

An Drochaid - The Bridge

Comhla ri Cheile - Together with Accord

Volume 47 - Issue 2
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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

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.

2018-2019 Board of Directors:

Chair: Karen Macleod McCrimmon

1st Vice-Chair: Vacant

2nd Vice-Chair: Vacant

Directors at Large:

Terry Myles

Paul Elliot

John Duff

Past-Chair: Alene M. McNeill

Secretary: Jo Ann Tuskin

Treasurer: Kimberley Henwood

Patrons:

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 was 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

Read More





Frae the Chair

Dear Clansfolk,

I trust this finds you well as Canada prepares to enter the summer season. The Highland Games Season is well underway and I hope that you all have the chance to attend at least one or two over the next few months.

Perhaps you will have the chance to visit Scotland, the homeland of your ancestors during the summer. It is a magical place steeped in history and myth, where the modern world meets rustic charm and the people are always welcoming. I applaud those groups who are able to organize clan reunions or gatherings centred around their ancestral strongholds. They are truly amazing opportunities for those of us who seem far removed from our personal histories and especially for youth who are caught up with their addiction with the future. My own clan holds gatherings on the Isle of Skye every 4 years and I have been privileged to have been able to attend a number of these events. In fact, during my pilgrimage to Dunvegan Castle, I met my future husband. We are currently waiting for my sons to grow a bit older in order to share the adventure of Scotland and be able to feel the pull of the land that our families once called home. It has been a personal mission of mine to question my students to think about their lives in the context of their past. I ask them to think about the following question: How do you know where you're going if you don't know where you've been?

I hope you all enjoy some down time this summer. CASSOC reminds all our members that annual membership is due for renewal by the end of August. We look forward to hearing about your events and adventures. Please submit articles to our editor, Chris MacDougall at editor@cassoc.com

Hold Fast,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris MacDougall'.

Karen M. McCrimmon

Karen Macleod McCrimmon
Chair, Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada
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

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





Scotland is Now - Scotland is Innovative

An Drochaid - The Bridge

The bridge picture used in our header is the Silver Bridge, and was taken by D. Brouillette. It is located in the town of Bracebridge, Ontario, which hosted a Highland Games for several years.

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



**Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals: Canada
June - July 2019**

This listing was compiled by our webmaster and is updated regularly on our website: www.cassoc.ca
Information is provided for reference only. Please contact organizers of the event for up-to-date information. CASSOC cannot be held responsible for any errors that may occur. Member events are **highlighted**. Please Support Our Members!

Date	Event	Location	URL
June 8	Georgetown Highland Games	Georgetown, ON	www.georgetownhighlandgames.com
June 9-15	Moncton Highland Games	Moncton, NB	https://monctonhighlandgames.com
June 14-15	Cobourg Highland Games	Cobourg, ON	www.cobourghighlandgames.ca
June 15	Annual Water Valley Traditional Celtic Folk Festival	Water Valley, AB	http://www.watervalleycelticfestival.org
June 15	BC Highland Games	Coquitlam, BC	www.bchighlandgames.com
June 19-23	Clan Sinclair Gathering	Winnipeg, MB	mailto:george@clansinclair.ca
June 21-22	Caledonia Celtic Festival	Caledonia, ON	http://www.caledoniacelticfestival.com
June 22	Kingsville Highland Games	Kingsville, ON	http://www.kingsvillegames.com
June 22	Red Deer Highland Games	Red Deer, AB	www.reddeerhighlandgames.ca
June 22-23	Manitoba Highland Gathering	Winnipeg, MB	www.manitobahighlandgathering.org
June 23	Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Gathering	Edmonton, AB	https://sites.google.com/view/edmontonscottishsociety/home
June 28 -	Kitchen Fest - Cape Breton Island	Cape Breton	http://www.gaeliccollege.edu/kitchenfe

July 6	Ceiliidh - Colaisde na Gaidhlig	Island, NS	st
Jun 29-July 6	Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo	Halifax, NS	www.nstattoo.ca
July 1	Embro Highland Games	Embro, ON	www.embrohighlandgames.ca
July 5-7	Almonte Celtfest	Almonte, ON	http://almonteceltfest.com/
July 5-7	Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Kincardine, ON	www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca
July 6	Penticton Scottish Festival	Penticton, BC	www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca/
July 7-14	Antigonish Highland Games	Antigonish, NS	www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca
July 13	Kamloops Highland Games	Kamloops, BC	www.kamloopshighlandgames.ca
July 13	Sherwood Park Highland Gathering	Sherwood Park, AB	www.aspd.ca/sherwood-park-highland-gathering-2019
July 17-21	Festival of Tartans & H. Games	New Glasgow, NS	www.festivalofthetartans.ca/
July 19-20	Cambridge Scottish Festival	Cambridge, ON	www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca/
July 19-21	Orillia Scottish Festival	Orillia, ON	www.scottishfestival.ca/
Jul 27	Uxbridge Scottish Festival	Uxbridge, On	www.uxbridgescottishfestival.com
Jul 26-28	New Brunswick Highland Games & Scottish Festival	Fredericton, NB	www.highlandgames.ca



