



# CLAN MACLENNAN CANADA

NEWSLETTER

Clan MacLennan Canada Web Site: [www.clanmaclennan.ca](http://www.clanmaclennan.ca) International Clan Site: [www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com](http://www.clanmaclennan-worldwide.com)  
e-mail President (Personal) [robinmac@vaxxine.com](mailto:robinmac@vaxxine.com) (Clan Mail) [info@clanmaclennan.ca](mailto:info@clanmaclennan.ca)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year and all the best for 2009. We are starting to show some signs of spring here, but that could change anytime. We think it was a long winter, only because the snow started early and stayed into March. Just about every part of Canada, even including Vancouver, will have stories to tell so lets move on to what we hope will be a better summer than last year.

Please note the revised “**MASTHEAD**” of this Newsletter. After discussion on and off over a long time and the loss of other branches, we have decided that this letter needs to appeal to a much wider base of readers. . We now have members from so many places in Canada and the States that would love to hear about what is happening outside their familiar orbit – it will give us a feeling of being part of a wider family circle. Please let us know of events in your family during the year. It does not have to be a detailed account – an e-mail is easy to send - and even funny survival winter stories would bring us closer, although happy holiday accounts work better. While it would be great to meet you at Games, we recognize that distances are a barrier in many cases. We try to let you know what is going on in the Clan but it would be a boost to us to hear what is going on in your neck of the woods. If you can tell us, others may pick up the story and add bits of interest that you can check the next time. Information is good, but knowledge is better!

This change of focus will also be reflected in other activities. Our website will also continue to carry worldwide Clan news, we will continue and try to expand our coverage of Games dates, and the title “Central Ontario Branch” will disappear from all communications. The only exception, at present, will be our bank account, which may take some time to negotiate with the elves that work hard to ensure that anything in their grasp stays where they put it ! Until that is changed, please ensure that cheques are still made out to the COB until we get that sorted out. You will understand this if you have ever tried to transfer money locked into the account of a deceased relative.

A preliminary list of the Games in Canada is included and will be repeated in the May issue. If you are going to Edinburgh for the Gathering **please advise Melanie ASAP**, because Chief Ruairidh needs numbers to plan the MacLennan welcome on the 24<sup>th</sup> July. The original plan envisaged about 85 attendees, but that was before the world financial meltdown and a lot of plans may have gone out of the window now. My daughter, who lives in Glasgow, sent over a booklet showing events all over Scotland that have been planned for this year. I hope they are well attended, because the ‘Recession’ has hit harder over there. The pound has dropped far more than the loonie, which may make the trip more affordable. I have noticed a drop in the pension that I get from Britain when it is converted into dollars, so you had better spend whatever pounds you have before you return.

We welcome two new families into our Branch to give us a good start to the year, Averil & Jonathon Elcombe from Windsor and Diane & Robert Holladay from Saratoga Springs, Utah. We hope to get more details of their connection to the Clan and their Directory entries are included in this letter. In November, 2008, we lost George Nicholson, husband of Wynne and son-in-law of Evelyn and the late Harold Griffiths (d. August 2,2008).

Although our AGM at Fergus had to be cancelled due to the inundation beyond our control, we hope more members will join us this year. Please also consider joining our Executive because election is open to ALL members in good standing, wherever they reside. There are only four meetings per year and attendance is not mandatory – we circulate a detailed agenda before the meeting so that non-attendees can send their views on any topic for inclusion in the discussion. At present, we may not see Karen (Owen Sound) or Dave (Ottawa) often, but they are still very active and contribute a lot to the family, so please do not think that the whole Branch is run by a closed group that do not listen to anybody. Every member is entitled to a voice in decisions, so make your views known, provided they are not that I should shut up and leave you in peace – my successor will repeat them again because it goes with the job.

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

President:  
Robin MacLennan,  
2 Johnston St., St. Catharines, Ont.  
L2N 5K4 Tel: (905)-935-7110

Vice President:  
Robert MacLennan,  
340 East 12th St.,  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L9A 3Y1 Tel: (905)-383-2805

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

Secretary:  
Lorna MacLennan  
102 North St.  
Tillsonburg, ON  
N4G 1B5 Tel: (519)-688-3763

Committee:  
Kitty MacLennan,  
507-23 Main St.,  
Dundas, Ontario  
L9H 2P7 Tel: (905)-627-0811

Melanie MacLennan,  
80 London Rd. W., Guelph, Ont.  
N1H 2B7 Tel: (519)-823-0003

