

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



The Clan Mackay

A'Bratach Bhan (*The White Banner*) is published by The Clan Mackay Association of Canada
Editor: Sarah Bain Mallalieu 741 Woodward Avenue Unit 2, Milton, ON L9T 3T6

**Clan Association of
Canada
Officers
Executive
President**

Mora Mackay Cairns

905-820-5715

1st Vice President

Vacant

2nd Vice President

Treasurer/Membership

Harry McKay

416-251-3924

r-hmckay@rogers.com

3rd Vice President

Barbara Bain Mallalieu

905-878-7488

bmallalieu@cogeco.ca

Secretary

Patricia McKee

416-766-2678

Assistant Secretary

Daryl Reside

905-819-9783

Newsletter

Sara Bain Mallalieu

905-693-9682

CASSOC

Pet Watson Morton

905-778-9665

Dear Clan Folk:

December 2009

The Christmas Season is here. The colored lights are everywhere and the papers are filled with presents to purchase. Very little is mentioned of the fact that December 25th is the birthday of Jesus. So we must keep the faith and treat the day as a religious holiday plus have a bit of Santa Clause as well.

The fact we have Scottish Blood running through our veins brings us to the realization that we are part of a CLAN. The Clan System was run along the lines of an extended family. The word (clanna) means children in Gaelic. In this context the Chief was the Father of his people. He settled their disputes, protected them from enemies and led them into battle. In return he expected absolute loyalty. The (tannest) was the next important person. He protected the interests of the Clan for posterity.

The Clan was broken down into Native Men (blood relations of the Chief) and broken men--Outsiders given protection of the Clan. This would refer to "Septs" as we know them today.

Each Canadian Scottish household gather their family and relations to celebrate together much like the old Clan System. An article in this newsletter describes how they celebrate Christmas in Bermuda.

This fall Clan Mackay welcomed the Taiwan Mackay delegation as well Anna 97, Isobel 94 and Margaret Mackay 90 all Granddaughters of the Rev. George Leslie Mackay (1844-1901). He is credited with great achievements in Taiwan, starting Schools, Hospitals and Churches in the early 1800 hundreds. Rev. Michael Stainton and Albert Yao spoke and gave us an insight into this great man.

Bob and I celebrated our joint birthdays in October in Bermuda. Bob reached the big 85. While we soaked up some sun we marveled at the pastel colored houses with the white roofs. All the rain that falls is gathered in containers and re used. Thus the white roofs are clean and welcome the rain drops. Only one car per household, the rest use scooters.

Our Sympathy go out to Ken Mackay as he copes with the loss of Marilyn. Macleans Magazine was gracious and let us print the page (The End) in our newsletter.

We have a great framed picture of Thistles donated by Diane Koobas, please send in your ticket money and your Membership renewal to Harry McKay. This extra money gives us a way to continue our great work for Mackays.

Sincere Best Wishes for a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and May you have Great Health as Well.

Mora Mackay Cairns morabob@rogers.com Tel. 905-820-5715

CHRISTMAS IN BERMUDA

Contrary to the popular belief that Christmas is not really Christmas without snow, the spirit and atmosphere of Christmas is just as evident in Bermuda as it is everywhere else. Providing the backdrop for the Yule-tide scene is the Christmas flower, the poinsettia. In nearly every garden the poinsettia bushes are a-bloom with either red or white single flowers or else the double variety that look like huge red chrysanthemums. These, along with cedar boughs and sprigs of wild holly, are carried indoors to decorate the house. Every house has its Christmas tree, although nowadays these all have to be imported from Canada.

Front Street is a beautiful sight with a Christmas tree on every lamp post and the avenue of native trees at the eastern end aglow with hundreds of coloured lights.

Christmas Day itself means early-morning church service first, then home for breakfast and opening the presents. A gay round of egg-nog parties follows, terminated by Christmas dinner in the late afternoon or early evening.

The day after Christmas is a holiday. The English Boxing Day. This is the day you keep hearing drums in the distance with a beat that is quite unique. As the sound comes closer, someone shouts: "Here comes the Gombey's" and everyone rushes out to the road. The Gombey's are troops of coloured boys who dance along the streets and at the hotels. They are dressed in colourful costumes decorated with many buttons and pieces of mirrors. On their heads are huge feather head-dresses.

Plan to go to Bermuda some Christmas to savour the good food and warm hospitality of Christmas dinner. The table will be beautifully decorated with red poinsettias and green asparagus fern flanked on either side with white candles and lots of great food.

