



FALL 2019

Message from the PRESIDENT

Greetings Clan MacRae members,

In this fall issue, we feature the highlights of Bill and Lynn McRae's memorable trip to Scotland. It was the international gathering of MacRae's from all over the world. They gathered at the Elean Donan Castle where they met other MacRae families. You will enjoy reading about their adventures. Once again, we want to thank Barb and John Duff who attended many highland games and represented the MacRae's and the McFarlane's at the clan tent. We also want to thank Doreen Powell and Darrell MacRae and his family for representing the MacRae Clan at the Calgary Highland Games.

I want to thank Gail McRae for serving many years as our Membership Secretary. Her dedication and commitment to her role has been very much appreciated. Our new Secretary of Membership is Sharon Clayton. Many of you have met Sharon as she has been very much, and continues to be, involved in researching the MacRae genealogy. Thank you, Sharon, for stepping into this important role.

Our next Clan MacRae gathering will be held in Toronto, May 1,2,3 (2020). I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance!

If you have an article that you would like to see in our next Kintail, please send it to macraesocietycanadaweb@gmail.com. I wish you all a wonderful fall season.

SLÀINTE

Owen C. MacRae

President

Fall 2019
Issue 43



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BALMORALS OFF!

As we express our thanks to

for generously sponsoring
this issue of Kintail.



REMINDER:

Membership Application forms for Clan MacRae Society of Canada Are Available on our website:
<https://www.clanmacraecanada.org/>
If you are not sure when your membership expires contact Sharon Clayton.

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY: \$20 per year or \$50 for 3 years
(One Household + minor children)

LIFE TIME 70 PLUS: \$150

MAIL APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:

Sharon Clayton, Membership Secretary
14431 16A Avenue, Surrey, BC V4A 1S8

PLEASE NOTE: Send name, address or e-mail changes to Sharon Clayton at sharonjmclayton@gmail.com.

Clan MacRae Society of Canada

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About: Our objectives are to promote Clan MacRae history, traditions, literature, music and genealogy. To educate and foster members with the Scottish Highland traditions; and, connect with other Clan MacRae Societies throughout the world.

104TH YEAR CALGARY HIGHLAND GAMES TODAY AUGUST 30, 2019

ARTICLE|PHOTOS: DARRELL MACRAE

Well today's Highland games were cool and a little wet, but everyone was in great spirits.

The Sun poked itself out a 3:30 pm for 1/2 hour and then back to on and off rain, just like Scotland! This is the final weekend of Summer of course.

Our 6th consecutive year's appearance. We have signed up a couple of new members and had pretty good interest and reception. People love the history and tales of our clan stories. Uncle Robert would be proud.

Heavy sports went straight thru the rainstorms, very hearty lads I must say, Unwavering determination, no matter the situation.

Our Buffalo skin got wet, probably not the first time...adds character.

Anyways good times and great day! Hope your Summers are going well.

Cheers,

Calgary Clan MacRae



FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES OF CANADA

CLAN EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2019

ARTICLE|PHOTOS: JOHN & BARB DUFF

Well, it has been a very busy year for us and just wanted to give an update on our activities for the Clan this year.

We started the year out in January doing the “Great Canadian Kilt Skate Toronto”, on a very, very, cold day but the cold never swayed the Kilt Skaters. It was organized by CASSOC (Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada), on behalf of Sons of Scotland in the Nathan Phillip Square in Toronto on Sunday, January 27th, 2019. There were 9 cities that signed up in Canada this past year to celebrate Canada and our Scottish heritage with it being the 5th year doing this. The cities participating were Ottawa, Calgary, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, North Glengarry (Alexandria), Toronto, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Montreal and Lethbridge. Toronto was named the Kilt Skate Capital last year in 2018.

Originally, it was “Visit Scotland Tourism Government” that wanted to be involved somehow and so they gave a bit of money to help out with expenses and so it got started by the Scottish Society of Ottawa and has grown in the past 5 years. Toronto got involved for the 150th Anniversary of Canada and has continued since. The kilted and tartaned skaters skated merrily around Nathan Phillip Square with their families or significant other and enjoyed our cold Canadian winter.

There were hospitality tents set up, a large tent to advertise your clan or festival and hot chocolate and Tim-bit donuts for everyone. The event was covered by the media as an innovative way to enjoy some fun.

Mother Nature was not co-operating in warming up the day, so I sneaked away to the Tim Horton’s across the street to warm up for a bit while John stayed at the tent advertising our clan and the festival. We were very happy to pack up a few minutes early to head home to a warm and cozy home.



Nathan Phillip Square January 27th, 2019
“Great Canadian Kilt Skate”



The Pipers & Highland Dancers



Toronto Skyline



Families enjoying the day.



Karen-during the Opening Ceremony



John at the information tent fighting the brutal cold in his kilt. Brave men that day.



Flying our Flags



The crowd grew a bit later in the day.



CASSOC giving our free hot chocolate and Tim-bits



We had an unusual friend as well showing off his muscles. Why?



Highland Dancers and the brave Pipers.



Brave Pipers fighting the cold.

GEORGETOWN



Terry from Clan MacNeil showing the youngster how to hold the sword.

If you enjoy the competition of the Scottish Highland Dancers June 8th in Georgetown at the Georgetown Highland Games in Ontario is where you wanted to be. This was the first game in Ontario and is a one-day event held at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. This is the game that we have to figure out after the long winter how to erect our tents and show our displays and it always takes much more time. We always seem to

forget to pack something. This year, it was one of the tent canopies, so in the end we only got one tent up. There were two Highland Dancing stages with competitions, PPBSO pipe band competitions including Grade 1-5, men's and women's Scottish



Scottish Highland Dancers

Heavyweights Competitions as well, continuing throughout the day. In addition, we were joined with the 78th Fraser Highlanders of York Garrison for a Historical Regimental Reenactment as well as the Clans Avenue, a parade and other Scottish entertainment during the day.

