



The Rowan Tree



Number 56

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

www.clanlachlan.ca

Hon. Patron, Euan Maclachlan of Maclachlan, Chief of Clan Lachlan

President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends of the Clan,

We live in interesting times.

It appears probable that we may require vaccine treatment on a regular basis as protection against a mutant Virus threat. Couple this with the effects of Climate change, and we face a challenging future NOW.

Over the last 90 years I have lived through the effects of *World War 1* and the *Great Depression*, *World War 2* including our bombed house in the *Clydeside Blitz*, the *Cold War with Russia*, *Emigration to North America*, *Brussels & European Integration*, the *rise of China*, the *impact of world-wide internet*, and *low-cost computing*. Now we must add the *Virus Threat*.

From about 1300 to about 2000 the clan organization was built on geographical groups of clan members, first in Scotland and Ireland then in England, Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa. Now we have the capability to form ***world-wide groups*** on any topic. I hope that we can organize ourselves in the near future.

I send regards to all members and their families.

Duncan MacLachlan - #41
Chief's Commissioner,
Executive Trustee Lachlan Trust of Canada,
President Clan Lachlan Association of Canada.

Editors Note: While private congratulations were sent to our President, Duncan, last Fall, on the occasion of his 90th birthday in November, I would now like to take this opportunity (although belatedly), to once again, and on

behalf of all of our CLA Membership, acknowledge his milestone, and to thank him for his many years of service and dedication to the Clan MacLachlan Society, and to our own Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc. See below for a photo of Duncan, and our Chief, Euan, some years ago in Scotland.



Duncan and Chief Euan at the Clan Gathering in 2001 at Castle Lachlan

Clan MacLachlan on Facebook

You might want to look at the CMS Facebook page, which enables you to post information, ask questions, and view updates (as they occur).

<http://www.facebook.com/ClanMacLachlanSociety>

Another website which may be of interest to you is the

Scots Tongue Website

<http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/general/scots.html>

Ceud Mile Failte: 100,000 Welcomes to our New Members

Full Members

There are no new members to welcome for this Spring issue of “The Rowan Tree”.

Note: Due to privacy concerns, stemming from new Federal legislation, we are no longer publishing full addresses of new members. However, should an individual member wish to contact another member, we can put both in touch with each other.

Flowers of the Forest

Thankfully, we have nothing to report in this section, for this issue. May you all continue to stay healthy during this global health crisis.

Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802

Invitation to View Contents of Electric Scotland Website

Alastair has a huge amount of Scottish content on his web site, and you are most welcome to view and enjoy its offerings. There are tons of humour, stories, recipes, children's stories, general articles, and much more.

Alastair McIntyre FSA Scot
Electric Scotland
<http://www.electricscotland.com>
<http://www.electriccanadian.com>

Virtual Walking Tours of Edinburgh and Area

Thanks to advice from a friend, Bob Bissett, (a former resident of Edinburgh), here are links to 3 virtual walking tours of Edinburgh, Scotland, hosted by Ruairidh Mason, for your enjoyment.

1. Cammo Estate <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/environment/best-walks-around-edinburgh-cammo-estate-3116151?r=3002>
2. The Water of Leith <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/environment/best-walks-around-edinburgh-water-leith-3099094?r=6305>
3. Hermitage of Braid <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/environment/the-best-walks-around-edinburgh-hermitage-of-braid-3157160>

Scottish Studies Foundation Spring Colloquium – 2021

The Spring Colloquium this year, due to the on-going Covid-19 health crisis, will be a “virtual” one, with 3 lectures offered on-line.

The first one titled “*Global Scotland*” has already taken place on March 24th, but, for the following two, scheduled for April 13 and April 27, see the link below, for your information, and opportunity to register for them on-line, and they are FREE!

<https://p10.secure.hostingprod.com/@scottishstudies.com/ssl/520-210413-roundtable-talk.htm>

The two lectures will prove to be very interesting, and are titled as follows:

1. *The Curious Career of Peter Williamson, or How a Scottish Indentured Servant in America Became Edinburgh's King of the Indians*
2. *Highwaymen, Scandal and Haggis: Recipes from the Cleikum Inn*



Genealogy Research

Scottish Kirk Session Records

The big news of late is that Scotland's People have finally (after years of waiting) made their collection of Kirk Session Records available on-line! These records contain sanctions of the Scottish Kirk Elders against the misdeeds of their parishoners, as well as, in some cases, poor relief names and amounts, and some financial data for the particular Parish. While these are not indexed, one can search through them by a specific year.

