



# The LEOD VOICE



CLAN MACLEOD  
SOCIETIES CANADA  
NATIONAL COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER # 54  
SPRING, 2011



ARDVRECK CASTLE RUINS ON LOCH ASSYNT

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## BY DR. DONALD MCLEOD

Another glorious spring day and a busy time on the farms. To each of us, this time of year means a different set of chores. Christine and I have finished planting our 400 Chardonnay plants to replace some winter kill in the vineyard. The pear tree prunings have been gathered, the lawns mowed and the sprinklers have been set out. Some of our range has been flooded by high lake levels but the Highland cattle have been turned out to range and roads have been ploughed and the hayfields have been somewhat replanted.

All of you farmers out there will identify with this progression of events and shudder at the work involved. We say we love the outdoor work because it keeps us close to nature. But we are well past lying to ourselves and we recognize these chores as exactly that and not necessarily fun. They can't be that much fun because the children

never wanted to do them even with attempts at reverse psychology. With the work behind us, the excitement of the summer is here.

The trip to San Francisco to attend the Clan MacLeod Society USA annual general meeting, starts this week and it is our first highlight of the summer.

We relish the thought of a MacLeod Vineyard, a silent auction, piping, catching up with clan members from everywhere and being part of the swirl of tartan and kilts. You never know who will be attending the gatherings until you actually arrive and survey the crowd. It will be superb and should be on your list of summer fun.

We are planning to drive across Canada for the last week of July and want to stop in each city and discuss clan business and new ideas for the future.

We have been invited to attend the Glengarry Highland Games at Maxville, Ontario and the 75th Anniversary of the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry event. We are excited about the Highland Tartan Ball and look to the clan booth and music for reverie. With all that driving, we will make another effort of perfecting our limited knowledge of Gaelic. (Just a reminder that Gaelic was the most widely spoken language in Canada at the time of confederation in

1867.) We have decided that with our own vehicle, we can take all the tartan paraphernalia with us to fit the part of “want to be” highlanders. There should be no excuse for us not to be decked out head to toe in tartan and the envy of any bland European onlooker. What a wonderful heritage we have. If we could just get the new generation to appreciate our pride and history. It does take an extra effort to trick the non-believers into Scottish events but once experienced, the neophytes usually thirst for more. Our job as members and hosts is to provide an experience for those unfortunate souls that have been denied the spine shivering tingle of well tuned pipes around the bonfire with a Haggis and whisky in hand (a man’s point of view?) or denied eating fresh scones with tea while watching young highland dancers in fabulous outfits on stage in the sunshine (a woman’s point of view?). I am sure everyone has their ideal setting for a Scottish epiphany and at Highland Games or MacLeod Clan gatherings, the chance for yours will never be greater.

We hope to see you soon and wish each of you a safe summer (talking as an emergency physician) and the best of health until we meet again.

Hold Fast from Dr. Donald McLeod (president Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada). Δ

# BOOK REVIEW

BY ROWAN GLADISH

—a young reader from CMS  
Central Ontario.

*Mystery at Black Rock Island*

by Robert Sutherland

Sutherland’s novel is an action-mystery about a young man from Ontario (David McCrimmon) who gets himself into a lot of trouble when, on vacation in the Hebrides, he promises to fulfill a dying man’s last wish. Together with his new Scottish friend, Sandy MacLeod, they embark on an adventure that includes smugglers, spies and submarines to uncover the mystery of Black Rock Island.

This is an amazing read for youth ages eight and older. With several plot twists and a surprising ending, the story kept me reading way past my bedtime! This book is particularly appealing because of its Scottish content. As my aunt (a MacLeod) married a McCrimmon, this was a neat find for me personally.

Published in 1983, *Mystery at Black Rock Island* was the first of a three book series following the adventures of David McCrimmon and Sandy MacLeod. The books are a little hard to find, (you may need to search the web a bit), but it’s well worth the effort and should be included in your personal library. On a scale of 1 to 10 I’d rank this book at a 9. Δ

# OUR TRIP TO ASSYNT

BY LESLIE AND DON MCCRIMMON

One of the greatest pleasures for clan members travelling to Parliament is taking advantage of the opportunity to learn more about MacLeod history on the pre-parliament trip. Four years ago it was a trip to the outer islands of Lewis and Harris. This year we toured the almost magical land of Assynt. Most of us have heard stories about the MacLeod history in the lands of Skye, Lewis and Harris, however, what a lot of us did not know was the history of MacLeods in the land of Assynt, in the north west corner of the mainland of Scotland.

Assynt was originally the hunting lands of the Thane of Sutherland. During one of the many raids by the Scandinavian Kings his beautiful forest was burned and his cattle stolen. MacNicol of Coigach recovered the cattle and was awarded the lands of Assynt.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century Murdoch MacLeod of Lewis abducted Margaret, the only child of MacNicol, and married her. As she was MacNicol's heiress, Margaret brought with her the lands of Assynt. In 1343 David II of Scotland granted Assynt to Murdoch and Margaret's son, Torquil MacLeod of Lewis, thus starting the long and turbulent history

of the MacLeods in Assynt.

Towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, Angus Mor, the 3<sup>rd</sup> MacLeod of Assynt, had a simple stone tower built. This survives today as the core of Ardvreck Castle which sits on a peninsula extending from the north shore of Loch Assynt and close to Kirkton where his father, old Angus, built the first parish church. The structure was



amazing and way ahead of its time. The main block was of three or four storeys, with a vaulted basement pierced by gunloops and the round stair tower, is corbelled out to support a square two-storey caphouse.

Donald Ban MacLeod 9<sup>th</sup> became Chief in 1585 but had to survive many years of bloody battle



with other members of his family. The feuding and murdering led to a siege of Ardvreck Castle which was ended by the diplomatic intervention of Alexander, Earl of Sutherland. Surviving to a ripe old age, Donald Ban died about 1647. The MacLeod burial vault which stands in isolation in the churchyard at Kirkton is said to be his final resting place.



