



DUM SPIRO SPERO  
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

# CLAN MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER  
CANADA

*Central Ontario Branch*

Clan MacLennan Canada Web Site: [www.clanmaclennan.ca](http://www.clanmaclennan.ca) International Clan Web Site [www.clan.maclennan.com](http://www.clan.maclennan.com)  
e-mail President [robinmac@vaxxine.com](mailto:robinmac@vaxxine.com) Melanie [info@rogers.com](mailto:info@rogers.com)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Games are now over for another year and the weather was kind to us at most sites – not too hot or humid and even reasonable for the Tattoo. It reserved the main heat for the end of August, when we didn't have to go about in big wooly kilts and hose (Sorry, that is a Scots word that seems to imply your feet feel they are in hot water!). In Niagara, we got our first rain in about two months on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

At the Fergus Games, we were told that there is to be a Gathering in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, on July 25/26 2009. This is being organized by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and will include a special clan ceremony on the Castle Esplanade, home of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This occasion will commemorate the contribution made by the clans to the culture and history of Scotland. That is all we know at present, but we will keep you informed of developments.

After the AGM at Fergus, our secretary, Lois Walton, asked if she could step down from her duties because both she and her husband feel they need to scale back for health reasons. Lois has worked hard for us for many years now and deserves our heartfelt thanks, both for her work and for hosting our meetings. Lorna McLennan (Tillsonburg) has agreed to take over, but our meetings will move back to our former venue in Knox church, just off the foot of Brant St. in Burlington, down near the lake. This has a car park, which is a definite asset in a downtown area, and is fairly central for most of Ontario members.

We had a good turnout at Fergus again, with 15 members at the AGM. At the dinner, would you believe that Jim Russell drew the winning ticket for the Brick for the second year running! He then formally presented it to his brother, Ross, to avoid the start of a modern family feud. This is a Branch tradition, Elizabeth started making them in 1988, Jean Rose and Lois Walton shared them in successive years and Eileen (my sister) and I in 1993-1994. A special presentation was made in 2000, when Chief Ruairidh and his sisters each received their bricks and then had to carry them back to Scotland!

It seems to have been a busy year, with your Committee members attending Games at Coburg, Georgetown, Maxville, Cambridge and Fergus. Hamilton skipped their Games this year but hope to get more funding in place in 2008. That is one of the bigger ones and we hope they will continue. Fergus and Maxville are definitely the biggest in Ontario and possibly in Canada, but all of them have a relaxed, holiday atmosphere where people mix easily and you can find things that you will not come across in everyday living. You do not have to wear Scottish clothes or eat haggis to fit in – you can enjoy seeing others suffer in the heat!

Back to business again. We are only sending out eight reminders of unpaid dues this year, which is a big improvement over past years, so the start of the financial year on August 1<sup>st</sup>. is sinking in at last. We would dearly like to increase our membership, not for financial reasons, but as the only active branch in Canada, there must be a lot more of our ilk around. Remember that your name does not have to include "MacLennan"; you only need a connection and an interest in family origins to meet others who may share your background. Names may last a few generations, particularly now that people move around so much, but we all carry a part of our origins. The Scots have always been known for being "long lost relatives", so let's find a few more.

A new issue of the Directory is included with this Newsletter, so for those who agreed to get theirs by e-mail, I apologise for the snail mail issue but I would hate to have to add "some assembly required" to the Directory. Please check the details against your name and advise us of omissions or corrections.

As this is the last Newsletter for the year, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone, Cheers,

Chief:  
Ruairidh Donald George MacLennan  
of MacLennan  
Chieftain:  
Gregory Scott MacLennan

President:  
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L2N 5K4 Tel: (905)-935-7110

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N4G 1B5 Tel: (519)-688-3763

Past Presidents:  
Doug MacLennan, Delta, B.C.  
Elizabeth Prebble, Burlington, ON  
David MacLennan, Dundas, ON  
Melanie MacLennan, Guelph, ON

EDITORS NOTES

Previous letters covered the earlier Games so I will cover Cambridge, Maxville and Fergus here. Eileen didn't make it to Almonte this year, but someone may go along in 2008.

