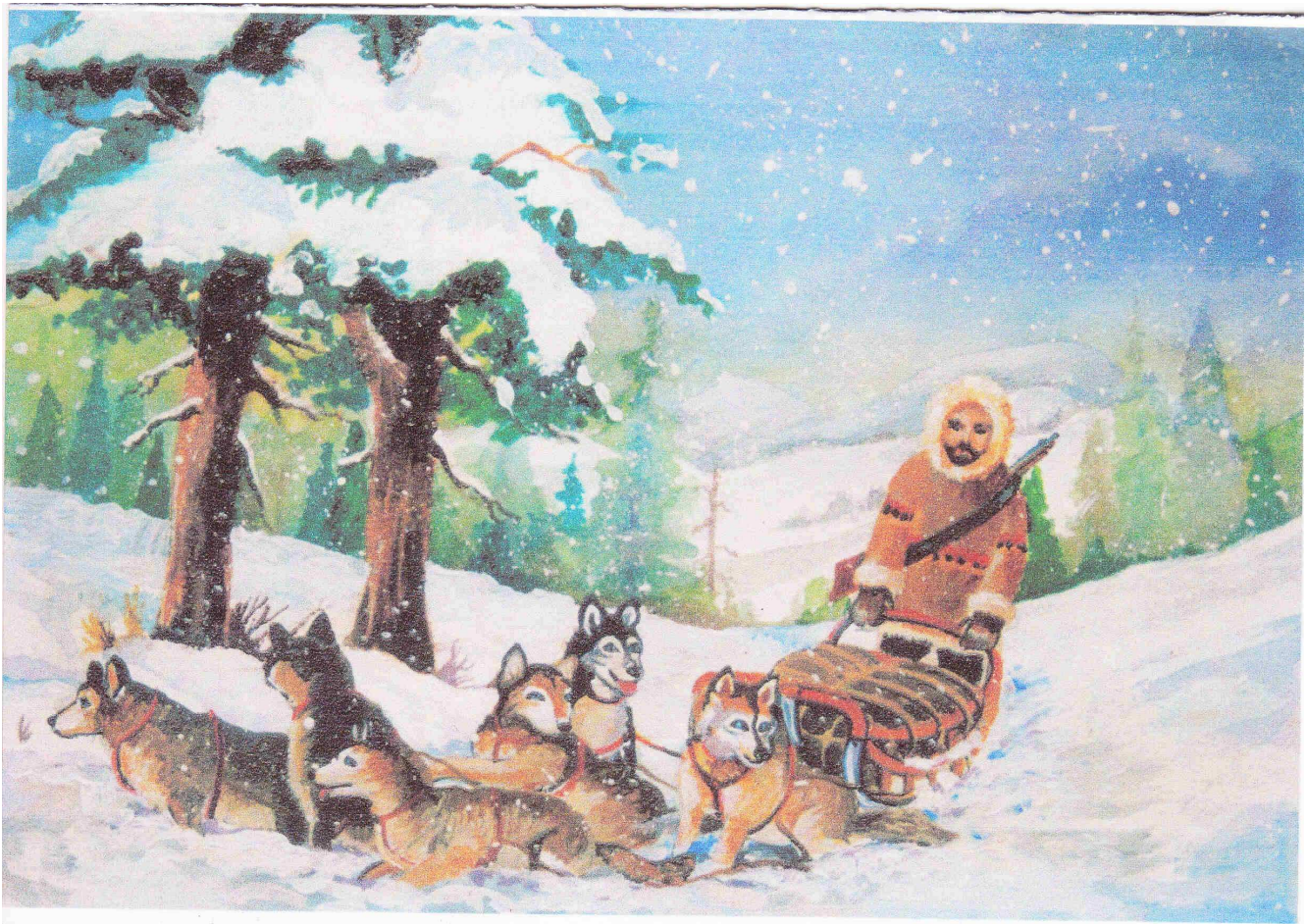


A'BRATACH Bhan
the White Banner
the Newsletter of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada



A'Bratach Bhan (*The White Banner*) is published by
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Amy MacKay

Winter 2010

Dear Clanfolks

As we go into the holiday season I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all readers.