Bob & Kay MacLennan  
340 East 12th St  
Hamilton, ON  
N2M 2N8 Tel 905-383-2805

John & Barbara MacLennan  
18 Adelaide St.  
Kitchener, ON  
N2M 2B6 Tel 519-743-7308

Karen Dunbabin  
1-895 4th Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON  
N4K 8M2 Tel 519-371-0162

David MacLennan  
30 Sheahan Cres.  
Nepean, ON  
K2H 8M2 Tel: 613-828-3668

Ray & Lorna MacLennan  
102 North St. East  
Tillsonburg, ON  
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

## EDITOR'S NOTES

The current list of the Games is as follows:

B.C.  
May 18 Victoria  
June 27 Coquitlam

N.S.  
July 11 Halifax  
July 17-19 Antigonish

Ontario  
May 22-24 Sudbury  
June 6 North Bay  
June 13 Georgetown  
June 20-21 Sarnia  
June 27 Cobourg  
July 1 Embro  
July 3-4-5 Kincardine  
July 11-12 Chatham  
July 17-19 Orillia  
July 17-18 Cambridge  
July 25-26 Uxbridge  
July 31-Aug 1 Maxville  
Aug. 7-8-9 Fergus  
Aug. 22 Almonte

Sept. 9 Fort Erie  
Notes.

These dates are provisional and are the dates allocated to regular Games in the summer calendar.

Smaller and newer Games are allocated dates that do not conflict with major sites nearby.

If members wish us to find the dates for Games in their area, please let me know and we will add them.

Hamilton lacks the funds to stage their Games, but still have hopes of staging a revival. Fort Erie is now a Celtic Festival without Clan tents.

We hope to have our "tent" at Georgetown, Cobourg, Embro, Cambridge, Maxville and Fergus this year. We are looking around for a second tent, because handing over the one we have at present becomes complicated if there are only a few days between Games. Maxville is a simpler site because the Clans are in barns, where it is dry, out of the sun and rain, and the crowds usually come just to see who is there.

I know the Games where we are present reflect the origins of our Branch, but members are so widely

scattered over not only Canada but the U.S. as well so that our resources are stretched to the limit. I guess the whole concept of a "global" Clan is replacing the old idea of a family kinship of neighbours. When you visit the original lands in Kintail, the first question that comes to mind is - "How did our ancestors survive in such a lonely, but beautiful, place?" The answer is that we moved to survive, and we continue to move but try to remember our roots. This is the purpose of the modern clan - to reach out to other descendants and let them know that, however scattered we may be now, there are still blood ties that link us together in friendship. All clans have members whose names do not reflect their original family name, but that is no bar to joining. Actually, this is probably the most difficult problem in tracing a family tree- there are too many branches!

## FLOWERS OF THE FIELD

### Nicholson, Thomas George (1943-2008)

- Passed away suddenly at home on November 2, 2008. Dearly beloved husband of Wynne, his wife of 37 years, father of Scott and Ty and his fiancée, Laura Thompson. Predeceased by his parents Thomas and Connie. George is survived in Northern Ireland by his brothers Jim (Margaret), Harry (Moira), Mervyn (Sharon) and his nieces Karen, Lynne (Peter), Gayle Jane, Jenny and Jill. Much loved son-in-law of Evelyn and the late Harold Griffiths, brother-in-law of Rob (Dawn), Owen (Linda), Roger (Barb) and uncle of Torrey, Braden (Charlotte), James, Brianne (Jeff), Adam and Garth. Born in Winterburn, Northern Ireland, George was a graduate of Dungannon Royal School and Queen's University, Belfast (B.A.). In 1966, he emigrated by tramp steamer to Canada where he earned his M.A. at Queen's University, Kingston, followed by his Ph.D at Penn State University. Recently retired as Associate Director, Policy / Implementation after 30 years in the Niagara Region Planning Department. George spent much of the last several years developing the Greater Niagara Circle Route. An avid cyclist, often seen in his red jacket riding the trails of Niagara. George recently cycled the Waterfront Trail from Niagara to the Quebec Border and had dreams of cycling across Canada. He will be missed by his many friends, former colleagues and fellow parishioners at St. Thomas Anglican Church.

