

# An Drochaid - The Bridge

*Comhla ri Cheile - Together with Accord*

Volume 46 - Issue 4  
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## CASSOC

Founded in 1976, CASSOC is an organization for organizations. Our primary purpose is to provide coordination and communication between our member groups. We encourage the celebration of our Scottish cultural heritage and the promotion of this Scottish culture in Canada in all its aspects. We seek to be the assembly of all groups in Canada who are pursuing Scottish interests.

AN DROCHAID – The Bridge is the newsletter of CASSOC and will be published in March, June, September and December. Items for publication should be submitted to the Editor, [editor@cassoc.ca](mailto:editor@cassoc.ca)

Any member group of CASSOC may submit an advertisement to any issue at no cost.

Membership in CASSOC is open to any and all organizations which promote or encourage some aspect of Scottish tradition or culture, represent a link between the Scottish people and their descendants and relations in Canada, or seek to develop an understanding of the role Scotland and its culture has played in the development of Canada and its history.

**2017-2018 Board of Directors:**

Chair: Karen Macleod McCrimmon

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair: Vacant

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair: Vacant

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Paul Elliot  
John Duff  
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Charles Edward Bruce, Lord Bruce, DL MA MSc FSA Scot  
Major The Hon. Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart, Bt. CVO DL

**Meetings 2019:**

The Delegates' Assembly meeting will be held on April 28, 2019, at the North York Central Library.  
The General Assembly meeting will be on November 24, 2019, at the same location as above.

**Website:**

The website contains, among other things, a list of Scottish and Celtic Events in Canada, Canadian Regional tartans, and a list of our member groups with a link to their websites and other digital media, as well as their membership contact information. On the Events list, for each date, our member group events are highlighted with a link to their website.  
[www.cassoc.ca](http://www.cassoc.ca)

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Read More

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**Frae the Chair**

Dear Clansfolk,

I hope this message finds you all well as we move into the winter season.

CASSOC is once again helping to host the Toronto Kilt Skate in January 2019. We are arranging for a space for our members to promote their own clans/groups. This is a great opportunity to reach some of our fellow clansmen in the urban Toronto area. Last year, the Kilt Skate was featured on several news outlets including CTV and Global News. If you or your group is interested in joining us at the clan tents, please email me, [chair@cassoc.ca](mailto:chair@cassoc.ca) or our Treasurer, Kimberley Henwood, at [treasurer@cassoc.ca](mailto:treasurer@cassoc.ca). We welcome everyone to Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square on January 27, 2019 in joining us for some skating and hot chocolate. For those of you participating in the Kilt Skate in other cities – please share your experience by submitting some pictures to our An Drochaid editor [editor@cassoc.ca](mailto:editor@cassoc.ca) and our Secretary, [secretary@cassoc.ca](mailto:secretary@cassoc.ca) and these will be published in the next newsletter and posted on our Facebook group and page.

It always amazes me that the most active members of our Scottish organizations often volunteer their time and effort to so many different cultural and community groups and initiatives. At a recent ceilidh in Toronto, I had the pleasure to witness a ceremony

to honour a member of the Clan MacLeod who was recognized for her service to our clan over the last 35 years. It occurred to me that although I had grown up with her nurturing and encouragement through clan events, I also know that her life is full of other activities such as helping children with disabilities learn to swim and knitting for a myriad of projects. I am honoured and grateful to be part of such a great family of individuals who give back to their communities and who help create a welcome atmosphere of warmth and support. Many thanks to those of you within CASSOC who help to organize events and maintain your groups. You are an inspiration to all of us. While it's our history that may have called to us at the beginning, it's not really the pipes, the dancing or the majestic sights of Scotland that keeps us together - it is our sense of family and personal connection.

I wish all of you a safe, healthy and happy holiday as we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome a New Year full of possibilities.

Hold Fast,



Karen Macleod McCrimmon  
Chair, Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada  
[chairperson@cassoc.ca](mailto:chairperson@cassoc.ca)



Top Row, L to R; Graham Carruthers, Clan Carruthers; J. Douglas Ross, Scottish Studies & Clan Ross; Paul Elliot, CASSOC Director & Clan Elliot; George Pyron, Clan Chisholm; John Duff, CASSOC Director, Acting Chair & Clan MacRae; Gary MacPhie, Macfie Clan; Dave Radley, Fergus Highland Games;  
Bottom Row, L to R: Kimberley Henwood, CASSOC Treasurer; Jo Ann Tuskin, CASSOC Secretary & Clan Munro; Ruth Jones, Clan Donnachaidh; Barb Duff, Clan MacFarlane Worldwide

### Scottish Clan and Ancestry Forum Teleconference

The first meeting of the Scottish Clan and Ancestry forum was held on Fri 23 Nov at Strathearn House, Perth, Scotland. Some of the participants were Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, Convenor SCSC; Jamie Macnab of Macnab, SCSC; Graeme Mackenzie, Association of Highland Clans and Societies; Margaret Elliot, Borders Families; and representatives from the Scottish Government and Visit Scotland.

CASSOC was invited to participate by Teleconference, along with John Bellassai, Council Of Scottish Clans and Associations, Camilla Hellman, American Scottish Foundation, and Malcolm Buchanan, Scottish Australian Heritage Council. As Karen works full-time, Jo Ann represented CASSOC.

It was a good first meeting and good ideas were exchanged. We will be getting minutes of the meeting as there is a new Ottawa office for Scottish tourism and we were encouraged to use the info and videos from Scotland Now on our social media. 2019 is the 300th Anniversary of the Battle of Glen Shiel and various groups are organizing events. The year 2020 is the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, and also will be the Year of Coasts and Waters.

Reminder: The fiscal year for CASSOC starts on September 1st, so membership renewals are now due. For further information, please contact Jo Ann Tuskin, [info@cassoc.ca](mailto:info@cassoc.ca)



The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games is thrilled to announce that Festival President, David Radley, was awarded a Senate of Canada 150 Medal celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the first sitting of the Senate at their 2018 Annual General Meeting!

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Scotland.  
by VisitScotland

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

## **An Drochaid - The Bridge**

The bridge picture used in our header is the Caledonia Bridge, also known as the Grand River Bridge, and was provided by Barb Duff. Located in Caledonia, Ontario, the bridge was built in 1927. Many thanks Barb!

Each edition of the newsletter will feature a new image of a bridge submitted by our group members. Many thanks to all who provide pictures, and we look forward to the editions ahead.

## Scottish Highland Games, Celtic Festivals & Events

*Click on the image to be directed to the CASSOC Events Page*

2019			
Date	Name	Place/Information	Events
'Jan 18	<a href="#">St Andrew's Society Toronto Burns Dinner</a>	 Toronto, ON	
'Jan 19	<a href="#">Westman Scottish Association Burns Supper</a>	 Brandon, MB	
'Jan 19	St Andrew's Society Montreal Kilt Skate	 Montreal, QC	
'Jan 24	St Andrew's Society Montreal Burns Evening	 Montreal, QC	
'Jan 25	<a href="#">St Andrew's Society Toronto, Burns Statue Celebration</a>	 Toronto, ON	
'Jan 26	<a href="#">Cobourg Highland Games Burns Dinner &amp; Ceilidh</a>	 Cobourg, ON	
'Jan 27	<a href="#">CASSOC Kilt Skate</a>	 Toronto, ON	
'Feb 2	<a href="#">Westman Scottish Association Scottish Pavilion</a>	 Brandon, MB	
'March	Celtic Festival Vancouver	 Vancouver, BC	
'March 23	Annual Winnipeg Scottish Festival	 Winnipeg, MB	
'Apr 18	<a href="#">Westman Scottish Association AGM</a>	 Brandon, MB	

## Alba gu brath - An Evening Ceilidh

*Hosted by Guthrie School of Dance*



April 6, 2019 at 7pm

Click on the image above to be re-directed to the Event posting on Facebook

Please let Jo Ann Tuskin know of any Highland Games and Celtic Festivals anywhere in Canada throughout 2019 so that they can be published in the next newsletter and listed online.

