

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

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In This Issue

Greetings!

This issue is packed with lots of great information – everything from **Canadian Mackays join in Bi-Centenary Celebrations in Scotland** written by Heather MacKay to an updated listing of Highland Games celebrations taken from our website.

We are looking forward to a summer of excitement with attendance at the Fergus Highland Games by several Clan members and we are hoping for stories from the membership at large about their own visits to local Games.

Thanks to Our Contributors

A special thanks to Heather MacKay for her wonderful article in this edition – Thanks Heather!

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 or via mail to Sarah Mallalieu 741 Woodward Ave #2, Milton ON, L9T 3T6.

A Scottish Friendship Wish

May there alwatys be work for your hands to do

May your purse always hold a coin or two

May the sun always shine on your windopane

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

From the Desk of the President

Dear Clansfolk:

After all the cold winter weather it is wonderful again to see the sun, and even a few bulbs showing their leaves, getting ready for Spring.

Our Sympathy goes out to the family of the late Gordon Sterling, who passed away on January 3rd . Gordon was on the executive of Clan Mackay and marched with us at the Fergus Games last summer. We will miss his words of wisdom and his smiling face. As well our Scottish friend Marie Mackay, wife of the later Charles Mackay , who organized the Scottish trip to Canada, went to join Charles in heaven this February, We saw her many times on our last trip to Scotland.

The Clan Mackay meeting will be held on April 21, at 1:30 at 3665 Autumn Leaf Cr. Mississauga, Ontario. And the Annual meeting of Clan Mackay will be held June 16th at the same place and time. Do organize yourself to attend one or both of these important meetings. If you are coming just phone 905-820-5715.

Treasurer Harry McKay informs me that quite a few have not sent in their membership dues. Please sent the \$15.00 as well any ticket money to Harry McKay 52 Mendota St. Etobicoke, Ontario M8Y 1G2.

Sarah Mallalieu the editor of A'Bratach Bhan' is looking for input for the Newsletter. Please send along any Weddings, etc., that would be of interest and any suggestions for new ideas.. Due to the cost of printing and postage we plan to bring forth a motion at the Annual meeting to raise our dues, starting in 2008. Anyone who is looking for relations, or connections on their family tree could also send it along, and we will endeavor to print the information.,

The Web Site <http://www.clanmackay.ca> is organized by Barbara Mallalieu and has a wealth of information, please take a minute and locate it on your computer.

There is an interesting article in the Celtic Heritage Magazine. It compares the Black Watch Regiment arriving in America at the start of the Seven Years War to the American Indians. Seems that the American Indians flocked from all quarters to see strangers, whom they believed to be of the same extraction as themselves and therefore considered them as brothers. Many other observers, saw similarities between Highland Scots and American Indians. Highland exiles to North America traded with, fought, married and in some cases, became Indians. Highland men and Indian women wove tangled webs of family and allegiance. Children had Scottish clan names and Indian Clan identities. The Scots loved the land and were excellent settlers.

The Fergus Highland Games are always the second weekend in August. We as a Clan always attend on the Saturday. So Plan now to attend, and come to our Clan Mackay tent and walk with us at the parade which starts at 11:30 on August 11th.

Sincerely, Mora Mackay Cairns.

Canadian Mackays join in Bi-Centenary Celebrations in Scotland

In July 2006, the Clan Mackay Society of Scotland celebrated the bi-centenary of its founding in Glasgow in 1806. A week of festivities was planned by the Society to mark this auspicious occasion, and 12 Canadian Mackays were fortunate enough to attend the celebrations. The President of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada, Mora Mackay Cairns and her husband Bob, were joined by Gordon, Catherine and Heather Mackay, and by Charles and Jennifer Mackay and their children Hugh, Joe, Sam and Cecily, and friend Deborah Watten from New Brunswick. Several members of the Clan Mackay Society of the United States, including President David Mackay and his wife Cheryl also attended.

True to the precedent set by the Scottish Society, the festivities, organized largely by Society executive member Shiona Mackay, assisted by her husband David, and D. Colin Mackay, a Vice-President of the Society, were wonderfully planned, extremely enjoyable and a great success.

