



KINTAIL

The Newsletter of the Clan MacRae Society of Canada
Volume 18 No. 1 Issue 36 Winter 2016/17



Clan MacRae Gathering June 13-18, 2017 Halifax-Truro, Nova Scotia

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Clan MacRae members from around the world as Canada celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. Events have been planned for Halifax & Truro, Nova Scotia; and, for those who wish to continue touring, we will be going on to Prince Edward Island. Here is an outline of the planned activities. Our Planning Committee Judy Hickman, Bill McRae and Owen MacRae have worked hard to make your visit enjoyable. Please indicate to the planning committee your intention of attending by emailing Owen MacRae omacrae@telus.net or Linda York dyork3@cogeco.ca at your earliest convenience. Register early, full refund returned if your plans change later.

Tuesday, June 13: 7:00-9:30 pm Welcome **Reception** in Owen MacRae's Suite at Four Points by Sheraton Halifax, 1496 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS. <http://www.fourpointshalifax.com/> At the reception be sure to pick up your Clan Bag which will include information, details of free admission to Citadel Hill and a parking pass for Dalhousie Truro Agriculture Campus. These Bags will be available later in the week also.

Wednesday, June 14: 9:00-11:30 am Tour of **Citadel Hill (Fort George)**, 5425 Sackville Street, Halifax. Fort George (named after King George II of Great Britain) is the fortified summit of Citadel Hill. The fort is restored to the Victorian period. Watch the noon firing of the gun; listen to the stirring sounds of the bagpipes. <http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ns/halifax/index.aspx> Then **Lunch** at Halifax Alehouse, 1717 Brunswick Street, Halifax at the bottom of the Citadel. <http://halifaxalehouse.com/> – Order from the menu.

Afternoon - Free time (**suggestion Wed or Thurs:** Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 Complex, 1055 Marginal Road, Halifax. <https://www.pier21.ca/home/>)

6:30 am **Evening Dinner:** Baton Rouge Restaurant, 1877 Hollis Street, Halifax. <http://www.batonrouge.ca/> – Order from the menu. (10 min walk 0.7 km from Sheraton Hotel)

Thursday, June 15: 10:00 am to Noon group Tours of **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**, 1675 Lower Water Street, Halifax (pay at the gate/door) The museum is the oldest and largest Maritime Museum in Canada. We will learn of the history and see artifacts related to the Halifax Explosion of 1917 and the Titanic disaster; also the age of steamships, local small craft, the Royal Canadian and Merchant Navies, World War II convoys and The Battle of the Atlantic. <https://maritimemuseum.novascotia.ca/> and click on "What To See & Do" page/tab <https://maritimemuseum.novascotia.ca/what-see-do>

Afternoon - Free time

6:30 am **Evening Dinner:** Waterfront Warehouse, 1549 Lower Water Street, Halifax. – Order from the menu. <http://www.waterfrontwarehouse.ca/> (1 min walk 0.1 km from Sheraton Hotel)

Friday, June 16: On the way to Truro, we stop at (approx. 9:00-10:30 a.m.) **Fairview Cemetery**, 3720 Windsor Street, Halifax where many of the Titanic victims are buried; including Arthur McCrae who was one of the passengers on the Titanic. <https://www.novascotia.ca/titanic/connection.asp>

We will continue on to the town of Truro. **Lunch** suggestions: (1) The Bistro @ Holiday Inn, 437 Prince Street, Truro (2) Swiss Chalet, 79 Robie Street, Truro. Then we will meet at 2:30 pm in the Herbert F. **MacRae Library**, 135 College Rd, Bible Hill, NS at the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus

<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus.html> ; and a tour at 4:00 of the Alumni & Rock Gardens adjacent to the library. The gardens are cared for by Alumni and volunteers. At 5:00 pm we gather for **social time** at the Riverview Room, Jenkins Hall, 40 Horseshoe Crescent, Truro, NS on the Agricultural Campus. Followed at 6:00 in the Riverview Room by a **Buffet Dinner** of Atlantic Salmon. Join us later in **Owen MacRae's Suite** at the Holiday Inn.

Saturday, June 17: 10:00 am **2016 AGM** at the Riverview Room, Jenkins Hall on the Agricultural Campus, with **Lunch** to follow at 12:00.

Afternoon: There are nice walking trails around the Agriculture Campus where you can view some of the farm activities, also there is the lovely Victoria Park in Truro, a nice place to relax, visit the falls etc.

6:00 pm **Buffet Dinner** of Roast Beef at the Holiday Inn, 437 Prince St, Truro, NS. Join us later in **Owen MacRae's Suite** at the Holiday Inn.

Sunday, June 18: 10:30 am Worship and **Kirkin`o`the Tartan** at First United Church, 711 Prince St, Truro. <http://firstunitedtruro.ca/>

Immediately following the church service we leave for Pictou arriving for **Lunch** at 1:00 pm at the Harbour House Ales & Spirits, 41 Coleraine St, Pictou, NS. (Some menu options: Lobster roll with coleslaw, Chicken Caesar salad, Seafood chowder, Roasted red pepper tomato soup with chicken cranberry and Brie wrap.)

After lunch we will gather at 2:30 pm at **The Hector Heritage Quay** adjacent to the Harbour House (pay at the gate/door). <http://www.shiphector.com/en/home/> There the replica of the historic ship Hector on which many of the early settlers arrived from Scotland can be seen.

