



DUM /PIRO /PERO
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

MCLANNAN MACLENNAN Central Ontario Branch NEWSLETTER CANADA

Clan MacLennan Canada Web Site: www.clanmaclennan.ca

International Clan Web Site www.clan.maclennan.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Melanie McLennan

Autumn, in Canada, is a mischievous time of year. One day the temperature dips, the nip of frost is in the air, the tomatoes go into stasis and you are reaching for sweaters and the duvet. The next day, old man sun coaxes

off the jacket, the last roses open, and you smell someone's BBQ cooking supper. It is days like these, that I struggle with denial that winter is creeping up behind me, and getting set to startle me with the suddenness of summer gone.

On one chilly morning of late, I sat huddled with a hot mug of coffee, reading my email, when I saw one from Australia. It turns out one was an invitation from the Clan in Australia to attend a BBQ! Well, just for one sweet moment, I imagined I would just turn up at that BBQ and meet all the Clanfolk down under. You see, summer is just starting there, and it was a pretty nice thought to ponder moving into a second summer..... Such is the madness caused by the Canadian seasons!

Chief Ruairidh has been very busy this summer and fall with piping competitions, professional exams (July) and a trip to Australia (November) to join Clan MacLennan Melbourne in their 25th anniversary celebrations. In a September update, Chief Ruairidh apologizes for his lapse in communication. It seems his laptop computer suffered a serious mishap, and between repair time and difficulties with his email account, his communications have been almost non-existent. Hopefully, things will be back on track soon and we'll have an update

from the Chief regarding tentative plans to visit Canada in 2004 or 2005.

We are moving forward with some new ideas for the upcoming year. We will be celebrating the 20th year of Clan MacLennan Canada, Central Ontario Branch in 2004.

Doug MacLennan, now residing in British Columbia, was present at the Fergus games, and I seized the opportunity to have him recount the early days. Over the next newsletters, we will bring recollections of those early days of the COB out of the files and share some personal anecdotes from those who were there, and reprint some early news items. We would encourage you to send in your memories (photos welcome) to be shared with our readers around the world. Please send your stories to:

Clan MacLennan Canada

C/o President Melanie McLennan
80 London Road West
Guelph, ON, Canada N1H 2B7
Or email: info@clanmaclennan.ca

One of our first anecdotes from the early Clan MacLennan Canada days will be from past President David MacLennan of Dundas. (see page 4)

Another endeavour for the New Year will be a membership directory. You will find a questionnaire included in this newsletter to provide the information for the directory. We would appreciate having these returned as soon as possible, (December 31, 2003) as it will take some time to compile and print. We would like to have this ready to send out with our March newsletter. The directory will be updated and published each year and mailed out with new memberships and renewals. For those members who have prepaid their memberships for a few years, you will automatically receive a new directory each spring.

The directory will be for the exclusive use of Clan MacLennan Canada members, it will not be circulated or published on the web.

We hope this will be a great way to find those members who reside near to you, and to be able to keep in touch with friends old and new.

As we head into the next score of years, we on the executive, thought it timely to revisit the goals, ambitions, needs and desires of the current generations of MacLennans, with an eye to setting a course to ensure that Clan MacLennan remains a viable and relevant part of our lives. This is open to members and non-members alike.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Another plan is to have a Clan gathering of MacLennans and septs, for a day long event, which would include:

- fun and food
- opportunity to acquaint ourselves with one another
- to review the results of a questionnaire sent out earlier to members
- engage in a workshop environment with a facilitator to chart our directives and goals to represent and lead the Clan MacLennan Canada in the next twenty years.

We are setting the Clan Workshop date for April 24th, 2004.

We will meet at the home of Andy & Melanie McLennan, 80 London Road West, Guelph, ON (519-823-0003) also known as London House Bed & Breakfast. (519-824-6874) Time: 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. There will be a Pot Luck lunch. Beverages will be provided.