COBOURG

Our second game that we attended was the Cobourg Scottish Festival and Highland Games held June 14 & 15th on the north shore of Lake Ontario. The founder of the Cobourg's Highland Games in 1963 was Davey Carr, (of Clan Kerr) who risking and mortgaging the very roof over his head to do so, founded the town's very first Highland Games and it has been so successful that it has been an annual event ever since.

It is a Saturday & Sunday event with a bit of everything. Highland Dancing Stage, PPBSO pipe band competitions, and Scottish Heavyweight Competitions. The best was this vendor who had a dozen different kinds of butter tarts but very costly. This year there was a very cold and brisk wind blowing over the grounds from Lake Ontario. Due to our cold and damp spring the lake had not warmed up much and people were all bundled up but still cold. We left before watching some of the entertainment that we wanted to see because it was so cold Saturday evening that Barb was shaking even with a sweater and coat.



CALEDONIA

Next came our very own organized festival, Caledonia Celtic Festival on June 21 & 22nd. We worked so hard this past 18 months researching, researching and researching the do's and don'ts of festivals. Our heads were spinning with contracts, licenses, volunteers, the county, government rules for a non-profit event, etc. It just goes on and on. You have no idea until you do one of these events yourself as to what is really involved. It is certainly different than just planning a Clan Gathering.

We focused mainly on the four things needed for this event which was Pipe Bands, Highland/Irish Dancers, Heavies and of course Celtic entertainment. Parking was another issue to deal with. By the time it finally came about on Friday June 21, it was a relief but very exhausting. Questions kept popping up in my head if we got this or that and if we have enough or too much not knowing how many people would even turn up. It was a very hot day on the Saturday and would have been nice for a few more shade trees but the Grand River was relaxing for the visitors to sit and eat and enjoy the scenery and music. Well we did get through it with many compliments that it was a well-run event and very good for a first festival. We certainly learned a

lot but still have much to learn and retain for next year. We hope for it to grow and become a well-known festival that people will want to attend. Of course, there were some true Scots complaining about our \$20.00 weekend entrance fee.



Smart boy- loving the Scottie Dog.



Pipers leading the parade.



Our First Special guest was Dr. Allan McDonald who is a dentist in the area and President of the BIA in Caledonia.



Haldimand Spinners & Weavers



Ann McRae from London did the Clan MacRae tent for me at the Caledonia Celtic Festival.



One of the Medieval re-enactors.



Scotty the Mascot and the fellow from the group Squirrel.



Grimsby Pipe Band and Dancers



Peel Region Police District Pipe Band



"Squirrel" group down by the McKinnon barn.



Haldimand County Map



Boarder Collie rounding up the sheep.

EMBRO

July 1st or Canada Day was the day when the 82nd Embro Highland Games were held which is only an hour away from our home. This one-day event is reputed to be the oldest in Ontario. The Zorra Caledonia Society was founded in 1937 and is a community organization of volunteers that are preserving the cultural heritage of the Village of Embro and the Township of Zorra. Although these games moved to a new and much larger location (in Woodstock) last year, this year they decided to move back to the original venue at Zorra Community Centre. The public and participants do not always embrace changes or walking farther. At least that was the rumour as to why they moved back. They wanted that cozy feeling back again of togetherness and family.

One event that I missed seeing was the Kilted Yoga. Ummm, sorry I missed that one.



Clan Village.



Heavies – Caber Toss.



Tug-of-War with the Wee folks.

KINCARDINE

July 5th to July 7th was the Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games on the sandy shores of Lake Huron. The lakeside town of Kincardine is a quaint small town with summer cottages for the beach bathers but welcome all visitors to their festivals and games. There are usually only 10 or 12 Clan tents at this festival because of not being able to bring your car on the grounds to unload and load-up again. You must have a wagon to do this or just carry your stuff in by hand.

Apparently, the pipe bands enjoy this festival and there are usually quite a few competing. Clan Alley and the clan tents as is the custom were only open on Saturday, July 6th at this venue. That gave us a chance to explore the grounds, watch some Celtic Entertainment and visit with friends on Sunday July 7th before heading home. Some of the entertainment we got to enjoy on Sunday included the Glengarry Bhoys (from Eastern Ontario and some living in the NY), The Screaming Orphans (Ireland) and the Mudmen (Eastern Ontario) all of which have been headliners at other nearby festivals or games recently. A lone(phantom) Piper, pipes down the sun from atop the lighthouse every evening at dusk. Another long-standing tradition in Kincardine is every Saturday they have the piper's parade down the middle of the main street playing the pipes. What a great tradition in this romantic small town.





The antique car leading the Parade in Kincardine.



Between Goderich and Kincardine on the Shores of Lake Huron.



Found this up around Goderich. Thought you might like to see.



This farm was right across from the Kamp Kintail sign.

CAMBRIDGE

July 20th was the Cambridge Scottish Festival which we decided not to attend at the last minute that morning. The weather was supposed to be something like 38 and over 44 Celsius with the humidity factor so we decided it would be too much for us to handle.

UXBRIDGE

July 27th was the Uxbridge Scottish Festival near Toronto. It had some rain just as it did in 2018 but not enough to ruin the festival. This is a smaller festival that is attempting to regenerate after not running for several years and there is currently no charge for entry. Our favourite events at this festival are the Scottish Dogs on display by different breeders plus the last part of the festival. During the festival in the children's area they complete some arts and crafts that are decorations for a wooden "Viking Ship". At the end of the festival they pack the ship with some straw and add some other fuel then light it on fire with the fire department closely monitoring.