Unfortunately the MacLeod history in Assynt came to an end as a result of the horrid MacKenzie Clan who aligned themselves with the newly restored Monarchy in 1660. Neil MacLeod was arrested and charged with betrayal. He was imprisoned in Edinburgh then released in 1666 when no evidence could be found against him. By this time Neil was deeply in debt. The Earl of Seaforth, who was the MacKenzie Chief, attempted to redeem Neil's debts by laying claim to the lands of Assynt. Neil resisted but was eventually defeated at Ardvreck Castle, a battle that lasted 14 days.

The MacKenzie control of Assynt lasted just over 60 years.

John, the younger son of the Earl of Seaforth, became MacKenzie of Assynt. He died in 1705 and his son Kenneth became the second and final MacKenzie of Assynt.

Attention Ladies: Kenneth's wife did not like living in a drafty castle and persuaded her husband to build her a new house. Keep this in mind! Calda House was the first modern house to be built in the northwest highlands. MacKenzie eventually lost his control of Assynt due to his indebtedness to the Earl of Sutherland in 1736.

While the clan history is fascinating there is much more to this amazing land. From a geological perspective, Assynt is an absolute gold mine. The Lewisian gneiss rock is considered the oldest found anywhere on earth (3,000 million years old) and is easily found as it is actually on top of the ground due to what is called the Glencoe Thrust. The Thrust occurred when the new rock was driven under the old rock forcing it to the surface. This Lewisian gneiss rock is also found across Europe and in parts of



North America which proves that we were all joined together at one point in time.

While the history and geology were fascinating it was the fellowship with other clansfolk from around the world that made the trip most memorable. There were families from Canada, USA, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, England and Scotland. We stayed in the beautiful Inchnadamph Inn. It is set at the end of Loch Assynt and is surrounded by fields full of long-horned deer. Apparently the Moms were up in the mountains tending to the newborns. T’was ever thus.

We took a trip from the postcard village of Lochinver to the beautiful beaches of Clachtoll where we saw the Norman MacLeod monument. At the age of 70, Reverend Norman took his flock from Scotland to Nova Scotia. They remained there for seven years before moving on to Australia and finally to New Zealand.

Our next stop was Kylesku, where we took a leisurely cruise up Loch Glencoul. In the distance we could see Eas-Coul-Aulin waterfall

(with a fall of 600 feet), the tallest waterfall in Britain. While we were piloted by Gordon MacLeod from Nova Scotia, we saw many sunbathing sea lions.



TO THE MEMORY OF THE  
 REVEREND NORMAN MACLEOD  
 BORN HERE ON 29 SEPTEMBER  
 1780  
 DIED AT WAIPU NEW ZEALAND  
 ON 14 MARCH 1866  
 LEADER, MINISTER AND TEACHER  
 HE LED HIS PEOPLE  
 OVER 14,000 MILES OF OCEAN TO  
 NOVA SCOTIA, AUSTRALIA AND  
 NEW ZEALAND  
 “LEAN IAD E GU IOMALL NA  
 TALMHAINN”  
 THEY FOLLOWED HIM  
 TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



# A RAASAY RECONNECTION

BY EILEEN CROSBY

This past July, 2010, I had my initial introduction to the MacLeod Parliament in Dunvegan. I first heard about the Parliament when my fourth cousin, Rona Cooper of New Zealand, visited with us in Cape Breton back in 2006. Both she and her husband, Jeremy, were on their way to the Parliament when they stopped in Cape Breton to reconnect with her Cape Breton roots. Rona's great grandmother, Hannah Macleod, was a three year old on the *Ellen Lewis* which set sail from St. Ann's Bay in 1859 arriving in Auckland in 1860. At the end of their four day visit with us, it was agreed that we should all attend the 2010 Parliament together with the expressed aim of walking Calum's Road on Raasay regardless of the program of activities yet to be set for the next Parliament.

You see, our great-great-grandfathers were brothers from Raasay who were uprooted due to the harsh living conditions. Rona's g-g-grandfather, Murdoch Mor MacLeod emigrated to Auckland, New Zealand in 1865 while my g-g-grandfather, Iain Mor or John MacLeod, emigrated to Prince Edward Island in 1858. Another brother, Donald, remained on



*Eileen Crosby and Rona Cooper*

Raasay and was the great-grandfather of the now well known Malcolm or Calum MacLeod, who single handedly built "Calum's Road".

As luck would have it, this year's program included a full day's outing to the Isle of Raasay. With a rental car and our good natured spouses in tow, we set out early on July 28 for Raasay heading immediately for Brochel Castle ruins and the start of Calum's Road. As time was very limited we did not walk the entire mile and three-quarters opting instead for a "condensed hike" and then continued by car right to the end of the road at Arnish.



*Eileen, Jeremy Cooper, Rona and Tim Rossiter (Rona's son)*

the opening of the Emigrants' Walk (Ceum nan Eilthireach) which was constructed by the Raasay Heritage Trust.

Just before the ceremony got underway, three fourth cousins had a few moments to reconnect -

Later that morning we returned to the new Raasay Village Hall (Talla Ratharsir) where a number of local organizations had set up genealogy displays and hosted a luncheon for all parliamentarians. Just prior to the luncheon, we attended

Rona Cooper, a great-great-granddaughter of Murdoch MacLeod; Eileen Crosby, a great-great-granddaughter of John MacLeod and Alexander (Sandy) MacLeod, a great-great-grandson of Donald MacLeod; all brothers born and



*Rona Cooper, Rebecca Mackay, Tim Rossiter, Eileen Crosby and Alexander (Sandy) MacLeod*

bred on Raasay in the early 1800s. Rebecca MacKay who is a very involved member of the Raasay Heritage Trust and who still lives on Raasay is also a cousin. Her g-g-g-grandmother, Margaret MacKay, was the mother of these three brothers.



