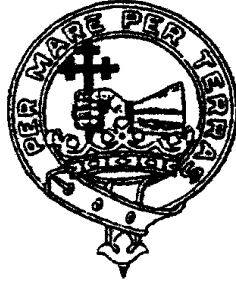


CLAN DONALD NOVA SCOTIA

Fall/Winter 2011



"Ni h-eibhneas gan Chlainn Domhnaill
(It is no joy without Clan Donald)



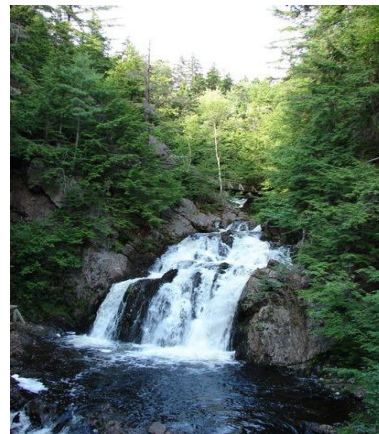
Clan Donald Nova Scotia to Host 2012 AGM

Clan Donald Nova Scotia will host the **Clan Donald Canada AGM in Truro, Nova Scotia on the weekend of September 14th and 15th, 2012.** A committee, made up of representatives from all CDNS branches, has been selected to organize the event. Although there is no Clan Donald Branch in Truro, it is a central location easily accessible for all provincial branch members as well as members and guests coming from outside the province. And, what better venue to choose than a Best Western Hotel named **The Glengarry** with meeting and banquet space called The MacDonald Rooms! Your registration form will be available on the Clan Donald Canada website and in the upcoming **Clan Donald Canada Newsletter.**

Truro – Hub of Nova Scotia

The Town of Truro is a community of approximately 12,500 people located in central Nova Scotia. Truro is known as the “Hub of Nova Scotia”, because of its geographical position and historical significance. In the mid 19th century Truro had become a manufacturing centre and – thanks in large part to the railroad facilities - a natural distribution centre for the province; thereby earning the Town of Truro the nickname, “Hubtown.” And today, with all major highways intersecting through Truro, the town truly is the Hub of Nova Scotia! (*Town of Truro website*)

Truro is home to Stanfield’s (the underwear company). Robert L. Stanfield, former premier of Nova Scotia and leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party of Canada was born here.



Waddell Falls, Victoria Park

Victoria Park, 1000 acres of wooded park in the centre of town offers walking trails, picnic grounds, swimming pool, gorges, a 175 step Jacob’s Ladder, and two waterfalls.

For more than 100 years, the streets of Truro were adorned with beautiful large elm trees. When they were attacked by the Dutch elm disease over thirty years ago, a plan was put in place to create **sculptures** from what was left of the trees. More than forty sculptures were created depicting prominent and well-respected people from the community.

In the neighbouring community of Bible Hill, the **Nova Scotia Agricultural College** dating to 1885 is the only educational facility of its kind in Atlantic Canada. Bible Hill is also home to the **Truro Raceway**, site of Canada’s fastest half-mile harness racing track.

Awards Banquet, July 23, 2011
 Arisaig Community Centre ...

Achievement Award: Recipient of this year's Achievement Award was Cape Breton's master fiddler, Hugh Allan "Buddy" MacMaster. Due to poor health, Buddy was unable to attend the banquet. Accepting the award on his behalf was his son, Allan MacMaster, MLA for Inverness (shown below). The award was presented by Nova Scotia Commissioner and family friend, Dennis MacDonald. All of Buddy's siblings (also shown below) were in attendance. Music for the evening was provided by his sister, Betty, and her husband, Kinnon Beaton. As well, we were pleased to have Buddy's daughter, Mary Elizabeth, offer several selections on the fiddle.



There were two inductions into the
Hall of Honour ...

Dr. Garfield MacDonald (1881-1951), Nova Scotia's first Olympic Medalist (London, 1908).

A. A. 'Tony' MacKenzie (1926-2004) of Egerton, Pictou County -- author, historian, and St. Francis Xavier University professor.