The teddy that went across Canada from Edinburgh Tattoo.



The Uxbridge Pipe Band.



Burning of the Viking ship.

GLENGARRY

Do you like the Pipe Band Competition? Well this is where you come during the Glengarry Highland Games to fill your appetite for those who love the pipers. August 2 & 3rd was a long weekend in Ontario, called Civic Holiday. That is when the Glengarry Highland Games take place during Friday and Saturday in Maxville Ontario.

Glengarry typically can have from 50 or more pipe bands in attendance and competitions due to the fact the North American Pipe Band competitions take place at this game. After this weekend many pipes bands travel to Scotland for the world competitions. The massed bands is not to be missed if you ever have the chance to attend this game. This is the only festival in Ontario where the clans are given spots to set up in the livestock barns but if it rains at least we remain dry.





John looking after the MacRae area at Glengarry.



Brandon, Danielle, Kirk and Sharon MacRae

MONTREAL

Those who are so inclined and want to make a long weekend of it continue on to the Montreal Highland Games about 90 minutes by car away from the Glengarry Games on the Sunday. They call it the "M and M" weekend, or Maxville and Montreal.



Remembering the fallen. American Civil War display.

Remembering the fallen.

The American Rogues.



Re-enactors from the Civil War.

FERGUS

August 8th to 11th, 2019 was the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games. Fergus has one of the largest Scottish festivals in Ontario and 2019 did not disappoint. Thursday August 8th in the evening there was a parade through downtown Fergus with some of the same entertainment that would perform over the weekend at the actual festival showcased in different pubs and venues that evening. Friday August 9th was Tattoo'd in Tradition the kickoff of the festival showcasing entertainers, clans and VIPs including Dr. Morrow the Lord Lyon King of Arms from Scotland. Fireworks followed and a show by Ashley MacIsaac. Saturday August 10th and Sunday August 11th were the main festival days. In our opinion it was the busiest Saturday that we have attended Fergus Festival at least in Clan Tent visits and passports stamped. We need to get a do-it-yourself passport stamp for that festival because one person has a difficult time keeping up to the stamping requests. The Lord Lyon made certain that he visited each of the clan tents on Saturday and Sunday to speak with the Clans. There was also a dinner he attended with all of the Clans invited, held at the Breadalbane Inn on Saturday evening in downtown Fergus.



Friday evening concert/tattoo.



Fireworks on Friday evening.



Highland Cattle getting groomed and loving it.



Highland Cattle

Gillebride MacMillan is known far and wide for his role as Gwyllyn the Bard in Outlander and as an acclaimed singer, actor, educator. He hails from South Uist in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. A fluent, first language Scottish Gaelic speaker, Gillebride comes from a family with strong Gaelic song and music traditions.



Rev Dr. Joseph John Morrow-Lord Lyon of Scotland.



John & Barb Duff enjoying the day at Fergus Games. John is wearing the Duff tartan.



Carol, Penny Chyrel, & Joy (MacRae descendants)



Friday during the Torch Lighting Ceremonies.



Tools of the Blacksmith



Entertainment in the Tea tent

NIAGARA CELTIC HERITAGE FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES-USA

The 19th Annual Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games was held on September 14th and 15th, 2019. This year the venue was changed from Krull Park in Olcott, New York to the Niagara County Fairgrounds in Lockport, New York. The festival was moved to allow for expansion because it had outgrown the previous venue with something like 13,000 people in attendance last year which is a very good trend. Niagara is one of our favourite festivals, partially due to the fact this festival is designed to include seven Celtic Nations and encourages attendees to dress in costume and to bring their dogs. There are people in Scottish Highland and Lowland dress, Clan Klaus with beards and dressed in red with bells ringing, Irish outfits, Old English outfits from wenchies to Quakers, Goths, Vikings outfitted with full battle gear including painting or tattoos and haircuts, Cornish dress, Witches, Warlocks, Fairies or even people dressed like trees. Many owners have their dogs outfitted with matching outfits. The bulk of the entertainment, history and customs on display tend to be mostly Scottish and Irish due to the surrounding population and entertainment options but all Celtic nations are welcome. For those of you who are not aware, Celtic nations include Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man (England), Cornwall (England) and Brittany (France) with all areas speaking a form of Gaelic at least until re-

cent times. Some historians include Galicia (Spain), other Northern Spanish and Northern Portuguese territories who also spoke a form of Gaelic until at least Roman times in the Celtic Nations.

Friday September 13th was dedicated to volunteer, vendor and participant setups. Friday evening included bonfires and musical entertainment without public attendance so that many participants had the freedom to attend. Friday evening even had a hand fasting wedding ceremony for one of the festival volunteers and guests.

Saturday and Sunday included parades each day at noon which started in Clan Village and continued through the grounds to the Special events field.



Penny, Joy, Barb Duff, Cheryl-the three sisters from the US. They said that I made their weekend at the Fergus Games. They were on a trip looking for family history.

MACRAE INTERNATIONAL CLAN GATHERING 2019

ARTICLE|PHOTOS: BILL MCRAE



After flying from Nova Scotia to British Columbia to attend the annual MacRae's society AGM we were off flying to Heathrow airport to only then catch an adjoining flight to Edinburgh to then catch up with the already in progress bus tours that started in Glasgow for the Clan MacRae gathering at Eilean Donan Castle. (Wow what a mouthful and handful that was).

We were fortunate enough to have Charles and Elizabeth MacRae joining us during our airport shuffles from Vancouver to Edinburgh and even though they were not joining us on the bus tour we had an opportunity to cross paths at several of the events during the gathering.

