

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

Volume 26, Issue 1

Spring 2008



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

The Clan Mackay Association of Canada

Annual Meeting Saturday June 14, 2008 2:30 PM

Ceilidh and Dinner

Erin Mills United Church

3010 the Collegeway

Corner of Winston Churchill and The Collegeway

Mississauga Ont.

Price \$20.00 each

Door Prizes

**Bring along a few friends. We have an interesting Ceilidh
lined up with**

Maxwell and the Silver Hammers,

which are a fiddle and dance group.

For tickets, send a check to Mora Mackay Cairns,

3665 Autumn, Leaf Cr. Mississauga, Ont L5L 1K7

905 820 5715

Note: If anymore wishes to be a Director or play a small part on the Executive

Please call Mora

From the Desk of the President

Dear Clan folk:

We were in Mexico and while there had an earthquake measuring 4.5, also we saw the lunar eclipse, An eclipse in which the moon near the full phase passes wholly through the umbra of the earth's shadow. It was quite a sight. Then we returned home to Mississauga miraculously a day before the huge snow storm. Now we are enjoying lots of interesting things, even watching the squirrels empty our bird feeder.

THE GATHERING EDINBURGH will be held July 25 and 26th in 2009. Plans are being made now to attend. 8000 Clansmen are anticipated to attend this huge gathering. It is corresponding with the 250th. anniversary of Robert Burn's birth. If you are interested in going to this event let me know and we can give you more details. The hotel situation will be tight so you must decide soon.

DUES Your 2008 memberships is now due. The cost is \$15.00 and the tickets for the interesting plaque as advertised in last newsletter "A thousand welcomes " are \$2.00 each ticket or 6 for \$10.00 Please send in your check to Harry McKay, 52 Mendota R. Etobicoke Ontario, M6Y 1G2.

The biography on Isabel Mackay had a few errors caused by me retyping Margaret Mackays excellent account of events in Isabels' life, such as Taiwan being a British Colony. The retyped article in its completion is included in this newsletter. Sorry for the faux pas..

The GENERAL MEETING will be held April 12 at 1:30 PM at 3665 Autumn Leaf Cr. While the ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Erin Mills United Church 3010 The Collegeway., Mississauga, on Saturday, June 14 at 2:30 PM We will hold a Dinner and a Ceilidh. We have dancers and music, but if you have a special talent please tell me so you can be included. Also a historical table of events past will be in evidence. We need everyone to come and bring a guest. Tickets will be \$20.00 each and will be pre sold as we need to inform the caterer how many to prepare for.

We are hoping to attend more Highland Games this year, If anyone could give us a hand in any of the places that the games are held please send an e-mail to me or Niall Mackay at niallmackay@rogers.com.

I want to thank all the people that make this newsletter possible, especially Sarah and Barbara Mallalieu and if you have some interesting events coming up or have a write-up that we could use please send it along to us.

Sincerely,
Mora Mackay Cairns
Tel 905 820 5715
e-mail: morabob@rogers.com

ISABEL MACKAY

Isabel Mackay was installed as an Honorary Member of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada in 1998. Isabel lived an interesting, exciting, and dedicated life at home in Canada as well in parts of Asia. Here is her story as written by her sister Margaret.

ISABEL

Isabel was fourth of five Mackay children born, about the time of the Great War, in Tamsui, Formosa (Taiwan). Japan, of which the island was then a colony. . The story began when our father, George William Mackay, a student at Knox College, was sent on a summer mission to Saskatchewan. There he met Jean Ross, a young teacher who rode to and from school on horseback. At summer's end, George bequeathed his own horse, Coltie, to his future bride. In 1911 the couple were sent as missionaries to Formosa to engage in educational work. For George, it was going home.

In 1872, his own father, George Leslie Mackay, was appointed by the Presbyterian Church in Canada as a missionary to "somewhere in China". Rather than settling on the mainland, he chose the small port town of Tamsui on the northern tip of Formosa, where the gospel had not been preached since a Dutch mission was wiped out three hundred years before. The "Old Dutch Fort" now housed the British Consulate. Junks from across the channel and small steamers from Hong Kong came and went in the harbour, but the "Black-Bearded Barbarian" was seldom home, tramping from village to village, preaching, distributing medicine, pulling teeth and founding churches. Later came schools and a small hospital, forerunners of several large institutions today. His devotion to the people and his choice of a Formosan Bride, earned him another title, "Son-in-Law of Taiwan."

He is still honoured on the Island..

