



MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER
Central Ontario Branch
CANADA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring has sprung- I think, but the snow up in cottage country last week makes you wonder. Anyway, the flooding from runoff is in the news, even if the temperature is only inching up.

The 2008 Highland Games will be starting soon so the schedule is repeated on the next page. Please note that Hamilton has been cancelled again due to lack of funds. It must be a hard job to get together funds at this time but they hope to go next year – let's hope they can make it. We had planned to have our tent there. Actually, we are looking around for a second tent so that it is available if two venues fall on the same weekend. This is not usually the case but Cobourg and Hamilton would have coincided this year and the clans invariably attend on Saturdays. Although we do not take a tent to Embro, that date looks odd as it is not on a weekend. Fergus is not a problem, because they lease identical tents for each clan, and Maxville houses the Clans in barns, cleaning them well after agricultural shows!

We haven't heard much about the 2009 Edinburgh Gathering since the March Newsletter. If you are thinking of going, check www.thegathering2009.com or www.clangathering.org for details. I wish we knew how the numbers are, but only 8,000 was the original limit and now only six may be allocated for each group. Our own website is being updated regularly as news comes in. We know groups from Australia, N.Z., the U.S. and Canada have applied, but no definite numbers yet. There has not been any word from Scotland either on our own Clan MacLennan event, but that is not as great a priority as being sure of getting to the main events. It would take too long to assemble groups and all the Associations are recommending individuals (for groups of six or less) do their own and arrange to hook up later.

We had a welcome contact from David Jones, the President of the USA Clan MacLennan Association, after a long gap in communications. David has dual citizenship, having been born in Winnipeg and also spending seven years working in Toronto before going to the States. He visited Australia in January this year and a photo of him with his wife, Ann, appeared in the March Melbourne Newsletter. It was good to hear that the rift between groups in the U.S.A. appears to have healed and we look forward to exchanging news regularly. Their Association has initiated a proposal for a form of Chief's Award, which has Chief Ruairidh's approval in principle, and is with individual branches for comment. and discussion. Their official site is <http://www.clan.maclennan.com/usa/> and this will be listed in our new directory issue in September.

In our own Branch, Lois Walton is still in hospital in the care of an Internist, and we hope she will be able to get home soon. We sent a donation to the Canadian Heritage Museum in memory of Wendell, who died in February. Andy and Melanie (Guelph) heard that Andy's mother, Jennie McLennan, had died suddenly. We sent our sympathies but they have their hands full with making arrangements and keeping the B&B going at the same time.

The reminder on outstanding dues had some effect because the number dropped from 22 to 14. May I send a gentle reminder to these few, the next warning will be the last in the 2008 financial year when the cost will double if you have to pay for two years.

I am leaving on the 17th May for three weeks in Scotland, during which we hope to celebrate my daughter's 50th birthday. I really don't know if celebrate is the right term, as everyone suddenly realizes that time moves fast when you are having fun. It is, however, a very good reason for a party, and rest assured, we will have a good one even if we can't quite recall the details.

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EDITORS NOTES

The list of the Games is now:

B.C.

May 17 Victoria
June 28 Coquitlam
July 5 Penticton

Nova Scotia

July 12 Halifax
July 18-20 Antigonish

Ontario

May 24 Sudbury
June 14 Georgetown
June 21 Spenserville
June 21 Sarnia (??)
June 27-28 Hamilton-- **CANCELLED**
June 28 Cobourg
July 1 Embro
July 4 -6 Kincardine
July 12 Chatham
July 12 Haliburton
July 19 Orillia
July 18-19 Cambridge
July 25-26 Uxbridge
Aug. 1-2 Maxville
Aug. 8-10 Fergus
Aug.23 Almonte

Elizabeth & Bob plan to go to Georgetown, Lorna & Dave to Sarnia and Chatham (maybe), John & Barbara to Cambridge, Robin to Maxville and all of us to Fergus. We would love to see other members at the tent, particularly at Fergus.

