



CLAN MACLENNAN CANADA

CENTRAL ONTARIO BRANCH

clan macleannan

Chief:Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan of MacLennan

Chieftain:Gregory Scott MacLennan

President: David R. MacLennan,70 Pleasant Ave.,Dundas,Ont. L9H 3T4

Treasurer: Elizabeth Prebble,83-2301 Cavendish Drive,Burlington,Ont. L7P 3M3

Secretary: Ruth Ann MacLennan,627 Milverton Blvd.,Toronto,Ont. M4C 1X8

Committee:

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Robin & Marg MacLennan,2 Johnston St.,St.Catherines,Ont. L2N 5K4	(905)-935-7110

Past Presidents:

Doug MacLennan,1342 Farrel Ave.,Delta,B.C. V4L 1V2

Elizabeth Prebble,Burlington

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dave MacLennan

Greetings to all COB members.

The visit to Canada by Chief Ruairidh and his sisters has come and gone, but certainly not forgotten. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read my recollections and comments, as well as those of other clansfolk. My sincere thanks go out to all who contributed in so many ways resulting in what I feel was a supreme compliment from the Chief, "we all want to return to Canada as soon as possible".

On October 3 I wrote to members of the Executive, "My illness of July, 1999 and through the winter has left me with a damaged heart resulting in a much lower energy level than I had previously. It is working reasonably well, but it is too weak to help me maintain the level of activity I would like. I therefore cannot continue as president of the COB of Clan MacLennan Canada."

At the October 14 Executive meeting, a nomination

committee was formed to approach members who would be interested in serving on the Executive. A separate report from Elizabeth is included on their progress. Robin (St. Catharines) has agreed to act as President until our AGM, which will be held in Fergus on August 11, 2001. I am very pleased that Robin will take over for now—please give him your support.

It is the hope of all of us that a new Executive will expand the COB to include as much of Canada as is practicable. The obvious solution to this objective is e-mail, and we hope to be capable of achieving this in the near future.

As I step down as your president, I ask all of you to play an active role in the COB by contributing ideas and suggestions as to how we can build on the success of August, 2000.

Yours aye

David MacLennan

EXECUTIVE UPDATE

At the October 14 meeting, David stepped down as President but will remain as an ex-officio member of the Executive as a Past President. I will continue as Treasurer and, along with Evelyn Griffiths and Kitty, form a nominating sub-committee to contact possible candidates for a new Executive. To date, six members have agreed to serve - Mary Krucker (Burlington), Angus MacLennan (Ottawa), Rick MacLennan (Burlington), Melanie McLennan (Guelph), Dr. Bill McLennan (Grimbsy) and Lois Walton (Dundas).

In accordance with our constitution, the present members will continue until the AGM, with Robin as acting President. The new members will be invited to a meeting in the spring so that an agreed slate of candidates and duties can be presented to the AGM.

Elizabeth Prebble

Editors Notes

It seems a long time since we were at Fergus but we have been doing a lot of deep thinking about where the COB needs to go in the near future to avoid the fate that has overtaken so many clan branches. The letters attached to this issue show that the visit of the Chief was a great success and our guests from far and wide really enjoyed themselves. Although we have managed to keep our numbers up, we must recognise that attrition among our older members is a growing problem that we must face NOW, if we are to take advantage of the momentum generated by Chief Ruairidh's visit.

First of all, very many thanks to all COB members who joined us in the parade, as well as the other clansfolk from far and wide who made it a sight that warmed all our hearts. In addition to the Chief and his sisters, Margaret (Sydney, N.S.), Doug and Smokey (B.C.) and visitors from the U.S. all helped swell our numbers. There were 100 at the dinner (max. capacity of the room) and many also signed in at the tent. A full account of impressions of the day can be gathered from the letters attached. Normally I tend to edit attachments down a bit, but to heck with the budget for once!

The balance sheet also shows that we emerged with

our skins intact, thanks mainly to Melanie and Andy at London House. To all who contributed, whether financially, in lending a hand, entertaining or just calling in to show support - thanks again - you made it all worthwhile.

So much for the pats on the back and time to look at the broader picture. Do you realise that the COB is the only ACTIVE branch left in Canada? We used to have branches in B.C., Nova Scotia and Ottawa, all of which dropped away because nobody was willing to help run them. Some members of the Executive have served since the COB was founded, about 14 years ago, because nobody else volunteered. Executive members should resign after two years, according to the branch rules, but are eligible for re-election. Marg and I are comparative newcomers - this is only the 25th newsletter we have put out. In recent years, the best attendance we have recorded at the AGM has been about 14 souls - I use the term figuratively as it is close to Halloween. We have been cited as being too parochial - a cosy little club that is not interested in wider Clan matters. Well, we hope that new ideas, as well as new technology and new faces, will revamp that image.