**CAMBRIDGE**-We had a few visitors but no new members. We were in the Parade and all clans had dancers (little kids) to carry the banners for 9-10 clans. A bit hard on the kids because they had to dance later while we watched.

**MAXVILLE**- 12 signed in including Ray & Lorna and Marilyn Lawlor. The parade was a bit disjointed as only one band piped some 20 clans on and off the field- we were spared the speeches. Attendance seemed a bit down from last year.

**FERGUS**- The tent was busy this year and we had a full complement of standard bearers in Jim & Ross Russell & Johnathan MacLennan, our new member from London, ON. The parade went well and the Games were opened by Honorary Chieftain Andrew Cameron, the late John Allan's son. Doug (B.C) was there and met a lot of old friends from the town. Elva stayed home this year and we hope she will be feeling better soon. The only snag was the Lighting ceremony at the Tattoo. Clan reps were meant to assemble at 10pm and move to the far side of the field from the Castle. Unfortunately, this was not announced, so a lot of Clansmen missed the ceremony. This is the culmination of about three years of changes, so I hope they will make-up their minds and call up on the PA system in good time next year.

Sales at both the tent and the dinner draw were brisk, so thanks to the workers and donors. I know now not to order a full rack of ribs again- they were good but far too much, even if you skipped lunch! All in all, we had a good year, but we would like to see more of our younger members. My granddaughter, who has just completed her first year at U of T, showed up with some friends and had a great time.

The Games can be fun, and certainly are a different experience for all ages. We have heard that the proposed schedule of the Games, included in our March Newsletter, was picked up by quite a few members because it included venues outside Ontario. We thought it was advisable to do this because we do have members all over Canada and the States. Obviously, there are too many sites for us to include all but if anyone would like others included please let us know. We hope that Hamilton, and possibly Fort Erie, will go again but it is a struggle for less established sites to attract bands and Highland dancers if they don't have good local support. Performers need at least some thing towards expenses if they have to travel and stay overnight. With the major Games, a lot of the athletes are professionals, hence the ticket prices have seen a steady rise and vendor places are also subject to greater costs. Anyway, we haven't reached the drawing power of rock concerts yet so there is plenty of room for everyone.

We are considering a mail-out to attract new members using a web-based 411 listing. This apparently has about 300 names on it. I don't imagine that we will try all of them, but until we analyse them by area for concentrations to decide where to start. The first mail out by Doug in the late 1970's from Fergus attracted some 100 people and resulted in the formation of our Branch. That was a different age, however, before instant communication was widely available and the demand for passive entertainment outweighed the participation in group activities i.e. many prefer to catch an event on TV rather than actually attending. On the other hand, even visiting a chat room is not the same as actually meeting others who may share a common ancestor. Dave MacLennan, our late President, tried a similar, but more limited, mail out before the visit of Chief Ruairidh in 2000, but the results were very limited. We will let you know how things are shaping up as we proceed.

We are sending out eight reminders for unpaid dues – less than half the number last year. We hope these are of the "I forgot" type rather than finding out in a roundabout way that people have moved, or have died. I know the Clan is not usually listed in an address book but often it is only when Newsletters are when there are changes.

CLAN MACLENNAN NEWSLETTER NO>70. September,2007

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

(Annual to July 31,2007)