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## Toronto Kilt Skate: from Acorn to Oak in just two years

Last Friday's announcement that Toronto was named the 2018 Kilt Skate Capital of Canada caps a remarkable story of growth and achievement — and shows how skating in a kilt to celebrate Scotland's contribution to Canada is catching on.

Read the complete article [here](#).



Dear CASSOC members,

As I reported at the annual meeting on Sunday, the Great Canadian Kilt Skate will be held on January 27, 2019 at 1:30 pm at Nathan Phillips Square.

This year we are offering a Clan Alley. CASSOC members are invited to have a table under a tent to showcase your Clan or Festival, free of charge. Space is limited so let us know if your organization is interested as soon as possible. We will require copies (preferably electronic) of any brochures etc. that your organization may hand out at the event by December 31, 2018.

Thank you all for your support for the Great Canadian Kilt Skate 2019.

See you on January 27, with bare knees and ice!!!

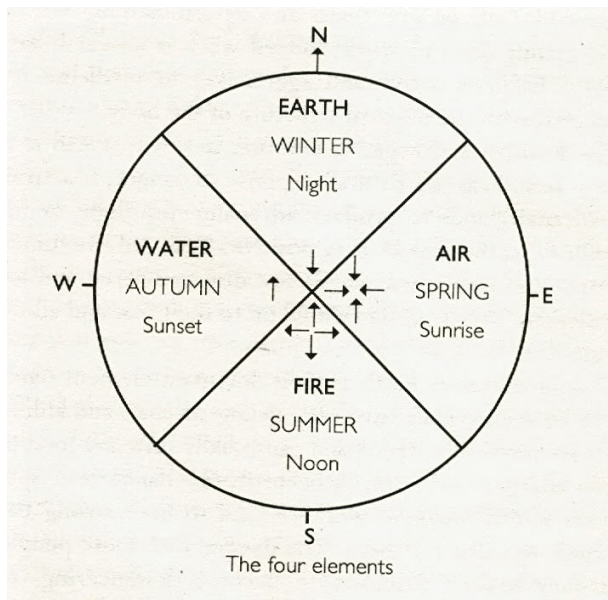
Kimberley Henwood  
CASSOC Treasurer  
[treasurer@cassoc.ca](mailto:treasurer@cassoc.ca)



## Kilt Skate Goes to the Big Apple

The kilt skate phenomenon has made a quantum leap with the announcement that the event has migrated beyond Canada's borders. The first annual "[Tartan Kilt Skate NYC](#)" will be held in Manhattan's Bryant Park on Saturday, February 2, 2019.

### The Celtic Elements - Winter



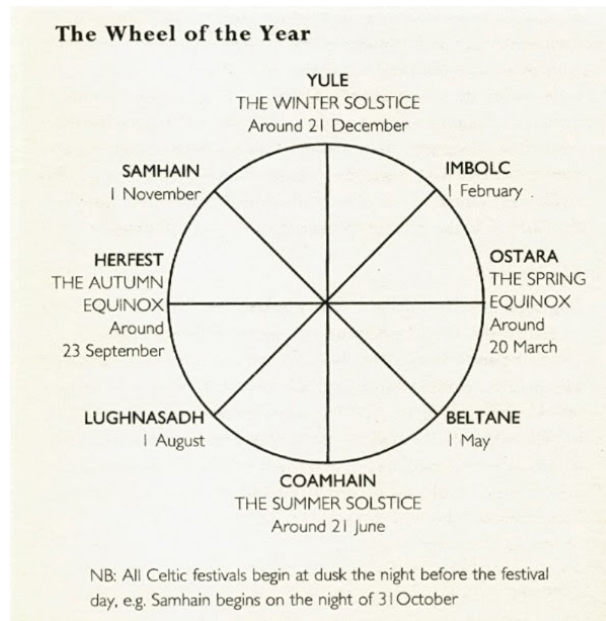
#### The Four Elements

When the Celts looked at the world about them, they noticed that many things had four aspects. There were four winds, four seasons, four cardinal directions and so on. They also noticed that there was a circular or cyclic nature to the world and that, by looking at these four aspects, one could see where on its cycle anything was. They assigned these four aspects names, Earth, Air, Fire and Water. These four 'elements' became the foundation of the Celtic medicine wheel.

#### Winter – North – Earth

The North is the place of winter in the cycle of a year: the time when many animals return to the earth to hibernate; when the leaves and fruits have died and are returning to Grandmother Earth through natural decay. It is a time of inactivity, of quiet reflection. In the cycle of a day, the North is night-time, the time when animals return to their burrows to sleep, the time when we humans sleep too.

The power of the North is the power of Earth. In the winter, everything returns to the earth, everything has a downward notion to it. Plants decay *down* into the earth, animals and humans go *down* to sleep. The power of Earth is downward. It is groundedness and determination. We talk about getting *down* to work; indeed work is an Earth-based activity. Earth is wisdom, the ability to know how to use knowledge effectively.



## Yule

Yule is the festival that marks the winter solstice – around 21 December – the time when the darkness rules the earth for the longest. It is a time of great celebration because the power of the dark begins to wane from this time onwards and the Sun is reborn to grow in power through to the summer solstice. To mark this birth, evergreen plants were brought into homes to decorate them, candles were lit and the Yule log was burnt. Presents were exchanged and feasts eaten. The majority of the celebrations that occur at Christmas are of pagan origin. The present, the fest, the holly and the ivy, mistletoe and even to some extent the Christmas tree all have their roots in the old celebration of Yule.

*From Celtic Wisdom by Andy Baggott*



## Member Group News & Updates

Member Groups are encouraged to submit news to this regular column in **An Drochaid**. If there is no news about your group, it is probable that none was submitted to the Editor. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month of issue - March, June, September, and December.