*The oldest Raasay member, Jessie Nicolson and one of the youngest, Kristy Mackay, share Aug 12 birthday and unveil the plaque for the Raasay Heritage Trust*

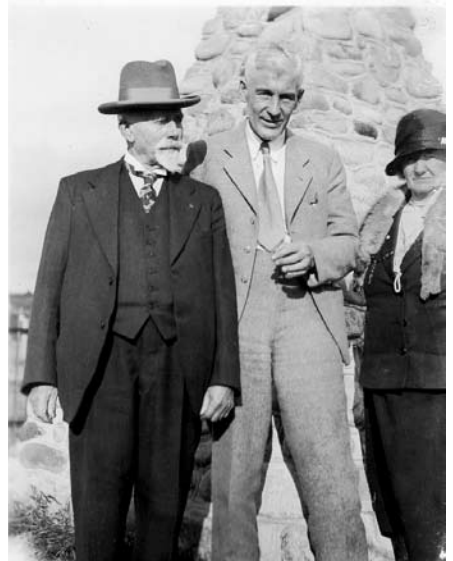
Luceo non uro (I shine not burn) motto of the Clan MacLeod of Raasay. Δ



## LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS

BY EILEEN CROSBY

Sometimes old photographs have much more significance for us than when we first look at them. Such is the case with this photo taken in 1934 at St. Ann's Bay in Cape Breton. In the background one can just make out a cairn. This cairn commemorates the departure of six vessels full of Scottish settlers who subsequently landed in Auckland, NZ, many of whom later settled in Waipu. These settlers, who were under the leadership of Rev. Norman MacLeod, had tried



to establish a farming community at St. Ann's but after several years of failed crops they decided to head for fairer weather and better soil.

Pictured above are John MacLeod and his wife Kate who, in 1934, traveled from New Zealand to meet with relatives in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Standing between them is John's first cousin once removed, Malcolm (Mack) MacLeod of Sydney, NS. Although Malcolm has written the terms "Uncle and Auntie" on the back of the photo, it may have been that he used these as terms of endearment. John's father, Murdoch, came from the Isle of Raasay. He and his five sons immigrated to New Zealand in 1865. This same Murdoch had an older brother, John (Iain Mor) MacLeod, who migrated to Prince Edward Island in 1858. Malcolm is the grandson of John MacLeod of Prince Edward Island. It is interesting to note that the John

MacLeod of New Zealand (pictured above) had a brother Malcolm who married Hannah MacLeod, who was a child of 3 when her parents decided leave Cape Breton for New Zealand. Hannah's family came to New Zealand on the *Ellen Lewis* in 1863 and settled in Waipu.

In December of 2010, I was given a copy of the above photograph by Malcolm MacLeod's daughter, Norma, who still lives in Sydney, NS. (Norma and my mother, Marjorie, were first cousins). In November of 2009, when traveling in New Zealand, I met my fourth cousin, Brett MacLeod Robinson of Hamilton, New Zealand. Recently, I sent Brett a copy of the above photo and Brett, who is a keen genealogist, sent me a copy of the letter which follows and which was written some 77 years ago. Brett is the great-grandson of John MacLeod.

### **Relationship:**

- Generation 1 Murdoch MacLeod (NZ), John MacLeod (PEI)  
(brothers born on Raasay)
- Generation 2 John MacLeod (NZ), Donald B. MacLeod (PEI)  
(1st cousins)
- Generation 3 Neil MacLeod (NZ), Malcolm MacLeod (NS),  
Newton MacLeod (NS) (2<sup>nd</sup> cousins)
- Generation 4 Margaret Elaine MacL. Robinson, Norma MacLeod (NS),  
Marjorie MacLeod (NS) (3<sup>rd</sup> cousins)
- Generation 5 Brett McL. Robinson (NZ), Eileen Crosby (NS)  
(4<sup>th</sup> cousins)

Note: John and Kate MacLeod of NZ made two trips to North America, one in 1929 when they only visited USA, and again in 1934 when they came to Canada.

This letter was written by Malcolm MacLeod in February of 1934 to his "Uncle" John anticipating their forthcoming trip to this part of the world. Malcolm's three children who were very young when the letter was written have just seen this letter for the first time.

WHOLESALE  
FRUIT AND PRODUCE  
P. O. BOX 228

SYDNEY, N.S. Feb 8rd. 1934

Mr. John McLeod,

Dear Uncle;-

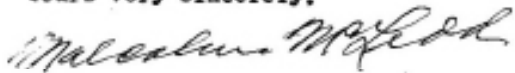
We now owe you an apology for our delay in answering yours of December 7th. last. Is it not wonderful how quickly time passes? We are writing you this letter in the plural as we are all very much interested in this correspondence connection.

We are very much delighted to learn that you and your wife plan visiting us this summer and we will look forward with a great deal of pleasure to your arrival. The ocean boats do not call at Sydney but call regularly at Halifax and we are only a 12 hour train trip from there. Cape Breton Island we claim rivals in natural beauty the highlands of Scotland we have a fine system of motor roads and hope to make your visit pleasant. My brother Newton my brother in law McKinley and myself will all be at your disposal for all the time you can spend with us. If you contemplate going to Charlottetown P.E.I. there is a small steamer that makes the trip thru the Bras DOR lakes in the centre of the island and the scenery is wonderful you can also go by train.

We regret to learn of the deaths in your branch of the clan the names you mention are familiar to me as father always spoke of the folks in New Zealand and he was very proud of the connection so we had become fairly familiar with the people there.

Although you are far away from us we are getting closer together all the time this was very plainly set forth at Christmas time on the Empire broadcast it was very wonderful to hear a man in London say Hello New Zealand and the immediate answer Hello London and the the Kings talk following so we the British peoples are drawn very closely together. We must thank you for the magazines which you sent we have nothing in Canada that will compare with them. We passed one of them along to a friend of ours who is very much interested in sailing and he was delighted with it. Trusting you and Mrs. McLeod will enjoy your long trip and that you will have pleasant weather and looking forward to the time when you will arrive here with a great deal of interest on our part we wish you both God speed and Bon Voyage.