Here is the link to Scotland's Peoples main page <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Once you have logged in, go to 'search' in the "Virtual Volumes" section, where you can search in a variety of ways. I think the most useful would be to do a "Place Search", whereby one may search for Parish, Shire, or City. Since I have ancestors in Perthshire, and I know the Parishes in which they lived, I can use, for example, the Parish names of "Fortingall, and "Weem" to locate and view the appropriate records.

Since many of these records extend into the 1600s, they record family names well before any British Census Records were taken, and are thus a valuable source of family data.

One can browse these for FREE, but if a copy of an actual image is desired, then one uses paid credits to do so, but the cost is quite reasonable.

Mystery McLachlans ?

Attached is a photo that Jean Armstrong found on November 5, 2020, at the Lambton Archives in Wyoming, Ontario. Unfortunately, those in the photo are not named on the back of the photo. A year was on the photo, but someone punched a hole in the last to digits of the year 19--?

Written on the back is:

“Picture provided by Jean (Merrich) Doly? of Port Huron, Michigan”

The reunion was held at Langs, Chatham, Ontario.” The Lang's son, Gordon was an artist/photographer so no doubt he made the banner and took the pictures.

This photo was in a McLachlan file at the Lambton Archives which also contained many old photos with the following names on the back of them, nearly all were taken at a photographer in Petrolia, ON.

Archie & Elizabeth McLachlan
 Allan McLachlan (baby picture)
 Angus & Lizzie McLachlan
 Helen & Hug[h] McLachlan & children
 Mary (Duffy) McLachlan
 Mary, Donald, Leslie, Margaret McLachlan
 Uncle Doug & Aunt Cleo McLachlan with Agnes & Jean
 Archie McLachlan
 Mary & Maggie McLachlan

They do not seem to be members of ‘our’ McLachlans – i.e. those of Jean and Neil Armstrong.



↑
 Jean Doly
 ↑
 Eliza Merrich

Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431

QUESTION from Editor: Do any of our readers recognize any of these names, or anyone in the photo, to shed more light on this mystery? If so, please do contact me.

Answers to Above Questions

Lambton County Archives — the little girl standing between parents in large photo as my Grandma Agnes (also in photo above it.) The group of men were labelled “making maple syrup in McLachlan’s bush”.



Photo Collage from Jane Thompson of some of the McLachlan Family Discussed Below

The others you listed were there and I copied them. They are my branch of our family — Agnes, daughter of Dugald and Cleopatra is my Grandma. (I didn't know her mother was called Aunt Cleo.) The others are her cousins. I asked who donated the photos but no record.

Jill Sanders descends from Dugald's brother Donald (Uncle Dan) and grew up on Maude Street around the corner from me.

You got me checking into Ancestry, and I have traced the Doty-Merrick family back to an Ann Gordon McLachlan born 1842 in Banffshire, Scotland, who came to Lambton County in 1855 with her blacksmith father John 1804-1888. She married John Merrick and went to Memphis, Michigan by 1870. Unlikely to be related to our Argyll family.

Jean Merrick 1916-2009 married John Doty in 1939 — and her younger brothers were Gordon and Robert. May help date the photo. Her father Glenn 1892-1981 son of Gordon 1864-1951 son of Ann 1842-1913 daughter of John McLachlan 1804-1888.

Gordon Lang, the artist, was born in Alvinston in 1894. His father was from England so don't know how he is connected, unless one of his mother Caroline Owen's relatives married into the Merrick McLachlans!

Submitted by Jane Thompson - #1475

SEAFARING McLACHLANS

{Note: To help put some perspective on the persons mentioned in the following article: The "Helen" mentioned is Neil Armstrong's mother — i.e. Helen (nee McLachlan) Armstrong, and the "Jean" is Jean (nee McLachlan) Galbraith, her sister. }

It has been handed down from one generation to the next, that our McLachlans went down to the sea in ships of many kinds. Some McLachlans were fishermen, others were first or second mates, from deckhands, watchmen, pilots, wheelmen to captains in Scotland and on the Great Lakes after arriving in Canada.



This framed photograph was found at Helen's home after she moved to Brookside, but unfortunately, we didn't ask about it. Lately we found a letter that her sister, Jean wrote to distant cousin, Martín Bresnan in which she explained about this photo.

