

A newsletter
by, for &
about
Canadian
Gregors,
their heritage
and their kin.

Maple Leaf MacGregors

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

AUGUST, 2016

Greetings from the Chair

Wayne MacGregor Parker, Chapter Chairman



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Announcing the
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Band Scholarship

The past year has presented us with many potent images of homeless refugees struggling against all odds to get to a new life. They have been forced by the horrors of war and oppression to leave their ravaged homelands behind in order to begin life anew in a strange country. Here in Canada, people from cities and small towns alike have opened their hearts, homes and resources to help these people rebuild. I am proud of Canada's impressive efforts to reach out and provide this humanitarian relief. As Scotland's diaspora we are all descended from immigrants and have debts to repay for the helping hands our ancestors received along the

way to their new life in a new world.

All this has put me in mind of our own Gregor past. Our ancestors were landless, stripped of their rights, stripped of their names, brutally and systematically evicted from their ancestral homelands. Many died in the process but many escaped and



Pipe Major Scott Bell and Chairman Parker
At Kincardine Festival

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Greetings from the Chair (con't)

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found new life in the New World. We, who bear the name MacGregor or one of its many septs and derivatives, are living proof that they successfully escaped the oppression of their homeland and found a new life here in Canada. In pondering this I am struck by the enormous courage and trust this must have taken. Just how terrible must things have been to drive a person from their homeland, family and everything they knew only to face certain privation and uncertainty in an unknown country? Yes, these ancestors of ours had remarkable strength, fortitude and persistence. To flee, seek refuge and resettle against overwhelming adversities took courage, commitment and guts. These are our people. We are their descendants. What we are doing today to lessen the plight of the refugee and immigrant is a reflection on both our forebears and upon ourselves and our modern society. What have we learned?

Turning to the work of your Canadian Chapter over the past six

months I am happy to report that we continue to add new members and to advance the presence and understanding of Gregor heritage whenever an opportunity presents itself. We recently raised the Society banner at the Kincardine Scottish Festival for the first time by manning the Clan Gregor tent and participating in the march and all Clan activities. This is a wonderful little town on the eastern shore of Lake Huron in Ontario with a long and proud Scottish heritage. At the games we consummated a much anticipated scholarship agreement with the Rob Roy Pipe Band as detailed in the article elsewhere in this Newsletter.

And speaking of the Maple Leaf MacGregor, I apologize for the lateness of this issue. Unfortunately our acting-editor, Annie MacGregor Stadden fell and injured both her hands rendering her unable to produce the newsletter scheduled for May. Her recovery is going well. In the meantime I am grateful for a student, Alexander McFayden who has kindly agreed to pull this issue together for me. If anyone would

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Greetings from the Chair (con't)

(Continued from page 2)

like to try their hand at being Editor of the Maple Leaf MacGregor, I would really appreciate hearing from you. We have the template and all you will need is Publisher on your PC to put together the articles and photos collected for the next edition. At two issues a year it's not too onerous a task and maybe even fun. This would most certainly a welcome help to our small but growing Chapter.

Elsewhere you will find a report on our 2015 financial condition as well as a call for elections of Council members. As a volunteer organization we are dependent upon

the participation and involvement of many hands. Please consider serving. You will find it is both an honour and privilege to help keep the flame of Gregor, our ancestors who braved so much to make Canada their home, alive and well in today's world.

I hope to see you at one of the Games this summer. Please do come join us. I enjoy a good chat and would love to learn about your Gregor connection. As always, I am happy to respond by phone or email.

*Le Gach deagh dhurachd
With every good wish.*

Wayne MacGregor Parker,
Chapter Chairman



Founding Member, Jerry Hanson (right) at the Fergus Scottish Games

SONS OF THE WOLF

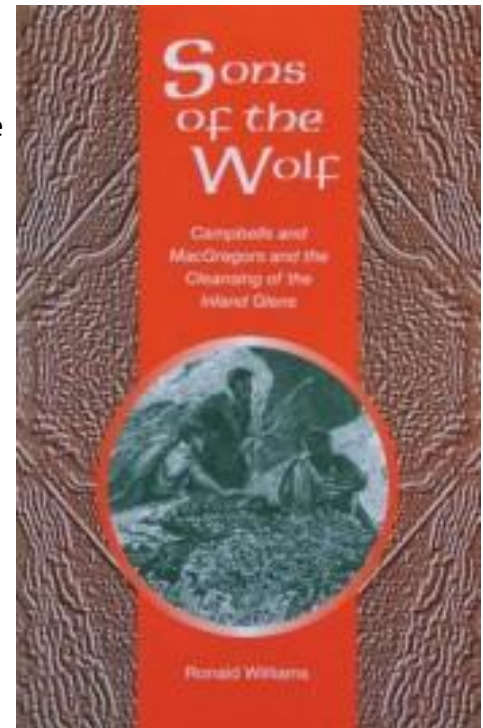
Campbells and MacGregors and the Cleansing of the Inland Glens

