



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



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**COMMISSIONER ALISTAIR D. MACKENZIE, P.ENG.,
FCSCE**

Alistair MacKenzie has been a long time member of the Ontario Committee and is often seen at the Clan Tent at many of the Ontario Highland Games. Along with Commissioner Ken Mackenzie, yet another engineer, he has been very active in the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering. We now learn that he has recently been elected as the President of that august body for 2005-2006.

We congratulate him and sincerely hope it does not get in the way of his much more important clan duties!!! (See photo page 15).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members who have joined since the last Newsletter:

Mary Margaret (McKenzie) Armstrong,
87 North Park Street,
Brantford, ON N3R 4K2

Stephen Baker,
35 Crawford Crescent, P.O. Box 129,
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0

Alex M. Kyle,
2064 Glade Road, Thurms,
Castlegar, BC V1W 3K6

Alistair Stuart MacKenzie,
P.O. Box 206, Lambeth Stn,
London, ON N6P 1P9

Clark Kenneth MacKenzie,
18 Stanley Street,
Kingston, ON K7K 1X9

Douglas Norman McKenzie,
314 Morrison Ave.,
Beaverton, ON L0K 1A0

Gary Arnold Mackenzie,
1712 Fieldstone Crescent,
Orleans, ON K1C 1R7

Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

Members who wish to write to the Society with contributions to the Newsletter please send submissions to The Editor, Clan MacKenzie Society, 580 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON L6K 3N9. or e-mail to alan@mkz.com
Clan Web Pages: www.clanmackenzie.com & www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie

James Malcolm MacKenzie,
9 Hillcrest Avenue,
Kentville, NS B4N 1X1
(James is our new commissioner
for Nova Scotia)

Norman Walter McKenzie,
35 Bishop Tonnos Way,
Hamilton, ON L9B 2L7

R. Scott McKenzie,
911 York Street,
New Westminster, BC V3L 4S5

Maureen Smith,
1 Lonsdale Drive,
London, ON N6G 1T4

Mary Frances (MacKenzie)
Wilton,
47 Winship Close,
London, ON N6C 5M8

RODDY MACKENZIE HOSTS A DINNER

Roddy sent us this e-mail which follows up from a part of a report which we published in the previous issue of Cabar Feidh. The MacKenzies are proud of their historical association with the Seaforth Highlanders and consequently we think this report will be of interest to members.

I thought you might appreciate some background regarding the May 6, 2005 dinner Eric de Ridder and I hosted for the Seaforth officers at Hotel De Wereld (Hotel of the World) in Wageningen.

Eric and I wanted to do something really significant to demonstrate our appreciation for all Seaforth Commanding Officer Col. McGregor did to include us in this memorable Seaforth pilgrimage to The Netherlands, for how we were treated by the Seaforths and the Dutch while in Holland, and for what the Seaforth officers on this trip did for Canada through their

participation in the Dutch WWII 60th Anniversary events. Of all things Eric and I could possibly have done, it seemed to us that nothing was more appropriate than hosting this dinner exactly 60 years and one day later in the very room, and dining on the actual table, used for Germany's Surrender to Canada of The Netherlands.

Present at the Surrender were Canadian Generals Charles Foulkes and George Kitching accompanied by HRH Dutch Prince Bernhard. At that May 5, 1945 meeting they dictated the Terms of Surrender by Germany of Holland to Canada. German General Johannes Blaskowitz signed the Surrender on behalf of the Third Reich. HRH Prince Bernhard was at that time Supreme Commander of the Royal Dutch Armed Forces. The Prince was son-in-law of wartime Queen Wilhelmina, husband of Queen Juliana and father of Queen Beatrix.

Fortunately, Hotel De Wereld agreed with our assessment of the importance of this historic event, and so kindly served a magnificent dinner in the room and on the very table the Terms of Surrender document was signed. In keeping with the formality and importance of the event, we concluded the dinner with a round of excellent port with which we stood and had the toasts which form part of Seaforth Regimental dinners.