The gathering was to commemorate the marking of the 300-year anniversary on May 10th of the destruction of the castle in 1719 during the Jacobite risings or attempted risings in the early 1700's where James Edward Stuart tries to regain the throne of Scotland with various Highland Clans / French & Spanish allied supporters after the "Act of Union" that united the kingdoms of England and Scotland in 1707, as many still believed in Scotland having its own independence and it's own monarch.

On the arrival in Edinburgh at approximately 5 p.m. May 6th (after starting at the Vancouver airport May 5th @ 3 pm) the van that was scheduled to pick up Chuck, Beth, Lynn and myself was not there initially to pick us up and take us to the Royal Scots Club Hotel, not panicking we all took a washroom break after the long flights there, then lo and behold within a half an hour our ride arrived, another hour to get to #29 Abercrombie Place (the RSC Hotel,) get our bags, check-in, get in the room and all 4 of us passed out until breakfast the following morning.

The hotel was built in an area of Edinburgh known as New Town; it is part of the Northern or second section of the New Town extensions built between 1800 and 1830. The hotel takes up buildings number 29, 30 and 31 and is an interesting layout on the inside, very well taken care of Georgian Style Hotel, the room being very large for that time period. A break-

fast was included with our stay and had a good selection of cereals fruits and muffins to choose from along with a large selection of hot meals of your choice, the porridge was absolutely some of the best I've ever eaten. A great place to lay your head for the first couple of days while in Edinburgh.



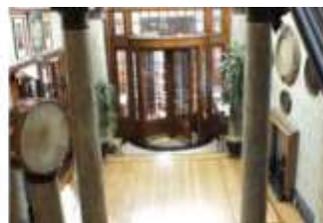
Our first full day on the Scotland tour encompassed several stops, the 1st stop being Linlithgow Palace (birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots), as time was limited, we only had a quick stop here for photos.



The 2nd stop was at The Kelpies at Falkirk, a pair of 60-meter-high stainless-steel horse head sculptures depicting "The Kelpies". Kelpies are a Scots name given to a shape-shifting water spirit inhabiting all the lochs and pools of Scotland; they have usually been described as appearing as a horse that is able to adopt human form. The word is derived from the Scots

Gaelic *caipa* or *caipeach*, meaning heifer or colt.

Our 3rd stop of the day was at Blackness Castle, better known as the ship that never sailed because of its shape looking in from the Firth of Forth. A strategic stronghold it has its history going back as far as 1304, most recently episodes of *The Outlander* have been filmed here.





Our 4th stop of the day was tea on the Bo'ness railway. A Steam driven locomotive that travels a five-mile-long rail system that was used in the early to mid-1800s to move irons and ores back to the old Glasgow to Edinburgh route.



Today it is a heritage railway operated by the Scottish railway preservation society and is the nucleus of the planned Scottish railroad museum structure which houses, repairs, rebuilds and stores preserved railroad engines of all

types, steam, diesel, diesel electric.



It was a wonderful break in the day on a well-preserved antique rail system in some wonderful old rail cars while being served a plentiful portion of sandwiches, biscuits, treats and refreshments.

Traveling from Bo'ness to our 5th stop of the day "Hopetoun House", we passed through many canola fields which today are one of the main crops grown through the agricultural belt of Scotland.



Hopetoun house was an extra stop through the day for a photo opp. as time was limited for venturing through it, added for its interest in the shooting of the Outlanders Series. This

is one massive country home and gardens.

Traveling back to Edinburgh for dinner the weather had started to change and was becoming a little drizzly for our walk down South St. David's St. looking at the Sir Walter Scott Monument heading to the Vapiano Italian restaurant for dinner. Excellent Italian restaurant a little on the pricy side but you get to customize your Spaghetti, Pizza or Lasagna dinners to your likings.

Rain held off until the following day thank goodness.

The start of day 2 was overcast with a Misty Rain, the kind of rain that just fills the air, not heavy but the air is full and you can get wet very quickly, with a modest temperature of 16 degrees Celsius. After a short visit with the gang of us staying at The Royal Scott we were all heading off to do our own thing.



It was this morning that we all had to ourselves for a few hours to look around or do some shopping before meeting up with Jimmy the piper at the base of Arthur's Seat at the Queens Dr. parking lot beside the Palace of Holyroodhouse at 1:45 p.m.

Our walk took us from The Royal Scots Club south on E Queens Street Gardens which turned into Hanover St., crossing over Princes St. onto The Mound (getting a good view of the park and the Castle at the top of the hill to our right and The Royal Scottish Academy and The Scottish National Gallery to our left and The Assembly Hall of The New College, University of Edinburgh straight ahead of us), stopping for a regroup



at the Black Watch Monument at the intersection of The Mound, N Bank and Market Street.

Our walk continued to take us along N Bank which became St. Giles` St. eventually getting us to the intersection of Lawnmarket and High St. where we met up with the Gong Show of people at the

Royal Mile shopping frenzy getting poked and banged in the head by a thousand umbrellas. And so, we joined into the mayhem for a couple of hours on our way to meet up with Jimi the Piper.

Unfortunately, we were having such a good time in the mayhem that we arrived a little late for the kick off of the march up the hill with Jimmy playing the Pipes and the crowd of MacRaes following.

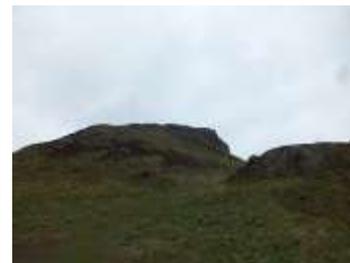


The hike started off on the Volunteers Walk from the Queens drive parking lot for a short 7 or 8 minutes at about a 3-degree incline and then veers over to the walk called The Dry Dam for the next 650 meters and climbs an additional 120 meters in height to a total

height of 175 meters above the old volcanoes base at an average incline rate of about 16% (approx. 13%-20% min-max all the way up). This is where we stopped and enjoyed the sights, then headed back down.