For me, one of the greatest gifts of all is working with the talented and lovely Group of people who balance our books, keep our minutes, write and publish our News Letter, keep our Web Page active as well as our new Face Book page. Finally all our active members who keep our Clan MacKay active and alive.

Christmas is all about sparkle and pizzazz. Getting the proper gifts, new clothes, invited guests, cards and a hundred other details. Let us not forget that it should be a holiday where family time, hearty food and a remembrance of whose birthday we celebrate on Dec. 25 the baby Jesus should top the list.

Over in Scotland, the Village of Tongue and its inlet, the Kyle of Tongue is a breath taking spot to visit. Many of the Mackays in Canada are from this area. As this is Mackay country a third of the people in the area still have the surname. In 1431, the Mackays beat the Sutherlands in a battle two miles from Tongue. Later in the 1800's the Sutherlands got their revenge and bought the land from the bankrupt Chief. This was the Strathnaver Clearances when 300 houses were put on fire. 5.000 tenants were evicted from their land. As we know 15.1% of Canada is of Scottish descent and of our 22 Prime Ministers 13 have had Scottish blood, even Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

Victoria Mackay of Prince Edward Island won the Raffle- Picture of Thistles.

On a personal note, Bob and I celebrated our 55th Wedding Anniversary with a trip to Miramichi, New Brunswick where we re visited St. James and St. John United Church and had a party on December 10th with our old friends.

Wishing you and yours a joyous and healthy holiday season

Mora Mackay Cairns---
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P.S. Be sure to pay your membership dues: It runs Jan 1==to Jan 1 and also include your Raffle tickets and money.
thanks.

Message from the Editor:

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

Advantages?

It's in your mailbox within minutes of being completed

Save paper – read it onscreen or only print the sections you choose. Save the clan costs of printing and mailing

Please remember to update your email

information to the Clan. Many of the email addresses which we have on file are bouncing, which means that we have had to revert to sending the Newsletter out by mail.

If you wish to have yours delivered by email, please email us at clannews@clanmackay.ca

The picture on our front page is “Dog Sled” courtesy of our very own Bill Mackay.

Recipes, Recipes, Recipes

THE SELKIRK GRACE

Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit.

Green is the holly
And Red is the berry
Bring on the fixins,
We'll feast and be merry.
(Old English Carol)

Scotch Eggs:

6 hardboiled eggs
1 pound ground pork
½ teaspoon ground sage
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ cup bread crumbs
1 clove chopped garlic
2 Teaspoons chopped parsley
¼ cup flour
2 eggs beaten
Peel hard cooked eggs. Combine ground pork, sage, pepper. Mix well. Divide in 6 equal parts. Press meat mixture around eggs. Roll eggs in flour. Dip in beaten egg. Roll in breadcrumbs. Deep fry until outside is dark brown.

Cullin Skink:

Is a traditional Scottish soup from the shores of Moray Firth and it has long been a favourite.

Skink means stew or soup.

1 ½ lb of finnan haddie or smoked cod fillets

1 medium onion thinly sliced

6 medium potatoes, peeled and halved

1 tablespoon butter

1 cup boiling water

1 cup milk

¼ tsp pepper

Combine boiling water and milk in a pan and place over medium heat. Add sliced onion and fish. When liquid begins to simmer, reduce heat and cook for 15 minutes or until fish flakes when tested. If the liquid boils, the fish becomes tough. Transfer to a plate and remove skin. Boil potatoes, drain and mash. Add fish water and blend. Add flaked fish, butter and pepper to potato mix. Serve hot with a pat of butter on top. Sprinkle with chapped parsley. 4 to 6 servings.

Highland Cream

½ cup whipping cream

2 TBS Scotch Whiskey

3 TBS orange marmalade

1 Tsp lemon juice

2 TBS brown sugar

2 shortbread cookies, Crushed

Whip cream until it holds soft peaks. Beat together rest of ingredients. Gradually fold this mixture into whipped cream. Stir in shortbread crumbs. Refrigerate. Pour a touch of Whisky on top before serving. This is an instant topping for fruit. The ingredients are Scottish, therefore the name.



NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

The Clan Mackay is on Facebook!

Message from our Facebook Moderator, Amy MacKay:

Clan MacKay's new Facebook group page is a fun new way Clan MacKay Association of Canada can network with the world. The Facebook page will update you on the Clan MacKay's current events, as well as provide information about Clan MacKay's common heritage relating to highland dress, tartans, genealogy and Clan MacKay history. You can also browse photographs of Clan MacKay members at events like the Fergus Highland Games.

To become a member just sign into your Facebook page and search "Clan MacKay Association of Canada" and join.

The Majestic Highlands and Pastoral Lowlands

CHRISTMAS

Yuletide or Christmas always takes second place to Hogmaney. In some parts of Highland Scotland, Christmas is celebrated on January 6, known as Twelfth Night. This is in accordance with the old calendar.

They had a tradition on Christmas morning at dawn. Bannocks, (like our biscuits) were made in a round shape, cut into farls or quarters. Each person was given one piece. The story goes – if the piece was kept intact until evening, you would have good luck for the coming year. If broken or eaten your luck would run out as well. This bannock idea is based on Celtic sun worship.

Nowadays five festivals are primarily observed in the Scottish home. Hogmaney or New Year, Burn's Night, St. Andrew's Day and Hallowe'en.

HOGMANEY – 31 December

The celebration of the New Year belongs most truly to the Scot. The origin of the word Hogmaney is lost, but some believe it comes from the French "aguil'anneuf" which means "to the New Year". First Footing derives from the good fairy of Norse folklore. At midnight, the men set off the "First Foot" their neighbours.

The first man to come into your home in the New Year is the first foot. Each one carries a bottle of whisky and some thin oatcakes and the home owner is offered a drink for good luck.

The homeowner gives the first footers food and more whisky. It is said that if a dark haired man is the first foot to enter your house it means good luck, while a red or light haired man is unlucky, as is a woman.

It is thought that Hogmaney is a celebration which originated in France in the 17th Century when the two countries were linked in the "auld alliance".

Hogmaney is known in parts of Scotland as "cake day".

While living in Newfoundland, we noticed Hogmaney was celebrated there as well.

"Health to the Chieftains and Clans and God Almighty bless the Land of the Cakes"

Said by "His Majesty, King George IV" in Edinburgh, 1822.

TARTAN DAY!

Following a recent press release from Minister James Moore, Minister of Heritage, Bill C-214 -"Tartan Day" is now passed into law by the Government of Canada. Essentially it recognizes the tremendous contribution that Scots and Canadians of Scottish descent have made to the arts, education, science, politics, law, sports and economics of Canada.

There are 4.7 million Canadians of Scottish descent, making Scots the 5th largest ethnic group in Canada.

"Tartan Day" has already been proclaimed in all Provinces. It was on April 6th. 1320 that the Declaration of Arbroath was signed, the most famous document in Scottish history. This document articulated the principles of liberty, sovereignty of the individual, equality of men, and most importantly the restraint of executive power. Mel Gibson loudly spelled this out in "Braveheart".

Thomas Jefferson used this document to form the basis of the USA "Declaration of Independence"

In the USA, 27 million people claim Scottish ancestry, and "Tartan Day" was proclaimed by Congress in 1997.

Original lobbying efforts were made by Scots Associations in Nova Scotia, and all Scots-Canadians send appreciation to the Government of Canada.

The Scots and French are considered to be the founding nations of Canada. In fact there is growing (unconfirmed) evidence that some Scots sailed to Canada with the Vikings and landed in Newfoundland in the 11th century.

In Alberta, Scots traders first traveled here in 1620 and eventually took part in the progress of the Hudson's Bay and North West Trading. Close to one million Albertans can claim Scottish descent, and over 200 Alberta cities, towns, villages, rivers, lakes and trails have Scottish names, the most of any ethnic group in the Province.