A couple of additional points of note. First, the Dutch have now designated Hotel De Wereld a National Heritage Monument. HRH Prince Bernhard personally opened the reconstructed conservatory of the hotel nine years ago on May 5, 1996. Second, for 59 years

Prince Bernhard has personally taken the salute at the May 5th Day of Liberation March Past at Wageningen. However, he died last December. So for the 60th March Past his grandson HRH Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander took the salute. That morning in a speech to the Dutch nation, the Crown Prince announced that this May 5th Day of Liberation of Holland by Canada will be a permanent national holiday in The Netherlands and the March Past will continue each year at Wageningen.

So, all in all, Eric and I managed to host for the Seaforths a remarkable dinner at an extraordinary location of huge significance to both Canada and The Netherlands.

Best regards, Roddy

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS NEW COMMANDING OFFICER LT-COL. ROB ROY EVERETT MACKENZIE, CD

How appropriate that the latest commanding officer for the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada should be a Mackenzie!

Colonel Mackenzie was born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1963 and he spent his early childhood in Regina, Ottawa and Victoria. In 1976 his family moved to Vancouver. In June 1985 he joined The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada as a Private.

In 1986, after attending the Reserve Entry Scheme Officer (RESO) training plan, Colonel MacKenzie was commissioned as an infantry Second-Lieutenant. In 1987 he attended RESO Phase III and won the Canadian Infantry Association Sword as the Top Candidate. He continued his service

with The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada as a rifle platoon commander, a rifle company operations officer and a company second-in-command.

In May 1989, after completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of British Columbia, Colonel MacKenzie transferred to the Regular Force as a Direct Entry Officer. In August 1989, he completed Phase IV infantry officer training and was posted to the Second Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He served his first regimental tour as a rifle platoon commander. He completed the basic parachutist course and served with the battalion on United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus. In 1991, he was promoted to Captain and posted overseas. He served as a United Nations Military Observer on two missions in Central America, first in Guatemala and then in El Salvador.

On his return to Canada in 1992, he was posted to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada as the Regular Support Staff Officer and Adjutant. During this tour of duty he served as an instructor at the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle School in Wainwright, Alberta and The Royal Canadian School of Infantry in Gagetown, New Brunswick. He also completed career courses and graduated United States Army Ranger School. In 1994, Colonel MacKenzie returned to regimental duty with the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Calgary, Alberta. He held several positions in the battalion including anti-armour platoon

commander and battalion operations captain. In 1997, Colonel MacKenzie was posted to The Canadian Parachute Centre in Trenton, Ontario. He was qualified as a military free-fall parachutist and as a course officer he conducted all static-line and free-fall basic, jump-master and parachute instructor courses run by the Canadian Army. In 1999, he finished his tour at The Canadian Parachute Centre as Adjutant and he was posted to 39 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters in Vancouver, as the G3 Training.

In May 2000, Colonel Mackenzie transferred back to the Primary Reserve and returned to the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada as a rifle company commander. In 2001, he completed the dismounted company commander's course and was promoted to Major. In 2002, he was appointed as the Deputy Commanding Officer. In 2003, he completed the Militia Command and Staff Course at the Canadian Land Force Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario and in 2004 he completed the Joint Reserve Command and Staff Course at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

The Change of Command ceremony appointing Colonel Mackenzie as the new Commanding Officer of the Seaforths took place on May 28th this year. At long last a MacKenzie commands this regiment once more!

MEMBERS' LETTERS

I spotted this message posted on the Mackenzie Clan chat line on the internet. It will be of interest to the many members whose ancestors were from Lewis.

My ancestors hail from Lewis and some did emigrate. A better source of information is Donald Mackenzie at the Ness Heritage Centre. He has amassed an enormous data base of Mackenzies and all their inter-relationships. He may be able to help Good luck

Here is the website for the Ness Historical Society (Comunn Eachdraidh Nis) & Ness Heritage Centre.

<http://www.c-e-n.org/>

Betty (Mackenzie) Jordan

The following email from "ScotlandsPeople" came in recently. This is a Government website and contains a great deal of help for genealogists:

We have previously written to you to let you know of our plans to update the ScotlandsPeople website with some exciting changes and additions. We are delighted to inform you the new site <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> is now up and running.

In addition to the existing indexes and images, ScotlandsPeople now provides access to historical wills and testaments from 1513 - 1901, creating a unified search system for all these sources.