Many of the Mackays who traveled "across the pond" to attend, stayed at the Pollock Halls Residences at the University of Edinburgh. The location proved not only to be conveniently located, but was comfortable and had excellent tourist information, and great dining facilities. It was also beautifully landscaped, and it was a pleasure to walk among its well-maintained gardens each day.

The Mackay celebrations officially began on Thursday July 20, 2006 with a Civic Reception at the City Chambers on Edinburgh's Royal Mile. The Mackays, many adorned in kilts, trewes and tartan, were warmly welcomed to Edinburgh and congratulated on their bi-centenary by Edinburgh City officials. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with our Scottish friends, and to meet members of the Society we had not met previously.

On Friday evening, the Grand Bi-Centenary Dinner, the focal event of the festivities was held at the Mungo Museum, Glasgow, where the Clan Mackay Society had been founded in 1806. It was a fine affair, with the presence of the Chief of the Clan Mackay, the Right Honourable Hugh William Mackay, Lord Reay, and his sister, the President of the Clan Mackay Society, and a great friend of the Canadian Mackays. The Honourable Elizabeth Fairburn MBE gave the opening address.

A welcome to Glasgow was given by Mr. Murray Blair, who spoke about Glasgow as it was when the Clan Mackay Society was founded in 1806. Grace was said by Mora Mackay Cairns, President of our Association, which was followed by a lovely three course meal. After dinner, David Mackay, President of the Clan Mackay Society of the United States, toasted the Clan Mackay Society of Scotland. An extremely interesting, and well researched reply was given by Lord Reay. Both the Clan Mackay Society of the United States, and our Association were presented with beautiful paintings by Bill Mackay, a Vice-President of the Society, and the Society's *Grabhalair* (sculptor).

The marvelous evening concluded with entertainment by a piper and singer, and a vote of thanks by D. Colin Mackay. A special thank you must be given to Ian (Secretary of the Society) and his wife Esme Mackay of Glasgow, long-time members of the Society, and good friends, who played a large role in organizing the dinner and creating the lovely gifts we were given to take home.

Of course, no Scottish occasion would be complete without a ceilidh, and a grand one was held on Saturday evening at the Netherbow Centre, on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. As noted on its website, the Centre was named after Edinburgh's principal gateway, the Netherbow Port, whose bell is mounted in the centre's outdoor courtyard, and is the cultural hub of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, in the heart of the Old Town. The Netherbow's facilities include the John Knox House Museum, a theatre, cafe and gallery, and the recently opened Scottish Storytelling Centre. We were treated to a wonderful evening of Scottish music, dance and story-telling. We had the pleasure of listening to the choir of tour organizer Shiona Mackay and her husband David, and were greatly entertained by the story-telling of D. Colin Mackay.

Another essential element of any Scottish trip is, of course, whiskey! We all had a chance to experience that on our tour of a whiskey distillery in East Lothian. During the tour, we learned about all the stages of distilling whiskey, from "barley to bottle", and did not let the fact that it was Sunday stop us from enjoying a tipple afterwards!

The final event of the festivities, was an historical tour of Linlithgow and Falkland Palaces on Monday. Linlithgow is one of Scotland's oldest towns, and its main attraction is the magnificent ruin of the Linlithgow Palace, built in the 15th century. The Palace was a favourite Royal residence of James V, and the birth place of his daughter, Mary Queen of Scots. The King's Fountain in the courtyard, is the oldest fountain in Britain, and is said to have flowed with wine during a visit by Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745. Although it was restored to full working order in 2005, no wine flowed from it on the day of our visit!

Falkland Palace is a splendid renaissance palace completed by the builders of James V in 1539 and was once a country residence of the Stewart monarchs. The Palace's Chapel dates from the mid-16th century, and much of its decoration, including painted ceiling, was done for a visit of Charles I in 1633. The Chapel still houses wonderful 17th century Flemish tapestries.

During our trip to Linlithgow, we also enjoyed the hospitality of John Mackay, Treasurer of the Society, and his wife Sandra, who opened their home in to us, and served tea and goodies in their beautiful garden. Our long-time friend Bill Mackay attended in his kilt and obligingly posed for endless photos!