Scottish Highland Games & Celtic Festivals: Canada Aug – Nov 2019

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Date	Event	Location	URL
Aug 2-3	Glengarry Highland Games	Maxville, ON	www.glengarryhighlandgames.com
Aug 4	Montreal Highland Games	Verdun, QC	www.montrealhighlandgames.com
Aug 5-9	Goderich Celtic Roots Festival	Goderich, ON	www.celticfestival.ca/
Aug 9-11	Margaree Highland Games	Margaree Valley, NS	www.margareehighlandgames.com
Aug 9-11	Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games	Fergus, ON	www.fergusscottishfestival.com
Aug 9-11	Clan Munro Gathering	Inverness, UK	www.clanmunroassociation.ca
Aug 17	Perth's World Record Kilt Run	Perth, ON	www.runguides.com/ottawa/event/perth-kilt-run
Aug 23-25	Miramichi Scottish Festival	Miramichi, NB	www.miramichiscottishfestival.com
TBA	North Lanark Highland Games	Almonte, ON	www.almontehighlandgames.com
Aug 31	Calgary Highland Games	Calgary, AB	http://www.calgaryhighlandgames.org/
Sep 1	Canmore Highland Games	Canmore, AB	www.canmorehighlandgames.ca
TBA	Scottish Studies Foundation Tall Ships Cruise	Toronto, ON	www.scottishstudies.com/940-empiresandy-2018.htm
Sep 5-8	Clan MacAulay Gathering	Aviemore, UK	www.clanmacaulay.org.uk
Sep 6-8	Festival Celtique de Québec	Québec, QC	http://festivalceltique.com
Sep 7	Colchester H. Games & Gathering	Truro, NS	www.colchesterhighlandgames.com
TBA	The Beach Celtic Festival	Toronto, ON	www.thecelticfestival.com

TBA	Trenton Scottish-Irish Festival	Trenton, ON	www.trentonscottishirish.com
Oct 11-19	Celtic Colours in Cape Breton	Cape Breton, NS	http://celtic-colours.com
Nov 22	St Andrew's Society Montreal Ball	Montreal, QC	www.standrews.qc.ca
Nov 30	St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball	Toronto, ON	www.standrews-society.ca



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.

56TH ANNUAL
COBOURG
**SCOTTISH
FESTIVAL**
& HIGHLAND GAMES

COBOURG
HIGHLAND GAMES

RAIN OR SHINE

JUNE 14-15

HIGHLAND DANCING
HEAVY EVENTS & IHGF
STONES OF STRENGTH
PIPE & DRUM BANDS

CLANS
SCOTTISH & BRITISH FOODS
CHILDREN'S EVENTS
CELTIC VENDORS

EARLY BIRD TICKETS \$15 ONLINE AT SNAPDTIX & AT NESSIE'S GIFTS & BRITISH FARE UNTIL JUNE 9TH
\$20 Admission at the Gates • 12 and under Free

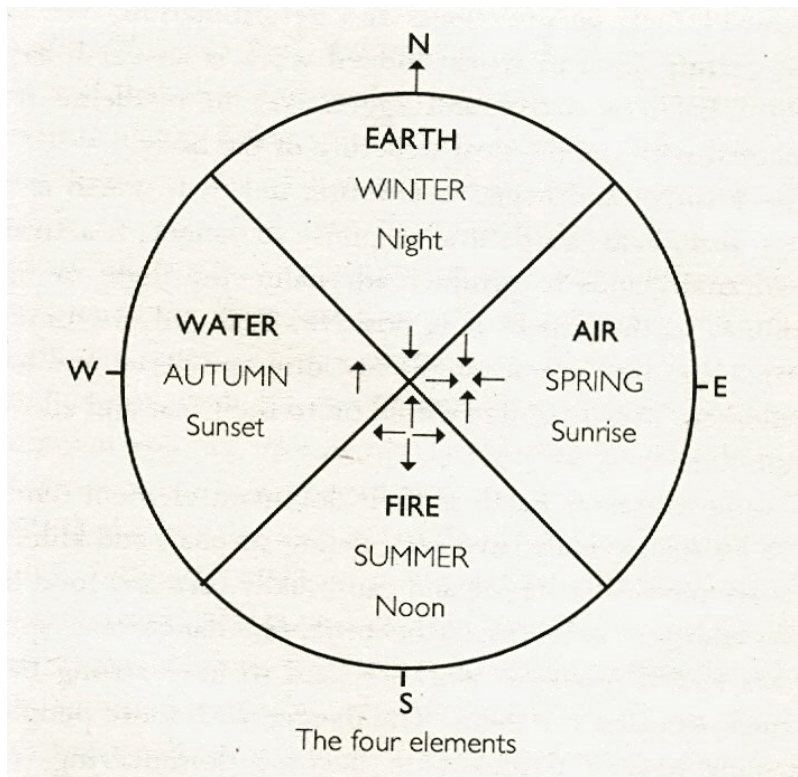
FRIDAY NIGHT FREE **COBOURG LEGION PIPES & DRUMS**
BUSKER BROTHERS & MADMAN'S WINDOW
IHGF STONES OF STRENGTH COMPETITION