In summary, Scots in Canada can now celebrate 3 special occasions:

- Robert Burns birthday - January 25th.**
- Tartan Day - April 6th**
- St. Andrew's Day - November 30th**

Courtesy of:

**Bert MacKay,
Past Chair, Scottish Advisory Council (Canada), St Albert.**

Here is the official press release:

October 21, 2010
Minister Moore Officially Declares April 6 as Tartan Day

Ottawa, Ontario (Marketwire- Oct 21, 2010. The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced today that the Government of Canada will now officially recognize April 6 as Tartan Day.

"A tartan represents a clan, a family, and a community, and is an enduring symbol of Scotland that is cherished by Canadians of Scottish ancestry". said Minister Moore. "Many Canadian provinces and other countries already celebrate Tartan Day. As well, through Tartan Day, Canadians will have an opportunity to learn more about the various coltures to comprise Canadian society".

Tartan Day originated in the late 1980's in Nova Scotia, where it was declared an official day by the provincial government. It then spread across the country, with many provinces joining in. This marks the first time the Day has been recognized by the feral government.

"By officially recognizing this Day, we encourage Canadians all across the country to celebrate the contributions that over four million Canadians of Scottish heritage continue to make to the foundation of our country," said Senator John Wallace, who recently introduced a bill in the Senate in support of nationally declaring Tartan Day.

In Canada, Tartan Day is celebrated on April 6, the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish declaration of independence. Tartan Day celebrations typically include parades of pipe bands, Highland dancing and sports, and other Scottish-themed events.



The Polish Tartan:

The association between Poland and Scotland dates from as far back as the 15th Century when Scots merchants first began to settle in the free port of Danzig (now Gdansk). In the 16th century many Scots fought for Poland in the wars against Sweden and, by the 18th century as many as 30, 000 Scots were estimated to be living in Poland. In due course the Scots were assimilated into Polish Society and in 1673 men with the names of Mackay, Gordon, Frazer and Lindsay were even raised to the Polish nobility and Scottish names took on Polish spellings. Modern myth in Scotland even links the name Lech Walensa to Lachlan Wallace. Although few Poles may have visited Scotland in this period, that was to change dramatically with the advent of the Second World War, when tens of thousands of Polish troops were stationed throughout



Scotland. The natural affinity between these two peoples saw many Poles settle in Scotland after the war and assimilate into Scottish society. With Poland's

introduction to the European Union that trend continues to this day, and Scotland is a popular choice for Polish people seeking a new life. The Polish tartan has been designed and woven as a gift to the people of Poland and those of Polish descent living throughout Scotland. The

colours of the tartan combine the colours of the flags of Poland and Scotland. Registered with the Scottish Tartans World Register No. 3156.

Reprinted from the Scottish Banner

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**Our Raffle this year is a Souvenir Plate from Glasgow, kindly donated by Daryl Reside. This will be drawn at the September Meeting. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00.**

**Renewal Form:**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_  
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: \$\_\_\_\_\_

***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/>

**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**

**Fifth Listing**

Ian N., A Coy, 1<sup>st</sup> Glasgow Highlanders (died on Service in France).

Ian C., R.A.M.C., Scottish Rifles

J., Pte, 10791, H.L.I. (missing)

J., Pte, 1223, Gordons (missing)

J. Cpl, 6669, Camerons (wounded)

J., Pte, 10041 Royal Sussex Regiment (killed)

J., Pte, 3222 Black Watch (Wounded)

J.P., 16741, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (killed)

J., Pte 10750, Scots Guards, (wounded)

J., Staff-Sgt, 9<sup>th</sup> M.B.F. Ambulance, South African Force

J., Pte, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry

J., Pte, 17947, 15<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

J., Pte, 2152, D Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Lovat Scouts

J., Pte, 970, Black Watch (wounded)

J., Pte, 9961, H.L.I. (wounded)

J., Pte, 16645, 9<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rifles

J., Lieut, R.A.M.C. Special Reserve

J., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, Orkney Artillery

J., Pte, 10401, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottish-Rifles (wounded)