The remaining hike to The Summit is approximately 300 m more but it increases in difficulty exponentially as it reaches a height of 250 m. (If you look very closely, you'll see people at the top, but not one is from our groups that I know of).



Our walk got us back to our hotel pretty much completely soaked in time for a nice warm shower and to prepare for the evening's dinner @ 6:00 p.m. where James McRae filled us in on the rest of our itinerary for the week.



All that can be said about the dinner is that Marigold and James kept their speeches short and sweet and that the meal was excellent, the appetizers and desserts were exceptional and the other guests at our table were a delight to be seated with.

Day 3 of our journey is going to take us to Callender for the evening. It started off overcast but not rainy like the day before and once again had a wonderful breakfast at the Royal Scot club before loading on the bus and starting our daily journey. We were fortunate enough to have a wonderful driver for our bus tour whose name was Russell and an equally as wonderful tour guide whose name was Anne.

Our 1st stop was at the foot of the bridges that cross the Firth of Forth for a photo opp.

The 1st and original bridge the Forth Bridge is a cantilever railway bridge across the Firth. Construction of the bridge began in 1882 and it was opened on March 4th 1890. The bridge spans the forth between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry, it has a total length of 8094 ft. When it opened it had the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world until 1919 when the Quebec Bridge in Canada was completed, it continues to be the world's second longest single cantilever span of 1709 ft. between spans.

The 2nd bridge the Forth Road Bridge is a suspension bridge. The Bridge opened in 1964 and at the time was the longest suspension bridge in the world outside the USA.

The bridge also spans the Firth connecting Edinburgh at South Queensferry to Fife at North Queensferry. It replaces a centuries-old ferry service established by Queen Margaret in the

11th century which was created to move people to the other side of the Forth for pilgrimage to St Andrews, a ferry system continue to operate at the town of South Queensferry until 1964 to carry vehicles cyclist and pedestrians across the Forth.



The 3rd Bridge the Queensferry Crossing was built to take the ever-increasing traffic flow; the old bridge was designed for 11 million vehicles per year and by 2006 was dealing with traffic of 23 million vehicles per year. The Queensferry Crossing is a 3 tower Cable-Stayed Bridge with an overall length of 2.7 km. The old 2nd bridge the Forth Road Bridge is now being used for commuter traffic IE. Buses and taxis.

Our 2nd stop lead us to Dunfermline Abbey and Palace. (Dunfermline was also the birthplace of Andrew Carnegie [the great American Philanthropist], and to this day the Carnegie foundation still sponsors education for students within Dunfermline).

Quick Facts about the Abbey and Palace. 1 - Queen Margaret (later to be made a saint), wife of Malcolm III (Malcolm Canmore), founded a priory here in 1069 (It became one of Scotland's leading monastic communities, a favorite Royal residence and burial place for Kings). -2 -In 1128 David I enlarges the Priory to become a great Abbey.

3 - In the 1320's Robert the Bruce funds the rebuilding of the monastery; he is later buried in the abbey church. 4 - In 1560 the Protestant Reformation leads to the ransacking of the Abbey. 5 - In 1600 the future King Charles I is born here in the palace remodeled by his mother.



1-The Shrine dedicated to Queen Margaret



2-The Great Abbey



3-Robert the Bruce's Burial Place



5- King Charles I Birth Place

Our 3rd stop of the day was at Castle Gloom better known today as Castle Campbell at Dollar Glen. It was the lowland seat of the Earls and Dukes of Argyll Chiefs of Clan Campbell from the 15th to the 19th century and gave them a strategic location in central Scotland for their involvement in Scotland's modern history. About 1460 the property was acquired by Colin Campbell 1st Earl of Argyll on his marriage to Isabelle Stewart daughter to John Stewart Lord Lorne. During the 16th century the Earls of Argyll used this strategic location to embrace the cause of the Religious Reformation supporting John Knox, and later in the 16th century opposing the leading royalist James Graham the 1st Marquis of Montrose, and further again in the 16th century after the execution of Charles 1st the Campbell's initially supported Charles II, with an Argyle placing the crown of Scotland on Charles's head at Scone in 1651. However, Argyle opposed Charles' invasion of England, and in 1652 he submitted to Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth. Cromwell's forces were garrisoned in the castle in 1653. In July 1654 royalist rebels attacked and burnt castle Campbell over the course of two nights.



Our 4th stop of the day was a quick photo-op at the national William Wallace monument on our way up to the MacRae Memorial at Sheriffmuir.



Our 5th stop was at the MacRae Memorial in Sheriffmuir at The Battle of Sheriffmuir battle grounds where we listened to a presentation by James McRae, and were piped up to the site by Jimi the Piper and met with one of the descendants from the battle Edwardo who had travelled over from Argentina and his son. Quick background of the battle; It was a conflict

between a Jacobite Army composed largely of Highlanders in support of James Francis Edward Stuart (The Old Pretender, which many MacRae's at that time were supporting) under the command of the John Erskine' the Earl of Mar on November 13th 1715 who met a Hanoverian Army consisting mainly of regular British soldiers under the Duke of Argyll while on their way for a planned attack on Stirling Castle. The result of the battle was indecisive with a great number of MacRae's losing their life. Mars failure to take advantage of Argyll's weakened position in the closing stages of the conflict and subsequent withdrawal from the field contributed to the failure

of the rising known as the 15 in favor of the restoration of the exiled King James VIII.