Mora Mackay Cairns**Christmas in Australia**

Having grown up in Southern Ontario, Christmas for me has always been associated with winter. I am actually disappointed when I get up on Christmas morning and there is not a fine covering of crisp snow blanketing the landscape. Knowing that this is not the same elsewhere in the world, I thought that it might be interesting to explore the Christmas traditions (and conditions!) on the other side of the world where Christmas comes in the middle of summer.

As it is summer in the land down under, the children have finished their studies for the year and are in the midst of their summer vacation (no homework, no studies, exams are behind them!) meaning that the holidays are completely free of stress. It also means temperatures from 30+ - 40 degrees Celsius! The traditional Christmas dinners include family gatherings in back yards, picnics in parks, gardens and on the beach.

In the guise of the contents of the celebratory meal, while we are enjoying that hot turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and all the trimmings, our friends on the other side of the world are chowing down on seafood and cold salads (I kinda get that - no way am cooking a turkey in my kitchen when it's 30+ outside!)

What doesn't change for Christmas in Australia? The celebrations of the birth of Christ, observed at Midnight mass, Santa Claus in a heavy red suit and the time spent gathering with family and friends.

Sarah Bain Mallalieu

*"Some Christmas Goodies"***Bishop's Bread**

1½ cups sifted all-purpose flour	1½ teaspoons double-acting baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt	2/3 cup semisweet chocolate pieces
2 cups chopped walnuts	1 cup snipped, pitted dates
1 cup halved candied cherries	3 eggs
1 cup granulated sugar	

Preheat oven to 325°F. Butter well a 10" x 5" x 3" loaf pan; line bottom with heavy wax paper (I use parchment). Into bowl sift flour, baking powder, salt; stir in chocolate, nuts, fruit. In large bowl beat eggs; with spoon, gradually beat in sugar.

Fold flour mixture into egg mixture. Pour into loaf pan. Bake 1 ½ hours or until done. Cool in pan on wire rack. When cool remove from pan and wrap in foil to store. Serve sliced next day.

Makes 1 loaf.

Cranberry Bread

2 cups sifted all-purpose flour	½ teaspoon salt
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder	½ teaspoon baking soda
1 cup sugar	1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons melted butter	½ cup orange juice
2 tablespoons hot water	½ cup chopped nuts
1 cup cut cranberries	1 tablespoon grated orange rind

Preheat oven to 325°F. Sift dry ingredients together; add egg, butter, orange juice and water; mix until dry ingredients are moistened. Fold in nuts, cranberries and orange rind; pour into greased 8 ½ x 4 ½ x 2 ½ inch loaf pan. Bake about 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until tester comes out clean. (Alternatively, line three small [6 x 3 x 2] loaf pans with parchment, butter parchment. Bake for 50 minutes)

Message from the Editor:

We have started to send the newsletter out by email to those who are interested.

Advantages?

1. **It's in your mailbox within minutes of being completed**
2. **Save paper – read it onscreen or only print the sections you choose**
3. **Save the clan costs of printing and mailing**

If you would like to receive yours this way, please email thewebmaster@clanmackay.ca to have your name added to the list.

The picture on the front page is from an original painting by Bill Mackay, Linlithgow Bridge.

Marilyn Mackay 1951 – 2009

Marilyn MacKay was born in Sydney River, N.S., on June 9, 1951, to Marion and Frank Rossetti, who worked at a nearby steel plant while Marion stayed home with the kids. With two older brothers and a younger sister, little Marilyn was “full of fun,” says Laura Ongo, who grew up across the street. One night, Marilyn and Laura decided to pierce nine-year-old sister Karen’s ears. “We said we’d only do it if she didn’t howl,” recalls Ongo, now 62. “We got a potato and put it behind her ear, and put a towel in her mouth.” Karen, pleased with the new look, hid her pierced ears behind her hair so her parents wouldn’t see.

After high school, Marilyn moved to Halifax to find a job. A talented cook, she got work in the kitchen at the Victoria General Hospital, and soon moved in with a friend, Glenda MacKay. One night, Glenda’s brother Ken came for a visit, and was struck by Marilyn, who wore her light brown hair almost to her waist. “She was such a happy person,” says Ken, now 58. “I went home that night thinking, what an incredible girl.” They were married in a double wedding on July 13, 1974, with Karen and her fiancé.