* For those who wish to continue the tour we will be going to Prince Edward Island. At Pictou we will take the ferry across Northumberland Strait to PEI. <http://www.ferries.ca/ns-pei-ferry/>

Accommodations for Sunday night are available at **Century Farm Cottages**, 1178 Point Prim Rd., RR#1 Belfast with hosts Stewart & Barbara MacRae. (902) 659-2412 <http://www.centuryfarmoceanfrontcottages.com/> Accommodations for Monday and subsequent nights are available at **Stanley Bridge Country Resort**, 10090 Route 6, Stanley Bridge (800)361-2882 <http://stanleybridgeresort.com/about-us/>

Monday, June 19:

Famous **New Glasgow Lobster Supper**, hosts Sterling & Jean MacRae. <http://peilobstersuppers.com/>

Tuesday, June 20:

Visit Charlottetown the birthplace of Confederation. Also Anne of Green Gables Historic site **Green Gables Heritage Place**. Many other activities are available on Prince Edward Island. We can leave The Island via **Confederation Bridge** which links PEI with mainland New Brunswick; then continue back to Halifax, NS.

Accommodations:

Halifax – Four Points by Sheraton, 1496 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS Phone: (902)423-4444 • Hotel Reservations: (866)716-8133– Must identify that you are with the MacRae Clan group. Rate: \$160.00 (CAD\$). Rates do not include applicable taxes, HST 15 % plus 2% HRM marketing fee. Block of rooms includes King shower room, One king bed, Two queen beds – check at reservation time. <http://www.fourpointshalifax.com/>

Truro – Holiday Inn, 437 Prince St, Truro, NS Phone: (902) 895-1651 • Hotel Reservations (800)465-4329 – Must identify that you are with the MacRae Clan group. Rate \$119.00 (CAD\$) includes 1-2 people; additional \$10 per person with maximum of 4 people per room; plus taxes HST 15%. Reservations must be made by May 16, 2017 and guaranteed to a major credit card and major credit card is required at check-in. Check in time is 3:00pm. Guests may leave their luggage at the front desk if room not ready when they arrive. Regular check out time is 11:00am. Members of MacRae Clan Society of Canada may make late check out requests on a case by case basis. <http://www.hitrurohotel.com/>

Alternative Truro: Dorm Rooms at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, Truro; rates ranging from single person \$39.00 to \$49.50 double plus tax. Shared co-ed washroom facilities. Phone number for reservations at the

Dalhousie Agriculture Campus is: (902)893-3103 (front desk). Must identify that you are with the MacRae Clan group. Can be booked up until the day before the gathering. Please be sure to check details at <https://www.dal.ca/dept/summer-accommodations/truro-accommodations.html>

On your arrival at the Halifax airport, you can take the airport Shuttle or downtown taxi – 45 mins to downtown Halifax – shuttle stops at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel.

Car Pooling: Car-pooling will be available, if you wish to ride along with other members. You can indicate on the Registration Form if you will be renting a car and willing to have others with you. Or, if you need to have car-pooling with someone else; and, whether you wish to share the rental cost with another member.

Registration: [See Registration Form attachment.](#)

Please send completed registration form & payment to:

Cindy Windsor,

376 Gay Road,

Pownal, PE

C1B 3N7

cynwindsor@gmail.com

Register early, full refund if your plans change later.

It is with sadness we announce the passing of our long time member Buddy MacEwen. Clan MacRae Society of Canada sends condolences to his wife Helen and their family.



Archibald Stewart (Buddy) MacEwen

Born In: Stanley Bridge, PEI on December 3rd, 1924

Passed in: Summerside, PEI on April 22nd, 2016

At the Prince County Hospital, Summerside, on Friday, April 22, 2016, of A.S. MacEwen, Buddy as he was familiarly named, was born in Stanley Bridge, on Dec. 3, 1924. He lived his life as a farmer on the farm formerly owned by his parents, the late Herbert S. and Maud M. (MacLeod) MacEwen. He is survived by his wife of nearly 63 years, Helen MacRae MacEwen, and their children, Margaret Ruth (Brian) Simpson, Cornwall and Leith S. (Michelle) MacEwen, Stanley Bridge; grandchildren, Andrew MacEwen, Stephen and Heather Simpson, Nicole (Mike) Curran, Kyle (Kristie) Simpson, Randy Daigneau, Kristin (Trevor) Ditzel; and five great-grandchildren. Brother-in-law of Arnold (Joan) MacRae, Kaye MacRae and Stewart (Rita) MacRae. Predeceased by infant daughter Lois Ruth, brother Ross MacEwen, sister Janie Green and brother-in-law Ian MacRae. He very much enjoyed all the activities that went on in the community, as he was a life member of Prince Edward Lodge NO. 14 A.F. & A.M.; a life member and LCIF award winner of the Kensington Lion's Club; and an auxiliary member of the Branch NO. 9 Royal Canadian Legion, Kensington. Resting at the Davison Funeral Home Kensington for visitation on Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Tuesday in the Davison Funeral Home Chapel at 10:30 a.m. Interment in the Geddie Memorial Cemetery, Spring Brook. If so desired, contributions may be made to the Stanley Bridge Centre Memorial Society Fund or the Prince County Hospital Foundation. Members of the Kensington Lions Club will hold a Lions Memorial service at the funeral home Monday evening at 6:15 p.m. Brethren of Prince Edward Lodge No. 14 A.F. & A.M. will hold a Masonic Memorial at the funeral home Monday evening at 9 p.m.

www.davisonfh.com

Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games Olcott, New York, USA



Barb and John Duff hosted the "Clan MacRae Society for the USA" tent at the Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games on September 17th and 18th 2016 <http://niagaraceltic.com>. This is the 16th year this small town on the southern shore of Lake Ontario has hosted the event. Typically, somewhere around 12,000 people attend at Krull Park and although it may not be the largest Celtic Festival and Highland Game in North America, for us this has to be one of the most "just plain fun" events that we have been able to participate in for the last two years. For us to be able to say that and mean it after being heavily rained out in 2015 and