Judge Clyde Macdonald presented the citation for Garfield MacDonald and grand-nephew, John "Spyder" Macdonald gave the response. Tony MacKenzie's close friend and neighbour, Sally Fraser, of Merigomish, responded to the citation given by Wade MacDonald.



**John
 'Spyder'
 Macdonald
 and Judge
 Clyde
 Macdonald**



Wade MacDonald and Sally Fraser

(above photos by Steve Goodwin, The Pictou Advocate)

'The Widow of Glencoe'

by William Edmondstone Aytoun

'Do not lift him from the bracken
leave him lying where he fell
better bier you cannot fashion
none beseems him half as well
as the bare and broken heather
and the hard and trampled sod,
whence his angry soul ascended
to the judgment seat of God.

Winding sheet we cannot give him
seek no mantle for the dead,
save the cold and spotless covering
showered from heaven upon his head
leave his broadsword as we found it,
bent and broken with the blow,
which, before he died, avenged him
on the foremost of the foe.

Leave the blood upon his bosom
wash not off that sacred stain,
let it stiffen on the tartan,
let his wounds unclosed remain,
till the day when he shall show them
at the throne of God on high,
when the murderer and the murdered
meet before their judge's eye.'

(Our thanks to Rob MacDonald Parker for sending us this poem. Rob is the Chamberlain to the High Council of Clan Donald Chiefs.)



Glencoe in the Highlands of Scotland

Antigonish Highland Games 2011

On Saturday, July 9th the rain came down in torrents causing several Highland Games events to be moved from Columbus Field to the Keating Centre at St. F.X. University. However, the Clan Tents, and Heavyweight Competitors among others remained on the field withstanding a steady downpour throughout the day. Needless to say, attendance was down and very few visitors stopped by the various Clan tables and exhibits.



Pictured above (soaking wet!) from left to right: Wade MacDonald of Clan Donald Halifax Region, The Hon. Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and MP for Central Nova, Dennis MacDonald, Clan Donald Nova Scotia Commissioner, and Ronald A. MacDonald of Antigonish.

Remembrance Ceilidh

The First United Baptist Church in New Glasgow was the setting for the Pictou County branch's annual November Remembrance Ceilidh. The guest speaker was Bob McRae, a second world war veteran, who gave a most interesting talk on some of the places he had been and the visits back to Holland for the 'thank you' celebrations. Music was provided by the Pictou County Fiddlers, and Burns and Woody MacDonald on the piano. The evening ended with refreshments and a singsong of old war tunes. The admission was a donation for the Food Bank.



(submitted by Pat Christensen)

Family discovers Culloden sword



A sword from the Battle of Culloden hung above the fire place in the Grant's family farm house following its discovery in the 1960s. The family delayed revealing the discovery for security reasons.

It was a weapon used in a famous battle and hidden for almost two centuries.

The Grant family, formerly of Heatherton, has in its possession one of the famous hidden swords from the Battle of Culloden.

The battle was the result of a long standing feud between Scottish Highlanders and the British government and is considered, by world historians, one of the bloodiest of all time.

Losses were especially great for the already weakened and under-supplied Highlanders who lost an estimated 2,000 men to only around 50 for the British side.

The sword has been authenticated by an Ottawa-based sword dealer.

Duncan Grant, from his Ottawa area home last week, said while the family found the sword in the family farm house back in the 1960s, they waited

to reveal the discovery of the invaluable sword for "security reasons."

"They (his family) were living out on the farm in Nova Scotia and break-ins could be quite common when people knew something important was in the house," Grant said. "That's why we never talked about it." Family knew about it and some close neighbours but that was about it, he said.

He said the timing now, in revealing its existence, is because family members are getting up in age and would like to see the discovery publicized.

It was Grant who took it to the dealer in Ottawa who matched it up against the few other known Culloden swords in existence today.

The details of how and where it was found corresponded with other discovery stories and the dealer, by using a magnifying glass, also discovered a small serial number on the handle which further authenticated the sword.