## Historic Note: Battle of Glen Shiel

The Battle of Glen Shiel (Scottish Gaelic: Blàr Ghleann Seile) was a battle in Glen Shiel, in the West Highlands of Scotland on 10 June 1719, between British Government troops (mostly Scots) and an alliance of Jacobites and Spanish, resulting in a victory for the Government forces. It was part of the Jacobite rising of 1719. It was the last close engagement of British and foreign troops in Great Britain. The Jacobite Scots were aiming to restore the exiled House of Stuart to the throne of Great Britain and were supported by Spanish soldiers as Spain was then at war with Great Britain. The battlefield has been included in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland and is protected by Historic Scotland under the Historic Environment (Amendment) Act 2011. *(From Wikipedia)*

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## Combla Rí Cheile

*Together with Accord*

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### Clan Bell North America

Merry Christmas My Friends and Family

May we share a marvelous and healthy 2019 wherever we are! I give many thanks for all of you faithful members, Commissioners, Tent Warri-ors, Clan Bell Board members who have encouraged and supported my efforts to lead our Bell Family or-ganization over the last five years. I have been in-volved, like most of you, in supporting this outreach to and education of Bells and their descendants about the many facets of our Bell family and ancient Scottish heritage. As I turn the leadership over to your newly elected President Joseph Lewis Bell, I do so with much hope for a bright and growing future for your Clan Bell. As the Newsletter headlines shout for joy about the upcoming Family council that is being held in Scotland to elect a Bell Family Com-mander, I realize we are finally, God willing and all goes well, going to fill a Clan leadership position that has been vacant since 1627—the year of death of our last Clan Chief, William Bell of Blackett House. Looking over many of the old newsletters, corre-spondence and emails as I prepared to pass all on to Joseph, I read of numerous near celebratory an-nouncements: “A petition to the Lord Lyon Court to pick a chief nears....” Or as the December 2010 newsletter President’s column announced, “A peti-tion to the Lord Lyon Court was to be processed but minor technicalities have delayed it but it will go for-ward in early 2011”. Since the 1990s with the Bell Family Association, we were assured time and again that a “Chief” petition is coming.

Now, there really will be an Official Lord Lyon Court sanctioned election of a leader, a Command-er, for Clan Bell. The Commander elected will take the lead in working to identify living Blacket House Bell family candidates, encourage the candidates to step forward, and then help them document their hereditary right and line of succession to the posi-tion of Chief. Yes, it may take five years, maybe ten. Regardless, we will have standing in the Council of Chieftains with our Clan Bell Commander standing shoulder to shoulder with the other Scottish clan leaders. After nearly 400 years, 2019 will see all the talk and speculations come to an end; June 15 and 16 each member will be given an opportunity for one of those who are qualified and wish to be elected “Commander”. I know some are not happy with this; they are among those who have promised action for years to no avail. I pray for peace and ac-ceptance for them and for worldwide family unity as we progress toward the selection of the rightful Clan of the Bells Chief.

Why is the Family Council in Scotland rather than here in North America, where there are more Bells than there are in the whole United Kingdom? The Lord Lyon Court of Scotland is the controlling body and it sets the parameters and assigns a Lord Lyon Court representative to the Clan (Mrs. Eliza-beth Roads) to monitor the gathering and to prepare a report of the proceedings to the Lord Lyon, Dr Mor-row to assure that all is done in the proper manner. Once the election is held, Mrs. Roads will submit her report and action will follow; the commander will be officially inducted. I look forward to June 15th.2019. It will be a historic day for Clan Bell; my 75th Birthday. Prayerfully I will live to see both.

I sincerely thank all of you for honoring me with the position I now vacate.  
May the Lord bless you and yours and may He continue to guide and bless the Clan of the Bells and its leaders! Aye!

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## Caledonia Celtic Festival

This is our newest member and is being organized by Barb and John Duff, with advice and assistance from other member Games. The first festival is scheduled the evening of Friday June 21st and throughout the day of Saturday June 22nd, 2019. As soon as we have further information it will be posted on the CASSOC website.

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## Clan Cameron Canadian Branch

Let us Unite - Aonaibh Ri Chéile...once again.

Cameron clansfolk, septs, descendants and friends are cordially invited to an International Gathering of Clan Cameron at Achnacarry, that stunning residence near Loch Arkaig upon the Lochiel Estate near Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire, Scotland. The main event takes place on Saturday 1st August 2020, with plans also scheduled for the previous Thursday and Friday (30th / 31st July) and also Sunday (2nd August). On these dates you will have a wonderful chance to enjoy yourselves, learn about your ancestry and to meet fellow clansfolk.

In the words of our host Donald Cameron of Lochiel, XXVII Chief of Clan Cameron, Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness: "I hope lots of you will be able to come, as I think it will be a memorable occasion." Come to our Lochaber ancestral (or, for many Cameron Clansfolk, current) homeland and share this experience with family and friends, old and new. Over the coming months additional details will be unveiled via Clan Cameron's numerous social media avenues.

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## Carruthers Clan

The Carruthers Clan Board of Directors goals are "Trying to preserve the past, record the present, and inform the future." Through the scientific breakthrough of D.N.A, we know that we are all the same people and we should join as one. The Carruthers Clan had been lost for many years, but no longer thanks to Patty and Gail! Please let us know if anyone is interested in joining the gatherings that will be held in Orlando this winter, and/or Scotland next Fall. Also, the Pen Pal program is still looking for people to write a letter or send a birthday card to someone who does not use social media.

### **Some names to remember, lest we forget**

- o **John James Carruthers**
- o **George Howard Carrothers**
- o **Pvt David Crothers**

### **This part is just for fun!**

Around 250 BC, many years before the Romans came to Britain; beer was being brewed by the Picts in Scotland. The beverage was made from heather and had hallucinogen properties.

Yours with love,  
Nicole Bourassa

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## **Clan Carruthers Society International (Canada)**

Representing Clan Carruthers Society International we are honoured to be part of this meeting and to have the opportunity to present this report on behalf of our Clan:

- Carruthers is a regional name, hailing from the West March of the Anglo-Scottish Borders, being one of the 17 Border Clans named in the 1587 Suppression of Unruly Clans Act, by James VI;
- Our first Chiefly line of Mouswald finished in 1548 when Simon Carruthers was killed in a border raid. The Chiefly line was to Carruthers of Holmains where it lasted until 1809.
- Work has been going on to unify and bring together Clan Carruthers since 2007.
- Research on our history and our chiefly line, based on facts and evidence, has been going on since then;
- The Genealogy of our family is carried out and augmented by Dana Carruthers Norton (US), Gary Carruthers (Australia) who are both known for their tenacity and honesty in their research;
- Investigation into the genealogy of the Chiefly line was finally carried out by our Convenor, Dr. George Carruthers and Mr. Anthony Maxwell our Heraldic Historian, Artist and advisor;
- This led over time to the current evidence and proof of two living seniors of our chiefly line;
- Scottish Clan Law with regards to a Chief is through patrilineal descent (father -> child, first to sons then to daughters);
- We have currently two seniors known to us, one being directly from our last Chief John 12th of Holmains and 8th Baron (d. 1809), and one from the cadet line of Dormont;
- The two evidenced seniors are;

Dr. Peter Simon Carruthers (direct descendent of John 12th, last Chief);

Mr. James Andrew Carruthers of Dormont, (a cadet of the Holmains line);

- The Lyon Court confirms a Chief by giving them the right, after a robust process, to bear the undifferenced arms of the last Chief. Only the Lyon Court has the authority to do this, a situation recognised by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, in Canada;
- Because we have living members of our Chief's bloodline alive today, a Derbfine (election at a family or clan gathering) could not be held, as genealogy supersedes election in Scottish Clan Law. To do so would not be credible for our family and its future relationship with other official Clans;
- Information has therefore been with the Lord Lyon for in excess of 18 months. The hold up being the Clan Buchanan case which culminated, after 20 years of detective work in the Lyon Court confirming a Chief after over 300 years. As alluded to above, this is done by permitting Michael Buchanan to use the undifferenced chiefly arms of Buchanan and thus confirming him as Chief;
- In the same vein as Buchanan, only a chief confirmed through the robust process of the Lyon Court, may legally and respectfully use the undifferenced arms;
- Although continually working in the background to garner support for a chief, a hearing was finally held by the Lyon Court on Wednesday 31st October in Edinburgh, Scotland where the Lyon perused and received information pertaining to the case;
- Further important documents have been uncovered and the Lord Lyon will hold a final hearing in February, with all proofed and evidenced information to be placed before him by February 3rd 2019. At which point he will deliberate and decide on the outcome;
- An interlocutor has been issued to that effect by the Lyon Court;
- We are therefore excited that a recognised Chief of Clan Carruthers will be confirmed early in the New Year through the legal right to bear the Arms of Carruthers of Holmains (reg. 1672).