SATURDAY NIGHT FREE **MADMAN'S WINDOW,**
ERIN'S MARLORE & SCREECHED INN



www.cobourghighlandgames.ca • info@cobourghighlandgames

The Celtic Elements - Summer

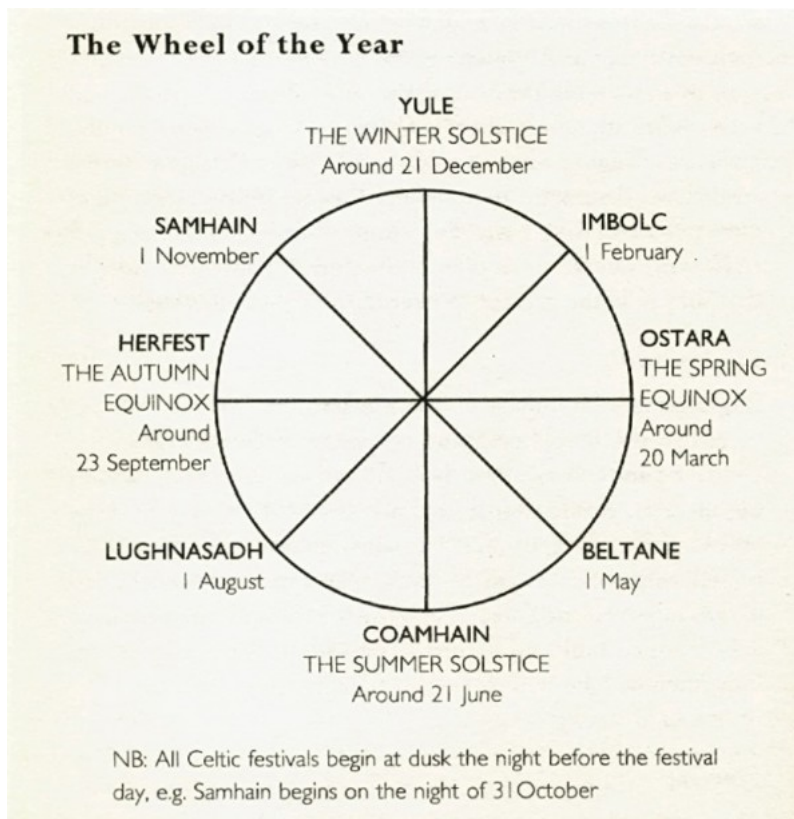


The Four Elements

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

Summer - South - Fire

The south is the place of summer in the cycle of a year, the time of heat and high activity when the sun is at its most powerful. When the sun is strong, everything in nature is expressive. Even humans feel more energized when the sun shines. The power of the South is the power of Fire. The energy of fire is outward, expressive. It is the place of free expression and destiny. Fire is energy and connected to the self. Fire is also connected to the right-hand side of the brain, the intuitive side. Intuition comes from making an outward connection to your higher self. To work intuitively, you have to make the connection, you have to put out your energy to connect with your higher self. This is the power of Fire.



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.

Combla Rí Cheile

Together with Accord



The St. Andrew's Society is proud to support the Toronto stop of Skerryvore's 2019 North American Tour. The band was founded on the remote Isle of Tiree and features eight members who combine to create a unique fusion of folk, trad, rock and Americana. Skerryvore are two-time winners of Scotland's Traditional Music 'Live Act of the Year' Award and will be at Hugh's Room Live on Friday, July 5. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets. Check out the promo video below for more about the band.



Skerryvore Promo



Clan Bell North America

We celebrate an important mile-stone issuing our 2,000th membership number, including 95 lifetime members. Each new person is given a unique number when they join, so this represents all people who either were or are now members of Clan Bell organizations. Thanks for your help as we grow Clan Bell. Adding new members or upgrading to a lifetime membership is now even easier with the online membership form at <http://clanbell.org/membership.html>.

The effort to have a chief for Clan Bell is about to take a major step forward with the selection of a commander at the Bell Family Convention at the Greens at Gretna in Gretna, Scotland on June 15-16. Plans for our con-vention are coming together nicely under the leadership of Robert Bell.

There will be presentations by commander candidates, on the border reivers, some historical information about the Bell family, and a trip to Carlisle Castle where Bells helped rescue Kin-mont Willie. Many Bells around the world should be able to watch video from the meeting sessions on Facebook Live, YouTube or other videoconfer-ence systems. Watch the www.ClanBell.org home page for links to live or recorded video from the convention and for test broadcasts around June 14.

Here is a quick review of the pro-cess for the Lyon to approve a clan chief:

The process to confirm a chief by genealogy when proven descend-ants of a clan chief are alive is to have the descendants petition the Lyon to matriculate the arms of the chief to the senior de-scendant. If the evidence is strong enough, the senior de-scendant will be confirmed as chief by the Lyon. It has been extremely difficult for Clan Bell to establish a senior claimant with missing records and the many generations since the death of William Redcloak Bell in 1628.

If no evidenced bloodline exists for a chief, the Lyon may approve a Derbfine/gathering held in Scotland and supervised by the Lyon Court. The request by the current Lyon for Clan Bell to hold a convention indicates that the lack of a petition for chief of Clan Bell since efforts started in the 1980s has likely been taken as evidence there may not be a clear bloodline.

This gathering allows the clan themselves to pick a commander for a period of years designated by the Lyon Court. A commander is chosen, either by unanimous vote or by a large majority vote, of the people in attendance.