Ronald Williams - House of Lochar 1998 - 99 pages

Much has been written about the demise of Clan Gregor in the 14th and 15th centuries and the series of tragedies leading up to the eventual proscription of their very name and the systematic removal of MacGregor from traditional lands. Clan Campbell's role in this is often the source of much disinformation and exaggeration, all too often suffering the embellishment of popular Campbell bashing. Clan Gregor had a role in this demise as well. There are always two sides.

Some time ago a former Chairman, Jean Andleson, advised me to resist the temptation to read a good book on MacGregor history and take it as fact; the way it was. Instead she advised that a clearer picture of history only emerges after one takes a 360 degree view by reading numerous accounts and merging the common points in agreement. This holistic approach to understanding chronology and fact leads to a more rounded and robust perspective. I have found this to be good advice. But back to the Campbell's.

Seeking a better understanding of just how we lost our traditional lands I read this little book with interest, being particularly drawn to the phrase *...the cleansing of the inland glens....* The book did not disappoint. The pages are full of a fresh perspective on documented incidents and issues that combined to reduce our once proud Clan to landless "Children of the Mist." Much of this was, in fact, at the hand of the Campbells. However, we were not alone, and neither were the Campbells. These were brutally tough times and powerful men with expansionist designs often held the balance of power and operated under the authority of law. MacGregor, to our demise, opted to instead simply hold land, "by the right of the sword", refusing to seek a charter or royal assent for authority over lands we held for centuries.



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In the words of the author:

With the forfeiture of the Lord of the Isles (MacDonald) and the break-up of the old Celtic earldoms, many clans previously subordinate and therefore under some form of order, began to pursue independent policies of aggrandizement or preservation – leading invariably to the unchecked pursuit of latent rivalries and feuds amongst themselves. This dispersal of authority, coming at a time when the old clan system itself was being surreptitiously undermined by feudal laws of tenure, made them vulnerable to the predations of the Campbells and other “charter lords” who astutely capitalized on the weakness of the central government to acquire for themselves the power of law enforcement which they bent to serve their own dynastic and territorial ends.

I recommend this book as a good source of information about some of the important events in the chronology of events leading up to the demise of both Gregor and the old highland way of life. It is easy to read and well footnoted.

Lastly, it is a valid perspective. It is not the whole story.

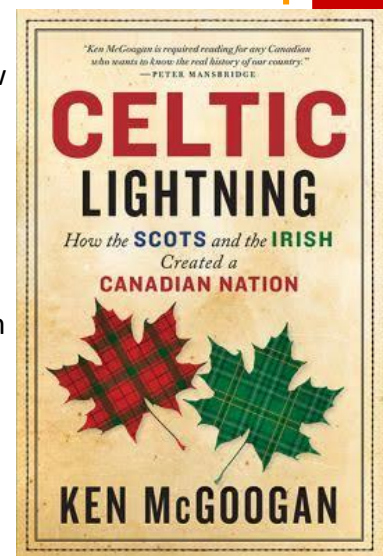
WMP

Ken McGoogan & Celtic Lightning

Ken McGoogan will be appearing at the Toronto Reference Library Atrium (789 Yonge St) on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00pm to talk about his new book

CELTIC LIGHTNING: *How the Scots and the Irish Created a Canadian Nation*. Ken will be giving a 30 – 45 minute slideshow presentation about the book followed by a Q&A period and an opportunity for attendees to meet Ken and purchase a book.

KEN MCGOOGAN is the best-selling author of a dozen books, among them *50 Canadians Who Changed the World*, *How the Scots Invented Canada*, *Fatal Passage* and *Lady Franklin's Revenge*. He has won the Pierre Berton Award for History, the University of British Columbia Medal for Canadian Biography, the Canadian Authors' Association History Award, the Drainie-Taylor Biography Prize and an American Christopher Award for "a work of artistic excellence that affirms the highest values of the human spirit."



Call For Candidates For Election

CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO CHAPTER COUNCIL

Our charter constitution calls for periodic election of Council. We currently have three Councilors, Anne MacGregor Stadden, Judy Heynsbroek and Wayne MacGregor Parker, Chair.