This has been a long and arduous route and often frustrated by the actions and wrongful claims of others. However, we feel that, in order to become officially recognised through the world of Scottish Clans and their culture, this was our only option. We have always felt that whatever outcome we set ourselves should be for the benefit of the many, not simply the few and not as a financial enterprise.

Finally, thanks to all the hard work put in and the support we have received, we are close to achieving our goal of many years. To date our society has refused to accept any monies from any source and all the work and time given to us is through the kindness of our volunteers.

A special mention therefore is necessary for some of our people in Canada: Mr. Michael Carruthers, our Clan Commissioner for Canada; Graham Carruthers our Executive Secretary; and Zelda Carruthers, a member of our Journal's Editorial Board who have all been great supporters of the cause and we are extremely grateful for that.

After the exercise of confirmation of a Chief by the Lyon Court is complete, we are further hoping that our clan is invited onto the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the better to protect and support our family name and all that goes with it.

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### **Clan Chisholm Society – Canada Branch**

As with other groups, Clan Chisholm is facing a declining membership and is looking at ways to rejuvenate the group.

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### **Clan Donnachaidh Society in Ontario**

CDSO in 2018 has seen many different changes including the struggles with our new website which is finally up, but still with some wrinkles to iron out. In regards to our website some of the new features we want to implement for members will be.

A new newsletter for members starting this December and hope to carry it on in a quarterly schedule. The newsletters will include history stories of Donnachaidh's that have been infamous or famous in influencing life locally and around the globe.

We will also be trying to include Gaelic words, Phrases or saying as well for members to try and add a little Gaelic in their lives.

We will also include our new privacy policy that all members will have to read and agree to if they wish to receive these mailings in accordance with new spam laws.

We will be emailing this out to all our members only and if they wish to receive newsletters they will have to agree to the terms and policies.

The games in which we attended saw good crowds even with our summer heat this year. We have seen many enquiries from people accessing the international site with question as well. Now that we have our own website back up, we hope we will be able to reach people directly.

Best Wishes to All In The Up-Coming Season, Terry and Colleen Dobbie

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## Elliot Clan Society of Canada

Catherine Elliot Shaw, President, sends her greetings and best wishes. The Elliot Clan Society of Canada has had a busy year with its chapters attending Highland Games and organizing member events. Fergus is the main event and focus for the Clan and Paul staffed the tent this year and noted to visitors that spelling doesn't matter. He noted that it was nice to see their chief, Margaret Elliot, as part of the Scottish Forum. As we mark the end of the First World War, our upcoming newsletter highlights Private John Elliott who enlisted with the famed Royal Newfoundland Regiment. At the Battle of the Somme, the losses sustained by the Regiment on that day were staggering, even for the First World War, after just 30 minutes of action. Of the 800 Newfoundlanders who went into battle at Beaumont-Hamel, only 68 were able to answer the roll call the next day. Private Elliott's remains were buried beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park in France.

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## Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Fergus has been rescued from financial difficulty and is doing very well. They have found that visitors now are looking for new experiences and not just 'collecting things'. Fergus is working with other Games in Ontario that are also suffering, and are working with the Pipe Bands and Highland Dancers, so that all are working together in order to support Scottish Culture in Canada. In finding the right people to chair committees, they then find what's available and get things done.

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## Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

We continue to function, somehow, even though the years are taking their toll on the Executive, who (with one exception) are now all in their 70s or 80s. I continue to edit and publish 2 copies each year of our "The Rowan Tree" newsletter, and our "Clan Lachlan" magazine comes out of the USA twice a year as well. On a personal note, my wife Judy & I (along with another couple we know, but not CLA members) attended the wonderful Gaelic Society Whisky Tasting, recently held Nov. 13, 2017 at the Albany Club on King Street. It was a sit-down 3-course dinner, with 4 Single Malts tasted - each one introduced by a pipe tune. As well, 3 of the Gaelic Society members sang a few songs in Gaelic, a *cappella*. All in all, quite an enjoyable evening.

The major Clan MacLachlan Society event for 2018 will be our large international Gathering at Castle Lachlan, on Loch Fyne, Argyll, Scotland on May 26 and 27, 2018. It will be a select group of 100 members and spouses, as the event will be held inside the castle.

I wish I had brilliant insights into how younger members could be encouraged to join and volunteer, but this is not the case,

regrettably.

I do extend my best wishes to those CASSOC members who will be attending, and offering their support.  
Ken Godfrey - CLA Vice President, and Editor of "The Rowan Tree" newsletter

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## Clan MacAulay Association

Clan MacAulay has had a very busy 2018 with attendance at various Games in Scotland, the United States and Canada.

One of the first exciting happenings was the cultural twinning between Clan MacAulay and a pipe band in Italy! As Chief Hector MacAulay stated ... "The opportunity arose to twin with "The Scozzesi" a group of friends from Offida in Italy who are involved in all things Scottish including the formation of a pipe band and wearing of the tartan, and soon to be into all things MacAulay. Read their fascinating story in the March [issue](#) of MacAulay Matters newsletter. It is appropriate that we have embarked on this twinning in 2018 as it is the 'European Year of Cultural Heritage' promoting cross-border twinning and co-operation between cultural associations."

In April Commissioners for Missouri Bob Macauley (So. Missouri) and Mike Macaulay (No. Missouri) attended the first ever Scottish Festival to be held in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Of course, they had on hand an (empty) bottle of Macauley wine from the Napa Valley Vineyard.

In May Commissioner for Western Canada Joan McAulay and Commissioner for Central Canada Doug Doughty (as well as Erin and Kathy from Oregon) attended the Victoria Highland Games. As well as a week of great events Clan MacAulay took Silver for the best Clan Tent display!

Clan MacAulay was represented May 26/27, 2018 at the annual Scottish Fest at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, CA. Our Southwest USA Region Commissioner Jim McAuley, his wife Pam, Tim and Sonia McCall and their son Brandon, Betty Ribble and her daughter Sally were manning the clan tent. They welcomed many visitors of MacAulay lineage and those interested in our clan. Many regular visitors returned, and many new MacAulays came by as well.

June 2, 2018 saw Treasurer (2017-2018) Ken Carter and his lovely wife Linda attend the Clan Helensburgh and Lomond Highland Games on behalf of Chief Hector MacAulay. There were hundreds of locals and tourists enjoying superb (not typical though) Scottish sunshine.

In July Chieftain and High Commissioner of Clan MacAulay of the Canadas Bud MacAulay Lush and Commissioner for Central Canada Doug Doughty attended the Uxbridge Games and followed that up by attending the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games in August. They were joined at first by First Lady of the Canada Tena Lush and Commissioner for Western Canada Joan McAulay. A highlight of the Fergus Games definitely had to be seeing 'live and in person' the Red Hot Chili Pipers! Great time meeting MacAulays and the other Clans.