Tamsui was always home to the Mackay children, but their time there was interrupted by furloughs and boarding-school, and the time would come to return to Canada "for good". No one then dreaming of return visits by ship or plane.

School was the Canadian Academy in Kobe, Japan, a few days journey by ship. Staffed mainly by Canadian teachers, it followed the Ontario curriculum. Boarders were mostly missionary kids, from Japan, China and Korea. Day students came from diverse backgrounds and added an international flavour to the mix.

School meant bells (but a ship's gong was for meals) and rules, such as keeping within bounds, the Kobe Hills and udon shops equally off-limits. We made our own compromises. It also meant sharing fun and trials and the beginnings of life-long friendships.

Isabel was not one for mad escapades - the school annual mentions only "bursts of mischief", but there was one rebel moment.

Normally we went home for the summers, but one year, by extending the holiday to cover travel time, we braved the wintry passage back home for Christmas. Just before the holidays, a measles epidemic broke out. On our last night, going up to bed, Isabel encountered the matron at the head of the stairs conducting a stop-and-search operation for suspicious spots. Nimbly dodging her grasp, Isabel charged down the hall to her room but was not pursued. Not till our first morning at sea did the spots appear in full riot. We were taken from our communal cabin to private quarters, passed a pleasant convalescence at home, and were then released into a green and sunny world, splashed with the red of tree-tall poinsettias..

From her earliest years, Isabel had known what she wanted to be. Accordingly, on her return to Canada at the end of high school, she enrolled in Nursing at the Toronto General Hospital and later taught nursing there. In 1952 she joined a (WHO) team bound for Taiwan and served for four years in Tainan, at the southern end of the Island, a few hours by train from Tamsui.

On June 2, 1953, a gala tea was planned at the British Consulate to celebrate the Queen's Coronation and, hopefully, Hilary's conquest of Everest. Isabel came home the day before in order to attend. That night, rising to investigate strange noises in their cottage home he had built on retirement, Father was faced by a gunman and shot in the abdomen. Mother was unhurt, but a bullet was later found in her pillow. Next door, Isabel was also scrambling out of bed when a second intruder raised his gun and shot her in the leg. Fortunately, it was only a flesh wound.

Isabel's calls for help and the gunshots themselves, soon brought the police and others to the scene. Father was rushed to the Government Hospital in Taipei where the bullet was found to have by-passed all vital organs. In time, he recovered, to enjoy another ten years in his Tamsui home. The two assailants were soon caught, but no explanation was ever given for the assault. Isabel did not attend the gala tea, which was indeed a double celebration.

On returning to Canada, her next venture was to pursue graduate studies in Seattle, where a short run up the coast would also allow brief visits to her brother Ross and family in Vancouver. Then a time of service at "Sick Kids" in Toronto and a final term at Toronto General, where she started.

Since retirement her interests have centered largely around Knox Presbyterian Church, Clan Mackay meeting which she has attended from their beginning in 1980. There she enjoys fellowship with other clansfolk , learning more of her Scottish heritage. the excellent teas, and the zestful leadership of President Mora Mackay Cairns.

Manu Forti. MLM (the fifth Mackay)

Signed,

Margaret Mackay.

Recipes

MARMALADE

Marmalade was originally made with quinces and first commercially manufactured in Dundee from where it spread in popularity all over Britain.

Seville Orange Marmalade

2 lb. Seville oranges (about 5 large)	1 Lemon
1 lemon	6 cups water
7 1/2 cups granulated sugar	

In a large wide saucepan or Dutch oven, combine oranges, lemon and water. Cover and bring to a simmer. Adjust heat and simmer gently 2 hours, without allowing mixture to boil.

Turn off heat. With slotted spoon, remove fruit and let cool 5 minutes. Cut in half, scoop seeds, pulp and pith back into pan, reserving shells. Bring pulp and pith mixture to boil, boil hard 5 minutes.

Strain fruit mixture into bowl through colander lined with dampened cheesecloth. Gather ends of cloth together and twist out remaining juice. You should have 6 cups, make up difference with water, if necessary, Return to pan.

Cut reserved orange shells into very fine strips. Add to pan along with sugar, stir over low heat until sugar dissolves. Bring to boil, Boil hard, stirring occasionally to prevent scorching for 25 to 30 min. or until setting point is reached.

Remove from heat and stir 5 min. skimming off any foam. Ladle into sterilized jars, leaving 1/2 inch. Seal with melted paraffin wax and let cool. Add a second thin layer of wax, tilting and rotating jars to extend seal to rims. Cover with clean lids and store in a cool, dark, dry spot. Makes about 6- 8 oz jars.