We are planning to hold an election by email vote later this year and would appreciate hearing from anyone willing and interested in serving. We are a small group and typically hold two meetings per year by phone so the burden is light. We'd love to hear from you to widen the circle. If interested, please send confirmation to macgregor@telizon.ca sometime before October 31st.



Important Reminder

Membership renewals for 2016 are now well past due! I have contacted those outstanding and would appreciate your prompt payment. If you have not heard from me it is because you are paid up! Please send your \$37.00 cheque to CGSCC, PO Box 232, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0. Your Chairman will greatly appreciate not having to chase you down!

If I don't receive your subscription by the end of August I will send you another email reminder. I'm a volunteer with a day job and it's always nice to have prompt renewals without repeated appeals. Many thanks.

Wear Your Clan Proudly This Summer!

T-SHIRTS

We now have T-Shirts for sale. Men's are a substantial and high quality 100% cotton, tan with red crest, and are available in medium, large and extra-large. Women's are a fitted V-neck, high quality 100% cotton, white with red crest, and are available in small, medium and large. Both are available for \$25.00, including shipping or \$20.00 at the Games. Please send cheque to Clan Gregor, PO Box 232, Dorset, ON POA 1E0. All proceeds go towards helping your Chapter and Society further its aims and objectives.



MEMBERSHIP BADGE

Another great way to show your membership is to wear one of the Clan Gregor Society Membership Badges on your lapel or collar. These are handsome, well-crafted and a terrific value at two pounds sterling plus shipping. They are available to members only and must be ordered through our Secretary, Ishbel MacGregor at society@clangregor.org.



Kincardine Connections

Dr. Scott MacGregor and his brother Grant stopped by the Gregor Society booth at the Kincardine Scottish Festival to introduce us to their ancestors James and Lydia MacGregor who immigrated to Canada in the early 1800's. This was a powerful connection. Scott had this to say afterward.

Hi Wayne, it was great to connect with you this past weekend in Kincardine. Can't help but wonder if this James McGregor knew and/or was closely related to the James MacGregor who settled at Bannockburn Farm in Howard Township which is extremely close to Euphemia Township in Kent County!!! Thanks for all you do!

- Dr. Scott & Grant MacGregor

Do you have a connection or photos to share? If you need help or direction in looking up your Gregor roots, both our Chapter Councilors, Annie MacGregor Stadden, annandjims@bell.net and Judy Heysbroek, sendthistojudy@hotmail.ca are happy to assist Society members with their research.



Dr. Scott & Grant MacGregor with Wayne MacGregor Parker at the Kincardine Scottish Festival



JAMES MCGREGOR	LYDIA OUTHOUSE
Born Perthshire Scotland	Zone Twp Kent Co
Aug. 14, 1826	Sept. 10, 1841
Died	
Married 1862	
Died Euphemia Twp. Lambton Co.	
Buried Fansher Cemetry	

2015 Financial Statements

Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter 2015

Balance Sheet

As of 12/31/2015 (Unaudited)

ASSETS

Bank Balance	\$ 1,457.77	2
Inventory	\$ 450.00	3
Total Assets	\$ 1,907.77	

LIABILITY

Membership fees due Scotland	\$ 722 US	4
(\$722.00x 1.30 exchange)	\$ 938.60	CDN 5
Total Liability	\$ 938.60	

RETAINED EQUITY \$ 968.17

Notes

1. All activity in Canadian dollars
2. Bank of Nova Scotia
3. T-Shirt inventory on hand
4. Consisting of 14 one year memberships at \$22US, 3 five year memberships at \$88US, and one Fellowship renewal at \$150US. All are individual memberships
5. Exchange rate as of 31/12/2015

2015 Financial Activity

1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015 (Unaudited)

INCOME

Annual Member Dues	1,127.00	60.83 %	2
Ways And Means	725.75	39.17 %	3
TOTAL INCOME	1,852.75	100 %	

EXPENSES

Bank Charge	30.00	3.32 %	
CGSCC Expenses	250.00	27.68 %	4
Clothing	714.39	79.09 %	5
Currency Conversion	-36.13	-4.00 %	6
Subscriptions	-55.00	-6.09 %	7
TOTAL EXPENSES	903.26	100 %	
NET SURPLUS	\$949.49	100 %	

Notes

1. All activity reported in Canadian dollars
2. Includes all memberships received in calendar 2015, as well as Chapter dues
3. Items sold at Games, primarily T-Shirts
4. Games entry fees and CASSOC membership
5. T-Shirt order
6. Credit generated by some sales paid in US dollars
7. Net of subscriptions reflecting ACG share of Celtic Life Clan listing