The 169th Annual St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games, the longest continuous games in North America, took place on 4 August 2018. Commissioner for Michigan Bill O'Reilly was on hand to represent Clan MacAulay in the Clans area of the festivities – approximately 35 clans were represented. This was the first known time our Clan was represented but it won't be the last. The games take place at the Historic Greenmead Park in suburban Livonia, Michigan.

August 16th to 18th saw MacAulays (of all spellings) gather from across North America at the Clan MacAulay Gathering in Nova Scotia. We were warmly welcomed by hosts Scott & Terry MacAulay and Matt & Tiffany MacAulay at Inverary Resort in beautiful Baddeck, Cape Breton. Over the three days we had the opportunity to meet friends from past Gatherings and connect with new MacAulays from both Canada and the United States. Thursday was a fun day setting up our tent, having a meal together and participating in a rousing game of Scotland trivia. Friday started with our Heritage Secretary joining us via the internet for a very interesting and informative discussion on DNA and its uses in genealogy. Then it was off to either The Highland Village in Iona or the Gaelic College. The afternoon was the inaugural MacAulay Heavyish Games. We had such great participation that we

only had time for three of the events! We just had time for a wee dram before getting dressed in our tartans and kilts for the formal event with entertainment provided by the talented Forrester Dancers accompanied by the musical duo of "The Michael C's". Chieftain Bud took centre stage as he beautifully inducted Commissioner for Atlantic Canada Matt MacAulay and Commissioner for Central Canada Doug Doughty and then announced the winners of the MacAulay Heavyish Games.

After breakfast Saturday Neil and Ruthe led an intrepid group of hikers up to Uisge Ban Falls before joining the rest of the Gatherers to visit the impressive Alexander Graham Bell Museum. A sail on Bras d'Or Lake (or Loch Bras d'Or as Bud has renamed it!) was scheduled for the afternoon but alas it poured. So a lengthy lunch and naps was in order before we joined for our final evening ... the Cape Breton Kitchen Party (ceilidh) at Scott and Terry's home, complete with a roasted pig, fabulous food and even a MacAulay cake!

Cyndi Macauley, Commissioner for Pennsylvania, hosted a Clan MacAulay tent on Saturday, September 22 at the annual Ligonier Highland Games located at Idlewild Park in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. This is the first time Clan MacAulay attended this gathering. Her husband Jim brought his new goshawk as an added attraction.

We've very excited about 2019 and the opportunity to gather in the beautiful Cairngorms National Park at the Hilton Coylumbridge, Aviemore, Scotland on September 5th to 8th in 2019. It will be a time to connect with our fellow MacAulays, make new friends and reacquaint with friends made at previous Gatherings. A full schedule of events are planned and fun will be had! Click [here](#) to learn more.



At the Clan MacAulay Gathering in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia  
(L-R): Bill O'Reilly, Comm. Michigan; Bob Macauley, Comm. So. Missouri, Host Scott MacAulay; Bud MacAulay Lush, Chieftain and High Commissioner, Canada; Joan McAulay, Comm. Western Canada, Doug Doughty, Comm. Central Canada, Matt MacAulay, Comm. Atlantic Canada

Your Friends and Family with the  
Clan MacDougall Society  
of North America  
wish all of their fellow Kith and Kin



A Wonderful Holiday Season!  
Celebrate a Festive Present,  
Prepare for a very Merry Future  
& Remember your Ancestral Past



### Clan MacFarlane Worldwide

Clan MacFarlane Worldwide is growing and the AGM for 2018 was held during Scot Fest at Estes Park, Colorado. The Facebook page is very active. Clan MacFarlane Worldwide reaches out to support Dancers as well as the Heavies at the Highland Games and Festivals. MacFarlane Worldwide has sponsored archaeological digs in Scotland uncovering new information on the MacFarlane Clan. We will have more information on the latest dig soon.

Our elections were held in August and our new elected President will be Laurie McFarland Jackson.





## Macfie Clan Society in Canada

Clan Macfie's Commander has been ill and thus there has not been much activity. Gary is the Canadian President and now back living in Canada after many years overseas. He participated in the Fergus Games this year, and is also a piper and has joined the band in Aurora.

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## Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada



Greetings fellow clan members and friends. Summer came and went with such speed it is hard to believe that it happened at all. Now fall is racing by with its show of colours on the trees and frequent rainy days. I hope that the months since my last report have given everyone happy and memorable time. This report is very much the outline of my experiences this summer with details of happenings at Parliament. It is my hope of enticing many of you to put Dunvegan in your travel plans for 2022. It is also my desire to give all of our members the vicarious experience of being at Parliament. There were 33 Canadians of the 300 plus Parliament attendees who enjoyed the activities of this Parliament, an encouraging representation.

And so my summer began: At the end of June the weather cooperated to make the BC Highland Games a very satisfying experience producing leads for several new members. I also took custody of a carload of Scottish and MacLeod goods from Neil R.'s collection to relieve his widow June of the burden of storage as she sold the house and moved into a small apartment in Merritt. My trip to Scotland began with a visit with Donald MacLeod at his home near London and meeting members of his delightful family who live nearby. Unfortunately Donald's wife Linda was needed in Cambridge to attend to her mother so I missed out on a visit with her. Our drive to Dunvegan was most enjoyable with good weather and stops to see several sights. The week at Parliament was memorable sharing Osdale House and Byre with wonderful long-time clan friends and a new friend Brenda from England. Leaving Dunvegan with Marian on Saturday, I was delighted to meet her mother and her welcoming lovely dogs when we arrived in Edinburgh. On Sunday I bid farewell to the UK and was greeted in Beziers, France by Bryan and Sharon Dixon, who are my neighbours on Saturna but now live in France. This was my first trip to continental Europe and my time with them was restful and entertaining. At their home in Nezigian l'Eveque, in the south west of France, the weather was hot but their pool was refreshing. My first experience with French train travel was most satisfying and from Charles DeGaul Airport I flew to Toronto to meet with the executive of Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada and visit with Beth, Karen and family in Caledon.

It was another very relaxing time with good friends, along with an interesting time at the Fergus Highland Games and Festival. Cathie White and Lynn Bennett eagerly stamped children's passports and handed out tartan coloured jelly beans. Several new members signed up when offered a membership for the remainder of 2018 and all of 2019. After four weeks away I arrived home to reflect on my holiday before I got back into my role of publishing the Saturna Scribbler.

Parliament is always a stimulating time, making new connections with first-time attenders and renewing connections with friends from the past. Communications continue as we exchange photos and remarks about parts of the experience that intrigued us most. Although the format of the week was similar to other Parliaments each event had something special to offer. The Sunday church service was conducted by Rev. Rory MacLeod of Glendale and following greetings of all over a quick cup of tea, we formed up with pipers and banners leading, to march down the main street of Dunvegan to the Village Hall. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a Welcome Luncheon supplied by the local Old School Restaurant. Castle custodian Jeroen Roskam gave the Mervyl and Stanley McLeod Trust Memorial Lecture, a very interesting talk, relating the extensive renovation work recently done on the Castle and the impact it has had on the rest of the MacLeod Estate. The evening Whisky Tasting hosted by Albrecht Kurbjuhn of CMS Germany was very popular, so much so that a second session had to be scheduled. Tours

of the Castle were well subscribed on at least two mornings and dance practice got us into form for the evening Ceilidhs. The first evening reception was hosted by the Scotland Society where we had the opportunity to meet local members of the Dunvegan community.