Note: Setting Point test. drop small spoonful of hot marmalade onto one chilled plate and refrigerate 2 min. Run finger through marmalade, if it wrinkles, it has reached setting point. If not cook some more.

Stovies

It is said in Scotland that if you do not like stovies, you are not a true Scot.

Potatoes Salt Butter Water.

Peel and put in a saucepan enough potatoes for dinner, and add just enough water to prevent burning. Sprinkle with salt and small knobs of butter. Cover tightly and simmer gently until soft and melted.

Apple Crumble

Mix together

1 cup flour or 1/2 flour and 1/2 oatmeal

1/3 cup butter (work together)

1/4 cup brown sugar add to crumbly mixture Grease a 8 x8 pan.

Slice 3 apples into dish. Sprinkle with white sugar and nutmeg.

Spread crumbly mixture on top. Cook 350 degrees for 1/2 hour

Serve with whipped cream.

BLESS THIS HOUSE

House blessings, while growing in frequency in North America, has been practiced for centuries in Celtic home (like Scotland, Wales, Ireland) among those of an Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition, among Jews, in various First Nations Communities and in homes in Central America.

The blessing of a home encourages Christians to understand their life at home as uniquely dedicated to God. It is in the home where we first experience love, where that love is nurtured and grows to maturity. Thus the home is an important place for much of our spiritual growth.

If this idea is for you, invite your Priest, Minister etc. into your home. You will visit together, share food and have a short worship to seek Gods blessing on your home.

Bless this house, O Lord we pray

Make it safe by night and day

Bless these windows shining bright,

Letting in God's heavenly light (by Boosey and Co. Ltd. 1927)

Correction / Apology...

The raffle tickets included in the last newsletter omitted a price. The tickets for the plaque "A thousand welcomes " are \$2.00 each ticket or 6 for \$10.00

Thanks to Our Contributors

A big thanks to Mora for all her contributions to this issue... thank you!

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.

Representing the Clan at Highland Games**Niall MacKay**

This year I volunteered to try to organise a Clan Mackay tent at a number of Highland Games.

I am looking for volunteers who are willing to come to the following list of games to help staff the Clan Tents. The more members who volunteer to staff the booth the more time each of us can spend enjoying the games. If you wish to join in the official opening parade the Games organisers would prefer that participants be wearing the Clan tartan.

The following Games are scheduled in the Toronto area for 2008.**Georgetown Highland Games****Saturday June 14th**

Games include plenty of piping and dancing, lots of room to wander around. Held at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Web site: www.georgetownhighlandgames.com

Cambridge Highland Games**Friday July 18th, Saturday July 19th**

A quiet games with room for leisurely walking. Includes individual piping contests, dances, and special displays. Volunteers only required for Saturday's activities.

I am looking for someone to be in charge of the tent as I may have a friends wedding to go to.

Web site: www.cambridgehighlandgames.org

Highland Games of Durham**Fri. July 25th through Sun. July 27th**

Held at Elgin Park in Uxbridge with all displays under the trees. For those who like animals the show includes judging of Highland Cattle and Sheep. Volunteers are required for Saturday and Sunday. Those members who live to the north and west of Toronto please take note.

Web site: www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com

Fergus Scottish Festival**Fri. August 8th trough Sun. August 10th**

Most of us know this is one of the largest games in Ontario. It is held in the community of Fergus. The Clan Mackay Association of Canada has been represented here for a number of years. Once again we need volunteers for Saturday and Sunday.

Web site: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

The following Games are in the eastern part of Ontario in 2008.**Glengarry Highland Games****Fri. August 1st, Saturday Aug. 2nd**

These games, held north of Cornwall, in Maxville are the largest in Ontario with attendance of 50,000 people. I will be attending this myself but would like other volunteers from the Ottawa area to help me out. If you wish to make it a doubleheader Montreal has their Highland Games on the Sunday.

Web site: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

If you can help out please contact me at 905-791-5882 or niallmackay@rogers.com

An early response would be greatly appreciated.

Reprinted with permission from the Clan Mackay Association of Canada Website.

Highland Games - 2008

This information is compiled from various websites on the net. This is not a complete listing of the Festivals and Highland games held in Canada. Please note, while every effort has been made to maintain the accuracy of this data, the information is subject to change and no guarantee of accuracy can be made.

Dates in **Bold have been updated for 2008**. We have been unable to update events which appear in regular print.