When communication was by letters sent on ships, the desig-nated period for a commander was 20 years. More recently the designated period has been 5 to 10 years. During this period, the commander is to help seek out and encourage potential clan chief candidates to prepare their documented genealogy and to submit their petition to the Lyon.

After the Derbfine, and only if no other better placed candidate comes forward in the set time frame, the commander becomes the head of the clan and is made chief.

These are exciting times for Clan Bell as we make progress toward having a commander and, eventually, a clan chief.

Sláinte,
Joseph Lewis Bell



Caledonia Celtic Festival

 <p>Cend Mile Fáilte 2019 Fri June 21st 5-11 pm Sat June 22nd 8 am-8 pm Caledonia Fairgrounds, Ont.</p> <p>Join us beside the scenic Grand River for our family friendly festival. Artisans, Celtic entertainment, pipes & drums, heavy events & dancers. Discover your Celtic roots by visiting our clan & heritage tents & trace your family heritage. Share a sláinte! with friends at our Celtic pub tent and satisfy your cravings at one of our food vendors.</p> <p>https://www.caledoniacelestialfestival.com https://www.facebook.com/caledoniacelestialfestival</p>	<p>We are looking for businesses, organizations & individuals who would like to take part in our "not for profit" festival in the following areas:</p> <p>Sponsors, Volunteers, Vendors, Clan & Heritage Groups</p> <p>info@caledoniacelestialfestival.com Phone: 905-719-5541</p>
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Clan Carruthers Society International (Canada)

Update on the Carruthers Petitions to have a Chief confirmed through the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh, Scotland:

Being involved with Clan and Family Societies, you will fully appreciate the delicacy of the arduous task of due process through the Lyon Court and the need to ensure that all the t's are crossed, the i's dotted and all the claims evidenced. We are getting there based simply on the tenacity of our members and the solid support from the other clans and families who support our cause.

As stated in previous reports, based on the advice we received from the beginning; in order to gain legal recognition and respect, we had to follow the rules and requirements set by the Court of the Lord Lyon. It has taken us over 12 years to get to this point, which is less than Clan Buchanan and around the same length of time as the Border Reiver Clan of Irving of Bonshaw, both, who in a similar vein to others including Bruce, have stood with us. The last hearing for Carruthers was March 18th 2019 and our Convenor attended as an observer.

At the hearing, Holmains complied fully with the Lyons requests from the previous hearing in October 2018 and was represented by the Senior Herald in the Court of the Lyon; Rothesay Herald, Sir Crispin Agnew QC, Chief of Clan Agnew a legal expert in clan and heraldic law. A full set of genealogical proofs were presented going back to the 1500's and beyond, along with supporting documentation. The legal bundle consisted of quite a few hundred pages. Some of the proofs had never been seen before, as they belonged to the Holmains line and I believe they were quite exciting pieces of information. Dormont, sadly did not wish to attend to fight his case. Dormont is of the male line through a cadet branch and Holmains is off the female line of the chiefly line. Scottish law allows for patrilineal descent being based on the strength of the presented genealogy and any other documentation.

After the hearing was complete, the Lyon informed us that he would review all the information to include the new submissions and deliberate. We should have a decision by the end of May at the latest. Unlike Clan Bell who will hold a gathering and Derbhfine near Gretna Green in Scotland in 2019, to elect a commander, again supervised by the Lord Lyon, we did not have that choice as Carruthers have genealogically proven seniors of the Chiefly line still alive.

Once a Commander is chosen, they remain in place as a Commander not a chief. This remains until the time frame, set by the Lyon Court, has been completed. The time frame is set to allow others to come forward to challenge if they feel they have the right or

is set to allow others to come forward to challenge if they feel they have the right of support. Once this has ended, a commander would be named Chief of the Name and only then could they appoint chieftains of the clan.

However and to finish this report, one piece of good news. Another of our family has petitioned for Carruthers arms to the Lyon Court. I am led believe that the petition is solid and will hopefully be accepted for matriculation from earlier Arms. This has nothing to do with the process to have a chief confirmed, but, if granted, will add to the armorial bearings of Carruthers. Armigers, as you are aware, strengthen the structure of a clan and family and add to their visual history.

To summarise, we feel that we are making in-roads and God willing, albeit a long time coming, we will have some news before the summer. All good things come to those who wait. Promptus et Fidelis.

Yours sincerely

Graham Carruthers
Executive Secretary
Clan Carruthers Society International



Cobourg Highland Games Society

We would like to extend a warm invitation (Blàth Cuireadh) to your Clan to share pride in your Heritage at the 56th Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games on June 14th and 15th 2019.

The Games will again be held at Victoria Park Cobourg, a lovely setting against the backdrop of the Beach on Lake Ontario. Updates regarding activities on the Friday Night June 14th, (and the Ceilidh), can be found on our Facebook page, and main Website.

Clan tents will be in the same prime location as last year, adjacent to the main Games entrance on Queen Street. Your valued feedback enables us to continue to improve your

entrance on Queen Street. Your valued feedback enables us to continue to improve your experience, and the visibility of vital Clan Heritage, at our Games.

I will be dedicated to assist in meeting your needs from 4:30 on Friday for set-up, and all-day Saturday, and will have complimentary iced water and shortbread for you on Saturday.