Canada hosted tea/coffee with Maple Leaf cookies aplenty on Monday morning. The other countries had their host mornings with groaning tables of national treats. Germany's Brats and Beer by the Pier on Thursday was a wonderful time, with very few midges this year and the bonfire held the attention of the several children attending this year. On coach tours of the Waternish peninsula we were reminded of the history of the area and of the church and graveyard at Trumpan. The opening of the Emigration Wall at Orbost had Rachael as host. Her parents are Robert and Elspeth Staas and she is the grand daughter of the late Peggy Staas who many of us remember from past Parliaments and the Canadian visit of the New Zealand group many years ago now. Rachael went to Skye as a member of the North Room Group (NRG) in 1994, met and married Keith who is a local and they have lived on the Orbost Estate since the late 1990s. A new event on Raasay Day was a tour of the Raasay Distillery as well as of newly refurbished Walled Garden and Raasay House. The community ladies supplied a wonderful lunch after which the traditional Tug-of-War and the Swim in the Loch were witnessed. The visit to MacCrimmon Cairn at Borreraig featured one of Scotland's leading pipers, Euan MacCrimmon, thrilling us with his traditional piping and Carol MacCrimmon Pugliese recounting the colourful history of Borreraig. Her parents Hugh and Irene had owned and operated the Piping School and Museum there for many years. ACMS Youth Co-ordinator Bron McLeod (SA) gave a report focused on Future Priorities. She spoke of the NRG projects and suggested how the NRG could be made more effective between Parliaments. A very well prepared presentation was made by James (age 10) and Georgia (age 12) Walters on the South Australia initiative "The Mighty Mini MacLeods", a group of around 15 members who meet regularly for activities they enjoy and learn much about their heritage and Scottish history. These young folk are high tech and great organizers. Check out the South Australia website, [www.cmssa.org.au/mmm](http://www.cmssa.org.au/mmm) ACMS meetings occupied many of us from 10:30 to lunch time on four of the days with national reports, business of the organization with discussion of accomplishments of the past four years in terms of finances, communications, social and cultural activities. Determination of the important things hoped to be accomplished in the next four years, consisting of membership and outreach, genealogy, communications and administration with a working involvement of the National Societies brought about a healthy discussion.

More details of ACMS business will likely be in the next Clan MacLeod Magazine, including details of the award made to Rauri Halford-MacLeod. Following the election of the 2018-2022 Office Bearers, retiring ACMS President Dr Don McLeod was thanked for his leadership in the last four years. Peter Macleod of Australia accepted the Presidential Badge of Office; with Al McLeod of England, Vice-President; David MacLeod of England, Treasurer; and Dorna Caskie continuing as Secretary. The officers of ACMS earned a resounding round of appreciative applause from all of us attending.



### **Clan Mac Neil in Canada**

#### **CLAN BARD**

IAIN MAC NEILL of Waterloo was elected as our CLAN BARD at our Annual General Meeting on September 23rd, 2018. Thus we restored a historical tradition when ALL CLANS had their own BARD. Not only did The Bard compose and sing songs to Clan Members, but he also brought and spread news from far afield in the same manner as done in ancient Greek and Roman times.

Iain is a prolific poet dwelling on a variety of topics, be they historical or vivid descriptions of nature. Composed in English, one will be published in each quarterly issue of our quarterly newsletter, "A' CHARRAIG DHUBH", alongside a Gaelic translation done by native Gaelic speaker Oighrig Mac Neil Keogh from the Isle of Barra.



## Clan MacRae Society of Canada

Clan MacRae participated in six Highland Games in Ontario this year and several in other provinces. Their Annual General Meeting was held during the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games this year. Baroness Miranda van Lynden MacRae head of the MacRaes of Conchra, Trustee and Constable of Eilean Donan Castle in Scotland which is located near the Isle of Skye, attended the AGM. Miranda was 2018 Fergus Festival Honorary Chieftain. AGM activities included a tour with history of locations in Guelph, ON, related to Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae the author of the well-known poem "In Flanders Fields".

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## Clan Munro Association of Canada

CMAC had a successful joint North American Clan Munro Gathering in Halifax, NS, on Labour Day weekend 2018. The next Gathering will be in 9-11 Aug 2019 in Inverness, Scotland.

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All of us on the Board of the Scottish Studies Foundation thank CASSOC and its members for all the support we have received over the years. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph and it is thanks to support from organizations like yours that the program has survived to this day. The Foundation is dedicated to actively supporting the Scottish tradition in Canada at the academic level by raising the awareness of the Scottish heritage in Canada through various levels of education. As well as maintaining a Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph, the Foundation funds academic scholarships in Scotland and Canada, publishes the annual scholarly journal *International Review of Scottish Studies* and sponsors and organizes Canadian and Scottish conferences and cultural events.

The following is a summary of our activities over the last year:

### Digital Archive Centre

For the last few years, the Foundation's major objective has been the funding of a digital archive facility as part of the University of Guelph's library renovation program. Thanks to donations received from our members and other supporters, installation has now been completed and the official opening will be announced soon. This will allow and will allow Guelph's unique collection of rare and unique Scottish books and manuscripts to be digitized and placed online.

Spring Colloquium The Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies 2018 Spring Colloquium took place on Saturday, April 14, at Knox College at the University of Toronto. Speakers included Dr. Catriona Macdonald, University of Glasgow, Dr. Donald Nerbas, Chair in Canadian-Scottish Studies at McGill University and Dr. Sarah Sharp, University of Otago, New Zealand.

Tall Ship Cruise For the 27th year in a row, our Annual Tall Ship Cruise took place on Sunday, September 2. As well as providing an opportunity to have a great time with Highland dancers, folk music and the pipes, the cruise commemorates the arrival of the Scots pioneers in Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1773.

### Scot of the Year 2018

It was back in 1993 that we initiated our Annual Scot of the Year Award to honour individuals with a Scottish connection who have achieved distinction through their contribution to Canadian society or the international community at large and at this year's event on October 26, we paid tribute to this year's recipient: Graham Fraser, Canada's sixth Commissioner of Official Languages, a former Canadian journalist and a writer whose Scots ancestry can be traced to the north of Scotland. He is the author of several books, both in English and French, and served as the National Affairs Correspondent for the Toronto Star, for which he also wrote a weekly column. He was also an adjunct professor of journalism at Carleton University from 2003-2008. It was a magnificent evening of fine food, music and dance — all with a Scots-Canadian flavour in the historic environment of the Arts & Letters Club in Toronto.

### **Oor Club**

One of our activities that has been extremely popular over the years has been our Oor Club – the brainchild of Scottish folk singer and artist Enoch Kent who moved to Toronto in the 1960s. The original Oor Club was one where people met an old tenement house in Duke Street in Glasgow back in the 1700s. Legend has it that Robert Burns paid a visit to the original club. The Scottish Studies "Oor Club" is held each month at noon at the Duke of York pub in Toronto (steps from the St. George subway station). Guests are invited to give presentations on a variety of topics of interest to members of the Scottish Studies Foundation and others interested in the things that Scots in Canada and overseas are getting up to. The presentations usually lasts about an hour (pronounced "oor" in Scots), hence the name. Everyone is invited to attend as the meetings are open to all. The next session will be on Friday, December 7, and will take the form of a special pre-Christmas ceilidh hosted by our Oor Club coordinator Pearl Grieve-Nixon.