MacGREGOR'S STICKY GINGERBREAD

A Scottish recipe

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. butter
- 1 cup plus 2 tsp. dark brown sugar (I use light if I don't have dark)
- 1 ¼ cups molasses
- 2 beaten eggs
- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 2 tsp. ground ginger (if I want it extra gingery I add some fresh run through a garlic press)
- 1 tsp cinnamon (I heap it)
- 3 tsp. warm milk (can't tell you how many times I forget the "warm")
- 1 tsp. baking soda

Preheat oven to 300. Melt butter, sugar and molasses over low heat in medium saucepan. Add the eggs, flour and spices and mix well. Add milk and baking soda. Remove the mixture from heat and pour into well greased 9" square cake pan. Bake 40 min and remove from oven. Cut into small squares and allow to cool a bit before serving. Serve it warm with heavy whipped cream or ice cream if you want a really decadent dessert!

I've made this recipe dozens of times and it never turns out the same twice. Enjoy it however it turns out. This is a runaway hit whenever it is served. I am asked over and over again for this recipe. Try it and you will see!

Vina MacQueen Parker

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

World Tour -- Exclusive Ontario Exhibition

305 beautifully hand-stitched panels tell the story of Scots living around the world. For over three centuries, ordinary Scottish folk including coalminers, trades-people, farmers and farm servants have carried their strong work ethic, social institutions and values to the four corners of the globe. In their adopted communities they made new friends, learned together, and shared ideas, perspectives and dreams.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 115 St. Andrew's Road, Scarborough

416-438-4100 diaspora@standrewsscarborough.ca

www.standrewsscarborough.com

www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org

FREE ADMISSION Sept. 19 - Oct. 1, 2016

Weekdays: Noon – 8 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 24, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 25, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sat. Oct., 1, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



The Scarborough Panels of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry

Almost twenty volunteers associated with one early Scottish community -- Scarborough, Ontario -- completed three Diaspora Tapestry panels in celebration of the relationship between Scottish settlers and the Canadian forest almost 200 years ago. Symbolized in these panels are stories of hardship and survival, and others of prosperity, fellowship and faith -- death by falling tree and stump remover; clearing the land for crops; sawmills for the construction of homes, barns and churches; cutting and selling masts for the shipping industry; and Alex Muir's famous song "*The Maple Leaf Forever*". Join us at St. Andrew's for this fascinating exploration of their stories.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ANNOUNCED!

Your Chapter Council is pleased to announce a partnership with the Rob Roy Pipe Band of Kingston, Ontario to support the education of young people studying traditional Highland arts. Rob Roy has been around for many years with professional competition bands in grades 2 and 4 wearing the modern red MacGregor tartan.

We believe the Chapter collects dues to help promote a better understanding of Clan Gregor and our shared Scottish roots. Historically one of the founding purposes of our Society was to help educate our scattered and impoverished youth of the time. We believe this scholarship award is in agreement with this founding principle. Here is the text of our agreement.



CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY CANADA ROB ROY PIPE BAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter seeks to establish a partnership with the Rob Roy Pipe Band that is named after our most famous clansman. Our Society is one of the oldest Clan societies and was originally established in 1822 in Scotland to help educate the disadvantaged young people of the Clan. Today there are branches all over the world. We seek to honour this tradition by offering financial assistance to young people studying piping, drumming or highland dancing. We will provide financial assistance to a student of your choice to help him or her further their training. Our proposal is as follows:

Annual cash award of \$100.00 presented every December to a student of the Rob Roy Band to help offset tuition costs associated with learning Highland Dancing, Piping or Drumming. Student must be 18 or younger.

Not later than November 1st, Band leadership, at its sole discretion, to present to the Council of the Clan Gregor Society Canada Chapter the names of three students for consideration. Candidates should be selected who demonstrate aptitude, desire to learn and good citizenship. A brief summary (3 sentences) outlining the reasons for considering the candidate will be used to select a winner.

Clan Gregor Council will select the scholarship recipient by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the award can be split if Council determines this to be the best course. The winner to be selected solely on merit regardless of race, colour, creed religion or orientation. Scholarship winner to be announced and acknowledged at the Band's annual Burns Dinner celebration or other similar venue determined by the band.

Clan Gregor Society will announce scholarship winner in its spring newsletter, The Maple Leaf MacGregor. Photographs and brief description of why the student was selected will be included in the announcement. The Society will obtain permission to publicize such materials from parent or guardian as appropriate.

The Society may wish to use the Band logo or photographs from time to time as a part of telling the story of this award.

Clan Gregor Canada Chapter is pleased to have the chance to help further the aims and objectives of the Rob Roy Band.

Wayne M Parker, Chairman