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**August 1, 2008 – March 13, 2009**

Receipts

Bank Balance, August 1, 2008			1,778.28
Members Dues- 2007-08	50.00		
2008-11	<u>220.00</u>	270.00	
Clan Sales – Georgetown	15.00		
Cobourg	31.00		
Cambridge	46.00		
Fergus	<u>26.00</u>	118.00	
Fergus Dinner Draw		75.00	
Interest – G.I.C.	65.00		
Bank	<u>1.35</u>	66.35	
U.S. Exchange		<u>4.75</u>	<u>534.10</u>
			2,310.38

Disbursements

September Newsletter- Copy	75.94		
Post	<u>73.29</u>		<u>149.23</u>
Bank Balance March 13, 2009			2,163.15
Royal Bank G.I.C.			<u>3,000.00</u>
Branch Total			5,163.15

**MEMBER’S NEWS**

Two new families have joined us and will be added to the Directory at our next update:

**Averil & Johnathon Elcombe** 712 Devonshire Rd., Windsor, ON N8Y 2M1 Tel; (519)-252-6865

Diane & Robert Holladay 1783 North Rosemary Dr., Saratoga Springs, Utah U.S.A. 84045-4781

Alan McKenzie has resigned because he is too involved with his own clan.

We learned of the death of Donald MacLennan (Oakville) on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 and, if we can get details, these will be included in our next Newsletter.

These items are very brief, but they are the start of a regular feature which we hope to expand in future Newsletters by including items you send in. They may include family events, such as births, weddings etc. but also adventures, holidays (wonderful, comical or “not worth the trouble”). E-mails are fine, remember that we have limited space and reserve the right to edit them to fit. You can send them to me at either the ‘Clan Mail’ address or my personal address, both of which appear just under the title on the first page of this letter.

I do not know how many of you see the Australian Newsletter, because they have built up a large number of friends over the years who regularly contribute news, anecdotes and comments. Some of these are overseas and may have met Oz folk in person. The result is that their letters read like friends talking to each other and we wish our letters could follow that example.

## Family History - Sharing the Past-Article 8 – Brickwalls- By: David MacLennan

Old Information (as it should be because we are dealing with history after all)

Before I begin the next topic I would like to briefly follow up on the DNA Studies as a research tool. As mentioned in the last article concerning the Clan Mc/MacLennan Genographic Group Project, although I am unable to participate I am able to pass on the email address of the present administrator for the Clan Mac/McLennan DNA project. If you wish to learn more about this project and or become involved please contact me at [dmac44@rogers.com](mailto:dmac44@rogers.com)

Research Information: 'Brickwalls' or "Those times when even for all your efforts you can't seem to get past a certain ancestor in one of their family lines".

Yes, there are Brickwalls, BUT these instances are usually found ONLY when there is, NO documentation or written records in existence that provides the answers to lead to the previous generation, and beyond.

Before you read on, I am not able to make any comment on information dealing with research before the 1400s. In most cases we are discussing those records from the 1700s on, especially in North America.

When dealing with the so called "BRICKWALLS" in your family research, I would ask myself the following is, "What records have I looked in?" I know it is a simple question but almost all of the time the reply is usually limited just to a few documents. What I usually do then is to get up and away from my trusty computer, go to the genealogy section in my local library, or LDS Family History Center. The bottom line, one has to roll up their sleeves, and put in some good efforts at trying to help themselves past their obstacle.

A gentleman with whom I had the good fortune to come across in one of the many mailing lists offered by roots.com. The mailing list can be found at [GEN-NEWBIE-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:GEN-NEWBIE-L@rootsweb.com) on the Internet through roots.com. Google → roots.com and you will come up with a number of listed addresses. Our fellow gen-newbie member wrote a response to an inquiry made on genealogy research and getting through Brickwalls in particular. He suggested that:

"... Brickwalls take work to bring down, and there's no reason every researcher can't do it on their own. Solving them requires diligence, completeness, and a thorough analyzation of information to get past them..."

He then added;

"... one has to learn about records; when they were created, what was their purpose, where to find the ones that have been preserved. That's genealogical research in a nutshell..."

To illustrate how vital it is that you read over your written record, you must also know where your record originates from. I will relate to the efforts of my 86 year old cousin Robert (Bob) who lives in Wales. He was able to locate a whole line of common family members through the information found in a family history book written some 80 years ago. It was a simple mention of the family clerics who originated in England but had also served with the British Army in India. Through this information he was able to write to sources found in the genealogical section of the central library on Guernsey Island and from there to South Africa and then to India.

With this information we were able to glean information on my great, great grandfather and his life in the British Army. Not only did the new documentation validate information that had been told to me but also it created a whole genetic pool of relatives on Guernsey Island. This was even more gratifying to me as I had been told countless times that my great grandfather was related to families on the Island by social connections only. My hat goes off to cousin Robert and his relentless 'never give up attitude'.

Just a reminder, please refer to article #5 for a few more areas where records can be located and used as your part of your research tool kit.

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

Yours in Kinship - Dave