If you can get to any of the other Games, please let us know if Clans are represented there. If you feel that it would be useful to have a tent at a venue, we will try to arrange it. If the site is a bit far from our base, it may be necessary to find a B&B nearby, and this can add to the expense if we don't attract new members. We have found that having a local member usually attracts others. There are possibly other Games, even in Ontario, but there is a limit to how far you can go in a day. I pass quite near to Uxbridge on my way to Ottawa for the Maxville Games, but I

admit that I am reluctant to add another week away or drive 3 hours each way one week and 6 hours each way the next week.

We are interested in checking out the prospects at Kincardine (July4-6) as it appears to be growing. They have a strong piping tradition there, with bands parading at weekends during the summer. Their Games have been going a few years now and we know there are MacLennans in the area so we would welcome any news. Orillia is another possible venue to see if their Games are increasing. Failing these, please come to see us at Fergus or Maxville.

These are major events which attract thousands. You do not have to sit all day, because the grounds have different events going on all day and there are areas for food (Hi-cal), refreshments (coffee, tea ,soft drinks and, in enclosures, beer). There are also vendor tents everywhere with souvenirs from full Scottish outfits to items Scots wouldn't even think of wearing (not weather resistant enough!)

We are conscious that there are many members that live far away from this area. Wherever you are, if you go to the Games, please let us know, share your impressions because each venue has a different charm. Fergus has a variety of events, while Maxville emphasizes the bands and Highland dancing. In smaller places, field sports with local talent can dominate. The attraction is not so much the competition but having fun. At Fergus, the biggest cheers are at the tug-of-war rather than the massed bands. I am sure all the family will enjoy an outing that gets you out in the open air for a day among people just relaxing like all those around them. You do not have to dress up to attend, but you may see more "Scottish" items than were even dreamt of in Scotland. The other thing to remember is that the bagpipes sound sweet in the open air – not the agonized wail of someone learning to play in a closed room.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

August 1,2008- May 2, 2008

Receipts

Disbursements

Bank Balance August 1 ,2008		2,236.08		Newsletters.			
Members dues - 2005-2007	60.00			Copy	104.60		
2007-2008	315.00			Postage	75.49		
2008-2011	<u>120.00</u>	495.00		Envelopes	9.11		
				Labels	<u>17.09</u>	206.29	
Clan Sales – Cambridge	35.50			Royal Bank G.I.C.		1000.00	
Maxville	31.00			Service Charge		<u>2.00</u>	
Fergus	<u>48.25</u>	114.75					1,208.29
Fergus dinner draw		115.00					
G.I.C. Interest		<u>53.00</u>	<u>777.75</u>				
			3,013.83				

Summary

Receipts	3,013.83
Disbursements	<u>1,208.29</u>
Bank Balance May 2, 2008	1,805.54
Royal Bank G.I.C.	<u>3,000.00</u>
Branch Total	4,805.54

FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

Jennie Elizabeth Ellen McLennan (nee Kernohan) died peacefully at Huntsville and District Memorial Hospital on 2nd, May,2008, in her 84th year, surrounded by her family and friends. Predeceased by her husband, Marvin McLennan,much loved mother of **Andrew (Melanie) of Guelph**, Mary-Ellen Kennedy (Paul) of Liburn,Georgia, Paul (Katie) of Guelph and Kathy Hamilton (Don) of Horseshoe Valley, devoted and proud grandmother of 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Dorset Museum.