1-James McRae



2-Jimi the Piper



3-Edwardo & Son



4-MacRae Mem. Cairn



5-The Battle Ground



6-Edwardo's Speech



7-Our Guide and Driver

Our 6th stop of the day takes us to Stirling Castle the one that Mar was marching on in the first place when meeting up with Argyle at Sheriffmuir. This Castle sits very central to the middle of Scotland and it was said that whoever controls this Castle controls Scotland. Stirling Castle is built on what is called Castle Hill which forms part of the Stirling Sill, a formation of quartz-dolerite around 350 million years old, which was subse-

quently modified by glaciation to form what is called the Craig and Tail. It is likely that this natural feature was occupied at a very early date as a Hill Fort is located on Gowan Hill immediately to its east. The Castle was built from at least the early 12th century, the present buildings mostly built between 1490 and 1600. A significant portion of the work was performed during this time was by James IV, James V, and James VI. It has been involved in many sieges and occupations and was of significant importance during the wars of Scottish independence.



1-Looking up at it



3-The Palace Portion



2-William Wallace



4-The Great Hall

Our 7th stop of the day was at Doune Castle for some quick photo ops. The Romans built a fort here during their occupation, the present Doune Castle has been used for filming of the Outlander series.

Stopping in Callender for the night we stayed at the Highland Guest House which is open all year is a neat Georgian town-house built around 1790 full of charm and character and retaining some of its original features. Set in the center of Callender in the heart of Trossachs now forming part of Scotland's first National park "The Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National park". Our hosts couldn't do enough for us at our breakfast the morning we were leaving (don't know if they were happy to see us leave or their hospitality was that superb. It was an enjoyable and nice place to stop overnight.

Day 4 of our tour, leaving Callender the day was overcast with a bit of drizzle for what was essentially a road trip to Dornie with a few photo stops along the way. We took the A84 to Lochearn-



head and connected to the A85, we then followed that to the Crianlarich roundabout where we connected to the A82, which in turn we followed to The Green Welly rest stop our 1st stop in Tyndrum, all the way along catching some lovely country side.

Continuing along the A82 our 2nd photo stop was at Achallader (1) to catch a view of the countryside. Our 3rd quick photo-op was at the Glencoe Valley Viewpoint (2) pull off just outside of Altnafeadh still on the A82. Further along the A82 we came to our 4th stop the "Three Sisters" car park for a few more photo opportunities.



Achallader Photo Stop



Glencoe Valley Viewpoint



Three Sisters Car Park



Staying on the A82 passing through Glencoe itself we headed towards Inverlochty and to our 5th stop the "Neptunes Staircase" locks which run from Loch Eil to Loch Lochy. Here we spent a bit of time to get a chance to watch the locks in action and have that elusive restroom break.

Our 6th stop took us to the Commando Memorial (1) just outside Spean Bridge (where in secret during WWII this area was used by the Allied Special Forces as a training ground as this landscape threw everything at them needed for their training), where we unfortunately had a mechanical breakdown in our Motor Coach (2). This breakdown caused some serious hiccups in our scheduling to get to Dornie by 3:00 p.m., as it took us over 4 hours with the break down and to get a Taxi out to the Memorial site to pick us up and get us to our 7th stop the Invergarry Hotel (3) for our scheduled dinner stop. And yes, it was raining by now and we couldn't out run the rain any longer and were basically coach bound until the Taxi showed up!



1- Commando Memorial



3-Dinner at Invergarry



2-Coach Breakdown

Continuing on from the Invergarry Hotel via Taxi on the A87 we arrived in Dornie our 8th and final stop of the day much too late for James's spiel at the castle at 3 p.m. dealing with the anniversary of the 300th year to the day of Castles destruction, although I have to commend Russell and Anne for being cool throughout the extravaganza. James was also good enough the following day to redo the speech he had recited the previous day for those that did manage to make it to the scheduled event. At any rate we made it into Dornie and were lucky enough to be able to stay in the new MacRae Trust Cottages and have a full view of the Castle out our windows. How lucky we were!



The Cottage of Loch Duich (They have done a nice job of the Cottages)



The View from the Property (Absolutely Spectacular)

Day 5 takes us into the Isle of Skye, today we're doing the north side. A little short on the breakfast for us this morning as pulling into Dornie as late as we did there was no place to pick up anything for breakfast being that we were staying at the cottages and you needed to supply your own food. So, living on a couple of cups of tea and some shortbread pocketed from other previous hotels off we go on our 1st stop at the castle to hear James McRae's background on the destruction and rebuilding of Eilean Donan Castle.



I must say that Shawburn Coaches must have pulled a rabbit out of their hat to have Russell our driver a fresh tour bus ready for us this morning driven to Dornie from either Edinburgh or Glasgow overnight, as when talking with Russell about the coach value previously they run at approximately 100,000 GBP per Coach.

Well off on our travels from Dornie on our new coach we took the A87 and headed over the Bridge to Skye at the entrance way of Kyle of Loch Alsh and headed up the coast around the north side of the Red Cuillin (which are 1 of 2 mountain ranges in the lower part of Skye the other being the Black Cuillin) at Sconer on our way and through Sligachan where which from there you can look down through the middle of the two mountain ranges, the ones to our right where the Munro's (with Heights over 3000 ft.) that are called the Black Cuillin as they are darker in color then the Red Cuillin, the ones to are left where the Red Cuillin which are more rounded and are classified as the Corbett's and Graham's (with Heights of 2500-3000 ft. and 2000-2500 ft. respectively).



North Side of the Red Cuillin at Sconer
Arriving at our 1st stop Portree we had a couple of hours to investigate the city and meet up with some of the locals. Couple of quick facts on Portree; 1)- it is the location for the only secondary school on the island of Skye, 2)- The Royal Hotel is the last meeting place of Flora MacDonald and Bonnie Prince

Charlie in 1746, 3)- approximately 38% of the population speak Scottish Gaelic, 4)- in the 1700s the town was a popular point of departure for Scots sailing to America, this also repeated itself during the potato famine in the 1840s.