Yours very sincerely;



P.S. Will expect to hear from you while in the old land.

## PUTTING TOGETHER THE STORY BY DON MACLEOD (HALIFAX)

*Ed Note: Don has received useful ancestral information from the House of Memories in Waipu, NZ. Obituaries and gravestone records have helped with his research. Don can be contacted at 239 Chandler Dr., Lower Sackville, NS B4C 1Y4. Phone 902-864-6603, emailnova.don@ns.sympatico.ca*

I have been researching my great-uncle Captain George McLeod Sr., his wife Ann (McGregor) and only child George Jr. who went with the Rev. Norman McLeod onboard the *Margaret* first to Australia, then to New Zealand. Rev. McLeod sold the *Margaret* in Australia. Approximately two years later, Rev. McLeod purchased another ship and sailed to Waipu, New Zealand. George, Ann and

George were among the former Nova Scotians who accompanied him. George and Ann settled at Whangarei Heads at what is now known as McLeod Bay. George Sr. operated ship(s) in the New Zealand coastal marine trade. He probably also sailed to and from eastern Australia. George Jr. was also a marine captain but I have yet to learn much about his career in the maritime industry.

I recently found out that George Jr., his wife and children did not remain in Whangarei Heads. This is the only information I have found to date. As my inquiries from the New Zealand Archives have shown, George Sr., Ann and George Jr. are buried in Whangarei Heads Cemetery. I am still attempting to determine if any of George Jr.'s descendants remain in New Zealand. Following George' and Ann's deaths, their home was occupied by a relative. The house later burned down. George Sr. donated the land for the the first Presbyterian Church and the building is still there.

My great-great paternal grandparents, Murdock and Effie (McNicol, aka Nicholson) were married at Achnacarnin, Scotland in 1801 and emigrated to Nova Scotia in 1820. According to research by Bonnie (McLeod) Thornhill of Baddeck, NS, they lived on a 50 acre lot in Englishtown, Cape Breton. It is thought, in later years they lived with son Murdock "King" McLeod at Baddeck Bay (not to be confused with Norman "Gold" McLeod, also of Baddeck.) There is also some information which indicates that they also had land, near that owned by Rev. Norman McLeod at or near St. Ann's in Cape Breton.

The date of Murdock, Effie and family's arrival in Cape Breton was found on my great-grandfather's (Capt. Angus McLeod) grave stone

in Man O' War Point Cemetery on Boularderie Island. It says he was 2 years of age. Angus was the last child born at Stoer Point, Assynt. One child, Norman "King" was born in Cape Breton and lived at Baddeck Bay. The last time I checked, there was still at least one of Norman McLeod's descendant living there. The only other thing I discovered is there were a number of Norman "King" McLeods.

My great-grandfather lived at Boularderie Centre and operated a sailing ship in the Nova Scotia-Newfoundland trade. He died onboard his ship in St. John's Newfoundland and his remains were taken home in a barrel of salt/brine. My grandfather, John "Cricket" (I have always wondered what that nickname meant) McLeod was born on Boularderie Island. He married Isobella McKenzie of Black Brook, Boularderie. Grandfather kept the light on St. Paul's Island in the late 1800s and again in the early 1900s. My father, Captain John Angus, was a pre-teen at that time, so the second time was circa 1910. Later he served as a county councilor for two years and at the time of his death in 1924, operated a general store in North Sydney. Grandmother remained in North Sydney until her death in 1937.

A year or so ago, my wife Eleanor and I visited Cape Breton and with the kind assistance of Alexander (Sandy) McLeod, a brother of

genealogy author Bonnie Thornhill, we scoured many of the cemeteries in the Baddeck area. We were attempting to determine where Murdock, Effie and their son Norman “King” are buried. That search was without success. We did however, learn there have been a number of Norman “King” McLeods. Eleanor and I plan another trip to Cape Breton later this summer to renew

our search.

The reason we are called “King” McLeods is because Murdock managed to own quite a bit of land.

I thought that the *Leod Voice* might be read by other relatives who might wish to exchange information.

Yours in Clanship,  
Don MacLeod

## MACLEODS OF ASSYNT

BY J. RON MACLEOD

I refer to the report in the Fall issue of the *Leod Voice* of the visit to the ruins of Ardvreck Castle by a group of MacLeods who were in Scotland to attend Parliament 2010. It brought to mind a story told by the late Pipe Major Roderick MacLeod. Rod came to Vancouver from Scotland and left us with a heritage – the BC Pipers Association. Rod was a founding member and the first President.

Rod told a story passed on to him by his Aunt, a resident of Lewis. The Lewis-Assynt connection goes back to the time when MacLeod Barons of Lewis held Assynt as well as Raasay, Gairloch, Waternish and other lands in Skye. They eventually lost their patrimony because of their unstinting support of MacDonald, Lord of the Isles, in MacDonald’s recurring conflicts with the Scottish Crown.

Rod’s story linked the piobair-reachd (pibroch in the English

version) “The Desperate Battle of the Birds” to an incident in Assynt. Rod’s story goes like this:

“In those early days Assynt was well populated with inhabitants who had flocks and herds, and the MacLeods were often able to give a good demonstration of Highland hospitality.

“At the time of the tale as told me, the old lady of the castle was living the life of the nobility, and was much given to wining, dining, and dancing, and would keep the dancing going as long as possible.

“In those days of candles, cruises, lanterns but no alarm-clocks, people snug in their beds depended on the crowing of the cock to tell them when it was daybreak.

“On this occasion the mistress of Ardvreck Castle ordered the piper, shepherd, smith, and one of the maids to fasten the beaks of all the roosters, so that the dancers would not be able to tell the time

by the crowing of the cock. In this way she could realize her wish to continue the dancing well beyond daybreak.