A number of people commented on my mention of taking up acting again in the last issue of Cabar Feidh. I am aware that there are quite a few members who have professional actors in their family (amateur in my case). One I did not know about came to light in this email from Douglas MacKenzie in Newcastle, Ontario (formerly living in Oshawa)

Our Adele is in her 2nd season at Stratford, (last year Guys &

Dolls/Anything Goes, this year Hello Dolly/The Tempest) and loving it - still mostly dance, her first love, quite a lot of singing in chorus, and some acting. <http://www.stratfordfestival.ca/play/s/company.cfm> (Adele MacKenzie's photo is included on this website).

My son, Scot, 'acts' like a race car driver in the spring, summer and fall, with some 25 dates booked this season, as he instructs the funded participants of three different racing schools to pursue their motor sport dreams from recreational to professional. He is still searching for adequate funding for his own aspirations. We continue to be non-plussed by seeing those whom he has taught (not always the most gifted) or raced and won against, making their way through one racing series or another... he is now entering his second year in a business degree programme at The University of Ontario Institute of Technology, planning to major in finance, and hopes to parlay that to a career (Bay Street - one of his repeat track clients is in an investment house there) which could lead him back to his own dreams - it certainly isn't due to lack of skill, desire, or courage that he has not 'made it' already.

On another front, I fully intend to participate in the MacKenzie DNA project when an opportunity presents itself.

I have heard from a couple of young folks in Pictou and New Glasgow who are employed by some research organisations in Nova Scotia, and have discovered that there was likely a purposeful name spelling change in my family from McKenzie to MacKenzie, most probably by my grandfather Andrew MacKenzie, about the time

of his father George McKenzie's untimely passing. George McKenzie married Isabella McDonald first, and later married Catherine Marshall, who had Barbara and Andrew, the latter being my GGF. It forced my grandfather into the Albion Mines/Stellarton (founded as Coal Mine Station by Hector passengers) coal mines at the age of 12 in the late 1800s. It would seem the rest of the family was of no assistance whatever, leaving them to bare subsistence survival, and it would seem he chose to distance himself from them.

I recently worked some weekend overtime at the GM Oshawa Truck plant with a Ron Compton of Scotland whose father or GF died in the mines over there, and his mom or GM was given five pounds and told to get out of the company-owned house forthwith. Delightful.

A. Douglas MacKenzie,
Newcastle.

[There are numerous instances of the Mackenzie name being changed with McKenzie, or vice versa, between generations. I believe that this means very little. Mc is an abbreviation of Mac and spelling did not attract the quality of detail that it does today.]

GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND GAMES

Georgetown kicked off the Highland Games Season as usual. Alan McKenzie was not available - he was treading the boards in a play with the Mississauga Players. So Commissioner Alistair MacKenzie took the clan van and with assistance from Commissioner Ken Mackenzie and other help from Joyce Mackenzie Hirasawa and her

husband they had a good day and by all accounts it was awfully hot!

HAMILTON HIGHLAND GAMES

JUNE 25, 2005

Alan was once more not available for this Games. His excuse this time was that he was in Nova Scotia attending his son Ian's wedding to Soonya Quon. So once again Ken and Alastair took up the reigns with help from Shawn MacKenzie.

The new clan van was becoming a vital acquisition as different members were taking on the different Games.

Once again the team had a successful day and were particularly smug that the Clan MacKenzie Society walked off with the best Clan Tent Award yet again - \$100 in crisp \$50 bills! There were eight clans in attendance this year. The MacKenzie Clan is the only clan ever to have won this award - I think we have won it six times now!

ZORRA HIGHLAND GAMES, EMBRO

JULY 1, 2005

Embroid always hold their Highland Games on Canada Day which fell on a Friday this year. That complicated matters a little as we also wanted to attend the Kincardine Scottish Festival the next day.

Alan and Ken manned the tent at Embro. These games are noted for its Tug-of-War competitions which last through the day in front of a noisy and enthusiastic crowd. I notice there are now ladies' Tug-of-War teams these days and some of these competitors looked quite capable of pulling a double-decker bus if called upon to do so!