2016 it really has to be true! They have a wonderful location right on the south shore of Lake Ontario within an hour of Buffalo and Niagara Falls but the rain storms can come off of the lake fast and furious. We really enjoy being able to meet, talk with and even just watch both Canadians and Americans many of whom are dressed in "Celtic" costumes mingle and wander around the grounds. Costumes vary from more traditional such as Scottish Highland garb often with typical weapons to historical such as "MacFarlane's Company" <http://www.macfarlanescompany.org/> usually with period weapons. Others are more whimsical such as groups of people dressed as witches or fairies with wands and brooms, wizards or even what might best be described as living trees. Individuals and groups all appear very proud and happy both wearing and explaining their costumes to anyone interested. Perhaps it has something to do with

attendees being able to freely walk around the park grounds with their favourite beverages in hand while often imbibing from ornate mugs or even horns while listening to cannon and muskets firing in the background intermittently. Some festival goers have their dogs walking by their side and some canines are in costumes matching those of their owner.

Niagara Celtic Festival has seven icons advertising the Celtic Nations. These include Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Isle of Man and one that I was not previously aware of. That is Galicia or the Spanish Territories. This year, we received a number of invitations to participate in different Festivals and



Highland Games in New York state and several surrounding states that currently do not have Clan MacRae participants in their Clan Village. It is our hope that some American Clan MacRae Society of America members may volunteer to host clan tents for at least some of these. We are already busy attending the games in Canada earlier in the summer. If you can help out and would like the contact information for any of these, please get in touch with us.

The festival had an abundance of attractions such as animals, a celtic college, the clan village with about 40 different clans, community groups, kid's corner and living history such as MacFarlane's Company and Clann of the Wolfe 1745 Jacobite Rebellion.



Entertainment was performed on three different stages with a wide variety from groups of talented young Irish and Scottish dancers to high energy Celtic Music performed by The American Rogues <http://theamericanrogues.com/home> . The American Rogues are truly a North American group comprised of both Canadian and American performers. We in particular enjoyed their rendition of "The Gael" from the movie Last of the Mohicans which sounds quite haunting yet amazing the way this group performs it with bagpipes, violin and a drummer performing Japanese taiko style. If you ever get a chance to attend one of their performances, we highly recommend you do so. Throughout the weekend there were a number of special events such as the Calling of the Clans Ceremony, parades, a memorial service with swords and even a haggis eating competition. For those of you who are not aware the ingredients for haggis in the USA differs from that of Scotland or Canada for that matter due to the fact that it is illegal to include sheep lungs in human food in the USA. I hope for those about to enjoy eating haggis outside of the USA on Burns Night, that was not "tmi or too much information". *Article & Photo credits: Barbara & John Duff*



Dr. Brett Kilb 1987-2016

We cannot express the depth of our pain as we announce the passing of Brett Kilb, loving husband of Jessica, son of Brad Kilb & Bonnie MacRae-Kilb, brother of Justin, Brad Jr., Bryn, Jodi & Jamey. Sharing our loss are Jessica's parents Ingrid & Howard Zerr, grandparents Simone & Ken MacRae, Connie Zerr & many other family & friends. Brett passed suddenly while jogging with his wife. He was conducting medical research in

Barcelona. A graduate with degrees in Kinesiology & Medicine from the University of Calgary & a Master's degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, 28-year old Brett impacted many lives with his caring, compassionate and loving manner. A celebration of Brett's life was held on Wednesday, September 21, at 1:30 PM, Foothills Alliance Church, 333 Edgepark Blvd. NW, Calgary.

For those who could not attend, the service live streamed at:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/4034818/events/6358405>

Donations can be made online at memorial.supporting.ubc.ca/brett-kilb. Call: 604.827.4111 or 1.877.717.4483. Mail: 500-5950 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3.

Editor's Note: We had the pleasure of meeting Brett and Jessica who joined Bonne & Brad, Simone & Ken and Darrell on our Vancouver Harbour Cruise during the Clan MacRae Gathering in 2016.

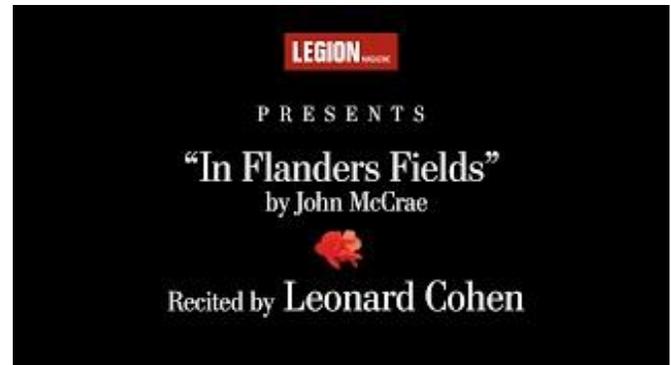


WE ARE ALL INVITED! Clan MacRae Society of North America will be holding their **2017** Clan MacRae Family Gathering in Colorado. They are planning a 6-day/5-night outing from September 5th-10th; starting in Denver and moving to the resort town of Estes Park during the Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival. For more details and to register, please contact Bruce or Judy McRae at (303)670-9611 email Judy at judymcrae@aol.com .

Lest We Forget - November 11

In 2015, Legion Magazine and Leonard Cohen released a video to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. In a tribute to McCrae, legendary Canadian singer-songwriter, painter, novelist and poet Leonard Cohen recited that poem for this exclusive video. His voice is accompanied by stirring imagery from the First World War. Leonard Cohen, died at the age of 82 on November 7, 2016.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKoJvHcMLfc&app=desktop>



A WW1 and WW2 Remembrance Tour by Allen and Gayle McRae

Sept. 20 to Oct. 8, 2016

Six of us met at Schiphol Airport in Holland on **Sept. 20, 2016**. We had rented a nine seater vehicle and would travel through Holland, Belgium and France. After picking up the rental we drove south to Sluis, a small town in the southwest of Holland. It was in this area that the Canadian Army was given the tough job of clearing the area around Antwerp during WW2. This was known as "The Battle of the Scheldt."