We then set off for our 2nd stop of the day to a sea cliff area called The Kilt Rock. This famous rock cliff in north east Trotternish is said to resemble a kilt, with vertical basalt columns forming the pleats and the intruded sills of dolerite forming the pattern, the cliffs are so high you just feel dwarfed by them. On our way up we passed a mountainside that in the

distance looked like a profile of a man's face while lying down, they call the Munro the Old Man of Storr, (the name taken from the town of Storr which happens to be the closest Township).



Kilt Rock

Opposite Shore

Old Man of Storr



On our return back to Dornie for the clan dinner we had two more stops on the way. So, our 3rd stop was a photo opportunity at Lealt Falls over the Abhainn An Lethuilt River and crevasse.

Our 4th stop was at the co-op foods in Broadford which was utilized for not only it's washroom availability but also for the highly sought-after breakfast foods for Lynn and myself at the cottage.

We arrived back in Dornie to have just enough time for a quick shower and to get changed into our evening attire and head over to the castle for the parade from the castle to the Community Hall for the banquet.



There was lots of variety at the buffet style dinner and we had a lovely berry meringue for dessert. A Salute to kick off the Ceilidh and then some excellent live music by a local 5-piece band which had everyone up dancing to a variety of reels and various Scottish country dances to finish off the night.



We started the morning off by being picked up at the cottages at 10:00 a.m. so we could arrive at the ancient Kirk of Clachan Duich near The Shiel Bridge at the head of Loch Duich in the shadow of the mountains they call the Five Sisters for about 10:15 a.m. so we had a little time to look around and take some pictures before the 11 a.m. service.



Memorial to WW I Looking Down at Clachan Duich Marigold/Piper & Minister

Our hosts while at Dornie and the 2019 Clan Gathering were Mrs. Marigold MacRae who is president of the Clan MacRae and her daughter Baroness Miranda Van Lynden who is head of the MacRaes of Conchra and her Tristan and family.



Everyone Mingling Around The Old Kirk Susanne's Tour Group (s)



From there we headed back over to the Isle of Skye for our trip up the other side to Dunvegan Castle. We had to backtrack our travels to Sligachan as this was the division point in the main route up the Isle of Skye where the highway splits from the A87 to the A863 highway which you need to take to get up to Dunvegan Castle. With lunch time now upon us we stopped at the Sligachan hotel for some bites.

The Sligachan Hotel had the most interesting bar I've ever seen in my life with so many different bottles of scotch. Unbelievable! We all had a quick bite to eat of fish and chips or hamburgers. And somehow Lynn's and my order although being one of the first orders placed got lost in translation getting back to the cooks (by the looks of the Bar Tender maybe the staff had been



into those bottles of Scotch earlier in the day). This held up the tour as they finally processed our order needing to be reminded a couple of times that we hadn't received it by the time everyone was ready to leave. So, Lynn and I had our lunch on the bus while on the way up to our 3rd stop of the day the castle.

Although there were sections of the castle that were blocked off due to refurbishment it is being wonderfully cared for, it contained some very interesting artefacts that were on display and the castle is regarded as one of the greatest Hebridean castles and the only Highland fortress to have been continuously occupied by the same family for 800 years. To give you an idea how big the MacLeods' estates are on the Isle of Skye, the Black Cuillin start at approximately 23 miles not kilometres to the South and are included in the estate properties.



Heading to Dornie part way back along the A863 our 4th stop was at the Dun Breag Broch. Thanks to Historic UK for providing a little background information on these types of dwellings here is what a Broch is by their definition.



Looking Up at It Between the Walls A Look at the Center Commanding View

They are 2000-year-old stone structures dating from the Iron age, they are only found in the north and west of Scotland and predominantly on Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles where stone was a more readily available building material rather than lumber. These were very large windowless dome towers, ingeniously engineered, they represent the pinnacle of dry-stone hollow-walled structures and remain one of the finest construction achievements of Iron Age Europe and belong to a classification called "complex atlantic roundhouse". A Broch combines features of a simple fort or a fortified house and or a status symbol and could feasibly have served several different purposes in different places at different times, their purpose for being built is a matter of some controversy.

Having a nice casual trip back into Dornie we stopped at the Dornie Hotel for dinner before having a relaxing evening in preparation for our drive back to Glasgow in the morning.



Our Bus Group consisted of a “Great” group of people: (1) Australians from Perth & Melbourne, (2) from California USA, (3) Canadians from (West Coast) British Columbia, (Central) Ontario, (East Coast) Nova Scotia.

Day 7 of the tour takes us back to Glasgow. Sad leaving that lovely cottage but Russell and his coach we're waiting for us promptly at 9 a.m. the remainder of our tour only comprised of a couple of scheduled stops today, one being the battle of Glen Shiel Memorial just down the road from the Shiel Bridge which was the last significant battle in support of bringing to the throne of Scotland and Great Britain James Francis Edward Stuart, and the other stop being a brief one at the Glencoe visitor center.

Leaving Dornie approximately. ½ hour out we stopped at the Glen Shiel Memorial for some reflection time, history lessons



On a closing note it was a very enjoyable and good time from its beginning in Edinburgh to its close in Glasgow with good food, excellent Clan Dinners, new friends and some enlightening points of interest about Clan MacRaes past.



and photos where on June 10th 1719 approximately one month after the destruction of Eilean Donan Castle a battle took place between a Jacobite Army of Highland Levies and Spanish Marines against the government forces of Regular Troops plus a Highland Independent Company supporting those troops.

There are several things of interest about this particular battle, one being that the Highlanders we're on a defensive this time rather than being on the offensive and employing their feared Highland charge, two that it was fought on a very tough battle ground in the valley of two mountains, and three the British troops were employing a new weapon "the mortar" which the Highlanders had never experienced previously. These three main factors led to a decisive victory for the British.