To Register please complete the Form on the Website at

<http://www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/>

If you have any questions, please contact me tmyles@ewinggroup.com

or, evenings only, 289 677 8507

Sincerely, Terry Myles
Clans Representative
Cobourg Highland Games Society



Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games



To whom it may concern, greeting,
The Festival celtique de Québec cordially invite you to represent your clan on the 14th edition of Festival celtique de Québec.
The festival is held from September 6th to September 8th, 2019.
The clan presence is kindly requested on September 7th and 8th.
If you intend to come, please, feel free to fill included form.
The festival take place on the ground of Domaine Maizeret.
www.domainemaizerets.com
For more information on Festival, please visit :
www.festivalceltique.com
Many thanks for any reply.
Your host, Patrice L. MacLeod
Québec Clan MacLeod

À ceux que la présente concerne, salut,
Le Festival celtique de Québec vous invite cordialement à représenter votre clan lors de la 14ième édition du Festival celtique de Québec.
Le festival se tiendra du 6 au 8 septembre 2019.
La présence des clans est requise le 7 et 8 septembre.
S'il est dans vos intensions de participer, prière de remplir le formulaire inclus.
Le festival prendra place sur le terrain du Domaine Maizeret.
www.domainemaizerets.com
Pour plus d'information sur le festival, merci de visiter :
www.festivalceltique.com
Merci pour toute réponse.
Votre hôte, Patrice L. MacLeod
Clan MacLeod du Québec



Clan Gregor Society of Canada

Clan Gregor Canada has had a wondrous year that has, as all good times seem to, flown by way too fast. It seems only a night's dream ago that the Clan Gregor Society International Gathering 2018 occurred. From staying in the Victorian railway hotel overlooking Loch Awe, to visits to castles and museums, boat trips, and finally to the

wonderful Lochearnhead Highland Games; it was a trip of a lifetime made even more marvelous with the visits to Aberfeldy distillery and an elegant dinner at Castle Menzies.

The Canadian Gregors were well represented and we are definitely looking forward to the next gathering in 2022 which begins at the Royal Mile (Edinburgh).



L to R Wayne Parker, Sandy MacAdam, Tom Kerr, Sharon Kerr, Michelle MacAdam, Vina Parker, Frances Ferguson, Dan Greer, Elizabeth MacDonald, William Petrie, Sylvie Thériault, Front row Melba Clark and June Jain

The gathering provided the catalyst for bringing on board editors, William and Sylvie, for our society's newsletter and William as a new council member.

Although it is in its infancy, we invite everyone to visit our online version of the latest newsletter at <http://www.mapleleafmacgregor.ca>.

During the past year we were also pleased to award the Clan Gregor Society Canada Scholarship Award to Madison Westcott, a member of the Rob Roy Pipe Band and Highland Dancers.





Meredith Westcott, Madison Westcott and Wayne MacGregor Parker (Clan Gregor Canada Chair)

Upcoming dates for Clan Gregor representations are:

June 21 – 23: Two delegates from Clan Gregor Society of Canada will be assisting the representation of Clan Gregor at the Ohio Scottish Games in Wellington, Ohio.

August 2 – 3: Glengarry Highland Games

August 4 (Tentative): Montreal Highland Games

August 9 – 10: Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

September 8: Trenton Scottish Irish Festival



We want you to be part of our 20th Anniversary celebration taking place July 5th, 6th, and 7th! We know that you have wonderful stories to tell that take our patrons on fascinating journeys of history and cultural heritage – conversations that help folk have a richer, deeper connection to their roots when they take the time out of the bustle of the surrounding Festival. Clan Avenue is featured on Saturday July 6th, and does include a Clan Parade. Please do consider bringing your wealth of knowledge to our event to share with visitors and competitors from all over Ontario and the Midwestern United States.

As a member of CASSOC, you are invited to display your Clan pride and history on Clan Avenue on Saturday, July 6th. Furthermore, we invite you to take part in the Clan Parade down the main street of Kincardine. We will have an Honour Guard leading the Clans followed by as many Pipe Bands as are available. It's truly stirring to hear the sound of as many as 34 Pipe Bands to conclude the Clan Parade.

Saturday's competitions will continue to have pride of place with Pipe Band, Highland Dance, and Heavy Athletics events, an expanded Bairns' (children's) program (such as the no-ice curling rink), Vendors and Clan representation, the Hospitality Tent, and of course, parades. In addition, this year's entertainment lineup focuses on past favourites such as the Barra MacNeils and Madison Violet.

Sunday will be Family Day with another live Celtic concert, displays, and demonstrations including the Bairns' program and much more.

Please do join us for a very special weekend in this lakeside town that boasts of being more Scottish than Scotland. We would love to reserve a special place for your Clan on Clan Avenue right in the thick of things. To reserve your space, please fill in and return the attached form.

Georges Kovari
Clans Team Lead
Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games





Clan Leslie Society International

TRULY INTERNATIONAL

Recently it was noted that the Clan Leslie Society International, which started out as the American Clan Leslie Society, was 40 years old. So what is International about it now? Granted that the majority of its members are from the US and Canada but we have members from 7 other nations including Scotland, Australia, Finland, Latvia, France, Turkey and Slovakia. All members worldwide have access to the online Grip Fast publication as well as our web site and the CLSI Facebook. We also would welcome articles for the Grip Fast Journal from our international members to share their family histories or interesting family related experiences.