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BOOK REVIEW

In 1940 when it appeared that the British Army was about to be defeated in France, a massive effort was made to get the bulk of the troops back to England by evacuating them in countless ships and small boats from Dunkirk. The success in getting back 300,000 troops to Britain was due in no small part to the defiant rear-guard action of the 51st Highland Division which was sacrificed to protect the Dunkirk beaches from the massive German forces surrounding the area.

Among the regiments was the Seaforth Highlanders who along with the remains of the Highland Division were taken prisoner. The defensive role played by the Highland Division against such overwhelming odds won the admiration of their enemy leader Rommel as well as Allies such as de Gaulle who fought alongside them. Members may know that among the prisoners of the Seaforth Highlanders taken was our late Clan Chief, the Earl of Cromartie who was a major in the Seaforths. While he was in captivity for the rest of the war he wrote most of his book "A Highland History", which is a useful reference source for the Mackenzie Clan.

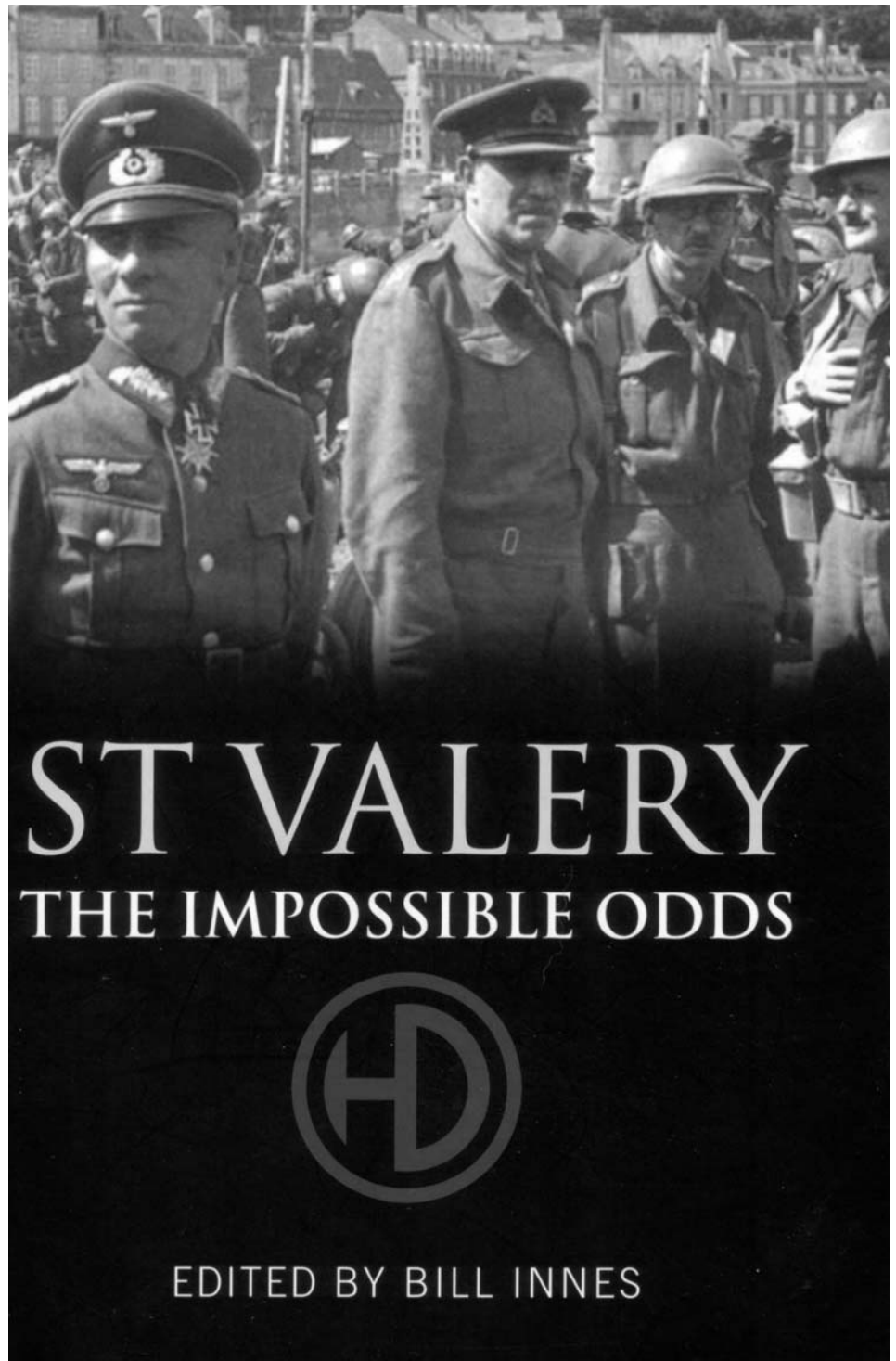
The book we are looking at opposite is a fascinating look at the stories of some Highlanders who were taken prisoner and the exploits they had in escapes and recaptures with some successes at getting back to Britain.