Grant said, growing up, the notion that the sword could be in the farmhouse was like a family myth and, on rainy days, it became a game to search the house for the treasure.

It was found by Duncan's brother Benny as he was doing some renovations in the old farm house while building a new home on the property.

Taking down boards to create more storage space in the old house, Benny discovered a three-foot long box which contained the sword near the front entrance way.

"When we were growing up on the farm we were always looking for it in the attic, basement, between walls, but we could never find it," Duncan said. "It wasn't until my brother was tearing down the inside wall, sometime in the late 60s and early 70s, that he found the sword in between two joists in the front entrance."

Duncan said, up until that time, no one in his family really believed the sword was in the house.

"Nobody really knew... we thought it was just a fairy tale," he said. "My father never saw the sword, I don't think my grandfather did either. But my mother saw it."

Duncan's sister, Sister Faustina Grant of Antigonish, said she remembers the discovery and the long box being pried open to reveal the sword. She talked about what it means to the family.

"It means an amazing amount to us because all our lives we were looking for the sword and never knew where it was. My father died never seeing it," she said, echoing Duncan's sentiment.

Sister Faustina had the sword in Nova Scotia last

April for the annual Battle of Culloden memorial ceremony which is held at the cairn in the Pioneer Cemetery Knoydart.

There was a follow up reception at the community centre in Lismore and Sister Faustina talked about the excitement around the sword during the day.

“It was amazing the amount of people who wanted to get their hands on it, get their picture taken with it,” she said.

Duncan said considerations to have the sword brought permanently back to Antigonish and displayed have been discussed but not worked out because of security concerns.

He said, for now, it remains safely with his family and at least now, the story is being told and put out on display.

(This article, written by Richard MacKenzie, first appeared in the Antigonish Casket on October 19, 2011. Our thanks to Mary Barry, of the Antigonish Branch of Clan Donald, for submitting it for inclusion in our newsletter.)

McDonalds Return to Sandy Bay

On August 13 and 14, 2011, the 225th anniversary of Alexander McDonald’s settling in Queens County, Nova Scotia was celebrated. Alexander was a member of the 76th Highlanders who, in 1786, was granted 100 acres of land in Port Joli. He later moved, with his family, across the harbour to Sandy Bay. Approximately 140 descendants, from as far away as New York and Alberta, attended the event around the MacDonald house and cemetery which are located in the Thomas Raddall Park. The MacDonald house has belonged to the family for 175 years. Adults and children took part in a scavenger hunt, a sand castle competition, family trivia quizzes, and beach volleyball. Many of the descendants learned a traditional Scottish dance. A piper was on hand over the weekend to entertain with the music the McDonalds brought from Scotland and the band *Low Key* provided great entertainment on Saturday evening. On Sunday, several people did the three-mile walk, each way, to the schoolhouse and return to the MacDonald house. This is the same walk

that the children, who had lived in the old house, would have done many years ago. Florena (MacDonald) Newell, who was born in the house eighty-eight years ago, walked the three miles from the schoolhouse to the house. The weekend gathering was a huge success and the family hopes to meet again in five years.



MacDonald cousins in front of the old homestead

The 76th Regiment of Foot

The 76th (Highland) Regiment was formed in August 1777 and existed from 1777-84. This regiment was raised by Lord Macdonald, in the Highlands and Isles. It was sent to the relief of Jersey when that Island was attacked by the French, and subsequently to New York in August 1779 where it served during the latter part of the campaign in North Carolina down to the surrender at Yorktown. The Macdonald Highlanders were disbanded at Stirling Castle in 1784.

((Halifax Region members, Grace Dwyer and Garfield MacDonald, are descendants of Alexander McDonald. Picture and reunion information submitted by Grace Dwyer.)

Annual Memorial Service at Clan Donald Monument, Pictou

Clan Donald members from throughout the province gathered on Sunday, August 14 for the annual open-air memorial service. CDNS Commissioner, Dennis MacDonald welcomed guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Robert Cruickshank, of Medicine Hat, Alberta. Piper Marjorie Macdonald offered several selections as people gathered and played the lament during the service. As in previous years, Burns MacDonald provided a solo and musical accompaniment to the hymns that were sung. Following the program, a time of fellowship and refreshments was enjoyed.