J., Pte, 11504, 3<sup>rd</sup> Scottish Rifles

J., Pte, 1976, 7<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rifles

J., L-Cpl, 8835, 8<sup>th</sup> Scottish Rifles

J., L-Sgt, 352, A & S. Highlanders

J., L-Cpl, 7083, Royal Irish Rifles (wounded)

J., No.5 Coy, Orkney Artillery

J., Cpl, 5772, 15<sup>th</sup> Hussars

J., Sgt-Major, Headqrs' Stff.(mentioned in despatches)

J., Pte, 8199, 10<sup>th</sup> Seaforths

J., 6759, 10<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (West Calder)

J., Pte, 71217, Seaforths (wounded)

J., Pte, 14382, B Coy, 7<sup>th</sup> Camerons

J., Col-Sgt, 8<sup>th</sup> Camerons

J., Pte, 16926, B. Coy, 8<sup>th</sup> Camerons

J., Pte, 2614, 4<sup>th</sup> Gordons

J., Pte, 3352, 4<sup>th</sup> Gordons

J., Pte, 19846, No. 5 Coy, 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

J., Pte, 19847, No. 5 Coy, 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

J., Sgt, 2368, 4<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (23 Cross Arthurlie, Barrhead)

J., Pte, D Coy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Seaforths

J., Pte, 19564, No. 4 Coy, 15<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

J., Pte, 18849, No. 1 Coy, 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

J., Cpl, 376. 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (Golspie)

J., Seaman, R.N.R., H.M.S. Leviathan

J., Sgt, 8<sup>th</sup> Argyll & Sutherlands (Islay)

J., L-Cpl, 8<sup>th</sup> Argyll & Sutherlands (Islay)

J., Driver, 41385, R.F.A.

J., Driver, 31696, R.F.A.

J., Driver, 10611. R.F.A.

J., Driver, 41385, R.F.A.

J., Driver, 965, R.F.A.

J., Driver, 91950, R.F.A.

J., Driver, 10096, R.F.A.

J., Cpl, 8554, Camerons (wounded)

John, Quarter-Master-Sergt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lovat Scouts (Tongue)

J., Pte, 12506a, Gordons (wounded)

J., Pte, 7732, Gordons (killed)

J., Pte, 10396, Gordons (missing)

J., Pte, 9248. Royal Irish Rifles (killed)

J., Pte, Seaforths (Post Office) Glasgow

J., Pte, North Lancs Regiment (Post Office, Glasgow)

J., Drummer, 1430, Gordons T.F. (killed)

J., Camerons (Post Office, Glasgow)

J., Pte, 786, Rifle Brigade (wounded)

J., Pte, 754, B Coy, 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (Dornoch)

J., Pte, 697, C Coy, 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (Bonar)

J., Pte, 33, D Coy, 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (Brora)

J., Pte, 3070, H Coy, 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths (Castletown)

J., Pte, 13824, Yorkshire Regiment

J., Sgt, 20101, A.S.C., 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Field Ambulance

J., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gordons

J., Pte, 1539, 4<sup>th</sup> Camerons

J.A.C., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, 6<sup>th</sup> Seaforths

J.B., Lieut, R.A.M.C., 8<sup>th</sup> Hampshires

J.B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, 4<sup>th</sup> K.O.S.B.

J.C., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, 2<sup>nd</sup> Highland Howitzer Brigade, R.F.A.

J.D., Major Hampshire Regiment

J.D., Fleet Reserve (Post Office, Glasgow)

J.D., No.1 Armoured Train, South Africa

J.R.G., Bombardier, Cromarty Artillery

J.B.I., Government Service, Nigeria

J.F., Pte, 19848, No.1 Coy, 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

J.F., Capt, Argyll & Sutherlands (V.C.)

J.F., Lieut, R.A.M.C. (Netley Hospital)

J.G., Cpl, 1108, M Squadron, 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Lovat Scouts

J.H., Gunner, 91978, R.F.A.

J.H., Hawke Brigade, R.N.R.

J.J.M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, 1<sup>st</sup> Lovat Scouts

J.M., Sgt, Royal Sussex (Killed)

J.J., Major, 15<sup>th</sup> Middlesex (Public Schools Battalion)