### **Fall Colloquium**

This year's Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium was a two-day event held on October 13 and 14 at the University of Guelph. The topic was Popular Culture in Scotland and Abroad and included the following presentations:

- Lawrence Abrams (UC Davis): "A Charm of Powerful Trouble": Scottish Folklore and History in Comics and Graphic Novels
- Brendan Egan (Queens): "Planned to bring life back into living": Image, Perception, and Identity in East Kilbride New Town
- Dr Jack Whytock (Haddington House Trust & North-West): Gaelic Hymnody and Diaspora Scots in the New World
- Dr Timothy Slonosky (Dawson): Plague, Providence and Polemic: Literary Reactions to the Disasters of the 1540s
- Jennifer Oldham (Guelph): Where is the Scottish in Scottish Children's Chapbooks?
- Dr Dave Nelson (ABAC-Bainbridge): Caledonia Cancels Christmas: The Protestant Suppression of Yule in Scotland, 1560-1958
- Brendan Egan (Guelph): James V's Great Seal at the University of Guelph
- Laura Harrison (Edinburgh): "Big Men Have Big Swords": William Wallace's Longsword as a Symbol of Medieval Masculinity in Scottish Popular Culture
- Dr Marian Toledo Candelaria (Wilfred Laurier University Press): When the "Popular" is Really Political: Reconsidering the Origins of the Macbeth Narrative.
- Amanda Kentish (Edinburgh): The Big Grey Man of Ben Macdui: Supernatural Tales of Giants from Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
- Jos Collins (Edinburgh): Rethinking Scottish Folk Drama: How the Supernatural World Engages Us with Our Environment
- Dr Lizanne Henderson (Glasgow): Witchcraft and Shamanism in Northern Communities: A View from Scotland

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## **Keynote**

### **The Role of the Lord Lyon?**

The Court of the Lord Lyon is primarily an office of Heraldic jurisdiction in Scotland. The Lyon functions within a legal and administrative framework and as a member of the Scottish Judiciary.

His roles include:

- the granting and matriculation of Arms,
- the maintaining and administration of Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland
- and responsibility for all ceremonial visits to Scotland.

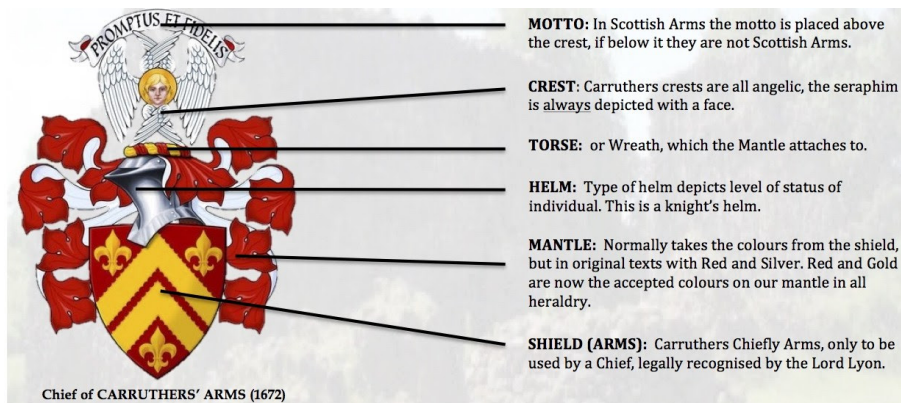
His authority and that of the Lyon Court, established in Scotland in 1532, along with their sister body in England; the College of Arms, incorporated first in 1484 and reincorporated in 1555, come directly from the British Crown. The Canadian Heraldic Authority, the last to be established, received their Letters Patent in 1988 from her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

All three bodies are governed by strict rules and protocols, which are strongly adhered to. This includes remaining within their own jurisdiction e.g. the College of Arms would not therefore encroach on anything that would fall under the Lyon Court's jurisdiction or involve itself with Scottish heraldry.

## The Lyon, a Coat of Arms and a Clan Chief

The Coat of Arms of any one person belongs to, and only to that individual and does not belong to a family. Although it is wrongly abused by some, usually for commercial reasons, this is at the very least disrespectful to the armiger themselves.

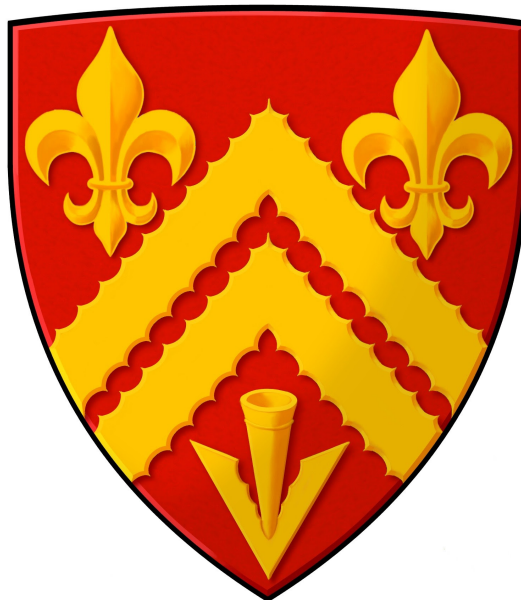
A Coat of Arms is therefore described as a heraldic design, unique in its format to the registrant, placed on a shield (escutcheon) surcoat or tabard. It is this design emblazoned on the shield, which forms the main and central part of a Coat of Arms.



The complete arms, or what are described as a full achievement, consists of the shield, supporters, if authorised and currently Carruthers do not bear them, and a crest and a motto. The Carruthers Chief's arms are recognised to be those registered by John Carruthers, 9th of Holmains and 4th Baron in 1672.

As Carruthers is currently viewed as an armigerous clan, without Chief, the arms of 1672 await a descendent of the Chiefly line claiming the undifferenced arms. This is currently in hand and a decision from the Lyon is expected in the early part of 2019.

As can be seen, our Chief's arms are; A red shield, on which rests in the centre, two wavy chevrons in gold, with two gold fleurs de lis above and one fleur de lis below also in gold. In heraldic terms this is described as; Gules, two chevrons engrailed, between three fleurs de lys Or.



Therefore it is from these arms that other Carruthers arms are derived, but always with two differences. This can be seen in the last matriculation of Carruthers Arms in 2017.

In this instance, the differences were two chevronels engrailed, rather than chevrons, and a pheon (spear/arrow head) to replace the fleur de lis in the base. Described as: Gules two chevronels engrailed between in Chief two fleurs de lys and in base a pheon Or.

As only those entitled to do so may legally bear the undifferenced arms, a process in law has to be in place to facilitate that. This is the function of the Lord Lyon, the only legal authority who can 'confirm', through that set legal process; a clan Chief.



As an aside, the only thing a clansmen or women can wear is the crest of the Chief in a badge. In the case of Carruthers this is: a Seraphim (depicted heraldically as having six wings, with the face of an angel), surrounded by a belt and buckle, on which is inscribed the Chiefs motto, Promptus et Fidelis (ready and faithful).

The question is, how 'can' and how 'does' the Lyon do this?

He 'can', as that is his legal role, and 'does' by checking and analysing the genealogical evidence and other information presented to him through a petition by any individual wishing to claim the right to bear the undifferenced chiefly arms. Only after a rigorous process and deliberation and only once fully satisfied, will he finally 'confirm' an individual's claim to that right to do so. It is this process that allows the Lyon's authority in such matters to be recognised internationally as it ensures, through this robust legal process, the elimination of false claims.