The following is a brief summary of ideas we are in the process of setting in motion:

- Move the AGM to Fergus on the grounds at the games. We will try to arrange a room at some convenient time, probably in the afternoon.
- Investigate setting up a list of e-mail addresses so that members can communicate more easily. Given our numbers, a dedicated web site for the COB is not justifiable, but a web page on an existing site may be a possibility. E-mail may also allow input at Executive meetings without having to attend, so attracting a wider pool of volunteers. Incidentally, we normally only have 3/4 meetings a year.
- Encouraging local groups to affiliate with the COB until they can branch out on their own.
- Make up the remaining sum in the "2000" Fund to \$1000 and invest it in a GIC. This has been done.
- Attach slips to the newsletters of members whose dues are outstanding; these amount to over \$400. The responses will be reviewed in the spring and, if necessary, names will be deleted from the active members list. It is also important that you notify us of any change of address, so that newsletters reach you in time.

Celtic Heritage Magazine

Bob and Kay(Hamilton) brought to our notice that Clan members are eligible for a special introductory offer of three free copies.If you enjoy the magazine,you may then order a year's subscription at the regular price of \$19.95.Alternatively,you may order a one-year subscription at a price of \$9.95,the equivalent of six free copies.

Orders should be sent to:

Celtic Heritage Magazine
P.O.Box 8805,Station A
Halifax,N.S.
B3K 5M4

Reference the order: September 12 offer to Clan MacLennan Canada.

Flowers of the Forest

McLennan,Donald(Stidge) James
Peacefully at his home,Sunnybrook Hees Wing on Monday,August 21,2000.Born in Galt,Ontario, March 6 ,1916,son of Donald and Edna (nee Millar).Predeceased by his wife Peggy.Proud veteran of the 48th Highlanders and the RCR.His family sincerely appreciates the dedicated care he received over many years from his numerous friends on the Sunnybrook staff.

We have sent the newsletters to Donald over many years and heard he looked forward to them.

Roots Corner

The following is from Evelyn(Vineland)

Scottish/Irish Naming of Children

1st son -named for the father,or sometimes father's father

1st daughter-named for the mother

2nd son -named for father's father

2nd daughter-named for mother's mother

3rd son -named for mother's father

3rd daughter-named for father's mother

4th son -named for an uncle,but often the surname as well of the paternal grandmother

4th daughter-named for an aunt,along with the surname of the maternal grandmother

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A GUID NEW YEAR TO ALL

**IF A SLIP IS ATTACHED HERE
PLEASE DO SOMETHING !**

page 2...

As it turned out Ruairidh got to see Ottawa due to the kindness of Darrel Kopke who is a Big Brother to Eric who is Doug and Elvas grandson. Darrel drove Ruairidh and Eric to Ottawa where they stayed two nights, saw the Parliament Buildings and the city courtesy of Angus MacLennan. From there they went to Montreal for more sightseeing, returning to Burlington on Saturday Aug/19. On Sunday morning Aug 20th Andy and Melanie drove Ruairidh to Muskoka to visit McLennans and enjoy a sojourn into Algonquin Park before returning to Kruckers in Burlington on Tuesday Aug 22nd.

On Wednesday Aug 23rd Ruairidh left for home laden with three of Elizabeths bricks.

We know he enjoyed himself because he vowed to return next year possibly to Ottawa and visits to Maxville and Fergus Scottish Festivals.

In addition to all these details working out so well, the weather was perfect for The Fergus Scottish Festival, and our Ceilidh, and we did it all under budget. Incidentally we sent to Ruairidh a money order to cover the air fares for Ruairidh, Kirsteen and Lorna.

I cannot thank enough the members of the COB executive who contributed so much to the chiefs visit and to our Ceilidh.

We were all especially happy that Doug and Elva and their family were with us since Doug and Elva started The COB Clan MacLennan in the early 1980's.

A special thanks to Fides Krucker who regaled us as M.C. and to John Middleton who was our dance instructor. We were also treated to delightful songs by Bethany and Katie McLennan of Guelph, and lively piping by Andy and Ruairidh as well as a skit by Cam MacLennan. All in all everyone seemed to enjoy the evening and the excellent meal catered by Marilyn MacLennan.