“The servants went in the evening to the henhouse where flocks of fowl were perched high up on roosts and, as my aunt said : “there was a terrific battle, with cocks and hens” before they succeeded in getting the bills of all the males securely fastened. The piper, like those of his kind - always foremost in battle - got the worst of it.

*The piper's hair collected dust,  
His clothes held more than mud,*

*His head was clawed, his face  
was scratched,*

*His precious hands dripped  
blood,*

*He blessed the birds in Canntai-  
reachd,*

*Those Breabach Beats that go,*

*Ho-drin-in-ti, Ha-drin-in-te,*

*Ha-drin-in-ti, Ho-dro.*

“Rejoicing that the battle is over, and happy because madam is pleased with the work achieved, the piper, now with the pipes on his shoulder, defiantly sends a “MacLeod” tune echoing through the halls as he leads the “Grand March” into the ballroom. There is dancing of Flings and Reels during the long weary hours of the night. Tapestry-covered windows let in no light and muzzled roosters are unable to announce the daybreak, so the dancing went on till noon next day.”

Rod MacLeod’s story is one of three possible sources of the tune we know today as “The Desperate Battle of the Birds”. One story goes back to a time when King Robert III in the late 1300s arranged a clan duel that left all but a handful of participants dead. After the battle, flocks of birds swooped down to feast on the corpses of dead Clan Chattan and MacKay warriors. A third version, based on a popular Gaelic poem of the time, is an Argyll story from the late 1700s about a flock of birds that killed the wife of their keeper.

Many piobaireachd are based on oral history carried down the generations in the chants of Bards. At some point in time a piper would compose a piobaireachd based on the theme of a Bard’s creation. Rod MacLeod’s Ardvreck tale falls into this category. Δ

## Gaelic at EU Meeting

Education Secretary Mike Russell made history on Tuesday June 7, 2011 by becoming the first person to address a European Council meeting in Gaelic. He spoke on youth issues at the Education, Youth and Culture Council in Brussels.

Gaelic was given co-official status as a language of the European Union in October 2009. Δ

# JEFF MACLEOD WEDS JENNA WITTER

BY SHEILA MACLEOD

Neil and Sheila Macleod of Stratford, Ontario, are pleased to welcome their daughter-in-law as a new member of Clan Macleod. Jenna Witter, daughter of Mike and Kathy Witter, of Tavistock, married Jeffrey Macleod in London, Ontario, on June 19, 2010.

Jeff is the grandson of Kenneth "Coinneach Mor" and Toni

Macleod of Harlosh, Isle of Skye. Kenneth and Toni were active members of Clan Macleod, were organizers of the early Clan Parliaments, and offered hospitality to many. Kenneth was well known as the Corresponding Secretary for the ACMS, and they met many Macleod Societies in their own countries, on a "world trip" in 1972. Δ



*Diana Macleod, Amy Macleod, Jenna (Witter) Macleod, Jeffrey Macleod, Sheila Macleod, Steven Macleod, (in front) Neil Macleod.*

## CENTRAL ONTARIO NEWS

BY KAREN MACLEOD MCCRIMMON, PRESIDENT

Central Ontario clansfolk met October 16, 2010 for their Fall Ceilidh.

From time to time we have speakers or our own members provide us with information that relates to our common Scottish background or specializes in infor-

mation about MacLeod history.

On this particular occasion we asked the Chairman of CAS-SOC, Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada, to speak to us on the subject Scottish Symbols and their origin and significance. **Ian Angus Munro** had prepared a PowerPoint

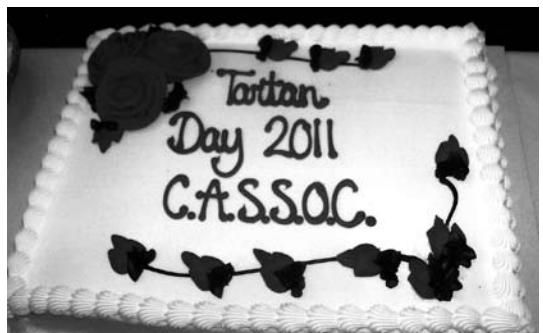
presentation which included not only a brief description of the history of CASSOC and the reasons for its existence, but also enlightened us concerning the use of the Thistle, as a symbol of Scotland, the Scottish Saltire (the official flag of Scotland that bears the Cross of St Andrew), the Lion Rampant, including who has the official right to fly this flag. Although you probably see this flag flying at many Highland Games and such, officially the flag may only be flown by the monarch. Did you know that you can tell if the Lion Rampant is Scottish if the tongue and claws of the lion are blue. These amongst other symbols not only enhanced

our knowledge, but gave us some insight into the many tales and sagas from which these items that permeate our history originally emanated.

Our evening also included a delicious dinner of lasagna, salads and desserts, followed by some wonderful piping by David Pugliese, a presentation by Don and Lesley McCrimmon on their experiences on the pre-Parliament trip to Assynt (wish we all could have been there!) and the impressions of one of our more recent members, Lyn Bennett, who attended her first Clan Parliament at Dunvegan and was already enthusing about a possible return visit in 2014. Δ



*CMS (Central Ontario) having fun together. Allen & Mary, Don McCrimmon, Diane, Karen and Lesley McCrimmon, Kathy White, Christina Gladish and Beth Macleod. CASSOC Tartan Day cake.*



# TARTAN DAY 2011

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

October 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 cultures that comprise Canadian society.”

Tartan Day originated in the late 1980s 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 federal 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.

Each province and territory has their own tartan. Next April 6, put on your own tartan and take a walk. Who knows, you may end up meeting a relative. Δ

## DECLARATION OF ARBROATH

Arbroath Abbey, Scotland

6 April 1320

**For so long as a hundred of us shall remain alive, we will never, on any condition, be subjected to the Lordship of the English. For we fight not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, but for freedom alone, which no man gives up, except with his life.**

*These inspirational lines were included in the Scottish Declaration of Independence sent to Pope John XXII by Robert the Bruce and “The whole community of the realm of Scotland”, enunciating a constitutional monarchy.*



# RED RIVER BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

May 27, 2011

Dear Friends:

As you are probably aware, the year 2012 will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Selkirk Settlers at Red River. The settlers were the first individuals to establish permanent residence along the Red River in what has grown to become the City of Winnipeg. They were also the first permanent European residents on the northern Great Plains of North America. As well, Lord Selkirk's initiative resulted in the establishment of agriculture in western Canada.