Receipts

Bank Balance 1,650.83

Member's Dues-

2005-06 30.00  
2007-10 675.00 705.00

Clan Sales – Maxville(06) 27.50  
-- Fergus (06) 48.00 75.50

Fergus Dinner Draw 70.00

G.I.C. Interest 42.00

U.S. Exchange 2.10 114.10 894.60  
2,545.43

Disbursements

Newsletters – Copy 114.91  
Postage 111.33  
Envelopes 9.11 235.35

Avenue of the Clans 2007 68.00

Service charges 6.00 309.35  
2,236.08

Bank Balance July 31,2007 2,236.08

Royal Bank G.I.C. 2,000.00

Branch Total 4,236.08

Receipts & Disbursements – September 13,2007

Receipts

Bank Balance August 1,2007 2,236.08

Members Dues- 2007-09 160.00

Clan Sales - Cambridge 35.50

Maxville 31.00

Fergus 48.25 114.75

Fergus Dinner Draw 115.00 389.75  
2,625.83

Disbursements

July Newsletter - Copy 11.80

Royal Bank G.I.C. 1,000.00 1,011.80

Bank Balance Sept. 13,2007 1,614.03

Royal Bank G.I.C. 3,000.00

Branch Total 4,614.03

Members – 77 Owing 2006-07 8  
Paid 2006-10 65  
Comp. 3  
77

**Clan MacLennan Canada** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Saturday, August 11, 2007 Union Hall, Fergus Community Centre

Present: President Robin McLennan, Treasurer Elizabeth Prebble, Secretary Lois Walton, Ross Russell, Jean Rose, Jim Russell, Gord and Bernice Keane, Lorna and Ray McLennan, Bob and Kay MacLennan, Karen Dunbabin, John and Barbara MacLennan.

President Robin welcomed the 15 members to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Clan MacLennan. The minutes of the 2006 AGM were circulated and discussed. It was moved by Lois and seconded by Jean that the minutes be approved. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report**

Elizabeth presented an interim year-end statement of July 31, 2007. Any outstanding statements and the report of the Games will be included in the Final Year End Statement to be published in the next newsletter. The Bank Balance at present was \$4,236.08, which includes a GIC for \$2,000. A GIC for \$1,000 for a 2 year period with interest at 3.5% was suggested and approved. It was moved by Lorna and seconded by Karen that the report be accepted. Carried.

**Business Arising:**

● The Clan Newsletter can be sent by e-mail and a notice to that effect will be included in the September newsletter. A revised copy of the Membership Directory will also be included. Please send items of interest for inclusion in the newsletter to Robin as well as any changes of address; additions of e-mail addresses should be sent to Elizabeth.

● 411- At a previous Executive meeting, Ray had suggested that we use the web 411 to find MacLennans and invite them to the next Fergus Games. This invitation will include an introduction to the Clan Association as well as an informative account of activities. An attempt will be made to interest the Glengarry MacLennans in joining the Clan Association.

●Photos may be sent to Melanie for inclusion in the website.

**New Business**

● Newsletters will be posted on the Website so this will obviate the need for mailing to Chief Ruairidh, Australia and other sites. The Executive meets four times a year with the last one just prior to the AGM. Robin would appreciate your stories, trips and notifications of illnesses of other members for inclusion in the Newsletters.

● Games - The Maxville Games in Glengarry County showed 8 MacLennan families in Cornwall. Williamstown, in the US, has much information about Glengarry.

● Map of the Clans - this map is to be replaced.

● The Gathering of the Clans is set for 2009.

**Winner of the Brick – Ross Russell (courtesy of Jim)**

Crown Royal – Jean	Wine and wooden pencil holder – Gord	Wooden holder & black currant jelly - Bob
Crown Royal – Lois	Book – Kay	Wine - Ray
Ross – Toy	Red currant jelly – Elizabeth	Wine - John
Barb – cards and book	Black currant jelly – Kay	Garlic keeper - Robin
Coasters – Bernice	Wine and red currant jelly – Lorna	

**FAMILY HISTORY PART 4 - Sharing the Past By David MacLennan (Ottawa)**

Before I get into the next set of topics, I must go over the whole process of documenting your information. The reason - I recently got into a long discussion with my nephew dealing with information that had to do with his research. He wants to contribute to my research by adding on the information that he has found- thus this discussion.

Let me give some background on this aspiring family historian. First of all he has just started getting the itch to find out more about his ancestors AND he loves to use the internet. He contacted me about 6 weeks ago and started telling me the information that I had on our grandmother (his great grandmother) was wrong! Interestingly enough as I had her birth, marriage and death records, as well as a number of documents and interviews from relatives that had lived with her during her 103-year lifespan, I found his remarks interesting to say the least.