Two of the main contributors, Angus Campbell from Lewis and Donald John MacDonald South Uist, were traditional Gaelic bards and this volume contains their stories translated from the original Gaelic.

Here is a quote from the Introduction:

"Three men from the Argylls were also decorated after escaping from the march. After over a month of adventures, Cpl John MacDonald, L/Cpl James 'Ginger' Wilson and Willie Kemp reached the Spanish frontier and eventually returned to Scotland by ship from Gibraltar. At one point they were arrested and famously managed to baffle all their interpreters their captors could throw at them by speaking Gaelic. When asked to point out their homeland on the map, Kemp pointed vaguely towards Russia! [who were theoretical allies of Germany at that time.]

The book is a thoroughly good read and is well illustrated with maps and photographs.



The cover photograph shows Lieutenant-General Erwin Rommel, with his prisoners, General Victor Fortune and Lt Col. H. Swinburn. [copyright Imperial War Museum, London.]

The vivid accounts in this book bring alive the chaos and horror of war and grim deprivation of the camps and forced marches which so many endured. Yet these personal stories resound with the spirit, humour and sense of comradeship which enabled men to fight on in desperate

situations and refuse to be cowed by their captors.

The book was first published in Great Britain in 2004 by Birlinn Limited, Edinburgh.

I recommend having a look at the Birlinn website at www.birlinn.co.uk for a wide selection of Scottish books, including those terrific books by Alexander McCall Smith (I read all of his books!). Get them from the library!

Once more it was extraordinarily hot but there was a powerful wind which was quite a nuisance and in fact when we were taking the tent down at the end of the day it blew the tent over onto its roof. That is the second time that has happened at Embro. No damage was done though a few spectators scattered rather quickly!

The day was quiet as far as sales were concerned but as usual with Ken present there were some interesting conversations with the visitors to the tent. One such was our member Dave Mackenzie, who we knew from past visits to be a former police chief. Now he has progressed further and is now the Conservative Party Member of Parliament for Oxford. Dave lives in Woodstock, Ontario.

In the process of packing I bent over to pick up some tent poles and I distinct sound of ripping in the seat of my pants occurred. I was left with an embarrassingly large hole in the seat of my trousers

Once we were packed Ken departed as he had other duties waiting for him at home and Alan took the clan van and tried to find his way to Kincardine. I got lost as a result driving through rural Ontario but I was in no particular hurry as I had indicated to the B&B in Kincardine that I was not likely to get there before 8 p.m. In the process I found myself driving through the little towns of Seaforth and of Kintail and the Mackenzie Camp Grounds. Clear evidence that this region of Western Ontario had once been settled by large numbers of Mackenzie settlers.

Once I had arrived at my B&B in Kincardine I tried without success to mend my pants. Since I was hungry for a meal and had to go



This photo gives some idea of the crowds that congregated in front of our clan tent at Kincardine, when the various pipe bands marched past during the day. These were the massed bands in fact - only five of them, the other 20 were competition bands who were busy practicing.

into town I decided to change back into my kilt and the rest of the Highland gear and off I went to a Tim Hortons. On leaving after satisfying my hunger and thirst a car passed me and I heard a wolf whistle beside me. The lady driving who must have been in her forties and should have been better brought up said to me through the open window "Sexy!" This was a new experience for me! I am now 69 and it shows that there's life in the old dog yet!