In early 2010, representatives of Manitoba-based Scottish cultural and heritage organizations came together to form what is now The Scottish Heritage Council of Manitoba, Inc. The mandate of the Council is to share ideas and information within the community in Manitoba, to promote Scottish traditions, heritage and culture, and to organize certain cultural or heritage events. In preparation for the bicentenary of the founding of the Red River Settlement, the Council established the Red River Bicentenary Committee whose goals include the coordination, sharing and dissemination of information about next year's events among the various Scottish organizations, as well as with the general public.

In order to assist with this mandate we ask you to inform the committee of any activities or events that your organization will be, or is contemplating, organizing in celebration of this special anniversary. Similarly, we will undertake to keep you informed of all the information that we have in order to ensure that the Manitoba Scottish community is fully informed about what is being planned. In doing so, our goal is to ensure both the Scottish organizations and the general public become aware of the importance of this historic event.

We have recently established a website at [www.redriver200.ca](http://www.redriver200.ca) and we encourage you to contact us at [info@redriver200.ca](mailto:info@redriver200.ca) should you wish to communicate with our committee.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance.

Yours sincerely, Lawrence Prout and Phyllis Fraser  
Co-chairs Selkirk Settlement Bicentenary Committee

# HOW HONEST ARE THE SCOTTISH?

BY LESLEY MCCRIMMON

Mary and John MacLeod took a 13 day trip to Scotland with the Quigley Pipe & Drum Band from Lochiel, Glengarry, Ontario, August 9 – 21. Just before the trip, Mary had misplaced her camera and found it just in time to travel. While in Edinburgh, Mary put down her camera and it was picked up by a friend. During their stay, they took the opportunity to take a four day trip to the Isle of Skye, visiting Dunvegan Castle and Portree. On their fourth day, on the way back to Edinburgh, they were in Pitlochry where Mary again put down her camera, but didn't realize it was gone until later.

Honest Scotsmen, Stewart and Kate MacMillan picked up the camera and turned it into the Pitlochry Police. The local police contacted the Parliament co-ordinator Emma Halford MacLeod-Forbes.

“This may be a bit of a long shot but I am hoping that you can help. A digital camera has been found and handed in to Pitlochry Police Station. The name Mary Macleod, with a contact number in Ontario, Canada, is written on the inside of the camera case. I have looked through the photographs on the camera and think that Mary may have been at the Clan MacLeod Parliament at the end of July. Hoping you may have an ad-

dress for her so that we can re-unite her with her camera.”

Emma, in turn, e-mailed “the Canadian clan” asking if anyone knew Mary. I e-mailed Emma asking for the phone number and called Mary who lives in the Ottawa area. She was delighted that her camera was safe and contacted the Pitlochry Police. Apparently it would cost about \$ 100.00 to have the camera mailed back so just the memory card has been mailed. Her friend, Nina McKechnie goes back to her home in Scotland in November and returns to Glengarry in May so will bring back Mary's well-travelled camera.

May also told me that her husband, John, was the President of the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry in the late 70s early 80s. This is not just a happy ending but we hope to actually meet one another next year at the Glengarry Highland Games.

Just remember, after 3 strikes, you are not out. Mary has developed her Scottish pictures and told me they were great. She will get to take pictures with her camera again because of honest Scotsmen. Δ

**Editor's Note:** Having once been the recipient of a fellow travelers honesty myself, I suggest that in future Mary might tether her camera case securely to her purse, as I now do.

# THIS 'N THAT



*Alma MacLeod celebrates her 85th birthday with Joy Terrant in Calgary at the Red Lobster, Alma's favourite eatery.*



*Clockwise: A group of Halifax clan members enjoy fellowship after a work bee organizing a mailing. The spring gathering of G Van members relating travel stories.*

*Pat MacLeod (USA) preparing the firing of the cannon at Halifax Citadel.*

*Bill (Internet master USA) soldier for a day with the 78th Highlanders at Halifax Citadel.*



# MY LOVE OF SCOTLAND

BY JUDY TIPPLE

My first visit to Skye was in 1980 after several communications with Kenneth 'Mor' and Toni MacLeod who generously and most graciously hosted us. Neil R. and I were relatively new Clan MacLeod Society members having been introduced to the organization in February 1972, while living in Victoria. We received a blind mail-out invitation to the MacLeod Dinner at Holyrood in Victoria sent to every MacLeod/McLeod in the Victoria phone book. At that delightful event we met Douglas Morrison who was the CMS Vancouver president and also Arthur MacLeod Rogers (founder of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada, also Ian and Norman's father) who spent the winters in Victoria to escape the cold of his home in Ontario.

On moving to the Vancouver area later in 1972, we kept in touch with Douglas and Clarabelle and attending gatherings in the area as well as returning to the annual February Victoria Clan Dinner, became keen Clan MacLeod Society members.

Getting back to my first visit to Skye and Dunvegan, we arrived at Kenneth' and Toni's lovely old home at Harlosh and were graciously welcomed by Toni. While we were enjoying a cuppa' with Toni, Kenneth arrived home from fishing in the loch — wearing a

soaking wet kilt — he'd fallen in the loch. I don't remember if he had caught any fish or not, I was so absorbed by the site of this tall, burly, handsome highlander in his soggy kilt. My only experience of gentlemen wearing the kilt had been as formal dresswear or at highland games, not as an item of working attire. I soon became very aware that many Scotsmen throughout the highlands wear their kilt daily.

That visit was the first of eight that I have made to Dunvegan since and established my deep affection for Scotland, the Highlands and Skye in particular. Often family and friends have been travelling companions on my Scotland trips, especially when Rick and I have ventured to the land of Rick's grandmother's birth.