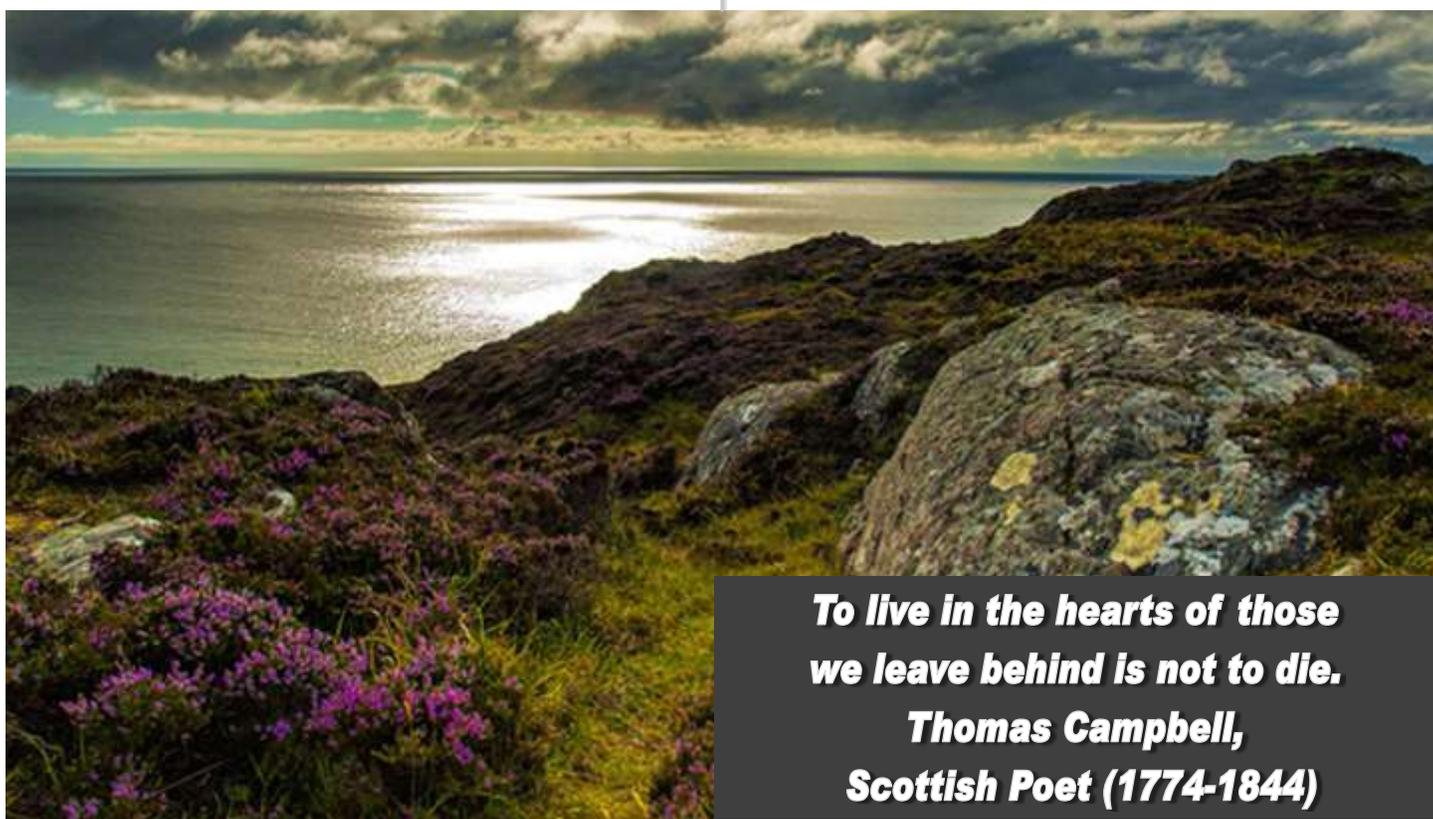
Leaving the Memorial and being that we were on a bit of a tight schedule getting people back to Glasgow for about 3:00 p.m. to catch flights and / or get car rentals, with some people heading back to Dornie others trying to make it up to Inverness all in the same day and for us we were planning a couple of stops before spending the night in Perth.

We headed straight to the Glencoe visitor center for a fast bite to eat for lunch and a visit to the gift shop. Our road trip wasn't a bore though as the scenery never seems to be tiring and Anne was full of interesting facts and tidbits all the way back including how to pronounce all of towns and villages in Scottish Gaelic.

In Memory of Andrew Ian MacRae

FEBRUARY 2ND, 1942 - SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2019

Andrew Ian MacRae, of Charlottetown, passed away peacefully at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Friday, September 20, 2019 following a battle with cancer at the age of 77. At his side was his beloved wife Rosalie (Lee) MacRae. Predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Rena MacRae of whom he was the only child. Loving father of Liane (Dan) Gillis of Lantz, NS; Dr. Andrew (Tia Rendle) MacRae of Campbell River, BC and their families; stepfather to Johnny Wade of Roseneath, PEI; Caroline Lavigne of Charlottetown, PEI and Michael Wade of Red Deer, Alberta and their families. Ian was always known as “Mr. fix-it” to his family, friends and neighbours. Special thank you to the nurses and doctors of the QEH Unit 2 and PEI Cancer Treatment Center. Resting at Belvedere Funeral Home. In keeping with Ian’s wishes, no funeral or wake will be held. Cremation has already taken place. Donations to the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre or the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation Equipment Fund in his honour would be appreciated.



***To live in the hearts of those
we leave behind is not to die.
Thomas Campbell,
Scottish Poet (1774-1844)***