[My trip also included some site-seeing in Edinburgh. One highlight was a walk along the base of Arthur's seat from Pollock Halls to the new Scottish Parliament building, located at the foot of the Royal Mile by Holyroodhouse Palace. The site is a symbolic one, as this location has been a seat of Scottish power, religious and royal, for over a thousand years. The building houses the Scottish Parliament, which was convened in 1999, the first Scottish Parliament since the Act of Union between Scotland and England in 1707. The Parliament handles "devolved matters", which are quite similar to those handled by our provincial legislatures: health, education, housing and transport. The

British Parliament at Westminster retains power over matters similar to those of our federal government.

The Parliament building was officially opened by the Queen in 2004. The design of the building, which is certainly not traditional Scottish architecture, has been criticized by some Scots, as is the fact that the building took much longer than expected to be completed and was 10 times over budget. However, I would challenge any Scot not to get a lump in the throat while watching a video of the building's grand opening, which is shown at the conclusion of a tour of the building.

Another high spot of my visit was a tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia, which has been decommissioned and is now docked at the Ocean Terminal, Leith, Edinburgh. Touring the yacht gives a glimpse into Royal life, as well as an excellent history of the yacht's tours around the world. Many of the souvenirs given to the Royal Family during their travels remain on board. It is hard to believe that the yacht is now a banquet facility which can be rented for special occasions.

Perhaps most interesting was a visit to Rosslyn Chapel, which has always been a tourist destination, but has now gained celebrity status due to its role in *The Da Vinci Code*, which has allowed the Chapel to gather the funds necessary to do extensive renovations on this 15th century chapel. The interior of the Chapel has been described as a "monument to masons" due to its ornately carved interior, which is rich in symbolic imagery. The Chapel has been associated with Freemasonry and the Knights Templar, and some even say that the Holy Grail is housed in the hidden vaults beneath it! How fortunate we were to attend the Chapel as guests of long-time Clan Mackay Society member, and dear friend, Marion Mackay Wellwood.]

Of course the absolute highlight of the trip was the chance to visit with many old friends from the Clan Mackay Society; some of whom we met on our first Clan Mackay trip to Scotland in 1989, and whose warmth and hospitality never ceases to amaze us!

We had a wonderful visit with Marion Mackay Wellwood and Marie Mackay, wife of the late Charlie Mackay, both long-time members of the Society, and dear friends to the Canadian Mackays, at Marion's home. This visit has taken on new poignancy with the recent death of Marie (February 24, 2007). How lucky we are to have the opportunity to see her once again! World-traveler Fiona Mackay Smith, and her mother, Magda Mackay Smith (now 90!), also opened their home to the Canadian and American Mackays, by hosting a dinner in our honour. And of course, no Clan gathering would be complete without Norman and Moira! It was a wonderful opportunity to catch-up with friends new and old. Our trip was also a time to remember dear departed friends such as Charlie Mackay and Jim Wellwood, who were sorely missed, but whose presence remains.

This memorable week has made us eager to return to Scotland! Until we meet again!

Heather Mackay

A QUICK SMILE:

A visitor to an Aberdeen bar was surprised to find the beer only two pence a pint. The barman explained that it was the price to mark the centenary of the pub opening. The visitor noticed, however, that the bar was empty. *"Are the regular customers not enjoying the special prices?"* he asked. To which the barman replied *"They're waiting for the Happy Hour"*

Searching for Connections:

I am interested in finding ancestors being my grandparents Cidona Anthony Scobie (Irish) born Fairhaven, Minnesota 1891/2 and Edith Kunce aka Edith Grose (English) born Virginia, Illinois 1906/7. My father (fourth child) Orville Edward Scobie born 30 May 1931 in Alberta, Canada, died November 1991 in Coffee Springs, Alabama. Grateful for information if available.

Arline . Rushing

Replies can be sent through the website.

Trying to find your roots? Visit our website www.clanmackay.ca.

Q: Why do pipers march while they play?

A: A moving target is harder to hit

In the middle of foggy night in the North-west Atlantic.....two lights are heading directly for one another... and on the radio an American voice is heard saying *"We suggest you alter course by 10 degrees to port"*. Back comes the reply *"We suggest YOU alter course by 10 degrees to port!"* Then the American voice says *"This is the battleship USS Missouri leading the American Atlantic battle fleet. You had better alter course by 10 degrees to port."* Back comes the reply *"This is the Outer Hebrides lighthouse, but it's your call, Jimmy"*.