Sept. 21 The next day we visited the Adegem Museum dedicated to the Canadian and Polish soldiers who liberated this area.

Sept. 22 Off to Verdun. On route we visited the site of the "Battle of Waterloo." Excellent museum. Climbed the 260+ steps to the top of a man made hill to view the battleground.

Sept. 23 Visited the Douaumont Ossuary on the site of the "Battle of Verdun" which is a repository for the bones of soldiers who were blown apart and so were not able to be buried in regular graves. It contained the bones of 130,000 unknown French and German soldiers. Besides the cemetery, the remains of 160,000 soldiers who were never found remain in the ground surrounding the Ossuary Building.

Sept. 25 We went to an enormous monument/memorial to all of the men of the Somme whose bodies were never found. The place is called Thiepval. We also visited Beaumont Hamel where the 1st Newfoundland Regiment suffered such heavy losses. Nearby was the small village of Contalmaison, where we located the fairly recently erected (2004) monument to "McRae's Boys" (1), a Scottish Regiment out of Edinburgh.

Sept. 26 We drove to Dieppe and saw the site where so many Canadian Troops were either killed or captured in the 1942 "Dieppe Raid".



Sept. 27 We drove further south in the Normandy area to the site of the Pegasus Bridge, where gliders and parachutists landed to secure the bridge prior to the D-Day landing. We saw the Mulberry docks at Arramanche (Gold Beach). Then on to Juno Beach, where the Canadian soldiers landed on June 6, 1944. This was close to home for me, as my dad's first cousin, Lester MacRae, from Flat River, PEI was operating one of the landing craft that day.

Sept. 28 & 29 We spent some time in Bayeux where we saw the almost 1000 year old Bayeux Tapestries connected to the story of William the Conqueror. The beautiful coastal village of Hon Fleur was next. This was the place from which Samuel de Champlain sailed to New France.

Sept. 30 We left Cabourg and headed towards Etaple, where we visited the Commonwealth Cemetery. The graves are so very well kept. Our next stop was at Wimereux, where we located the grave of Canada's Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae(2). We had a short ceremony at the gravesite. I read "In Flanders Field", and Gaylle said the following... "It is an honour to stand here today at the graveside of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae who grew up in Guelph, Ontario, near my own hometown of Woodstock. The poem "In Flanders' Field" which I learned as a young schoolgirl has inspired thousands of children in the past 100 years. We know the poppy as a symbol of remembrance because of this poem. I am grateful to John McCrae for his sacrifice and indeed to all the soldiers who gave everything they could so that we might have freedom today. John McCrae is one of my heroes forever, because of his life and his death."



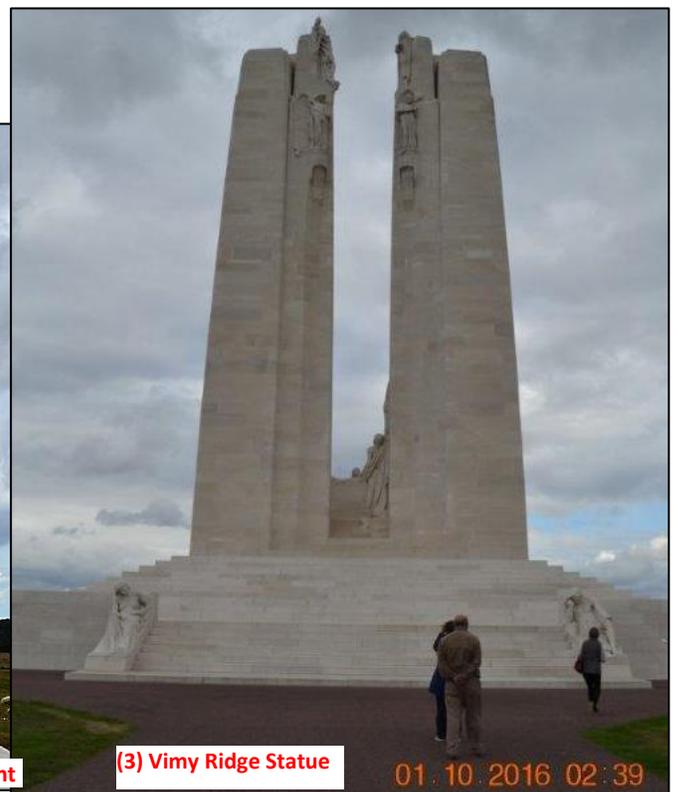
(2) Lt Col John McCrae's Grave

Oct. 1 Vimy Ridge - the statue there is amazing(3). Two tall columns are set on the ridge rising towards the sky as if in prayer. On these columns are statuary depicting Peace, Knowledge, Justice, Faith, Hope, Charity, Sacrifice and Honour. Others signify the Male and the Female Mourners, the Breaking of the Sword and the Sympathy of Canadians for the Helpless. Standing alone in front of this monument is a lone woman who is Mother Canada. She is mourning for her sons(4).

Oct. 2 We visited La Coupole where the Germans planned to build the V2 rocket. We also visited the Blochhaus where liquid oxygen was produced for the V2 and V3 rockets. Later, we went to Dunkirque, to walk the beach where the British Expeditionary Forces were evacuated back to England.