KINCARDINE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL JULY 2, 2005

I like Kincardine. The people are friendly and the organizers were keen that we should feel properly looked after. We were in the same location as last year, which is off the street and not in the grounds where the band competitions take place. We hated this last year but we soon learned that this was not at all a bad spot. All the bands

marched past the clan tents and crowds came to watch so we did find visitors made their way to where we were located.

Sales were very respectable and we picked up another candidate for the DNA Project. We now have 75 Mac/Mckenzie's taking part in this project and the more we get the more useful the results will be.

The weather at Kincardine was spectacular and although I thought I would not be able to take part in the Clan Parade through town because I was on my own, Pat and Evert Jansen turned up and they were able to help out and, indeed, Evert and I paraded the Clan Banner through the streets of Kincardine in front of large crowds. By the way, there were vast numbers of MacArthurs, McGregors and Buchanans following their own clan banner and I do wonder why large clans such as MacDonald and Campbell seldom appear and the Mackenzies get so

few to take part in these parades. Strangely, though, neither the Buchanans nor the McGregors had a clan tent, which I thought decidedly odd!

A final comment on the Kincardine event - the quality of the competing bands was very high and there were many grade one bands taking part. In all there were 25 bands at Kincardine and among these I noted the 78th Fraser Highlanders, the Peel Regional Police and the Toronto Metropolitan Police Pipe Bands - all of them world class. The Frasers won 1st place and our member, Erin MacKenzie Grant, was playing for the Toronto Metropolitan Police Pipe Band, who were just edged into second place.

CHATHAM SERTOMA HIGHLAND GAMES

JULY 9, 2005

Alistair MacKenzie and Alan McKenzie made the long drive to Chatham, Ontario. We had a very relaxing day in bright warm sunshine. It was necessary to drink a lot because of the warmth. A flask of tea soon went and vast quantities of water followed!

It was a great pleasure to see our good friend Alastair McIntyre, who now lives in Chatham following his emigration from Scotland. Alastair, you may remember, runs the largest Scottish website in the world with 20,000 pages and over one million visitors a month. He also hosts our Canadian Clan MacKenzie website and the records of our DNA project can also be found on this vast website. As usual Alastair McIntyre was very busy with his camera and if you have never been to a Highland Games then drink in the atmosphere with hundreds of his pho-

tographs and even some short films taken at Chatham. Take a wee look, as Alastair would say, at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/gatherings/sertoma/index.htm>.

All in all, a very pleasant day with good sales. As is usual with a place so close to the US border, we had a large number of American visitors to the tent.

ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL JULY 17, 2005

We like Orillia. The Scottish Festival takes place in a public park on Lake Couchiching. The clan tent was manned by three commissioners, Norman, Rad and Alan. Norman was just back from his role as Tattoo Drum Major at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo and he declared it "the best ever".

The weather was warm again but knowing Orillia from past experience there is always the danger of thunderstorms at this time of year. Well that did not happen this year. But the fine weather finally suggested rain was now about to happen at 3.30 p.m. so that the few

clans present hastily pulled down their tents and we followed suit.

Orillia is particularly noted for its huge parade through the town with very many pipe bands. Cameras were at the ready as the bands marched past our tent followed by a huge throng of people. There is no admittance fee to the festival and the crowds like that!

So another pleasant casual day. We did some respectable sales and picked up one new member with the very strong possibility of another one joining later when he settles into a new home.

We did hear that the Highland Games at Cambridge, Ontario was washed out with heavy rain further south and, indeed, Toronto was hit with thunderstorms and heavy rain later in the day.

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES, MAXVILLE, ONTARIO JULY 30, 2005

Ken Mackenzie and Alan McKenzie made the long journey to Eastern Ontario for these giant games. We had a special guest



Orillia Scottish Festival - Commissioners Norman MacKenzie, Alan McKenzie and Rad MacKenzie

with us this year. He is Alastair McIntyre, of electric scotland, who hosts our Clan Mackenzie Canada website: www.electricscotland.com.

Alastair was kept very busy as he toured the extensive grounds and took hundreds of photos and spoke to numerous people. He was given a special pass to go onto the main field to take photos. His website will show many of these pictures.