**CLAN MACLENNAN
CENTRAL ONTARIO
BRANCH**

Chief:

Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan
of MacLennan

Chieftain:

Gregory Scott MacLennan

President:

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80 London Rd. W., Guelph, Ont.
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L7P 3M3 Tel: (905)-335-4199

Secretary:

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Committee:

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L0B 2C0 Tel: (905)-562-1841

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L9A 3Y1 Tel: (905)-383-2805

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1-895 4th Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON
N4K 2N8

David MacLennan
30 Sheahan Cres.
Nepean, ON
K2H 8M2

Past Presidents:

Doug MacLennan, Delta, B.C.
Elizabeth Prebble, Burlington, ON
David MacLennan, Dundas, ON

FAMILY FOCUS - CLAN MACLENNAN FAMILY RESEARCH

Clans, Families and Septs By Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw Bt., 13th August 2001

The difference between clans, families and septs is the source of many questions as is the question phrased in one way or another, which asks, "to which clan do I belong". There are many definitions of clans and families as there are people, but this article will try to indicate how these matters are viewed in the Lyon Court.

It should first be recognised that a clan or family is a legally recognised group in Scotland, which has a corporate identity in the same way that a company, club or partnership has a corporate identity in law. A clan or family is a "noble incorporation" because it has an officially recognised chief or head who being a nobleman of Scotland confers his noble status on the clan or family, thus making it a legally and statutorily recognised noble corporation often called "the Honourable Clan...

" A name group, which does not have a chief, has no official position in the law of Scotland The chiefs Seal of Arms, incorporated by the Lord Lyon's letters Patent, is the seal of the corporation, like a company seal, but only the chief is empowered by law to seal important documents on behalf of his clan. A clan as a noble incorporation is recognised as the chief's heritable property - he owns it in law and is responsible for its administration and development.

So far the words clan and family have been used interchangeably in this article and this is the position. There is now a belief that clans are Highland and Parliament of 1597 we have the description of the "Chiftanis and chieffis of all clannis...duelland in the hielands or bordouris" thus using the word clan to describe both highland and Lowland families. Further, Sir George MacKenzie of Rosehaugh, the Lord Advocate (Attorney General) writing in 1680 said "By the term 'chief' we call the representative of the family from the word chef or head and in the Irish (Gaelic) with us the chief of the family is called the head of the clan". So it can be seen that all along the words chief or head and clan or family are interchangeable. It is therefore quite correct to talk of the MacDonald family or the Stirling clan, although modern conventions would probably dictate that it was the MacDonald clan and Stirling family. The Lyon Court usually describes the chief of a clan or family as either the "Chief of the Name and Arms" or as "Chief of the Honourable Clan - -"

Who belongs to what clan is of course, a matter of much difficulty, particularly today when the concept of clan is worldwide. Historically, in

Scotland a chief was chief of "the cuntrie". He was chief of his clan territory and the persons who lived therein, although certain of his immediate family, would owe him allegiance wherever they were living. The majority of his followers and in particular his battle relatively to a neighbouring chief, they would switch their allegiance to the other chief. Thus we find that when Lord Lovat took over a neighbouring glen to his clan territory for the donation of a boll of meal to each family, The family was persuaded to change their name to Fraser and owe him allegiance - to this day they are called the "boll meal Frasers". Another example is a migration of a family of the Macleans from the West Coast to near Inverness and on moving to Inverness they changed their allegiance from the Maclean chief to the chiefs of the Clan Chattan. Thus the Macleans of Dochgarroch and their descendants and dependants are properly members of the Clan Chattan and not members of the Clan Maclean even though they bear a common surname.

A chief was also entitled to add to his clan by the adoption of families or groups of families to membership of his clan, a good example being the "boll meal Frasers". Equally, a chief has and had the power to expel or exclude particular persons from membership of his clan and this included blood members of his family. It was his legal right to outlaw certain persons from his clan. This is accepted in the modern sense to mean that a chief is empowered to accept anyone he wishes to be a member of his clan or decree that his clan membership shall be limited to particular groups or names of people. All persons who bear the chief's surname are deemed to be members of his clan. Equally, it is generally accepted that someone who determines to offer their allegiance to the chief shall be recognised as a member of that clan unless the chief has decreed that he will not accept such a person's allegiance. Thus, if a person offers his allegiance to a particular chief by joining his clan society or by wearing his tartan, he can be deemed to have elected to join that particular clan and should be viewed as a member of that clan unless the chief particularly states that he or his name group are not to be allowed to join the clan.