In 1976, the couple bought their first home in Sydney River. Ken was working as a merchandise manager at Shoppers Drug Mart; the company asked to transfer him to New Brunswick, but he and Marilyn “wanted to settle down and have a family.” Instead, they moved to nearby Arichat on Isle Madame, and opened MacKay’s General Store. Ken claims they were the first to sell donair pizza, which was soon on the menu at places in Halifax, too. “Should have patented it,” he jokes.

In 1980, the couple’s first child, Andrew, was born, eight weeks premature. “The first 30 days, he was in the hospital, and his lungs weren’t developed,” Ken says, “It was scary. You’d walk in there and see a little three-pound child, hooked up to temperature probes.” (Today, Andrew is “healthy as a horse,” his father says.) After Mark was born in 1984, the boys would play in the store, which was attached to the family home, while their parents minded the counter. In 1991, struggling to compete with larger chains, they finally sold. Ken took a job at Clearwater, a seafood company; Marilyn worked at a restaurant, where her cooking was always in demand. A few years ago, Marilyn started having “a little tickle in the back of her throat,” Ken says, but it didn’t seem too serious. In 2006, at the cemetery for her mother’s burial, she “took an awful coughing spell,” and had to go straight to the hospital. Her lungs, she was told, were packed with scar tissue. “The doctors figured when she was little, she had double pneumonia, and scar tissue formed inside the lung,” Ken says. “Over the years, it joined together.” Marilyn would need a double lung transplant.

But the procedure isn’t available in Nova Scotia, so she left for Toronto in August 2007, moving in with her brother Bobby in Mississauga, and later with a nephew and niece in Oakville, to wait for a new set of lungs. At the time, the Nova Scotia government didn’t cover travel and living expenses for patients like Marilyn, so money was tight; by August of last year, Ken and Marilyn’s life savings were nearly gone. She almost had to give up and come home, until the Lung Association of Nova Scotia stepped in. The couple campaigned tirelessly for funding from the provincial government, making Marilyn the “poster child of the whole campaign,” says Dartmouth resident Trevor Umlah, who was in the lung transplant programme with Marilyn (he got a double lung transplant in 2007). Their activism paid off when, last December, Nova Scotia said it would put \$1,500 a month toward living expenses for out-of-province patients like Marilyn. “We finally got the money,” Ken says. “She was really happy.”

But she missed home. Waiting for new lungs, Marilyn had to stay within two hours of the hospital at all times, in case they became available, and couldn’t return to Arichat. Despite frequent visits from loved ones, Marilyn was “lonesome” Ken says. In October, Marilyn finally got the call her lungs were ready. The procedure was a complete success, Ken says. Two days later, Marilyn was improving. Over the moon with happiness, “I thanked her for the 38 years, and the two beautiful sons she gave me,” Ken says. “I told her that, if I ever had the chance, I would never change a thing.” On the third day, perhaps due to an infection, Marilyn took a turn for the worse. Her heart rate skyrocketed; her blood pressure went down; her lungs, Ken says, filled with fluid. Marilyn died not one week after the transplant that she spent more than two years waiting and fighting for. She was 58 years old.

BY KATE LUNAU *Reprinted with kind permission from Maclean’s, Volume 122, Number 45, November 23, 2009.*

Clan Mackay Society - ROLL OF HONOUR
of Members of the Mackay Clan Serving in the
Forces of the British Empire on sea and land,
during the European War, 1914 – 1915