It's a great feeling to know that because of the generous contributions of time and resources from so many people, the Chiefs visit was a wonderful and memorable experience for all. At least it was from where I sat.

David R MacLennan

Subject: [Fwd: Chief's summary - Fergus Scottish Festival - August 2000]

Date: Thu, 05 Oct 2000 17:38:50 -0700

From: Doug MacLennan <macd@telus.net>

To: macr@sympatico.ca

Hi Rick: I see an <rmac> on the chiefs List ? Did you get the message?

Subject: Chief's summary - Fergus Scottish Festival - August 2000

Date: Thu, 5 Oct 2000 22:32:24 +0100

From: "Ruairidh MacLennan" <ruairidh.maclennan@ic24.net>

Organization: Clan MacLennan

To: "Sue Catterall" <sue_catterall@hotmail.com>,

"Stewart MacLennan" <stewart@gmd.com.au>, "Smoky MacLennan" <smokymcl@silk.net>,

"Roddy MacLennan" <roderickmaclennan@compuserve.com>,

"Ross MacLennan" <rossmcl@clear.net.nz>, "Rick MacLennan" <rmac@sympatico.ca>,

"Max / Mary MacLennan" <max_mary_maclennan@msn.com.au>,

"Leon Vance" <leon@idx.com.au>,

"Kenny MacKenzie" <kenneth.mackenzie@highland.gov.uk>,

"Ken / Janet MacLennan" <maclenn@interlynx.net>,

"Jon MacLennan" <jgmsprtmed@aol.com>, "Jack MacLennan" <jmaclenn@pop.state.il.us>,

"Iain Watson" <iainwatson@iainwatson.freemove.co.uk>,

"Hugh MacLennan" <mhugh@interchange.ubc.ca>,

"Harry Dale" <macgill.fhinnein@btinternet.com>,

"Greg MacLennan" <annellegordon@westpac.com.au>,

"Graham Auld" <graham@auld.com>, "Fiona Ellis" <fibe73@hotmail.com>,

"Fergus Games" <scottish@sentex.net>, "Doug MacLennan" <macd@bc.sympatico.ca>,

"Donald MacLennan" <donmaclenn@aol.com>,

"Bob / Sally Truhlar" <bobtruhlar@webtv.net>.

"Angus MacLennan" <sparth@sen.parl.gc.ca>.

"Andy / Melanie MacLennan" <lhbb@home.com>

SUMMARY OF CHIEF'S VISIT TO CANADA - AUGUST 2000

It was the very early hours of the morning and in the traditional departing custom I took a long and thoughtful glance at the murky and mysterious waters of Loch Ness which we are so fortunate to have in front of our home. Today's thoughts were a mixture of nervous anticipation and excitement. A great deal of planning and thought goes into a Clan trip of this magnitude. No amount of experience can lessen the fear of the 'unknown'. It can be very daunting and although you know that you will enjoy the visit, there is always that element of worry. It is for this reason that when we fly out on such a visit, there is a notable difference in mood between Kirsteen, Lorna and myself. While I contemplate speeches, church readings etc., the girls worry about important matters such as makeup and when they will get a chance to swim or go shopping. (I'll hang for this one)!! However, I am pleased to report that when I next gazed thoughtfully into the depths of Loch Ness, my mind was much more at ease, filled with very happy memories of an absolutely wonderful and very successful visit to Canada with the highlight being The 55th Fergus Scottish Festival.

For the duration of The Fergus Games, Kirsteen, Lorna and myself were very well looked after by David and Kitty MacLennan who had the tiresome role of keeping us all on the right tracks and getting us to the right places at the right time. They both put an outstanding amount of work into making the visit so successful and for this we thank them both enormously. I hope that they have recovered from the hectic time of it all! We were all accommodated in what must be Canada's most remarkable and most homely B&B, London House which is in Guelph just a short drive from Fergus where the Games took place. The proprietors of London House are Andy and Melanie MacLennan who very kindly put the girls and myself up free of charge which was extremely kind of them. Since our visit I have declared their home the 'official' Canadian residence of the Chief!! The MacLennan family at London House were soon dubbed the 'Von Trapp' family due to their amazing enthusiasm and talent for just about every musical instrument imaginable. This remarkable family were to play quite a big role in the success of the remainder of the visit and for

this we thank them enormously.