(4) Mother Canada Monument



(3) Vimy Ridge Statue

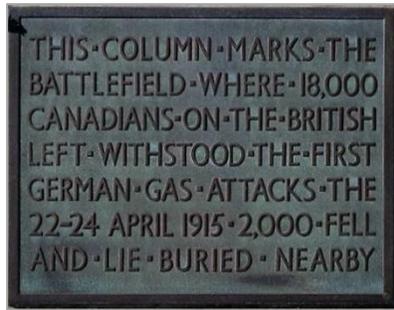
Oct. 3 Ypres is in the Flemish part of Belgium. At 8pm precisely, a Remembrance Service is held every night at Menin Gate. The Last Post is sounded by buglers and the words of remembrance "at the going down

of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them". This service has been taking place at the Menin Gate since about 1920 and was only stopped during WW2.

Oct. 4 We visited the area around Ypres-Hooge Crater, Kitchener's Wood and St. Julien.

Oct. 5 Visited the Flanders' field Museum in Ypres - excellent! We also visited the memorial (5) to Canadians who fought at Vancouver Corner and lastly the Tyne Cot cemetery near Passchendale.

Oct. 6 Before leaving Ypres, we made a stop at Essex Farm, where John McCrae's field medical station was located(6). Here, on May 3, 1915, he wrote his famous poem, "In Flanders' Field".



Plaque on Saint Julien Memorial



(5) Saint Julien Memorial

Over 300 members of Clan MacRae fought at some time or another in Flanders during WW1. We then headed back to Holland for our flight home on Oct. 8, 2016.



(6) Essex Farm

Our trip was a wonderful experience. It has been historical, emotional, educational and even much fun at times. We had the privilege of being guests in four different Belgium homes and sharing meals with our hosts. Gaylle and I also taught a 1 hour class to grade 2-3 students in a small school in St. Julien, about Canada and how maple sugar used to be made. We did have one day in Amsterdam and saw the Van Goth Art Gallery. Our guide, Gavin Cooper shared his knowledge with us, at no charge. Thank you, Gavin.



See 44th Annual Christmas at Hycroft Manor

[Click here to see video of our Opening Day](#)

or <http://christmasathycroft.com/>

Dr. Herbert Farquhar MacRae (1926-2002)

Scientist, Teacher, Administrator, Cape Breton Storyteller

excerpt from an article written by Rod MacRae (son) which appeared in KINTAIL Spring 2004



Herb MacRae was mostly a story teller in the classic Cape Breton tradition. He had lots of education; B.Sc. (MacDonald College), M.Sc and Ph.D. (McGill), and was a pillar of the

Canadian agricultural establishment for his years of teaching, research and administration of McGill University, and innumerable national committees. For all this work, he was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame and he received the Order of Canada (Member) in 1991. But I always felt his primary mission in life was to make people happy.

And his stories made lots of people happy. So much so, that he turned his impromptu storytelling into a brief career as a banquet speaker and skit performer. I say brief because he found the pressure to make people laugh intense in those situations. It gave him great appreciation for stand-up comedians and the more relaxed ambiance of a dinner party. A book of stories was to be a retirement project, but he realized you couldn't really put many of these accounts to paper without compromising the tale.

Of course, he couldn't make his family laugh. We'd heard all the stories so many times, we'd moan when he started up on one. And we knew how he created his stories because many of them started out as the true experience of some unfortunate family member. By the time Herb was finished with our real life, the semblance to the truth was decidedly fragile. But good story teller that he was, his audience was always convinced he spoke "the god's truth". Cape Breton was his place, and the inspiration for many of his stories.

He was born on a farm in Middle River, NS, and though farming wasn't his thing, in many ways he never left it behind. He worked as an agricultural scientist, mostly on cows and chickens. He cultivated a third of an acre every year with hand tools (otherwise known as gardening). And he always went to Cape Breton in the summer, first to the family farm and later to a cottage on the Bras D'Or Lakes outside of Baddeck. The place and the people were in his bones, not unexpected given Scottish ancestry on both sides of the family. There are so many MacRae's in Middle River, I never knew people's last names growing up because there was no point in using them.

Some years after marrying my mother, a Finlayson from Winnipeg, one of her brothers discovered that the families had intermarried in Scotland prior to emigration to Canada in the early 1800's. In an unusual case of genetic migration, my parents had moved from West and East to find each other in Montreal. And they stayed there for 20 years before moving to Truro, NS with 4 children and a badly behaved dog.

There, he took up the Principal's office at Nova Scotia Agricultural College with an administrative style that showed another dimension of his ability to make everyone happy. Before I started my working life, I always figured this meant he just told stories during meeting time, as the expense of mundane items like staffing requirements and budget pressures. But it seems he had a consensus building style that made staff feel listened to. For that, he retained much gratitude at the College post retirement. In moments of excessive (and typically Scottish?) modesty, he ascribed their affection to the College's full coffers during his tenure.

Herb had an unusual fascination with technology. I'm not sure where his came from. It might have been due to the relative material poverty he experienced growing up during the Depression. Perhaps it was the just invented medical procedures that saved him on several occasions as a young man. It explains both why he became a scientist and why he loved consumer gadgets. He would spend time watching

appliances, like dishwashers, in operation and comb mail order catalogues to find arcane household devices. One of my sisters inherited the most useless and amusing of these - a battery-operated table crumb sweeper.



Technology was a frequent part of our discussions. For him, it had certain miraculous qualities. For me, and my generation, we saw the challenge of better managing technology to avoid its frequent negative side effects. To his credit,

Herb, though nearing the end of his distinguished career, recognized these problems and spoke to his colleagues about them. I always thought it was courageous of him to challenge many of the things he himself had helped create.

He always saw himself a lucky man, but his luck ran out when a quirky tumour with high surgical risks was discovered. Rather than take a chance on an incapacitated life, he opted to let the tumour run its course. Like everything else, he did that well, and with humour.