Special visitors to our tent included the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration for Ontario, Hon. Mike Colle, who has a Mackenzie pedigree and was pleased to buy some of our merchandise. Another popular visitor was Hon. Flora McDonald, who is a regular attendee at these games from Ottawa.

The weather was gorgeous and the crowds were huge. Unfortunately the big plan to let us out of the barn and onto the fields was abandoned because the organizers said there was not enough room. So we were back in the barn and this is a poor location for attracting some of the crowds who prefer to stay and watch the many events and pipe bands from the grandstand. Disappointing, and despite their huge size they have a long way to go to compete for clan loyalty compared to Fergus with its splendid clan village.

We did have a small stage set up opposite our tent and a man from Scotland was giving talks on genealogy and at times there were good crowds to hear what he had to say.

The average sort of attendance at our tent makes it very hard to justify the expense of the long drive (at these gas prices!) and hotel. We tend to view it as a public relations exercise. We picked up just one

new member, which is another disappointment.

We counted 26 clans present and we noticed six clan spots not taken up, which might have been a reaction to the decision to locate us in the barns again. Fergus had 52 clans last year! Point made!

THE MACKENZIE DNA PROJECT

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

As I write we have now 75 Mackenzies of various spellings signed up for the DNA Single Surname Project. (Since increased to 86). I fully expect to see numbers run into the hundreds as the idea gradually infiltrates the imagination of male Mackenzies around the world.

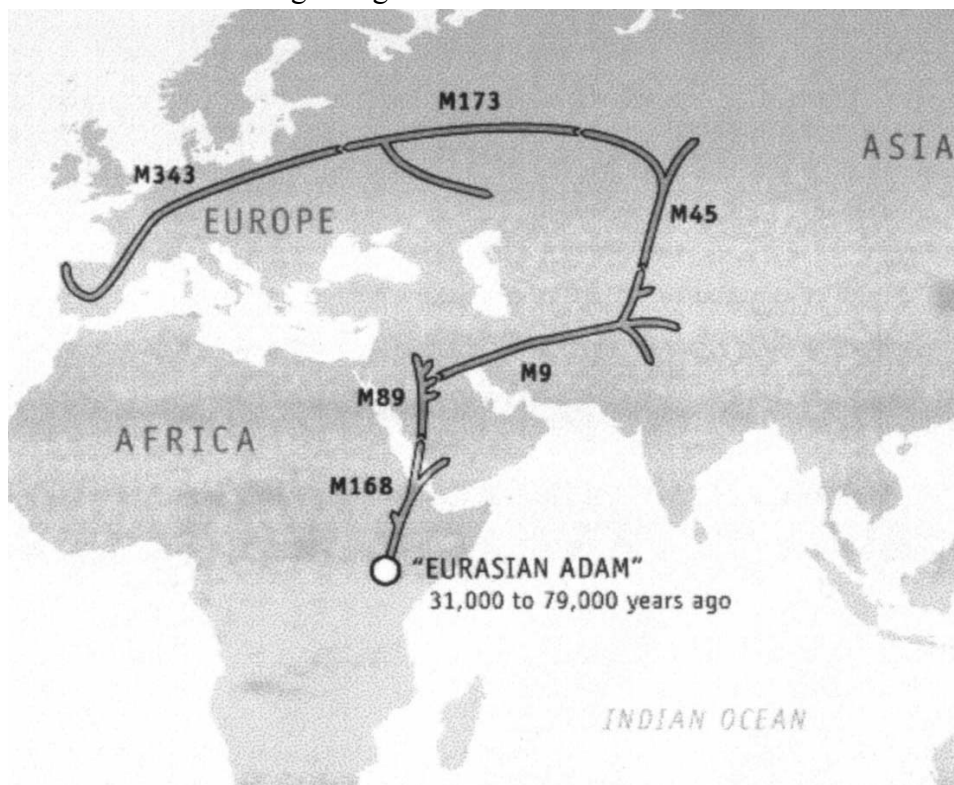
I recently had an email from Family Tree DNA inviting me to contribute my own DNA results to The Genographic Project. This huge project seeks to trace the movement of populations around the world since the beginning of the

human race starting with our earliest ancestors in Africa 200,000 years ago. I was more than happy to do this and I received a certificate from the Genographic Project off the internet confirming my ancestry being part of the Haplogroup R1b with the added note of my ancestor known as M343. Quite a coincidence he should have the initial M!