As the Fergus Festival kicked off with a variety of splendid events, most notably the Tattoo on the Friday evening, more and more familiar faces started to appear and soon we were being introduced and re-aquainted with many Clansfolk some of whom I had not seen since my last visit to Canada in 1987 with my father. Others we were meeting for the first time which is a lovely experience, finally being able to put a face to a name. For the duration of the Games there was a hive of activity within and around The Clan tent and it proved to be a good base. The opening ceremonies of the Games included a march past of all the Clans and I was very proud that The MacLennan's were the second largest Clan represented after The MacLeods. I do however suspect that The MacLeod's went past rent-a-mob en route to The Games and I couldn't resist stating this suspicion within my speech during the opening ceremonies. After challenging them to a bit of old fashioned Clan Warfare I disappeared in the true Chiefly style and left the bemused MacLennan's on the field to sort it out! I spent the remainder of the day tip-toeing past the MacLeod tent.

On the Saturday evening the COB branch put on an excellent ceilidh with a variety of activities. After a splendid meal there was a wide range of entertainment and music which was enjoyed by a large turnout of enthusiastic MacLennans. It was wonderful to have this opportunity to speak to the many Clansfolk whom I had not had a chance to speak with during the previous days. The Kirking of the Tartan on the Sunday morning marked the end of The Games for us and was a lovely end to The Games. I stood alongside Donald 'Smoky' to represent our Clan at the end of the service. In 1987 'Smoky' had stood in this same church at this stage in the proceedings accompanied by a young ten year old boy. Now a slightly larger lad was standing next to him. This was quite a touching end to the Games. All in all, our time at Fergus was very enjoyable and it was very promising to see so many MacLennan's showing such enthusiasm for Clan activities and it was so good to finally meet as well as be re-aquainted with so many lovely and friendly Clansfolk. We all hold very fond memories of our visit and it is very likely that you will be seeing a lot more of us over the next while than you may have previously thought.

Due to work commitments, Kirsteen and Lorna had to return home to Scotland immediately after The Games. I however had the pleasure of staying for a further week to take up the opportunity of some sight-seeing. Being unleashed from the grasp of the sisters was wonderful! Based at David's sister Mary and husband Ed's home in Burlington, I spent the following week travelling with Eric MacLennan and his 'big brother' Darrell. During our adventure we drove to Ottawa and then up to Montreal before returning back to Burlington. This six day trip involved a variety of activities many of which were very memorable. During our stay in Ottawa I was shown around by Angus MacLennan who works for Senator Sparrow in Parliament House. I was fortunate enough to be given a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Parliament buildings which was quite a privilege. Later in the evening we met up with Donna MacLennan and the three unruly MacLennan's set about sampling some real Canadian beer. At this point I should stop! I'm not sure if I influenced them or if it was the other way around. However the next morning started slower than previous mornings! Montreal was a very exciting place to see and the entire French culture made it quite different to the rest of the country. It was a very relaxing and enjoyable way to spend the week after the Games and was superb to have this chance to see so much of the Country. Well there's still a fair bit to cover yet!

After a quick night-stop at Mary and Ed's and an excellent family BBQ followed by a variety of entertaining games with the family, I returned to 'London House' in Guelph where I met up with Andy, Melanie, two of their children Bethany and Maggie and two close friends Jeremy and Lorry. From Guelph our merry tribe set off North to the beautiful country area by Dorset where Andy's mother, Jenny lives. Here we spent a wonderfully relaxed few days sightseeing and having fun around the quaintly situated house. Even managed to go looking for bears as I couldn't quite believe that they really existed here in the wild. Fortunately I didn't find any. On the evening we arrived, the vast family of MacLennan's organised a BBQ after which a guitar and couple of bagpipes mysteriously appeared from the 'Von Trapp' wagon. It was lovely hearing the laughter and music drift across the lake as the sun went down. I was now in the rural parts of Canada and was feeling very much at home.

Sadly after spending a day at Mary and Ed's home in Burlington, it was time for my hosts David and Kitty to drive me back to the airport for my return journey. There were too many thoughts going through my head to remember my exact feelings but I certainly felt sad to be leaving this remarkable and very friendly country. I had had a lovely visit and the only thing which allowed my sadness to lessen was the knowledge that very soon I would return.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in any way to make this visit possible and so successful and enjoyable. I sincerely hope that my visit has benefited The Clan MacLennan and long may The Clan prosper in Canada. Thank you.

Yours aye,

CHIEF RUAIRIDH D. G. MACLENNAN OF MACLENNAN.