This hooked rug was made by Marie Helen Camus on Cape Breton Island, NS
In Gaelic it reads: "A Hundred Thousand Welcomes"

The Clan MacRae Society of Canada says, *A Hundred Thousand Welcomes to New Members of Clan MacRae*

Geoffrey & June McRae, Sherwood Park, AB



Balmorals Off!

As we express our thanks to **Peter Croft McRae** for generously sponsoring this issue of Kintail.

Clan MacRae Society of Canada thanks the following members for their Donations. This greatly helps with our objectives to promote, encourage and educate about CLAN MACRAE.

Darrell & Gloria MacRae

Peter Croft McRae

Robert & Lauren MacRae

Clifford & Elsie Chapple

William & Helene McRae

Myrna McRae, in loving memory of her husband Roderick



<http://www.nstattoo.ca/index.php>

From KINTAIL – Issue 21 Spring 2012, Robert MacRae Editor

CANADA AND THE TITANIC

Clan MacRae Remembers the Losses

A century ago, church bells rang over Halifax as bodies of victims of the Titanic tragedy arrived in Halifax aboard the “death ship”. On board were the recovered bodies destined to be buried in three cemeteries in this Maritime city and among the victims there was at least one MacRae. With a series of postage stamps one of which is one shown to the right, Canada Post remembered the April 15, 1912 sinking of the Titanic and Canada’s connections.

One Clan victim was William Alexander McRae, 32 years old. Hailing from Hampshire, he was a stoker/fireman in the engine room. A married man, he left two children and his wife to mourn his death. His body was never recovered.

Another victim was Arthur Gordon McCrae, a second-class and Australian passenger of New South Wales, Australia. He was a mining engineer and a graduate of the University of Sydney. He had held a position at a gold mine in West Africa and as an assistant manager of a copper mine in Serbia. He was en route to Canada to join his fiancée, Miss Madeleine Knight, who was staying with her parents and family.

Madeleine’s mother, Mary, wrote to Arthur’s mother as soon as she learned of the disaster. An excerpt: “[Arthur] had been part of our lives so long it did not seem possible hardly to leave him in Russia, his deep

love and devotion to Madeleine and his great friendship for me has shown his beautiful character. After our first great sorrow my love and affection were for my child and him. My dear Mrs. McCrae, how we are going to live this down I can’t at present imagine. I am too dazed. I have had to force myself to sit down and write this let



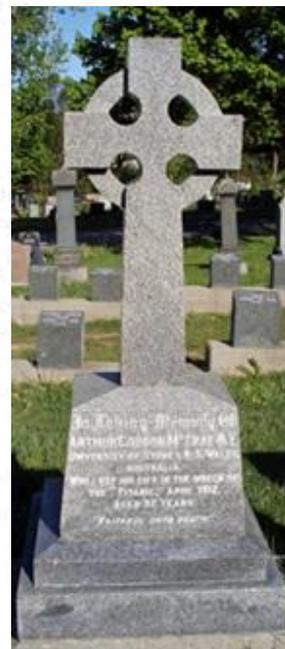
ter. ... Madeleine ... is so young to have this great sorrow. She is so different from most girls and cares for few but when she does it [is] very deep.

Arthur MacRae’s body was recovered and brought to Halifax and there to be buried in Fairview Cemetery. A tall Celtic cross marks his grave and, among the 150 gravestones that mark the victims’ burial sites, his is the tallest. It is mute testimony to the high regard his family held for him and something of the grief they felt at their loss. It was also a sign of his family’s connections to their roots in the Highlands.

Perhaps the most interesting part of McCrae’s story is his heritage. His grandmother was Georgiana Huntly, a daughter of George, 5th Duke of Gordon and Jane Graham, to whom he was not married. The Duke was a professional soldier and in 1794, raised the 92nd Regiment, the Gordon Highlanders. Interestingly enough, the Duke died without legitimate heirs, and the title Duke of Gordon became extinct. Georgiana married Andrew McCrae, and they went to Australia in the 1830s. She became a respected painter, and they had a large family.

Acknowledgements: Canada Post, John Cowper (AU), *Sgurr Uaran*,

R. Knuckle, *The Encyclopedia Titanica*, *Univ. of Sydney Archives*.



**In Loving Memory of
Arthur Gordon McCrae BE
University of Sydney, NSW
Who Lost His Life in the
Wreck of the “Titanic”
April 1912
Aged 32 years**

Editor’s Note 2017: As you will note in the 2017 Gathering Itinerary; we plan to visit Arthur Gordon McCrae’s gravesite in Fairview Cemetery on the way to Truro Friday, June 16.

History of New Glasgow Lobster Supper



New Glasgow Lobster Suppers is currently owned by two of the original founding Junior Farmer couples, William & Thelma Nicholson and Sterling & Jean MacRae. It is operated by the Nicholson and MacRae families, with 3 generations of family members included on the Management Team. They are actively involved in their communities and the tourism industry in Prince Edward Island.

The Original P.E.I. Lobster Suppers, a family restaurant; has been serving lobster in New Glasgow since June 24, 1958. The first lobster dinner was served as a fundraiser for the New Glasgow and District Junior Farmers Organization. The building had no kitchen and no

on site wash room facilities. All the food was prepared elsewhere and brought on site. The first customers had to wait in their car as temporary steps were constructed for them to enter the building. Inside, the bare studs of the walls were showing, the tables were plywood doors which were laid flat on saw horses and the seats were long



benches. Along with this country atmosphere was the simplicity of the meal, a cold lobster, homemade rolls and potato salad as well as fresh desserts; served by the Junior Farmers. The meal was followed by a dance. Sounds like a wonderful meal at a reasonable price of \$1.50 per person with all \$260 dollars raised going to the Junior Farmers Group. Over the next few years, The Junior Farmers continued to utilize their new building for community gatherings, blood donor clinics, weekly dances and the occasional lobster supper fundraiser. In 1963, the increasing interest of that first meal led to adapting to meet the public's need. This meant making the dinner a weekly event therefore increasing the fund-raising event even more.