Congratulations to Laura Messing and Dane Gay who were elected unopposed as Vice Chieftain and Secretary/Registrar respectively. As a result of Dane's new title he automatically as an officer of CLSI is a member of the Council. That meant his unexpired term as a Council member at large needed to be filled. I'm pleased to report that Jordan Hinckley has agreed to serve on the Council. Jordan is the Convenor for the Mountain Region and recently hosted the 2018 CLSI Gathering in Salt Lake City.

The Council is aware that the membership would like to hear about it's proceedings or significant actions that it has taken which would be of interest. Therefore I will attempt in my reports to include news from the Council. For example we are looking into expanding the Huxtable and Kleiforth Scholarships both as to the amount of the stipend but also their expansion to on line academic as well Scottish History, Arts and Music studies. Recently the Committee recommended the awarding of two Kleiforth scholarships to piping students sponsored by our CLSI piper and Council member Gale Walker.

In addition our former CLSI Secretary, Christine Johnson, will now be able to concentrate on her role as Genealogist offering her services to CLSI members wishing to further their knowledge of their family heritage. She also will be contributing articles periodically to the Grip Fast Journal informing of various resources that could be accessed for individual research.

And last but importantly I want to remind the members of the 2020 CLSI Gathering in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in conjunction with a larger Leslie Clan Gathering and the Aboyne Highland Games July 30 - August 2, 2020. I hope some of our international members would be able to attend. There will be much more in future Grip Fast Journals.

Yours Aye,
Loren Leslie M.D.



Macfie Clan Society in Canada

We are looking for an Editor for our clan newspaper called, "The Torch" to help and gather articles to publish two or three times a year. If you know of anyone, please let me know. Memberships remains the same sitting between 60 & 70 members.

We have encouraging news from our Clan Commander, Iain MacFie in Scotland. These past two years he is recovering from a serious of neck operations that has left him still in a wheel chair with not very good mobility. His therapy sessions are going well and there seems to be very good improvement with him standing and making slow progress. We wish him continued support during these next few months of therapy sessions.

The Thorburn-Macfie Family Society is hosting a reunion this summer, it takes place in Gustafsberg, Sweden from July 5-7, 2019. This is there 28th family reunion, as it takes place every three years. It is a wonderful opportunity for all Macfie's to come and spend a few days in Sweden during the summer and celebrate our proud heritage. For more information please contact Christer Hemberg at: christer.hemberg@thorburn-macfie.se





Clan MacLeod Society

Greetings Clansfolk,

I extend warm wishes to all as we move (finally) into some warmer weather (I hope I didn't just jinx that!). It was a tough winter with a full complement of snow and ice. This is the first winter for my family living in Caledon and as my children are bused to school, the weather had a huge impact on everyone. They had almost 2 weeks off with all of the "snow days" this season. Even the Toronto District School Board was shut down for a day, a minor miracle.

It was nice to see many of you at our last ceilidh in the fall. For 2019, the executive is in the process of planning a special fall event at a new location. With this in mind, we have decided to postpone our annual spring ceilidh. We are planning on an October ceilidh and there will be a newsletter out to you in August, once all of the details have been finalized.

In the meantime, we would like to invite you all to a more informal gathering at the Orillia Scottish Festival on Saturday July 20th. Situated on Lake Couchiching (at Couchiching Beach Park), the festival is full of events and vendors and admission is free. Bring a camp chair and some lunch and join Cathie at our clan tent to enjoy the music and view on a warm summer weekend.

Clan MacLeod will have a presence at several other Highland Games over the summer, including the new Caledonia Celtic Festival on Saturday June 22. Please see the newsletter for where we are planning a tent and feel free to stop by if you are at one of these events. You are always welcome to drop by our tent and sit in the shade for a while. Cathy and our volunteers would appreciate your company.

Hold Fast,
Karen Macleod McCrimmon



Clan MacRae Society of Canada

May 2-5, 2019 Clan MacRae of Canada gathering Nanaimo BC

We were delighted to welcome members of the clan to our home. our city and our island

for the annual gathering. We began on the Thursday evening with about 20 people who enjoyed seeing all our rhododendrons which were mainly in full bloom for the occasion. The evening continued with wine, punch, some food offerings and lots of mingling with friends old and new. Allen had prepared some pictures and information related to **Colonel George McCrae , DSO, MID** who organized a battalion of young Scottish men to fight in France during the 1st world war. There is a monument in Contalmaison today to Sir George and these men. To our delight, his great granddaughter **Lorna McRae**, who lives in Nanaimo, joined us for the evening. To everyone's surprise, we had an unexpected visitor in the person of piper Rene Cusson who came to welcome our guests with his music.