FAMILY HISTORY Part 6 – Modern Scientific Techniques – DNA Studies

By David MacLennan

I was asked a number of years ago what I knew of the DNA Project that was being sponsored by the National Geographic. The project was called “The Genographic Project” and the researchers were attempting to collect DNA data on a worldwide basis and from this information try and explain the geographic history of a person. The following is an excerpt taken from the project’s website at; <https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html>

...The Genographic Project is seeking to chart new knowledge about the migratory history of the human species by using sophisticated laboratory and computer analysis of DNA contributed by hundreds of thousands of people from around the world...The Genographic Project is a five-year research partnership led by National Geographic Explorer-in- Residence Dr. Spencer Wells. Dr. Wells and a team of renowned international scientists and IBM researchers are using cutting-edge genetic and computational technologies to analyze historical patterns in DNA from participants around the world to better understand our human genetic roots. The three components of the project are:

- (1) To gather field research data in collaboration with indigenous and traditional peoples around the world;
 - (2) To invite the general public to join the project by purchasing a Genographic Project Public Participation Kit,
 - (3) To use proceeds from Genographic Public Participation Kit sales to further field research and the Genographic Legacy Fund, which in turn supports indigenous conservation and revitalization, projects.
- The Project is anonymous, non-medical, non-political, non-profit and non-commercial and all results will be placed in the public domain following scientific peer publication...

At first I was highly skeptical of locating genealogical ancestors through this means of research. With all of the families created throughout my ancestry, how in heavens name could someone indicate to me that my ancestors came from a specific area on this globe? Not only are there literally millions of members, they come from all four corners of the world – impossible! With this perception, my answer was simple; I really didn't hold much credence to this kind of research for locating family ancestors. Besides, I already knew that for the last three hundred years most of my ancestors came from Great Britain.

There was no other discussion about this new method of researching ancestors until my youngest son Matt told me that he had become involved with this group. He had purchased their DNA kit and had sent in the sample of his DNA. Matt received documentation dealing with his ancestors on the male side of the family only and where they likely had originated on a historical basis. How? This was due to specific markers within his DNA – 12 to be precise. Interesting BUT it didn't really help me in my research because it was not specific enough! So I held off becoming involved.

As per usual, I really didn't think this process through. The key to this whole investigation was that these samples were coming from thousands of other researchers. I should have realized that the data bank that was being created could benefit genealogical researchers. The benefit of course was simple, match those with the identical markers to each other and let the matching individuals interact on a research basis. Sure enough, I received an email from Matt saying that he had a perfect 12-marker match with another participating project client. As I had all of the family information on a database, Matt asked me to get in touch his match to see if we had any common ancestors and if so what we could do for each other's research. It turns out that this gentleman has 38,000 plus family members within his research going back to the 1600's. All of his and my information is on the Internet which means we can now access and compare any similar documentation to find those parts of the ancestry that are related.

My on-line data consists of 3,800+ relations within 2,300+ families while his is 10 times larger. Had I hit the jackpot? To date, we have already found matching relationships in his relations with other families on the Internet. Hopefully, after cross-referencing all of the data, we will be able to make an actual connection within my ancestral data.

The question; "Is the Genographic Project a valid tool for the genealogy researcher"? My answer now would be yes BUT in a much broader sense. The fact that we can now identify specific markers within a group of individuals is the key to the family researcher. By identifying AND locating someone else who has the same identical markers as yourself opens up a whole new direction for one to research.

I would suggest strongly, especially for those that are researching all ancestors and not just a specific surname, to go to the Genographic Site to get a better understanding of what you can receive by becoming involved with DNA research. Remember too, that this research tool is not free BUT if there are matches, the benefits out weigh the coThis whole process has proven to me, genealogical research is again totally different from any other kind of historical research. No stone should be left unturned even if it is logically questionable. However, having said that, I know perfectly well that there are fraudulent individuals out there who will sell you unrelated information. My advice to my fellow researchers is still, "Buyer Beware", before you buy into anything, seek advice from a knowledgeable researcher and look and find more information on the seller. If you can do either, in the end you will save yourself time, money and a lot of frustration.

As always; for those that want to share with the rest of the Clan, please get in touch with me with problems, solutions or both at dmac44@rogers.com until then, happy hunting.

Ed. Note. To date, I understand that Dave has had far more enquiries from outside Ontario and Canada than from our members. The reason most of us joined the Clan is that we have a connection in our family to the name and, if we want to keep and pass that connection on, it is important that we find and preserve evidence of as many stages of the connection as we can. Dave can either get you started or help your search- so get hunting!