Helen found this framed photograph of the ship, "**The City of Machinac**" at the farm home of her McLachlan grandparents when her aunt and uncle, Etta and Dunc sold the farm and moved into Inwood. When Helen and her sister, Jean, took the photograph from its frame they found initials, "J M" on the back.

We do not know what ship Helen's grandfather, Archie McLachlan sailed on the Great Lakes. We know he was a pilot or wheelsman for eight to ten years before he married in 1877. He did not sail on the "City of Machinac" because it was not built until 1883.

This ship, "The City of Machinac" was owned by "D&C Lake Huron Division. The D & C standing for the Detroit & Cleveland Steam Navigation Company of Detroit. The "City of Machinac", a paddlewheel-steamer, was built in Wyandotte, Michigan in 1883. It had two decks and was 203 feet long with a beam of 32.4 feet. It was later renamed the "State of New York" in 1893, Over the years it sailed from Cleveland to Chicago. It had an eventful career – in 1892, it collided with a tug at Detroit with the loss of two lives on the tug. Two years later it was struck by the ship, "the Northwest" at Detroit. On May 12, 1955 a galley fire destroyed the deck house and was scuttled by firemen trying to save her. A new owner Joe Salon, Chicago, restored and renamed her "Showboat Sari II". On 31st of August, 1992 it sunk at the dock in Chicago and declared hazard to navigation.

Helen and Jean assumed the initials on the back of the photo of "the City of Machinac" are that of John McLachlan 1865-1913, brother of their grandfather. He may have sailed on this ship. Family stories tell us John McLachlan died on a ship on the Great Lakes in the terrific storm of November 9, 1913. We have not found a record of his death or the ship he was on. The "City of Machinac" was not lost in this storm. In the letter Helen remembers her father telling her that John's girlfriend got all his estate.

Jean notes... Finding information about John McLachlan's death has been a challenge.

The book, "Weather Bomb, 1913: Life and Death on the Great Lakes", by Bruce Kemp, is very interesting reading. From the Introduction we can read the following... *Over the course of four days in 1913, the Great Lakes suffered the greatest natural disaster in their recorded history. From November 7 through the 11, the seas raged and the winds blew, because of two conjoined storms. In the end the losses were unimaginable. A dozen big ships, eight on Lake Huron alone, were lost with all hands. Dozens of others suffered serious damage. Official estimates of the dead peg the number of lives lost at 256, but only those aboard the ships were counted. There were more whose deaths were reported in the newspapers, but not accounted for in bookkeeping of the storm. Most of the ship logs in those years were not complete with all the sailors' names, mostly just the officers and captain and maybe a few crew members.*

At that time, some seamen left the ship at different ports and new men were taken aboard. Most ships did not keep a complete list of all seaman on board. Only officers were often listed. This makes it difficult to find John McLachlan. After the storm five sailors' bodies were found on the beach near Goderich and never identified. What has changed since then, will prevent loss of life. Improvements such as the state-of-the-art weather reporting and captains' instant communication with the weather bureaus and their companies home office." It was in February of 1947 before radar was added to Great Lake ships.

The storm also affected those on land. Sarnia newspaper reported that around Lambton County at least 200 telephones were out of commission, and the long-distance lines were completely wiped out. Both the Canadian Pacific (CPR), and the Grand North Western (GNW), telegraph systems were down as well effectively cutting Sarnia off from the rest of the province and adjoining states. Electricity was shut off in a number of areas while a break in the natural gas pipeline six miles southwest of Chatham cut off the heating fuel for five critical hours. Quantities of snow blocked the train tracks bringing rail transportation and communications to a standstill. After the storm, families of missing men searched along Lake Huron shores and ports of other Great Lakes looking for relatives' bodies. All we know is that more than one family story states that John McLachlan (1865-1913) died in the storm of November 9, 1913.

The book, “White Hurricane”: A Great Lakes November Gale and America’s deadliest Maritime Disaster” by David G. Brown page 203 lists 8 ships that sunk in Lake Huron with an estimated loss of 199 lives. On page 204 lists nine ships that were left stranded after the storm. Five were rebuilt. A total estimated lost of lives on all the Great Lakes was between 235-258 according to The Lake Carriers Association.

More about other McLachlan seaman relatives... We have not located the ship Archie McLachlan (1851-1941) sailed on the Great Lakes. One ship by the name, “Morning Star” has the following names connected to it -- Archie McMillan; Archie McLachlan; Dan (wee Dan) Sandy McLachlan (Rigger). There were 22 Great Lakes ships by the name of “Morning Star” from 1817 to 1894.