Friday began early with our day trip to some places on the island near to Nanaimo. We first stopped at Englishman River Falls which gave us a fairly impressive waterfall show and a chance for a short hike in the provincial park by the same name. We carried on a short distance and stopped to enjoy the rather eclectic area known as Coombs. There was a bit of time to wander around and grab coffees and enjoy the huge indoor and outdoor markets. Then we were able to see that the “goats on the roof” [of the market building] is back in operation for the Spring+ Summer season once again. Continuing along, our next stop was Cathedral Grove near Port Alberni B.C. where we took the short trail loop through some 800 year old trees [Owen McRae took some pictures of our group]. Now was time for lunch, so we journeyed through Qualicum B.C. and stopped at the famous **Milner Gardens** . This wonderful treasure, a woodland and garden property with Royal connections, is now owned and operated by Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. We were graciously welcomed to the cottage by Geoff Ball the Executive Director of the facility. We had a room to ourselves to enjoy a simple but delightful lunch served by volunteers. The last brief stop was Eaglecrest Golf Course where we saw pictures of what was once **Senator Major-General Alexander Duncan McRae, C.B.’s** summer home before its destruction by fire some years ago.

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When we returned to Nanaimo, we had a brief respite before gathering at the Protection Island ferry, to ride to the floating pub known as the “Dinghy Dock” It was a gorgeous evening and many of us sat on the outdoor patio to enjoy the sunset and the view back towards Nanaimo’s harbour.

Saturday. This was the AGM day and the executive as usual met early for a pre-meeting. This took place at the Coast Bastion Hotel whose staff brought up food and beverage for our lunch at the close of the meetings. In the evening, people arriving at the St. Paul’s Anglican Church hall were once again met by Rene who piped a welcome and probably startled a few passersby as well. Our dinner was a delicious catered buffet of steelhead, beef tenderloin, fresh salad and vegetables followed by a delicious carrot cake beautifully decorated by our caterer. After dinner, we were entertained by eight people from the Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers group. They danced several pieces, then invited some of us to join them and they taught us a couple of the simpler routines All in all a nice evening and we do hope everyone enjoyed. Allen and I were pleased to have our brother Ian McRae and our nephew Dillon McRae and wife Gillian from Comox, B.C. join us for that event.

Sunday, as is the tradition at our gatherings, some of us joined the congregation of St. Paul’s Church for the 10:30 service. As we stood waiting for all to gather, we were joined by 2 women –one we recognized immediately. It was Elizabeth May visiting Nanaimo no doubt just before the May 6th by-election. As it happened, Owen had his camera with him. During the service, Owen read the second bible reading of the day – a passage from Revelations.





Our group was a small one this year but I believe that we all made up for its size by enthusiasm. It was our pleasure to welcome the Clan gathering of 2019 in Nanaimo B.C. Gaylle & Allen McRae



Clan Munro Association of Canada

Come, join in the gathering of the Clan Munro USA and Canada at Foulis Castle (historic seat of the chiefs of the Clan Munro from at least 1154), Eilean (pronounced "Illyun") Donan Castle, Castle Leod, Strathpeffer Pavilion, and more. You will have the opportunity to meet our Chief, Hector W. Munro, and his family, whom you will find to be warm and gracious hosts. Chief Hector has arranged a variety of activities during the gathering on 9, 10 and 11 August 2019. This gathering is occurring in a historic year for Scotland. 2019 is the 300th year anniversary of the unsung, but highly significant Battle of Glen Shiel on 18 June 1719. In addition, it is a homecoming year for all Munros in the worldwide diaspora who are invited to visit Scotland and discover, or reconnect with, their rich Scottish heritage.



Clan Sinclair Association of Canada

Well it's now that time of year - SPRING ! And if the Irish had not thought of it before us, we could have marketed our own soap, Scottish Spring !! Your executive has been hard at work finishing the plans for our Gathering in Winnipeg in June. I want to specifically recognize the efforts of Luke Settee, our man on the ground in Manitoba and our Secretary, George Sinclair, for their efforts in organizing this. Without them this historic gathering would not be happening. Time is getting short so if you have not registered yet please do so asap. Contact our Secretary, George Sinclair. This July there will a celebration to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Kings United Church on Loch Katrine in Argyle, Nova Scotia Last month the NS Clan executive met to finalize plans to create a special plaque to hang in the church to honour the contributions of the Sinclair

brothers, Harold, Bill and Jack to the Loch Katrine church and the community . The special plaque has been designed by our Vice-president, Scott Sinclair. If you are interested in knowing more about the festivities that are planned for that weekend please get in touch with our NS Clan Society president, Jennifer Sinclair.

One of the aspects of our clan is the opportunity to learn about our ancient history eg Girnigoe , Roslin, and Prince Henry. In that vein Clan VP Scott Sinclair took me out to to inspect a site in Halifax recently called the “ Mystery Walls”. It is designated a “Special Place “ by the Government of Nova Scotia. Scott’s dad, Bill, often talked about this site. The wall and a nearby foundation appear to be constructed in the same manner used by Celtic peoples. It is very old so was it built by ancient Norse, escapees from the British Garrison in Halifax or even Prince Henry Sinclair? no one can say for sure ... hence the description “Mystery Walls”!!



Lisa, Abigail and I along with other clan members attended Rev Malcolm Sinclair's last official Sunday sermon at Metropolitan United In January. It was a full house and a testament to how much Malcolm has meant to the congregation for his years of service. They were very fortunate to have a person of Malcolm's ability, devotion and quality of character to minister to them over the years. On behalf of the Clan we wish Malcolm and Elspeth the best on this next chapter in their lives. Congratulations Malcolm !The Ontario members had a gathering on Sunday March 31 at Harbord House in Toronto. Unfortunately, I could not make it there this year but I understand that it was a successful event as always.