Being a novice, he had come upon some internet information that looked as if it pertained to our grandmother. The birth date was the same but the birthplace was not as I had in our family history book. He then followed this up with the relatives of this woman. **THUS MY INFORMATION WAS ALL-WRONG!**

The teacher in me came out immediately, which meant that I had to explain the reasons for not believing all that he had seen on the internet. My first comment was to ask him if there were any references to documentation of this particular person. His reply was that all information was written without references to valid documentation. I then explained to him that I had illustrated where my information had come from when researching our grandmother. I had government and church documentation on her birth, marriage, death, and family census for 3 decades, as well as documents from relatives that had actually lived with her. He remarked that how could this be as his information came from a genealogy site thus it must be correct! No valid documentation creates speculative information. The point was taken seriously as his response was; "Not all things appear to be correct when dealing with the internet".

The following contains a number of excerpts from a family history researcher Kory Meyerink's discussion on this topic. He is an accredited genealogist who lives in Salt Lake City where he currently conducts professional research for ProGenealogists.com, a division of Ancestral Quest, and for Genealogical Research Associates. He is the author of Ancestry's Printed Sources, past president of the Utah Genealogical Society, founder of the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and teaches at many national and local conferences.

**#1. Documentation Gives Others Confidence in Your Research**

"... No one seems to argue with the genealogist's maxim: Without proof, there is no truth. The problem is that many people, especially those just starting out, do not plan on publishing their research findings, as they are just doing it for their own interest. Nevertheless, let's examine that concept for a minute. Throughout the course of our research we are constantly using the research of others. It may be a published family history, a brief biographical sketch, or a computerized lineage from Ancestral File or the World Family Tree. Our research moves forward much faster when we use such resources..."

"...Even if you continue to resist publishing (in print or electronic format) parts of your family history, you will likely end up communicating with some distant (or close) cousin doing research on a line common to both of you. This is simply a

function of genealogical "networking." As you research, you will find another researcher who has submitted information to the International Genealogy Index or one of the databases noted above, or written an article for a local genealogical periodical, or joined a lineage society with your common ancestor. You will naturally want to contact him or her to learn if they have more information. They will want to exchange information and learn what you have found out. You may place a query seeking information about a problem, or answer one from another researcher..."

In all of these situations, you will want others to have confidence in your research, just as you will want to have confidence in theirs. That confidence can be had for just a little bit of documentation..."

#### #2. How can I make my research Easier and Faster ?

"Taking time to document where you got your facts (or allegations) will save you time later in your research. Most of us do our research a little bit at a time, as we have time and opportunities. Often you do some research on one family, only to set it aside for a couple years (or more) while other activities, and even other research, take priority. Well, what happens when you sit down to work on that line you put off two or three years ago? Without writing down what you searched and where you found your information, you will likely look at some of the same sources again, only to find, or not find, what you had already learned. Like me, I am sure you do not want to spin your wheels redoing what you did earlier. Indeed, isn't that part of what we love about genealogy? It's always a new adventure. No two searches, or families, are quite the same..."

#### #3. - Documentation Helps Prevent Duplication of Research

... "In the course of our research, we can't help but spend some time researching families others have already researched. Eventually, someone else will be researching some of the very same families we are looking for today. Indeed, one of the admonitions new researchers receive is to check for "previous research." Most of us don't have time to do only "original research" on all of our families, after all, every person we find means there are two more (his or her parents) for us to find. We depend on quality previous research to speed us along our search. Without documentation, we do not know what sources somebody has already used. This means we will likely use some of the same sources the earlier family historian used. This wastes our time and resources that could better be used to solve problems others haven't tackled yet..."

#### #4. - Documentation Doesn't Have to Be Hard

... "There is only one hard and fast rule for general documentation: Record enough information so that another researcher can determine what you have searched. Thus it is not enough to say "U.S. Census" for a source. That is not specific: Which year? Which county and state? What page number? You would want to say, for example, "1850 census, Berrien County, Michigan, page 213." This however is the bare minimum. This is adequate for many research purposes, and it is information that is already on your research log.