1970 - Demand for the lobster dinner was so great that the organization decided to serve the public 7 days a week.

1973 - An expansion was made that enabled the hall to seat up to 400 people. The ribbon cutting ceremonies were held and the expansion was officially opened by Premier Alex Campbell, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and his wife Margaret.

1975 - The first inland lobster pound was established using wooden tanks. The following year the wooden tanks were switched to fiberglass tanks. Being inland and lobsters requiring salt water, special accommodations had to be made. Water would be hauled from the nearby harbor and held in an underground tank that was refrigerated and circulated throughout the fiberglass tanks. In addition to this a cultural display room was added to enable the customers to view the lobster pound and educate the diners on these incredible crustaceans.

1979 - A record was made with the number of people who ate at the restaurant. During one week alone the average crowd per day was 1250 people. During that very same week New Glasgow Lobster Suppers experienced their largest day to date, serving 1470 people in one day. 1980's - In 1980 ownership decreased leaving only four of the original founding members to carry on the lobster suppers' tradition. During the 1980's, the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency was giving financial aid in the form of grants to up and coming entrepreneurs like the founders of New Glasgow Lobster Suppers. This money helped the restaurant expand an additional two more times. Once in 1983 when the lower level "Glasgow Room" was added, this sat 60 people.





1989 - The "Glasgow Room" was expanded; allowing for 175 seats. In doing so the cultural display room was closed and the lobster pound was moved and upgraded enabling them to hold upwards of 20,000 pounds of lobster.

Throughout the years New Glasgow Lobster Suppers have been recognized by numerous influential people, travel magazines, newspapers but mostly by their community.

Recognitions include:

1997 - awarded the Tourism Operator of the Year by The Tourism Industry Association of PEI.

1998 - 40th season, a celebration was held honoring all past and current owners for their dedication and hard work.

2000 - featured on "The Great Canadian Food Show".

2002 - an article in Harrow-smith Country Living Magazine where the village of New Glasgow was featured in as one of ten of the "prettiest little towns" in Canada; also mentioned was New Glasgow Lobster Suppers as one of the major attractions in the quaint little village.

2003 - a segment on ATV's Travel Television Show "Suite and Simple PEI".

2008 - celebrated 50 years in business by giving away a lobster meal for the original price of \$1.50 to every 50th person in the door. Received recognition as a Finalist for The Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce President's Excellence Award for Customer Service.

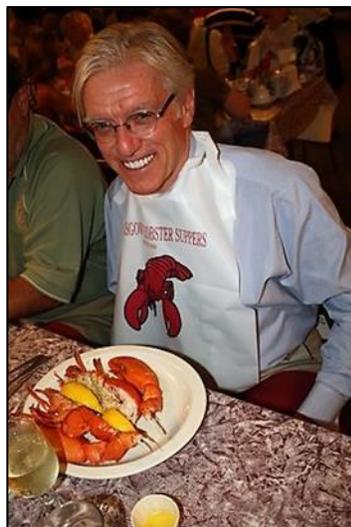
2009 - awarded Premier's Award for Tourism.

2010 - debuted on CBC airing their first ever commercial on television.

2012 - show-cased on the Food Network's "You Gotta Eat Here"; with replay numerous times. Since then "You Gotta Eat Here" has produced a recipe book featuring the recipe for their famous hot and delicious homemade rolls. Long-time employee and friend, Joan Blanchard (shown below) - known as Queen of the Pies (pictured below) received the Tourism Industry of PEI's Queens County Hospitality Award. Joan's "mile high lemon meringue" is still served today.



Left: Sterling MacRae holding giant lobster at the tanks



Peter Croft MacRae



From Jean and Sterling MacRae through to 3rd Generation Erin MacRae-Forrest and her husband Mike, this **MacRae Family** have made a significant and meaningful contribution to their community and province.

Photos & Information:

Erin MacRae-Forrest

<http://peilobstersuppers.com/>



June 24, 2016 ribbon cutting 58th anniversary of first dinner served

Shetland Mouse-ear (pictured in this edition's Mast Head)

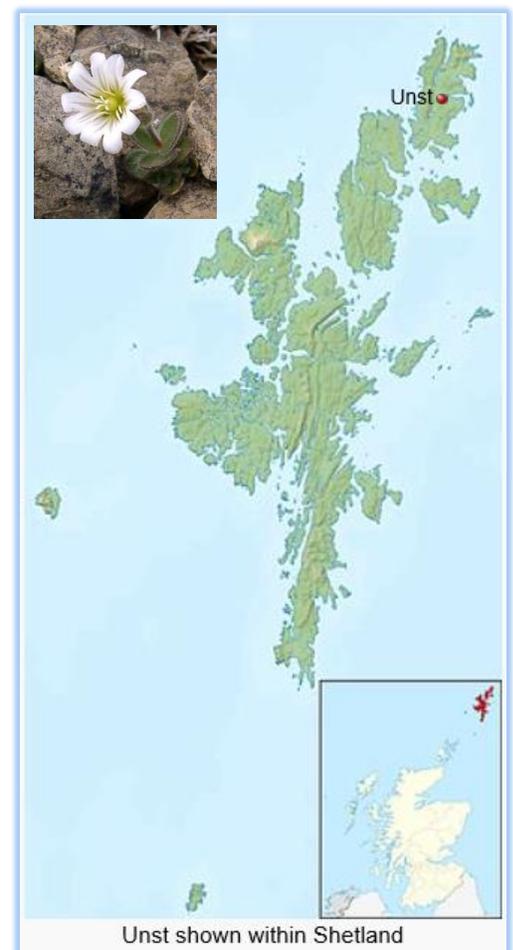
Cerastium nigrescens, commonly known as the **Shetland Mouse-ear**, **Shetland Mouse-eared**