Theresa Fraser and Anne Henderson chat with Rev. Bob Cruickshank.



Anne MacDonald with her uncle, Burns MacDonald

Winter/Spring Events

ROBBIE BURNS DINNER Wednesday, January 25

Rosie's Restaurant, Kentville, NS
(For details please call Judy Parks of the Annapolis Valley Branch at 902-538-8507)

WINTER CEILIDH

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Clan Donald - Halifax Region
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall
216 School Street, Dartmouth
Admission: Food Bank Donation

GLENCOE SERVICE

February 11, 1:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Glencoe,
Pictou County. Ceilidh to follow in Springville
Community Hall.

TARTAN DAY

Friday, April 6

Be proud of your heritage – wear your
tartan! Because the 6th falls on Good Friday,
most celebrations will be held on

Thursday, April 5

CULLODEN CEREMONY

Tentative Date:

Saturday, April 14, 11:00 a.m.

at Culloden Cairn, Knoydart, Rte. 245, near
Pictou/Antigonish County Border. Lunch and
Ceilidh to follow in Lismore Community Hall.

CLAN DONALD NOVA SCOTIA SPRING MEETING

Saturday, May 12, Noon

Royal Canadian Legion
Main St., Trenton, Pictou County

KIRKIN' OF THE TARTAN

Sunday, June 3, 2:30 p.m.

at Covenant Church, Grand Pre
sponsored by Annapolis Valley Branch

If you have received this newsletter by Canada Post and would prefer an email version (in colour) please contact the editor at wsmacdonald@ns.sympatico.ca



Visit the new Clan Donald Canada website www.clandonaldcanada.ca

Please pay your 2012 Dues in January
Contact your Branch Treasurer for details.

From the Commissioner:



With a population of almost five million, we Scots represent slightly over fifteen percent of the Canadian population. Narrowing percentages down a bit more, we Scots also represent thirty percent of Nova Scotia's population. That makes us the largest ethnic group in our province. As Commissioner of Clan Donald Nova Scotia, I have the privilege of working with talented people who are dedicated to preserving our Scottish heritage. The values in this heritage are many. They include steel-like determination to work hard, to worship God, and to pass our cultural torch to our next generation. To that end, my wife Phyllis and I attended a number of

Scottish cultural events this past year, such as

...

- 1) Tartan Day at the Nova Scotia Legislature which resounded with speeches, highland dancing, bagpipe music and Scottish regimental soldiers who gave us a stirring glimpse of our military past.
- 2) The commemoration, in Knoydart, Pictou County, of the infamous Battle of Culloden - a cornerstone of Scottish grief.
- 3) Clan Donald's Annapolis Valley group again organized a powerful interpretation of the "Kirkin' of the Tartan" at the old Covenanter Church in Grand Pre.
- 4) The annual Pictou County Lobster Supper and Ceilidh in June was well attended and a great success.
- 5) The ever-popular Tartan Day Dinner and Auction co-sponsored by Clan Stewart and the Federation of Scottish Culture was held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in north-end Halifax.
- 6) The annual "Awards Banquet" was held in July at Arisaig, Antigonish County. The Banquet's setting included a lobster supper with music by Kinnon and Betty Beaton. An additional set of Scottish violin tunes were played by the Achievement Award recipient's daughter, Mary Elizabeth. The Achievement Award went to Buddy MacMaster.
- 7) The Antigonish Highland Games struggled through a downpour but the activities for dancers and other indoor numbers were presented at the St. F.X campus.
- 8) We attended the fall meeting of the Federation of Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia where president Tom Wallace was voted "Scot of the Year".

During my final year as Commissioner of CDNS I look forward to working with the generous members of our group.

Phyllis and I want to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2012.

Dennis

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*“Nollaig chridheil
agus
Bliadhna mhath ùr!”*

(Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!)