bagpipes did not seem to be as important to the Games there as they are here in Canada. Later that same day, we returned to Charlotte, N.C., where we visited the Billy Graham Museum before returning to Toronto.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend for all of us, especially meeting up with the cousins. They know their way around the whole area as they attend every year, much as we attend Fergus Games here in Ontario.

"William Campbell Mackay"
Hon. Grabhalair

William was born Oct. 22 1928. He came from a long line of military men. His maternal Grandfather was a drummer boy at 14 with the Blackwatch. Served in North Africa, India and Afghanistan, back to Britain and the Great War. His uncles all served in World War 1. Tommy was captured at Malay, went to build Japanese Railways, he came home. Sandy, shot down dropping equipment to French fighters. Robert, lost an eye, was still in a pioneer division. Archie, survived in a mine sweeper at D-Day

Bill can trace his Mackay line back to Thurso, Carthness. His Grandfather, born 1857 and Grandmother, 1858. They were married in Thurso and had 3 children. Then they moved to Glasgow. An epidemic broke out and they lost 2 children. Another move to Boness was where Bill's father was born in 1901. This family had another move to Falkirk and now had 6 children in all.

Bill's father just missed the Great War, but was sent to Turkey and then to Russia. He was wounded and left behind, picked up by some Russian Red Cross Nurses and fixed up and taken back to his unit. He married and had 3 children and lived to be 95. They were Charles, his sister Rosemary, and brother, Hugh who died at an early age.

These stories made Bill interested in History and later he would join the Black Watch Regiment and that enabled him to wear a Red Hackle on his bonnet which he does when he dresses in the full Scottish Dress of Clan Mackay

During the war his mother was head cook at a school, so Bill would augment the groceries with shooting the odd rabbit, duck or catch some fish. They also helped feed the families of men already in the war. At 14 Bill was to leave school to help at a munition factory making shells, his job was to carry the boxes of shells, which were heavy lifting. From there he became an apprentice to a stone mason. After 3 years he was making many elaborate shapes, and carving in sandstone, granite and marble. Finally he received his certificate. This ended with his call to Military Service.

He later served as a regular in the Black Watch Regiment, sent to Korea, back to Britain and then Egypt. By now Bill is married with a daughter. After his stint in the Army he went back to work as a stone mason, this time in Australia, using dynamite. This proved very difficult, so he returned to Scotland. He now realized that new saws were in place, cutting through stone much faster, ending the need of a hammer and chisel except to make small details and pictures on them. For 25 years Bill worked in this trade till computers came on the scene. Computers could cut stencils and sandblast. His "Swan Song", at 80 years of age, was a raised stone carving of a Steamboat going by a Bridge for the Canal Society.

Around 1995 he took up painting and also joined the Clan Mackay and became President of the Art Club. With his paintings and sound knowledge of Clan Mackay and the Military he was an Ambassador for the Clan Mackay in Scotland and visited many of the Highland Games including Livermore, Cal., Lock Norman, Lock Norman, Grandfather Mountain, Stone Mountain, Can., Culloden, Can. He was given the title of Hon. Grabhalair and Vice President of the Clan Mackay Society of Scotland. He also visited the Civil War Sites from Washington to New Orleans ending at Appomattox as well as in Canada at Fort York.

Our friend Bill has known personal drama. After his first marriage of 6 years broke down, he then married Helen and now lives happily with his extended family, grandchildren and even a German Shepherd Dog.

Here in Canada our Clan Mackay have been fortunate to know William Mackay and have used his paintings on many occasions, as well, our President is the proud owner of 3 of his paintings.

"We wish William Campbell Mackay much happiness and a long life."



Renewal Form:

C/O Mr. Harry McKay, Treasurer
2-133 Melrose St., Toronto, ON M8Y 1B4
(Please note this is a change of address)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street City Province

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Publish on our web directory: Name ☐ Phone # ☐

E-Mail address ☐ Do not publish ☐

Our Annual Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Annual Membership Fee is \$15.00. Total Enclosed: \$ _____

For information on how to pay online, please email clanweb@clanmackay.ca for instructions.

Why not consider paying two years at a time?

Please forward to the above address with your enclosed cheque.
Thank you for supporting The Clan Mackay Association of Canada.
<http://www.clanmackay.ca/>



What is a QR code?

A QR (short for Quick Response) code is a matrix barcode (or two-dimensional code). Readable by QR barcode readers and camera phones. The code typically consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background scannable by phones and Black berries to take you directly to a website page with more information. Scan QR codes by taking a close-up picture of it.

THIS IS SOME GOOD ADVICE!

If a dog was your teacher you would learn stuff like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...! Run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simply joy of a long walk.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.

Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.