Famous Scot Inventions

I know that Scots are an innovative people by nature, but it never ceases to amaze me the number of inventions that are attributed to this group of people. Here are just a few of the inventions that I found in my research.

James Chalmers (1782-1853)

Invented the adhesive postage stamp

Patrick Ferguson (1744-1780)

Invented the breech loading rifle

Charles MacIntosh (1766-1843)

Added naphtha to rubber to create the Macintosh raincoat

Richard Noble

Holds the World land speed record

Sir James Young Simpson (1811-1870)

Pioneered the use of chloroform in anaesthetics

James Small (1730-1793)

Invented the iron plough

Robert William Thomson (1822-1873)

Invented the vulcanised rubber pneumatic tyre, patented the fountain pen and patented the steam traction engine

John Logie Baird (1888-1946)

Invented the television

Sir Alexander Flemming (1881-1955)

Discovered penicillin

James Braid (1795-1860)

Pioneered hypnosis

Sir William Fairburn (1789-1874)

Developed the use of tubular steel in construction

Rev. Alexander Forsyth (1769-1848)

Invented the percussion cap which later became the bullet

William Murdock (1754-1839)

Invented coal-gas lighting

James Pillans (1778-1864)

Invented the blackboard and coloured chalk

John Shepherd-Barron (1925-)

Inventor of the ATM

Sir Sandford Flemming (1827-1915)

Created the World time zones

John J R MacLeod (1876-1935)

Helped to discover insulin

Henry Faulds (1843-1930)

Created the process of criminal fingerprinting

Ian Donald (1910-1987)

Invented the ultrasound scanner

Highland Games

Alberta

- June 10 Grand Prairie Highland Games, Sherwood Park, Edmonton
 June 23 Red Deer Highland Games, Westerner Grounds, Red Deer
 June 24 Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering, Grant McEwen Park, Edmonton
 July 21 Fort Edmonton, Corner Fox Drive/Whitemud Drive
 Sept 1 Calgary Highland Games, Shouldice Athletic Park, Calgary
 Sept 2 Canmore Highland Games, Centennial Park, Canmore

Manitoba

- June 30 Manitoba Highland Gathering, Selkirk Park, Manitoba

Nova Scotia

- July 1 Gathering of the Clans, Pugwash
 July 1-8 Nova Scotia Tattoo, Halifax
 July 7 Halifax Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Garrison Grounds, Halifax
 July 20-22 Antigonish Highland Games, Antigonish
 Aug 16-19 Festival of the Tartans, New Glasgow
 Oct 5-13 Celtic Colours International Festival, Cape Breton Island

Ontario

- June 16 Veteran's Memorial Highland Games, Prescott
 June 22-23 Cobourg Highland Games, Donegan Park, Coburg
 June 22-23 Hamilton Highland Games, Ancaster Fair Grounds, Ancaster
 Jul 6-8 Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Victoria Park, Kincardine
 July 14 Haliburton Highland Games, Head Lake Park, Haliburton Village
 July 20-22 Orillia Scottish Festival, Couchiching Beach Park, Orillia
 July 20-21 Cambridge Highland Games, Churchill Park, Cambridge
 July 21 -22 Highlands of Durham Games, Elgin Park, Uxbridge
 August 3-4 Glengarry Highland Games, Agricultural Grounds, Maxville
 Aug 10-12 Celtic Roots Festival, Lion's Harbour Park, Goderich
 Aug 10-12 Fergus Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Fergus Community Centre
 August 25 North Lanark Highland Games, Almonte Fairgrounds, Almonte
 Sept 8 Trenton Scottish/Irish Festival, Buster Alvea Park, Trenton
 Sept 14-15 Owen Sound Celtic Festival, OSCVI Auditorium, Owen Sound

Prince Edward Island

- June 22-24 Summerside Highland Gathering, the College of Piping, Summerside
 August 4 Eldon Highland Games, Eldon

Quebec

- August 5 Montreal Highland Games, Parc Centre Sportif, Pierrefond

Saskatchewan

- August 16-18 Saskatoon Folkfest, Saskatoon

Wisconsin

- Aug 31 – Sep 2 Wisconsin Highland Games, Waukesa, Wisconsin