Legally therefore, the Lyon has the jurisdiction to act judicially to determine who is entitled to the undifferenced Arms of the Chief. In that there is no question and the outcome based on the authority of the Lord Lyon to do so is quite simply; the recognition of a Chief.

What is important to understand is, without a recognised Chief, there is no official status in Scottish law for a clan. It is therefore the Chief, a legal entity in Scottish law, that on confirmation of his right to bear the undifferenced arms, allows for the clan to be officially recognised.

In the past, although questions have been raised about the jurisdiction of the Lyon being confined to Scotland, both he and his predecessors have confirmed those who are evidenced individuals as Chief from both inside and outside of that country. It is therefore not necessarily nationality nor residence that is important, but birthright and proof of genealogy. This in itself shows that in all things pertaining to a Scottish Clan and therefore again in the confirmation of a Scottish Clan Chief, the Lyon Court is the only recognised authority.



## Clan Carruthers Society International and the Lyon

As a Clan Society, although the CCSI have only been formed since 2017, work has been going on behind the scenes for many years to build the support to have a clan chief recognised. Once achieved, this will allow the family to move to its rightful place as an officially recognised Clan.

A hearing was heard on the matter by the Lyon Court, on 31st October, in Edinburgh. Further information was requested and as alluded to above, a decision will be made in early 2019. An interlocutor will be issued by the Lyon Court regarding the date of the final hearing.

Having reached this stage and looking back over more than 10 years of research, networking and consultations, and although it does seem a long time, to appreciate what is actually necessary to achieve these things, we need only look at the recent case of Clan Buchanan.

Having gone through the same due process as we are currently following, they have only recently had a Clan chief confirmed by the Lyon. This was announced in September of this year. It was such a momentous occasion that it hit the national press and was then I believe, filtered internationally to those who respectfully follow and celebrate their Scottish heritage and culture.

With regards a timeframe, their success took them around 20 years of deep research and detective work to achieve their goal. The petition to the Lyon was fully evidenced, backed by certification and contained validated genealogical claims, which after analysis and scrutiny, were accepted.

Thankfully therefore, their tenacity and hard work successfully led to the achievement of their goal; that of confirmation of a Chief through the matriculation of the undifferenced Arms of Buchanan. The new chief is Michael Buchanan of that Ilk, the first Buchanan Chief, according to a message by him to his clan, in at least 337 years.

One interesting point that came out of the Buchanan case was that prior to the confirmation of a chief, some had been considering the use of a derbfine (election at a gathering) to chose one. However, in Scottish heraldic and clan law, the case for a derbfine is always superseded by the proven genealogy of a chief's bloodline to their descendants.

Like Buchanan, Carruthers has living seniors of our chiefly line and therefore a derbfine was never going to be an option.

What that means in simple terms is that if there are living descendants of a Chief, we simply just can't decide to have a meet and pick someone from those in attendance.

## **Derbfine (pronounced Der-finn-ah)**

As we speak however, a derbfine is being planned. This is being done through a gathering being organised by the Clan Bell Society (US). It is to be held we understand next year and as they are historically close neighbours of ours coming from Middlebie Parish, Annandale, Dumfriesshire, their gathering we believe, will take place in that region.

Importantly, Clan Bell, like ourselves have taken to follow due process by going through the authority of the Lord Lyon. In their case, no living person with evidenced genealogy from the chiefly line has been located. It is my belief that their last Chief died in the early 17th century and in the same vein as Carruthers they also feel it is time for them to take their rightful place as a clan in Scottish Clan society.

In situations of this nature, a family convention is both valid and acceptable. This is held at a gathering of the clan, to choose by monitored election, an individual to lead them. The chosen individual is then appointed a Commander rather than Chief, for a period of time set by the Lyon Court.

This is designed to allow the possibility of others, especially from a senior line to come forward. Currently the individual heading the planning committee for Clan Bell is Robert Bell from Colorado.

However, in order to validate and monitor the legality of the process, a family convention is overseen by a supervising officer and is held in Scotland. In this instance the former Lyon Clerk and current Snawdoun Herald, Mrs Elizabeth Roads, is the supervising officer appointed by the Lord Lyon.

## **Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs**

Once a Chief is confirmed by the Lyon a Chief may be invited to join the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Interestingly a past Convenor is none other than the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Andrew Bruce, Chief of that Name, whose son and heir apparent, Lord Bruce, is a patron of CASSOC. The current Convenor leading the council is Donald Maclaren of Maclaren, Chief of Clan Maclaren.

According to their site: The Objects of the Council, which is non-political, are to consider matters affecting Scottish Chiefs and the Clans and Names which they represent and to submit their views and interests to HM Government, to Departments of State, the Scottish Government, to Local Authorities, to Press and Public, to Associations connected with Clan and Family in Britain and overseas; also to educate the general public in matters connected with the rights, functions and historical position of Scottish Chiefs, together with the Clans and Names which they represent and to take such steps as may seem expedient to

protect the titles, armorial bearings or other insignia of Chiefs from exploitation or misuse in trade or otherwise.

Membership of this organisation therefore, not only adds to the credibility of both the chief and the clan, it also offers a forum and network from which to represent and support their Chief and the clansmen and clanswomen both at home and abroad.

## To summarise

As a Society the CCSI believe that our chosen path, albeit arduous and on occasions frustrating and in fact impeded by the actions and claims of others, has been the right thing for us to do for our family as a whole. We have achieved this by seeking to have a chief of the name recognised through the Lyon Court.

We believe that failing to follow this route, based on much advice over the years, would be extremely detrimental to our future position in Scottish clan culture and society. Our purpose and agenda therefore has always been to strengthen the clan and not to weaken it, by ensuring it takes its rightful place as an officially recognised Scottish border reiver clan through the confirmation of a chief of our name

We therefore are keen to follow in the footsteps of those that have gone before us, to include the Buchanans and the Irvings of Bonshaw.

The latter being, in a similar vein to Carruthers, one of the 17 named Border Reiver Clans mentioned in the Act of the Suppression of Unruly Clans. This Act was enacted by King James VI of Scotland and the Scottish Parliament in 1587. Again we hope to achieve our goal of have a chief of Carruthers recognised in the early part of 2019.

Clan Carruthers Society International: Continuing to work for the many, not simply the few.  
Promptus et Fidelis

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St. Andrews Day - Make Someone's Day, by Scotland is Now

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## A Little Scottish Humour





**NO BULL !!! This is our pet Heilan' Coo.**

Slàinte mhòr!

J. Douglas Ross, BA, MEd, FSA Scot  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Director, Scottish Studies Foundation <http://www.scottishstudies.com/>



Castle Duart, seat of Clan MacLean (whose Chief is a patron of CASSOC)

## Help Wanted!

CASSOC needs help!  
We need volunteers NOW for:

**Bookkeeper**

**Directors-at-Large**

For information contact

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[info@cassoc.ca](mailto:info@cassoc.ca)

**An Drochaid** is published quarterly.

Submissions are extraordinarily welcome, though articles may be edited for length or content.

The next issue of **An Drochaid** will be the March issue.

The deadline for submissions is Sunday, March 10th.

Submissions can be emailed to [editor@cassoc.ca](mailto:editor@cassoc.ca)

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