Subject: Clan MacLennan at The Fergus Highland Games, August 2000

Date: Tue, 19 Sep 2000 21:35:53 -0700

From: "Smoky McLennan" <smokymcl@silk.net>

To: "Chief Ruairidh MacLennan" <ruairidh.maclennan@ic24.net>,
"Mary & Max McLennan" <max_mary_mclennan@msn.com.au>,
"Elva & Doug MacLennan" <macd@bc.sympatico.ca>,
"Melanie & Andy McLennan" <lhbb@home.com>, "Fiona Auld" <clan@maclennan.com>

It's been well over a month since The Fergus Highland Games and I am still searching for words to describe the event and Clan MacLennan involvement. No doubt there will be other and better accounts submitted but somehow I feel I have something to say, and should say it, but how?

The Games were very good, considerably larger than I recall, and one would be severely taxed to take in all activities. The Friday night Tattoo was terrific, featuring many fine bands, I especially enjoyed the pipe bands, top notch singing and dancing. How those young lassies danced so well on the damp and slippery grass was amazing. The so-called "Avenue of Clan Tents" surely now will have to be renamed "A Village of Clan Tents", there were so many. Of course so many people and the horrific traffic all added up to a very successful Games.

How super it was having Chief Ruairidh and his sisters, Kirsteen and Lorna, there. The Clan Tent was a great rallying point, to see so many we hadn't seen for so long. Margaret and her son Angus, Cape Breton Nova Scotia; Eileen, Ottawa; Murdo Hamilton; Mary, Salt Spring Island BC; Doug and Elva, Tswwassen BC; plus all the Central Ontario Group; numerous new faces and names, it all overwhelms my poor memory. We were not the largest Clan in the "Parade of Clans" but I am sure we were the proudest. To be one of the Honoured Clans, to lead the parade and to have our own Chief presented and then address the gathering was the icing on the cake. The COB, under the able guidance of Pres Dave, with Tres Elizabeth, Sectry Ruth Ann, and Committee Members Kitty & David, Harold & Evelyn, Robert & Kay, Marg & Robin, along with many others, including Melanie & Andy, earned and deserve a great deal of credit for organizing our Clan activities. The Clan MacLennan Ceilidh organized by COB was truly a ceilidh, a lovely meal and entertainment provided from within the clan. A wee smattering of country dancing, singing, featuring a family group led by Melanie & Andy, games with Kirsteen, Lorna and Chief Ruairidh taking part. An evening highlight was the piping of Chief Ruairidh. Our Clan is indeed blessed to have a young, yet mature, and talented Chief who will be with us for many years. His dedication and diligence deserves praise from us all.

Two occasions stand out in my mind. Sharing a pint with my grandson, Simon, at a table in the Beer Garden with complete strangers, who in no time became long lost friends. I hadn't seen Simon for about ten years so was very pleased to see his interest in "The Clan". The fact that he is now thirty years old makes one wonder where all the time went.

The other occasion was The Kirking of the Tartan. Thirteen years ago I stood in the same Kirk beside a ten year old lad during the same ceremony. Now I'm beside a stalwart, confident young man at least half a head taller than me. Yes, Chief Ruairidh it was both times. I didn't expect this mite of clan history to repeat so was groping my way down memory lane when the ceremony ended. I remember shaking his hand and wishing him well, stood, still in deep thought, than realized everyone had departed and I was alone in front of the congregation, a most unusual place for one such as I to be.

Mary and I agree that it was worth the 9032 km we drove and a month well spent. Not only for The Fegus Games and The Clan Gathering but also for all the friends and relatives we were able to visit. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Yours aye, DM Smoky McLennan

Aug. 18/00
Tsawwassen, B.C.

The Editor
Central Ontario Branch,
Clan MacLennan,
Newsletter.

Dear Robin and Marg.

Greetings from Beautiful B.C. Elva and I would like to express our appreciation and thanks, to The Central Ontario Branch Committee, and all those who made the 2000 Gathering and Ceilidh such a great experience for us. As we sat at the Head table we could see many that should have been sitting there, who had done such a great amount of work and planning for the festivities. To try and name them all would be difficult, and next to impossible. It was indeed an honour to be sitting there.

At the Canopy we saw many old familiar faces, and met many new MacLennans to the gathering. We hadn't seen Ruairidh and his sisters for several years, so that was exciting for us, and I'm sure many others. He is an excellent Chief and Principle Person for Clan MacLennan. The hospitality shown to him and his sisters before during and after the Gathering was wonderful.

AND THE "CEILIDH" and dinner, an experience to remember. How can we forget the M.C., Ruairidh playing his pipes, the dancers, and fellowship with all.

Many thanks to all who made The Gathering of 2000 such a memorable one for Elva and I.

Yours Aye, Doug. and Elva MacLennan

Doug.
— Elva