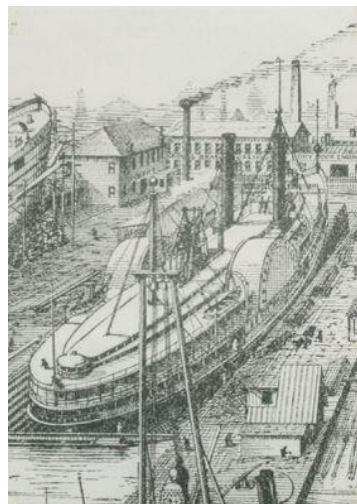
Helen’s Uncle, Albert (Bert) McLachlan worked on the S.S. Noronic, a pleasure ship, belonging to the Canada Steamship Lines, plying the Great Lakes for many summers. The S.S. Noronic burned in Toronto harbour in September, 1949 with a death toll exceeding 100. Bert met his wife, Mae in Barrie while working on the S.S. Noronic.

Helen’s Great Grandfather, Angus’s brother, Archibald (1819-1901) worked on sailing vessels in Scotland, going around the world four times, which of course, involved sailing around “the Horn” that terrible stretch of water between South American and the Antarctic.

Helen’s Grandfather’s cousins, (sons of Archibald-1819-1901), sailed on the Great Lakes. Malcolm (1849-1921) worked on the Detroit & Cleveland Company’s paddle wheelers running between Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo. His brother, Duncan (1848 -1929), sailed between 1885-1888 on the Great Lakes working for a time on the excursion steamer “Greyhound” running between Port Huron and Detroit. In 1900 he was Captain of “the City of the Straits”. He was one of the most popular captains with the Detroit & Cleveland Line – making his home in Detroit. Another brother, Archibald (1851-1920), also worked for the Detroit & Cleveland Company, on paddle-wheelers running between Detroit and Cleveland and Buffalo. In 1887 he was pilot of the steamer, “City of Cleveland” and in 1900 was Captain of same ship. More money could be earned working on these ships than on the farm



The S.S. Noronic - A post card from Viola McKinlay who also worked on it.



City of Cleveland Paddle-wheeler, ---- City of Straits later named City of Detroit



“The Greyhound”

<p>DIED</p> <p>In Brooke, on Sunday, May 8th, 1921</p> <p>CAPT. MALCOLM MACLACHLAN</p> <p>AGED 71 YEARS.</p>	<p>THE FUNERAL</p> <p>Will leave the family residence, lot 19, con 12, on Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m., for Alvinston Cemetery. Service at the house at 1 o'clock.</p> <p><small>Friends and acquaintances will please accept this intimation.</small></p>	
<p>McLachlan Stone in Alvinston Cemetery where Malcolm and Duncan are buried</p>		
<p>DIED</p> <p>In Brooke, on Wednesday, June 8th, 1929</p> <p>Captain Duncan McLachlan</p> <p>In his 81st year.</p>	<p>THE FUNERAL</p> <p>Service will be held at the family residence, lot 26, con. 10, on Friday at two p.m.</p> <p>Interment in Alvinston Cemetery.</p> <p><small>Friends and acquaintances please accept this intimation.</small></p>	



St. Lawrence Seaway - New York Central Swing Bridge at Mile 1.84. The steamer passing through is either the THOROLD or The SHELTER BAY of the Quebec & Ontario Transportation Co. fleet. Photo from before 1940.

A distant cousin, Captain Glen McLachlan, born in Brooke Township, died when he fell down the hold of his Q & O Steamship, “Shelter Bay”, Nov. 1954 in Montreal. Son of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert McLachlan. Survived by his wife, Jessie Saunders and three children.

(Helen’s Grandmother McCallum) Margaret’s brother, John McCallum also sailed for two years on Lake Huron from Detroit to St. Ignace, but in 1894, gave up this profession and purchased his Uncle Neil Campbell’s old homestead.

The Seafaring McLachlans - Researching information on John McLachlan’s death during the storm of 1913: Libraries/Museums contacted...