Attending Parliaments and touring around Scotland, I have met and made friends with many, many kindred spirits both of MacLeod ancestry and general Scottish interest. Having no known, as yet to be found, blood connections with Scotland, has in no way diminished my fondness for Scotland and things Scottish.

In the not too distant future, I intend to divest myself of many of my commitments and search my Hunter ancestry to discover my personal elusive connection to Scotland, the land that has captured my heart.

Kenneth Mor was the father of Sheila's husband Neil. The story of Neil's coming to Ontario is one I'd like to know and will endeavour to determine for a future issue of the *Leod Voice*.

I had a newsy message from Sheila Macleod of Stratford, ON, in May during our correspondence with regard to her and Neil's son Jeff and Jenna's wedding. An item of special interest was that she and daughter Diana had been typing up her father-in-law Kenneth's autobiography and in the chapter recently discovered, Kenneth wrote of the electric power coming to Skye and specifically the Dunvegan area in the 1930s. Kenneth related a story from the electric meter reader. Many people in the area only spoke Gaelic and there being no word for electricity, it was called "the new light". One woman had a very low usage and reported to the meter reader that she only used the electric light long enough to light her lamp. Seems reasonable to me!

I look forward to further tidbits from Kenneth's autobiography via Sheila and her family. Δ



The biggest and best  
Celtic Festival of 45 concerts  
in at least 31 venues on Cape  
Breton Island, NS.

Programs announced June 27,  
tickets on sale July 11.

## SELF CATERING COTTAGE HANDY TO DUNVEGAN

Most of you are likely unaware of a new self-catering holiday cottage on the Isle of Skye. With beautiful loch views, Keeper's Cottage is located in the charming village of Skeabost Bridge, only a few miles from Dunvegan. Skeabost Bridge has a country house hotel, a golf course and the best salmon river on Skye. We would be delighted to accommodate members of the MacLeod clan at our cottage which can be viewed on our website [www.keeperscottage-skye.co.uk](http://www.keeperscottage-skye.co.uk)

Kind regards, John and Wendy  
Cowpe. Δ

## SIMON FRASER

### UNIVERSITY OFFERINGS

SFU Centre for Scottish Studies is sponsoring a course in Early Medieval Scottish History this fall. To register, go to: <http://www.sfu.ca/seniors/registration> or phone 1-778-782-5000. Instructor- Antone Minard.

### Early Medieval Scotland

Discover the early history of Scotland, from the Roman withdrawal from Britain to the death of Margaret, Maid of Norway. Explore Scotland's early peoples: the indigenous Picts, the Dál Ríata, and the Norse. Along the way, we will explore important people who shaped later Scotland, including fictitious characters such as Macbeth. Δ

# FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Central Ontario experienced the loss of two members of the Rogers family during the first few months of 2011. Many will remember Arthur MacLeod Rogers, who was so instrumental in the creation of clan societies in Canada during the Dame Flora years. Joan and Ian were long-time active members who made friends and connections both nationally and internationally through Clan MacLeod events.



## JOAN WINNIFRED ROGERS

On April 16, 2011, Joan Rogers, wife of Norman MacLeod Rogers, passed away at age 89 years in Toronto. Joan will be missed by all in the Clan, but we extend in particular, our condolences to her husband of 65 years, Norman, and her children, Brian, Dean and Carol and their families. Over the years, Joan was very involved in the activities of both the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada and with the Clan Macleod Society of Central Ontario and all who met her were touched by her generosity and friendship.

Joan was an extremely talented artist and was more than willing to assist the Central Ontario Society with her art work to help celebrate auspicious occasions. In 2000, Central Ontario hosted the North American Gathering. Joan created a painting especially for

the Trilliums and Tartan Banquet and Ball, of the beautiful Trillium Grandiflorum, the floral emblem of the Province of Ontario. She generously offered to have her original watercolour auctioned off to raise funds to assist Central Ontario with the costs associated with the Gathering.



In 2005, Central Ontario celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This special occasion was marked by a dinner and dance for our members at the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club. For this event, Joan created an original watercolour of Dunvegan Castle. Truly a beautiful reminder for all of us of the MacLeod's "home" on the Isle of Skye.



Throughout her life, she was involved in volunteerism with many organizations. It is especially touching and important to mention that she was cofounder of an organization entitled Hope Air. This organization arranges free flights for low-income families who need

medical treatment outside of their communities. Joan saw the need and with a partner established Hope Air in 1986. Since then, Hope Air has provided over 66,000 flights to needy Canadians. Although a daunting enterprise for two individuals to embark upon, we salute her dedication and efforts in helping others in this world. Δ

### IAN MACFEE ROGERS

Ian, in his 87th year, died on January 19, 2011 at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre, in Toronto, Ontario. After Naval service in World War II, Ian studied law and became a well-known lawyer in the Toronto area. He authored books on municipal law and served as an alderman of the city of North York for eight years. Ian, brother to Norman and his wife Joan Rogers, was a member of the Clan MacLeod Central Ontario Society for many years and participated in Clan life, both at the Society level and by his attendance at Parliament in Skye. He was also

involved with the Clan MacFee and often was in attendance at the Highland Games wearing the MacFee



tartan. Ian participated in Gathering 2000 both in the choir and with the Planning Committee. Our condolences are extended to his family. Δ

## MALCOLM RODERICK MACCRIMMON

Malcolm MacCrimmon was born on 21 December 1918. He began his piping career early, and was a member of both the North Vancouver Pipe Band and the pipe band of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada between 1930 and 1932, when he joined the Edmonton Boys Pipe Band. In 1935, he moved to the CNR Pipe Band.