Second Listing

C., Lieut, Leinster Regt, 4th Royal Canadians
C., Nurse, Nursing Srvce, No.6 Hospital Havre
C., L-Cpl, 9424 Black Watch (wounded)
C., Pte, 2989, Cheshire Regiment (wounded)
C., Pte, 5112, O Squadron, 22nd Lovat Scouts
C.A.T., Nurse, Nursing Srvce, Scottish Gen. Hos.
C.A., Pte, 3383, Liverpool Scottish
C.E., Pte, 7107, H.L.I. (wounded)
C.J., Lieut, R.A. 135 Battery
C.L., 2nd Lieut, 5th Worcesters
C..R., Pte, 3383, Liverpool Scottish
C.V., Rifleman 7048, A Coy, 5th Scottish Rifles
C.V. Major, R.A. M.C.
Chas. P., 5365, 10th Seaforths (From Kinghorn)
Chas. 840, 3rd Reserve Bat. Scot. Horse
Charles W.D., Piper, London Scottish
Charles, A.B., 2222, R.N.R.
Charles, Pte, 9103, 2nd Seaforths
Colin, Pte, 4131, 1st (Rsrve) Brig Scottish Horse
Colin, Scottish Horse (Torosay, Mull)
D., Pte, 2858, F Coy, 5th Seaforths (Wick)
D., Seaman, 1738C, H.M.S. Viknor (drowned
on service)
D., 3376 4th Gordons
D., 6490, Gordons (Prisoner of War)
D., Pte, 8851, Seaforths
D., Pte, 9037, 2nd Scottish Rifles
D., Pte, 7336 Seaforths
D., L-Cpl, 4th Seaforths
D., 820, Army Veterinary Corps, No.2
Hospital, France (from Maryburgh)
D., Pte, 4th Seaforths
D., Drummer, 506, Gordons (Prisoner of War)
D., Major, No. 4 Depot, R.F.A.
D., Co. Coy, 6th H.L.I.
D., Pte, 1175, A Coy, 6th Seaforths
D., Pte, 11915, A Coy, 6th Seaforths
D., Midshipman, H.M.S. Cressy (sunk 22nd
Sept.1914)
D., L-Cpl, 5119, A Coy, 5th Camerons
D., 11090, A Coy, 5th Camerons
D., Pte, H.L.I. (Kinlochleven)
D., Pte, Camerons (Kinlochleven)
D., Pte, 7167, Seaforths (wounded)

D., Pte, Kitchener's Army (Kinlochleven)
D., Pte, 599, A Coy, 5th Seaforths (Golspie)
D., Pte, 709, A Coy, 5th Seaforths (Golspie)
D., Pte, 712, A Coy, 5th Seaforths (Golspie)
D., Pte, 294, D Coy, 5th Seaforths (Brora)
D., Pte, 5956, Gordons (killed)
D., Pte, 5330, Camerons (wounded)
D., Pte, 602, A Coy, 4th Camerons (killed)
D., Pte, 9938, Argyll's (wounded)
D., Pte, 5156, O Squadron, 2/2nd Lovat Scouts
D., 5369, Camerons (killed)
D., L-Cpl, 602, 4th Camerons (killed)
D.C., Carpenter, H.M.S. Viknor (drowned on
service)
D.A., Pte, 7415, F Coy, 5th So African Infantry
D.A.K., Rifleman 2209, 1st Regt, So. African
Mtd Rifles
D.J., Pte, 2876 B Coy, 5th Camerons
D.J., Troop. B Squad, Natal Carabineers, 1st
Mtd Rifles
D.J., Cpl, 336, C Squadron, 1st Lovat Scouts
D.M., Pte, 3028, 5th Seaforths, Thurso Coy
D.P., Capt, 5th Battalion W Yorkshire Regiment
D.W., 2nd Lieut, R.G.A.
D.W.. Lt-Col, Headqrs Staff, Natal Carabin'rs,
1st M.R.
David, K.O.S.B. (Rotton Row, Glasgow)
interned
David, Seaman, R.N.R. Portmahomack
David, Gunner, 40858, Royal Field Artillery
David, Gunner, 41440, Royal Field Artillery
David, Driver, 52149, 16th Field Coy, R.E.
David, Pte, 3327, B. Coy 8th Black Watch
Daniel W., Pte, 7045, BCoy, 5th S.R.(96
Cambridge St)
Daniel, Bombardier, Highland Garr. Artillery
(Thurso)
Denis, Midshipman, H.M.S. Neptune
Donald, Sapper, 43403, 83rd Field Coy R.E.
Donald, Sapper, 66118, 106th Field Coy. R.E.
Donald, Driver, T & S Column (43 Rose St.,
Inverness)
Donald, 2nd Lovat Scouts (Melness)
Donald, 1st Camerons (wounded Aisne)
Donald, A.B., 2247, B Coy Anson Brigade,
R.N.R.
Donald M.A., 2nd-Lieut. R.G.A. (Farr
Schoolhouse)
Donald, 5th Seaforths (Rhinevy, Farr)



Our Raffle this year is a framed embroidered picture of Thistles, kindly donated by Diane Koobas. This will be drawn at the September Meeting. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00.

THE CLAN MACKAY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

C/O Mr. Harry McKay, Treasurer
52 Mendota Road, Etobicoke, Ontario, M8Y 1G2

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Publish on our web directory: Name Phone #
E-Mail address Do not publish

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

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/>