Alberta

May 13	Festival in the Rockies, Cochrane
June 8	Grand Prairie Highland Games, Macklin Field, Cochrane
June 17	Highland Gathering in the Park, Sherwood Park, Edmonton
June 21	Red Deer Highland Games, Westerner Grounds, Red Deer
June 22	Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering, Grant McEwen Park, Edmonton
July 12	Fort Edmonton Highland Games, Corner Fox Drive / Whitemud Drive
August 23	High River Highland Games , Highwood High School, High River
August 30	Calgary Highland Games , Shouldice Athletic Park, Calgary
August 31	Canmore Highland Games , Centennial Park, Canmore

British Columbia

May 17	Comox Valley Highland Games , Lewis Park, Courtenay
May 17 & 18	Victoria Highland Games , Esquimalt Road, Victoria
June 10	Sons of Scotland Games, Abbotsford
June 1&2	Cariboo Highland Games, Lebourdais Park, Quesnel
June 21	British Columbia Legion Highland Gathering, Douglas Park, Langley
June 28	BC (United) Scottish Highland Games & Festival, Coquitlam
July 1	Penticton Highland Games, Kings Park, Penticton - Cancelled 2007
October 4	Castlegar Highland Games, Selkirk College, Castlegar

Manitoba

June 30	Manitoba Highland Gathering , Selkirk Park, Manitoba
Aug 3-16	Folklorama at Winnipeg, Heather Curling Club, Winnipeg

New Brunswick

May 30- June 1	Gathering of the Scots Festival , Perth-Andover
July 28-30	New Brunswick Highland Games, Old Government House, Fredericton

Nova Scotia

June 1-4	Halifax Celtic Feis, Halifax
July 1	Gathering of the Clans, Pugwash
July 1-8	The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Halifax

- July 12** Halifax Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Garrison Grounds, Halifax
July 18-20 [Antigonish Highland Games](#), Antigonish
 August 9-13 Hector Festival, Pictou
August 7-10 Festival of the Tartans, New Glasgow
 September 9-10 Heart of the Valley Highland Games, Middleton
October 10-18 Celtic Colours International Festival, Cape Breton Island

Ontario

- June 6-7** Celtfest Callander, Callander Legion, Callendar
 June 9-11 Brockville Celtic Festival, St Laurence Park & Hardy Park, Brockville
June 14 Georgetown Highland Games, Georgetown Fairgrounds, Georgetown
 June 16-18 Windsor Celtic Festival, Civic Terrace, Windsor
June 21 Veterans Memorial Highland Games, Prescott
June 28 [Cobourg Highland Games](#), Donegan Park, Cobourg.
 June 22-23 [Hamilton Highland Games](#), Ancaster Fair Grounds, Ancaster - **Cancelled 2007**
Jul 4-6 [Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games](#), Victoria Park, Kincardine.
July 12 [Haliburton Highland Games](#), Head Lake Park, Haliburton Village.
 July 13-14 [Tartan Sertoma Chatham-Kent Supreme Highland Games](#), Tecumseh Park, Chatham
July 18-20 Orillia Scottish Festival, Couchiching Beach Park, Orillia
July 18-19 [Cambridge Highland Games](#), Churchill Park, Cambridge
July 25-27 [Highlands of Durham Games](#), Elgin Park, Uxbridge
August 1-2 Glengarry Highland Games, Agricultural Grounds, Maxville
August 8-10 [Celtic Roots Festival](#), Lion's Harbour Park, Goderich
August 8-10 Fergus Highland Games & Scottish Festival, Fergus Community Centre, Fergus
 June 15-16 [Sarnia Highland Games](#), Centennial Park, Sarnia
August 23 North Lanark Highland Games, Almonte Fairgrounds, Almonte
 September 8 Trenton Scottish/Irish Festival, Buster Alyea Park, Trenton
 September 8 Fort Erie Celtic Festival, Old Fort Erie, Fort Erie
 September 14-15 Owen Sound Celtic Festival, OSCVI Auditorium, Owen Sound

Prince Edward Island

- June 27-29** Summerside Highland Gathering, the College of Piping, Summerside
August 2 Eldon Highland Games, Eldon

Quebec

- August 3** Montreal Highland Games, Parc Centre Sportif, Pierrefond

Saskatchewan

- May 20 Regina Highland Games, Regina
 August 16-18 Saskatoon Folkfest, Saskatoon

Wisconsin

- September 5-7** [Wisconsin Highland Games](#), Waukesha, Wisconsin