Research log? I certainly hope that as a family historian, you have learned the value of a research log or calendar of searches. This is the beginning of documentation, and helps fulfill all three of the reasons for documentation that I've given in this article:

- \* A research log speeds your research by easily listing just what sources you have already searched, and what your results were.

- \* It also limits duplication of your research efforts by reminding you what you searched, when you searched, and who you were looking for in that source.

- \* Lastly, it is a quick way to provide confidence to others with whom you share your findings, as you can easily photocopy or print out a copy of your log.

For those who want to go just a little further in citing their sources, the six elements of a good source citation include:

- \* Author (who provided the information)
- \* Title
- \* Publication information (publisher, location)
- \* Date of the information (usually the year)
- \* Location of the source you used (library or archive) and the call number
- \* Reference number to the specific information (page, entry, line, etc.)

Consistent formatting is useful, helpful, and even required in some settings, but for now, don't get hung up on the commas and colons. Just begin citing your sources, and cite them well enough that others can understand what you searched..." After our lengthy discussion my nephew is still on board, has become a little more informed and will continue with his own form of digging up facts on our ancestors and relatives.

In our next article I would like to discuss the use of the internet. As always; for those that are right into the research and want to share with the rest of the Clan please get in touch with me with problems, solutions or both at

[dmac44@rogers.com](mailto:dmac44@rogers.com) until then, happy hunting.

Yours in Kinship – Dave

**TARTAN & KILT SUPPLIERS** – from Melanie's visit to Scotland last year. We contacted Geoffrey (Tailor) to source the different MacLennan tartans. They in turn produced the ancient themselves at the their mill on Castlehill in Edinburgh and ordered on my behalf, the weathered from Loch Carron mill and the Modern from Strathcarron mill, and had it ready for pickup when we were in Edinburgh. It seems that the Loch Carron mills are the biggest (they have bought up the smaller mills) so they probably produce the bulk of the tartans. Geoffrey Tailor has branches in Glasgow, Oban and London as well.

I ordered all of the tartan and Alec's kilt about two months prior to going over. They were very helpful, courteous and kept us completely up to date on the status of our order. We were very pleased with the workmanship on Alec's kilt in the weathered MacLennan. Although more sombre in colour, it could be dressed down with boots, a t-shirt or sweater or look very smart with a black jacket and accessories.

Here are the addresses for where the MacLennan tartans are woven.

Ancient MacLennan woven at Geoffrey's (Tailor):

Geoffrey (Tailor)  
57/59 High Street  
The Royal Mile  
Edinburgh, EH1 1SR  
Scotland, U.K.  
Phone: 1 44 131 557 0256  
Toll free: 1 800 566 1467 (for Canada and U.S.)  
Website: <<http://www.geoffreykilts.co.uk/>> [www.geoffreykilts.co.uk](http://www.geoffreykilts.co.uk)

Tartan Weaving Mill  
Exhibition and Store  
555 Castlehill, Edinburgh (next to Edinburgh Castle on the Royal Mile)  
EH1 2ND  
Scotland, U.K.  
Phone: 1 44 131 226 1555

Lochcarron of Scotland (Head office)  
Waverley Mill Huddersfield St. Galashiels TD1 3BA  
Website: <<http://www.lochcarron@galashiels.bordnet.net.co.uk/>>  
[www.lochcarron@galashiels.bordnet.net.co.uk](mailto:www.lochcarron@galashiels.bordnet.net.co.uk)

When we visited the Lochcarron mill in Loch Carron near Skye, they told us that their official representative in Canada is Burnett's in Barrie.

Burnett's & Struth  
Website: <<mailto:info@lochcarroncanada.com>> [info@lochcarroncanada.com](mailto:info@lochcarroncanada.com)  
By Post:  
Burnett's & Struth - Scottish Regalia Ltd.  
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Canada  
Tel: 705-728-3232  
Fax: 705-728-2962  
By Email:  
<<mailto:anne.starr@burnetts-struth.com>> [sales@burnetts-struth.com](mailto:sales@burnetts-struth.com)