CSAC Vice President Scott also gave an excellent 15 minute presentation on Prince

CSAC VICE PRESIDENT, Scott also gave an excellent 45 minute presentation on Prince Henry Sinclair at the Federation of Scottish Clans in Halifax on Tartan Day. He spoke about Henry's lineage, childhood and the story of his voyage to Nova Scotia in 1398. It was very well received by all those in attendance.

In addition to the work George S. has done on planning for the June gathering in Winnipeg, I also want to recognize his efforts in increasing our clan membership. Outstanding work, George! Also, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the on-going work of others on behalf of the Clan. My aunt Joan Sinclair from Stanley Bridge, PEI has volunteered to help Toni produce "Roslin O' Roslin". Joan has many years experience in book publishing and will be a great help to Toni. Welcome Joan!

I should also mention the ongoing work that Wanda Sinclair does for our members in the area of genealogy. This is an area that is of increasing interest to our members. And I also want to thank Greg Morandi for the work he has done to revise our website. Well done all !There are gatherings planned for 2020 in Caithness and 2021 in Melbourne, Australia. The Caithness event is being organized by John Thurso and will take place July 24-28th. If you are interested in going please get in touch with George or myself for further details. The Australian event is tentatively scheduled for late March 2021. Their President Wayne Sinclair will be organizing this and will forward details as they become available. It would be helpful for Wayne to know "tentative" numbers of those interested in attending ..so if you think you may want to be in "OZ" in March 2021, please let me know. We are really looking forward to seeing many of you in Winnipeg in June. It will be an important gathering for the clan as an organization as it will be for the Sinclair's of Manitoba and western Canada. Our Clan chief, the Rt Honourable Malcolm Sinclair, the Earl of Caithness will be in attendance. Dr. Niigaan Sinclair is the department head of indigenous studies at the University of Manitoba as well as a regular columnist for the Winnipeg Free Press . He will be giving the keynote address on Saturday night. Niigaan is the son of Senator Murray Sinclair (Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission). Our very own Abigail will be singing the national anthem that evening along with some traditional Gaelic songs .

Yours, aye
Roger





Shetland - Lonely Planet's Best in Europe 2019

As provided by the Association of Highland Clans and Societies

From the Event Scotland Website

www.eventscotland.org/funding/scottish-clan-event-fund/

"With up to 50 million people globally claiming Scottish ancestry, and many more with a strong connection to our country, the market for ancestral tourism in Scotland is considerable and creates opportunities for communities to benefit."

Through the Scottish Clan Event Fund, EventScotland is pleased to support clans, family associations and organisations holding events which celebrate Scotland's ancestral history. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the globe choose to visit Scotland to explore their ancestry and the homelands of their ancestors and The Scottish Clan Event Fund directly supports such activity.

In response to a request from the Highland Clans Partnership Group, The Scottish Clan Event Fund was launched in 2014 by the Scottish Government in recognition of the importance of clan tourism to the Scottish Economy. Since its inception the fund has supported over fifty events which have welcomed tens of thousands of visitors across Scotland. The fund provides support to clans, clan societies and other eligible organisations by supporting the growth and development of their events.

It's a busy year ahead for the clans with 14 events taking place across 9 local authorities inviting visitors from across Scotland and beyond to celebrate Scotland's clan histories and to connect with their ancestral roots. A total of 14 clan events are being supported through the fund in 2019.



Events to be supported by grants from the SCEF in 2018

Event Name - Areas Involved - Dates

Hawick Reivers Festival - Borders - 22/03/2019 - 24/03/2019

Clan MacRae International Gathering - Edinburgh/Highlands/Stirling - 08/05/2019 - 12/05/2019

Clan Paisley Society Spring & Summer Gathering - Argyll/Falkirk/Renfrew/Stirling - 19/05/2019 – 08/06/2019

Clan Donald Gaelic Arts Week - Highlands - 01/06/2019 - 09/06/2019

Tricentenary Commemoration of the Battle of Glenshiel - Highlands - 07/06/2019 - 10/06/2019

Clan Urquhart International Gathering - Highlands - 20/06/2019 -25/06/2019

Clan Colquhoun International Gathering - Argyll and Bute - 03/07/2019 - 07/07/2010

Tour of the Innes Land 2019 - Moray - 25/07/2019 – 30/07/2019

The International Clan MacDougall Gathering 2019 - Argyll - 30/07/2019 - 04/08/2019

Tartan on the Green - Aberdeenshire - 06/08/2019 - 06/08/2019

International Clan Munro Gathering 2019 - Highlands - 09/08/2019 - 11/08/2019

Clan Ewing Gathering 2019 - Argyll and Bute - 29/08/2019 – 31/08/2019

Clan MacAulay International Gathering 2019 - Highlands - 05/09/2019 - 08/09/2019

Clan Stewart Gathering 2019 - Moray - 06/09/2019 -09/09/2019

Battle of Glenshiel remnants discovered after 300 years - BBC News



Please click on the image to be directed to the news article on BBC News





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

Help Wanted!

CASSOC needs help!
We need volunteers NOW for:

Directors-at-Large

For information contact

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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 September issue.

The deadline for submissions is Sunday, September 8th.

Submissions can be emailed to editor@cassoc.ca

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