1. Presque Isle District Library, 181 E. Erie Street, Rogers City, MI 49779 (Nicole Grulke) 2. Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403 (Mark Sprang, Archivist, Historical Collection of the Great Lakes) 3. Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum, 367 N. 3rd Street, Rogers City, MI 49779 (Tina Dankert) 4. Detroit Historical Society, 5401 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI 48202 (Jeremy Dimick, Director of Collections) 5. Jeff (last name or address unknown) collector (self-proclaimed “boat Nerd”) jmt_1987@yahoo.com 6. White Hurricane by David Brown 7. Weather Bomb by Bruce Kemp. 8. Port Huron MI, Times-Herald newspapers.com

Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431

Scotland’s Tree of the Year – 2020

Our very own **Rowan Tree** (no, not our newsletter, but a lone tree), played a role in the re-forestation of a barren glen in Scotland. Click on the link below to see a short video of this wonderful environmental success story!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3_9OXEHTi0&fbclid=IwAR1zAlVazc-2jcVBMU86ufXTmT3X-LNq5WfXWINBNAKHLAr8MQY2X0WKQT8

Submitted by Ken Godfrey #802

The Tradition of Hogmanay Explained

The following article is courtesy of Christine Woodcock, whose company, Genealogy Tours of Scotland, offers expert guided tours for individual assistance in one's quest to learn more about their individual family's Scottish roots.

<https://www.genealogytoursofscotland.ca/home.html>

For nearly 400 years, Christmas in Scotland was not celebrated. The reason for this stems from the Protestant Reformation. The Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian, felt that Christmas was, by and large, a Catholic celebration and as such was frowned upon. To all intents and purposes, Christmas was a regular day. People went to work and carried on about their business in everyday fashion. This began in 1560 and really carried on through to the mid 1950s. Even then, it was a half day holiday. Gifts were small, often just one gift or a stocking with gifts rather than the multitude of gifts we see today.



New Years Day was a public holiday and New Years Eve was, and still is, a major celebration. The history behind both the celebration of and the name Hogmanay is up for debate. However, many feel that the celebration is carried on from Norse traditions which celebrated the arrival of the Winter Solstice. Indeed, many Hogmanay celebrations throughout Scotland involve fire festivals. Stonehaven near Aberdeen has their **fireball procession** every year, with the procession heading down the main street and ending at the harbour. The fireballs were originally made of old bits of netting, rope, cork and leather strapping bundled in paraffin soaked rags and inserted into a "cage". They are on long chains that, once set alight, are swung above the head. The fires are thought to ward off evil, clearing the way for a good start to the new year. At the end of the procession, the balls are tossed into the harbour to continue to remove evil for the fishermen of the community.

Edinburgh also has a **fire festival**, usually the night before Hogmanay. This is a Torchlight procession where revelers march through the old town and end up on Calton Hill, overlooking their magnificent city. Calton Hill is also the site of the other fire festivals, throwbacks to the Pagan era, such as Beltane and Samhmain.

Hogmanay is steeped in tradition and ritual. Many Scots will take the time during the day on December 31 to clean the house and pay off all debts prior to the "ringing of the bells" at midnight. This ritual was known as redding (getting ready for the New Year). The reason for this was to clear out the remnants of the old year and welcome in a young, New Year with a clean slate.

A few branches of the Rowan tree would be put above the door to bring luck. Inside was mistletoe to prevent illness to those who lived within. Pieces of holly placed around the house were thought to keep out mischievous fairies. And finally, pieces of hazel were gathered and placed around the home to protect the house and all who

lived in it. Then all the doors of the home would be opened to bring in fresh air. Once this final piece of the ritual was completed, the house was then considered to be ready for the New Year.

Immediately after midnight, it is traditional to sing "For Auld Lang Syne", in a circle of friends whose linked arms are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day.