It should also be said that the various Sept lists, which are published in the various Clans and Tartan books, have no official authority. They merely represent some person's, (usually in the Victorian eras) views of which name groups were in a particular clan's territory. Thus we find members of a clan described, as being persons owing allegiance to their chief "be pretence of

blud or place of thare duelling". In addition to blood members of the clan, certain families have a tradition (even if the tradition can with the aid of modern records be shown to be wrong) descent from a particular clan chief. They are, of course, still recognised as being members of the clan.

Historically, the concept of "clan territory" also gives rise to difficulty, particularly as certain names or Septs claim allegiance to a particular chief, because they come from his territory.

The extent of the territory of any particular chief varied from time to time depending on the waxing and waning of his power. Thus a particular name living on the boundaries of a clan's territory would find that while the chiefs power was on the up they would owe him allegiance but - if his power declined retrospectively at some arbitrary' date which the compiler of the list has selected. Often the names are Scotland-wide and so it is difficult to say that particular name belongs to a particular clan. Often surnames are shown as potentially being members of a number of clans, and this is because a number of that name has been found in each different clan's territory. Generally speaking, if a person has a particular sept name which can be attributed to a number of clans, either they should determine from what part of Scotland their family originally came and owe allegiance to the clan of that area or, alternatively, if they do not know where they came from, they should perhaps owe allegiance to the clan to which their family had traditionally owed allegiance. Alternatively, they may offer their allegiance to any of the particular named clans in the hope that the chief will accept them as a member of his clan. Equally, as has already been said, with the variations from time to time of particular chiefly territories, it can be said that at one particular era some names were members of or owed allegiance to a particular chief while a century later their allegiance may well have been owed elsewhere.

Editors Notes - by Robin MacLennan

Where did the summer go? It seems that, between SARS, blackouts and elections we were too busy to notice time passing; now if only the winter would pass as quickly. Anyway, lets have a look back at our clan summer.

We only managed to go to three Games this year, Maxville, Fergus and Almonte. The first two are on successive weekends so my old car must think I am back at work again. The weather was kind, apart from a downpour during the clan dinner at Fergus, so we were lucky.

At Maxville we had David (Ottawa) join us in the parade and he brought some useful handouts on genealogy. The clans are in two barns there so we get to see people who are either trying to get out of the sun or the rain. Some vendors have asked if they can have space inside too, so we may have to take a tent next year. Our take from sales was up to \$71, from \$44 last year, but we still have an XXL shirt left for Angus. These games have a lot of bands and dancing, but fewer competitions than Fergus.

The Fergus Tattoo was great - a beautiful night. Eileen and I actually led the clans for the Lichtin. We happened to be nearest to the gate when we trooped onto the field! Saturday was also a sunny day while we were at the field. Elizabeth signed up three new members, we

had 14 at the AGM and 19 at dinner. As there were three clans in the Countryside, they put out a "Closed" sign; unfortunately this put off any clansfolk who were a bit late. The brick was won by Jean Rose this year. On Sunday we were represented at the Kirkin. A new minister has taken over and gave a very relevant sermon.

Eileen went to Almonte, which has a nice setting but is much smaller. Nine people signed in- this is better than usual.

AGM - Fergus Highlights

Three new executives were elected: Karen Dunbabin from Owen Sound, Charlie MacLennan from Pickering and David MacLennan from Ottawa.

A questionnaire will be issued in our Fall newsletter regarding the use of a membership directory for the exclusive use of members only.

Items for further discussion:

- Review of annual dues
- Long term vision & scope
- Ideas for more social activities

We would be pleased to announce celebrations, births, newsy bits and whereabouts in the newsletter. Our newsletters are only sent to members. When any newsletter is placed on our web site, personal content such as addresses will be edited to read the city/country only.

MEMBERS NEWS

-Louise, Donald and Cynthia (Boardman, Ohio) were sorry to miss Fergus this year due to illness. Our best wishes go out to them.

-I tried to get news from Smoky (Kelowna) on the forest fires; from Doug in B.C. his mailbox was full; and from Margaret (Halifax) via Eileen on the recent gales, but no luck. We should have more news once folk know where to find me.