Although he was only a farm-boy from Fort Saskatchewan, Malcolm MacCrimmon knew that he bore the name of a long line of distinguished pipers, dating back to the latter 1700s. He also proudly bore the title of “9<sup>th</sup> Hereditary Piper to Clan Macleod.” He travelled to Calgary upon outbreak of war, determined to join the pipe band. The Calgary Highlanders offered the only military pipe band on the prairies, unless one travelled all the way to Winnipeg to join the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada.

Once in the United Kingdom, MacCrimmon was quick to establish ties to his Clan. The regimental history by Roy Farran tells us that in October 1940 Flora Macleod of Macleod, wrote to the Commanding Officer of the overseas battalion:

*Dear Sir;*

*I venture to write you as the Chief of the Macleod Clan who for 300 years were proud to have a celebrated family of the MacCrimmons as their hereditary*

*pipers. It was a connection famous in Highland history. Your young piper, Malcolm R. MacCrimmon, wrote to me to ask whether he would have my approval in wearing the Macleod tartan attached to his pipes if he were permitted by the military authorities to do so. I should of course be proud if he is so authorized and I understand (Major General) Gervase Thorpe (Colonel-in-Chief of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) is intending to discuss the matter with you.*

*Sentiment means so much to Highlanders and very many Canadians are of Highland origin I am proud to think.*

*Yours truly,*

*Flora Macleod of Macleod*

Lieutenant Colonel Scott wrote back to approve the practice:

*Dear Madam,*

*In authorizing Piper MacCrimmon to wear your tartan attached to his pipes, a further interesting episode is written in the Regimental History. I thank you for your gracious permission...*

At the outbreak of WWII, a young Malcolm Roderick MacCrimmon of Edmonton signed up with the Calgary Highlanders. His Uncle Art had told young Malcolm of the great pipers who had gone before him. A piper since the age of eight, Malcolm was immediately made a member of the pipe band. George Poulter, a student of the MacCrimmon history and member of the Clan MacCrimmon Society of London lived in Surrey, not far from Camp Aldershot. Malcolm’s uncle Arthur McCrimmon arranged for Poulter to meet with young



Malcolm. Years of painstaking genealogical research assured Mr. Poulter that the young Canadian soldier was indeed from the blood of Donald Ruadh. In 1942 Malcolm ventured north to Dunvegan Castle...to meet Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod and effectively reinstated the line. This was a verbal agreement, which established Malcolm R. MacCrimmon as the 9th Hereditary Piper to the Chief of the Clan MacLeod. As a Calgary Highlander, he studied at the Army School of Piping under Pipe Major Willie Ross. Malcolm was later transferred to the famed Scots Guards and again was entitled to attend the piping school located in Edinburgh Castle. It was a rare thing for a Canadian to be given a transfer to a British Regiment, the story was carried in newspapers all over the UK and Canada. At

the end of the war, Malcolm took a bride (Mairi Chisholm) from Gravir on the Isle of Lewis and returned to Canada. They went into farming just north of Edmonton and Malcolm put his pipes away for a few years. Malcolm continued to play at weddings, funerals, City of Edmonton events, Robbie Burns Nights gatherings, Remembrance Day Services plus playing for Royal Canadian Mounted Police Mess Dinners for some 48 years plus.

The 3 1/2 years in Britain with the Calgary Highlanders increased Malcolm's contemplation of making a life out of piping, as opposed to the frustration of just "marching and playing for the Regiment up and down the length of Britain."

Malcolm MacCrimmon lived a colourful life, passing away at the age of 92 years. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Mary "Mairi"; daughter Flora (Rick) Tourigny; two sons, Padruig "Paddy", and Iain (Charlotte); grandchildren, Kelly, Jeffrey (Shannon), Katie (Liam), and Calum, great-grandson Liam. Malcolm is also survived by his brother Kenneth.

The title of 10<sup>th</sup> Hereditary Piper was passed to Iain by Chief John MacLeod of MacLeod at a ceremony in Calgary which was part of the post-North American Gathering 1992. Δ

# THE EDITOR'S PAGE



This issue of the *Leod Voice* can only be termed a Spring issue because the weather out west has been so wet and cold. At the end of June we are still looking forward to summer.

There is a definite theme of the MacLeod lands of Assynt in the content of this issue. As I realized that this was happening it gave greater significance to the book *The Creaky Traveler* which I was reading. Warren Rovetch writes the journal of his travels with his wife in the north west highlands of Scotland - *A Journey for the Mobile but Not Agile*, as he subtitles it. I'm deeply grateful to Bob and Sandy McLeod from Chicago who gifted it to me on their visit to Saturna last year. The reading of this very complete and useful travelogue, with its sensitive observations and insights makes me want to follow their path from Inverness to Port-Na-Con.

The only compensation for having to report three dear members passing is that we also learn about their most interesting lives. Malcolm's piping activity was renowned in Alberta and abroad. Also his son Ian, 10<sup>th</sup> Hereditary Piper, is working hard now to help students develop high level skills on the pipes through his teaching in Scotland. Thoughts of Ian Rogers take me back to his father Arthur who established the CMSC as its first president. Ian continued the work of spreading the value of clanship as he served CMSC in several positions and attended many events over the years.

I very much miss the annual visit to the Victoria area by Joan and Norman Rogers. Joan had an exceptional life of giving to others, working tirelessly on organizing committees for gatherings and generously contributing her artwork to assist clan society finances. I am proud to own one of her paintings, from the silent auction at the NAG 92.

Congratulations to Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese in taking on the CMSC Regional VP Central Canada position.

The search for an understudy as editor of the *Leod Voice* continues.

Thanks to those who contributed articles for this issue and I encourage others to do the same for the coming issues.

**My address:** Judy Tipple,  
P.O. Box 111  
Saturna Island, BC Canada V0N 2Y0  
Phone: 250-539-5475  
E-mail: [jmtipple@gmail.com](mailto:jmtipple@gmail.com)  
[leodvoice@gmail.com](mailto:leodvoice@gmail.com)

## Newsletter Timelines:

*Spring—May 1*

*Fall—October 1*

**Membership and  
Executive Changes:**

*March 1*

*and September 1*