Chickweed or **Edmondston's Chickweed**, is an endemic plant found in Shetland, Scotland. It was first recorded in 1837 by botanist Thomas Edmondston, who was 12 at the time. For a long time it was synonymised with Arctic Mouse-ear *Cerastium*

arcticum but it is now widely regarded as a separate species. Although reported from two other sites in the 19th century, it currently grows only on two serpentine hills on the island of Unst. The numbers of *C. nigrescens* can vary dramatically from year to year, for reasons that are unclear (probably due to a varying rates of seedling germination and survival), but the underlying trend seems stable, and there has been no change in its distribution. Mature plants may be not much more than a single shoot with one flower or can be a fist-sized cushion with as many as 40 flowers. Flowers look disproportionately large compared with the size of the plant.

Unst is one of the North Isles of the Shetland Islands, Scotland. It is the northernmost of the inhabited British Isles and is the third largest island in Shetland after the Mainland and Yell. It has an area of 46 square miles (120 km²). **Unst** is largely grassland, with coastal cliffs. Its main village is Baltasound, formerly the second largest



Unst shown within Shetland

herring fishing port after Lerwick and now the location of a leisure centre and the island's airport. Other settlements include Uyeasound, home to Greenwell's Booth (a Hanseatic warehouse) and Muness Castle (built in 1598 and sacked by pirates in 1627); and Haroldswick, location of a boat museum and a heritage centre.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerastium_nigrescens

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unst> www.plantlife.org.uk

In 1850, A Farmer Found A Secret Door In The Sand.



Nestled in the mossy, green hills on the Orkney Islands off Scotland is a secret older than the great pyramids of Egypt. At first, it might not look like much, but the fact is, this is a unique and magical place. Because within this rolling hillside is a perfectly preserved prehistoric village called Skara Brae.

The winter of 1850 hit Orkney hard. A severe storm caused great devastation and resulted in more than 200 deaths. But it also revealed something long forgotten. When the storm abated, villagers discovered a settlement under the sand.



The settlement consists of eight stone houses and was inhabited between roughly 3180 and 2500 B.C., making Skara Brae one of the oldest agriculture villages in the UK. Skara Brae has been called the Scottish Pompeii because the ancient monument is so well preserved. Since the surrounding sand and the buildings architecture were well protected against the cold, both the buildings and their contents have been remarkably preserved throughout the millennia. Archaeologists estimate that 50-100 people lived in the village. When the settlement was built, the houses were 1,500 meters from the sea. Now, the sea has dug closer to the village and the view from the settlement has changed from pastures to the sea. The settlements seven or eight houses were connected to each other by tunnels. Each residence could be closed off with a stone door.

In a small bay in Scotland, a well-kept secret is hidden among the green hills. At first glance, it might not seem particularly impressive, but step inside and you'll be amazed at what you see. Thousands of years ago, it was a bustling society. But time and weather buried it under the sand. For millennia, no one knew that this place ever existed, but when a terrible storm swept over the Orkney Islands in 1850, an incredible secret was revealed.





In every room, one bed was always bigger than the other, but no one knows why. Each room also contains cabinets, dressers, seats, and storage boxes. These boxes were built to be waterproof, suggesting that they might have stored live seafood for later consumption. One house is distinct from the other, however. Archaeologists didn't find any beds or other furniture. The house is believed to have functioned as a workshop. Amazingly, the village also had a sewage system and each house had its own toilet. Skara Brae was a society which centered around families. The dwellings are all quite similar, which led archaeologists to conclude that this society was a fairly equal one, without any authoritative leadership.



Some believe that the villagers were Picts, a people of unknown origin who settled in eastern and northern Scotland near the end of the British Iron Age. But archaeological findings have shown that the people who lived here could have lived much earlier than that.



A number of mysterious discoveries have been made at the site, including this carved stone ball, though no one really knows what it was used for. And no one knows why the village was abandoned. But around 2500 B.C., the Orkney Islands became cooler and wetter. Many theories speculate about how the people of Skara Brae met their fate; the most popular ones involve a violent storm.

What's the future look like for Skara Brae? Although the settlement was

built nearly two kilometers from the beach, in recent centuries, it has been increasingly threatened by the sea. Since 1926, the houses have been protected from the approaching sea and harsh autumn winds by a concrete wall. There has been talk about building an artificial beach with boulders and breakwater to preserve Skara Brae and several other ancient monuments at risk of being destroyed. But nothing has happened yet. Until further notice, tourists continue to visit this fascinating place, but the question is for how long?



More information at:
<http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/skarabrae/>



**KINTAIL IS NOW ON
FACEBOOK @ CLAN MACRAE
SOCIETY OF CANADA**

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REMINDER:
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS FOR
CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF CANADA ARE
AVAILABLE ON WWW.CLANMACRAE.CA**

**IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP
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Individual/Family: \$20 for 1 year, \$50 for 3 years
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Name/s: (Please list all names of family living at the same address (ie., minor children))

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Life Time 70 plus \$100 \$.....

My Gift to the Clan Society \$.....

Total Enclosed \$.....

Today's Date:

Clan MacRae Official Variants and Septs Names

(Includes all combinations of Ra/Rae/Rath with or without "Mc" or " Mac")

Crae, Cree, Macara, Macarra, Maccra, Maccrath, MacCrae, Maccraith, McCrady,
MacCraw, MacCray, Macrae, MacCrea, Maccree, Maccree, Maccree, MacKereth
Macrath, Maccroy, Macgrath, Macgraw, Machray, Macra, Macraith, Macrach,
Macray, Macrie, McRae, McCrae, McCrea, Rae, Raith, Ray, Rea, Reath