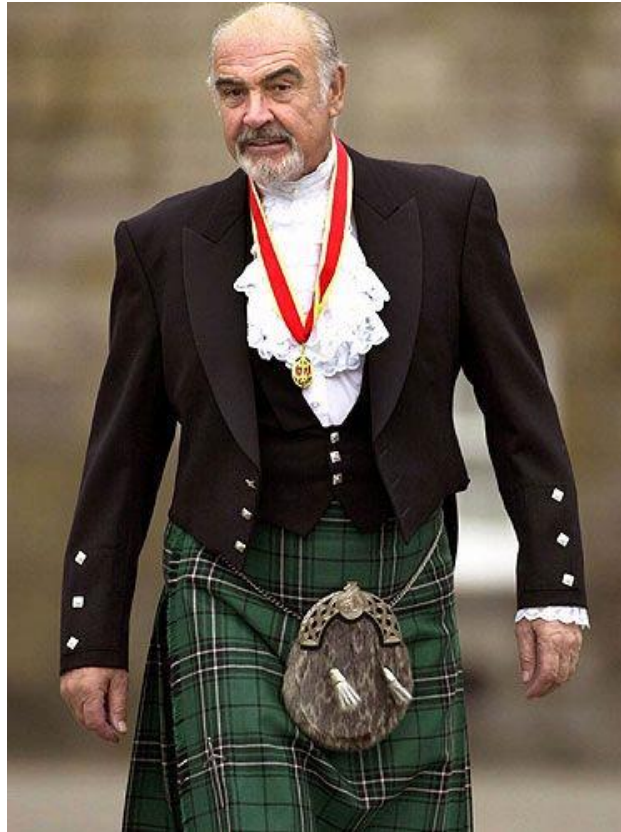


Perhaps the most important and revered Hogmanay custom is the practice of **'first-footing'** which dates back to the Viking days. This involves the first person to cross the threshold once the New Year bells have been rung. Superstition states that the "first footer" should be a tall male with dark hair. The darker the man's complexion the better, since no one wanted a Viking (raider) turning up on their doorstep - that could only mean trouble! A dark complected man represented luck for the rest of the year. In addition, the first-footer needs to enter the home carrying salt, coal, a coin, shortbread, and whisky. These gifts represent goodness and abundance for the New Year. The Coal for heat/warmth, the coin for financial prosperity, salt for flavour, shortbread for food and whisky for good cheer. These gifts are then to be shared with the other guests so that the wishes for a good and prosperous year can then be spread around.

The traditions live on even today. The gifts are still presented by the first footers, although not necessarily to the extent that they once were. But most of all, the new year is rung in with a good old-fashioned Scots welcome and hospitality. And each and every person is wished "A guid New Year to ane an` a` and mony may ye see!"

Sean Connery Dies at age 90

Star of many films, but best known as James Bond “007”, this Scottish actor died on October 31st, 2020 at his home in the Bahamas.



Submitted by Ken Godfrey #802

Scottish Creativity



Per a friend, Kay Liney, who live in Perthshire, Scotland: “This snowman is about a mile from our house at Faskally. The man who created it has a vivid imagination. At Halloween, he had a witch at his gate, and then a Santa Claus on his roof at Christmas. A few miles up the road someone has built a Unicorn from snow.” So, though we may think that Scotland does not ever get much snow, this year there has been ample to create various snow sculptures!

Covid 19 is No Laughing Matter!

The World Pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus is certainly a very serious matter, with effects on our physical and mental health, not to mention the economic impact, and questions of fairness and morality, regarding the availability and distribution of the various vaccines to all countries.

However, having said all that, my wife Judy and I tried to inject a little humour into the situation, and ordered some tartan face-masks from an American company called 'Celtic Croft'. While they did not offer the specific tartans we were seeking (McRae for Judy, and MacLachlan for myself), we were able to select colours close to our desired ones. There well may be other companies in your own locale offering similar products, or if you are handy with needle and thread, or a sewing machine, you may be able to produce something similar. See the mirror "selfie" below for the results!



Scottish Humour



This is how bagpipes work



1. The piper blows into the thistle cloth bag and gives it a good slap.



2. The creatures inside wake up and begin to wail.



3. The piper blows hard into the bag and gives it a squeeze.



4. Inside the bag the creatures fight and flap, they screech and skirl, they wail and drone.



5. The piper moves his fingers up and down the chanter just to keep them warm.



6. The piper must keep blowing and squeezing and walking and looking important.

Submitted by Judy Gauthier - #802



Editor's Message

Please tell me what you do and don't like about the items in "*The Rowan Tree*", so that we may try to improve its content. Remember, this is your newsletter, and it can only be as good as your input to it, so I welcome your submissions; especially those from new members, and those from outside of Ontario. It is only in this way, that we can expand the geographic appeal of the newsletter.

Ken Godfrey - #802

Remember: If you have moved recently, have you notified CLA of your new address, so you will receive all of your newsletters - i.e. *The Rowan Tree*, and your magazine - i.e. *Clan Lachlan*? Also, if you have recently changed your e-mail address, send any/all of your changes to David MacLachlan, our Treasurer, with a copy to Ken Godfrey, please, whose names and addresses appear below. Also, remember to keep your Membership Dues current as well. Thank you.

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