Malcolm Lobban and his family are being reconsidered for immigration to Australia. Malcolm was President of the Scotland

Branch and want to join their family in Oz but are held up on medical grounds.

Max McLennan (Australia) is very appreciative of the contributions from David and Angus (Ottawa) on genealogy and the Clan Website respectively .

News from Wee Donald's family

My mother had to give up the independent living apartment she enjoyed and enter a rehab. period. This showed that she needed the extra care so she has been relocated to the same room as Donald. All is well and things are getting more stable. They would

love to hear from you over the holidays.

The address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Donald W. MacLennan
Westmorland Manor, Resident
2480 South Grande Blvd. Room C211
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 724-837-1588

Please send your newsletter items to:

Robin MacLennan
Email: robinmac@vaxxine.com
Mailing address: 2 Johnston St.,
St. Catherines, ON. L2N 5K4

Reminiscence:

THE EARLY CLAN DAYS

In April 1977 I was on the last leg of my annual business trip to Atlantic Canada. I flew from St. John's to Moncton where I would stay overnight, visit a couple of distributors and then fly to Montreal and eventually home to Hamilton. On arrival at Moncton along with half a dozen other passengers I went to the baggage conveyor for my suitcase.

No suitcase!! After making some enquiries I was directed to the Air Canada customer service office and was greeted by Donald MacLennan. Instead of venting my frustration re missing suitcase, we sat down to discuss our heritage.

He was a Cape Bretonner and keenly interested in the clan history. He showed me a newsletter from Scotland, which surprised me since I at that time had no knowledge of any clan association, the Chief etc.

I was aware though that my great aunt Laura Seeley MacLennan of California had spent many years researching the clan and had produced in 1939 a three ring binder full of fascinating information about our branch of the clan which came to Glengarry County Ontario in 1882. The binder was about one and one half inches thick.

When I got home from that trip in 1977, I sent applications to Scotland for membership for my parents and their four sons, Don Doug, Dave, and John. My sister was married to a Swiss and was living out the country (in Quebec).

I knew that Doug had the aunt Laura binders and had an interest in Scotland.

At some later date, Doug and Elva started to attend Clan Gatherings in Nova Scotia and eventually to Scotland several times. It wasn't long before Doug and Elva started the Central Ontario Branch, Clan MacLennan Association and the COB was off to a great start.

The Scotland Clan MacLennan newsletter No. 9 dated January 1978 listed members of the clan in the USA and Canada. The names mentioned above were all there plus the following: Flora Asselstine (Windsor), Lois Walton (Dundas), Mary Davidson (B.C.) Bob and Bette (Rexdale) and Dr. Bill (Grimsby). I know I have missed some but these are all I recognize.

This is my first recollection of COB. I'm sure Doug will respond and expand on my comments.

Yours aye

David Roderick MacLennan, Dundas, ON

Statement of Receipts & Disbursements

Elizabeth Prebble

May 23,2003 October 2,2003

Receipts			
Bank Balance May 23,2003			2,350.08
Members Dues 2002 2003	135.00		
2003 2004	480.00		
2004 2005	90.00		
2005 2004	10.00	715.00	
Clan Sales Maxville	71.00		
Fergus	117.00	188.00	
Donations		60.00	
Fergus Dinner Draw		64.00	1027.00
Disbursements			
Fergus Avenue of the Clans			55.00
July Newsletters -Copy	130.12		
Postage		119.61	249.73
Website		63.34	
Misc. copy and postage		8.14	
Service Charges		2.25	378.46
Bank Balance as of October 2,2003			2,998.62
Investment Royal Bank G.I.C.			1,000.00
Branch Total			3,998.62

**Clan MacLennan Canada Web Site: www.clanmaclennan.ca
International Clan Web Site www.clan.maclennan.com**

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions for the year 2003-2004 are due on 1 June,2003.The annual subscription is \$10 per family (single address)

Please make cheques payable to Clan MacLennan COB and send to Elizabeth Prebble.

If your dues are in arrears, an X will appear against the year

2002-2003 []
2003-2004 []

Elizabeth Prebble,
83-2301 Cavendish Dr.,
Burlington, Ontario
L7P 3M3 Tel: (905)-335-4199

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____

Do you have net/web access? Yes No Please send my newsletter by regular post email