I think I might share this ancestry with you and it ought to be of interest as it is likely that nearly all our members have exactly the same distant ancestors. The map on this page helps with this complex "family tree".

Although I refer to M343 as if he was a single person, it is in fact a genetic marker and is described as "the final destination of a genetic journey that began some 60,000 years ago with an ancient genetic chromosome marker called M168.

"This widely dispersed M168 marker can be traced to a single individual - 'Eurasian Adam'. This African man, who lived some



The genealogical route of most Mackenzies

31,000 to 79,000 years ago, is the common ancestor of every non-African person living today. His descendants migrated out of Africa and became the only lineage to survive away from humanity's home continent.

"Population growth during the Upper Paleolithic era may have spurred the M168 lineage to seek new hunting grounds for the plains animals crucial to their survival.

"Improved tools and rudimentary art appeared during the same epoch, suggesting significant mental and behavioural changes. These shifts may have been spurred by a genetic mutation that gave "Eurasian Adam's" descendants a cognitive advantage over other contemporary, but now extinct, human lineages.

"Some 90 to 95 percent of all non-Africans are descendants of the second great human migration out of Africa, which is defined by the marker M89.

"M89 first appeared 45,000 years ago in Northern Africa or the Middle East. It arose on the original lineage of "Eurasian Adam" (M168), and defines a large inland migration of hunters who followed expanding grasslands and plentiful game to the Middle East.

"Many people of this lineage remained in the Middle East, but others continued their movement and followed the grasslands through Iran to the vast steppes of Central Asia. Herds of buffalo, antelope, woolly mammoths and other game probably enticed them to explore new grasslands.

"With much of Earth's water frozen in massive ice sheets, the era's vast steppes stretched from Eastern France to Korea. The grassland hunters of the M89 lineage travelled both east and west along

this steppe "superhighway" and eventually peopled much of the continent.

"A group of M89 descendants moved north from the Middle East to Anatolia and the Balkans, trading familiar grasslands for forests and high country. Though their numbers were likely small, genetic traces of their journey are still found today.

"Some 40,000 years ago a man in Iran or southern Central Asia was born with a unique genetic marker known as M9, which marked a new lineage diverging from the M89 group. His descendants spent the next 30,000 years populating much of the planet.

"Most residents of the Northern Hemisphere trace their roots to this unique individual and carry his defining marker. Nearly all North Americans and East Asians have the M9 marker, as do most Europeans and many Indians. The haplogroup defined by M9, K, is known as the Eurasian Clan.

"This large lineage dispersed gradually. Seasoned hunters followed the herds ever eastward, along a vast belt of Eurasian steppe, until the massive mountain ranges of south Central Asia blocked their path.

"The Hindu Kush, Tian Shan, and Himalaya, even more formidable during the era's ice age, divided eastward migrations through the "Pamir Knot" region would subsequently become defined by additional genetic markers.

"The marker M45 first appeared about 35,000 to 40,000 years ago in a man who became the common ancestor of most Europeans and nearly all native Americans. This unique individual was part of the

M9 lineage, which was moving to the north of the mountainous Hindu Kush and onto the game-rich steppes of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and southern Siberia.

"The M45 lineage survived on these northern steppes even in the frigid Ice Age climate. While big game was plentiful, these resourceful hunters had to adapt their behaviour to an increasingly hostile environment. They erected animal skin shelters and sewed weathertight clothing. They also refined the flint heads on their weapons to compensate for the scarcity of obsidian and other materials.

"The intelligence that allowed this lineage to adapt and thrive in harsh conditions was critical to human survival in a region where no other hominids are known to have survived.

"Members of haplogroup R [Ed: that is most of us] are descendants of Europe's first large-scale human settlers. The lineage is defined by Y chromosome marker M173, which shows a westward journey of M45-carrying Central Asian steppe hunters.

"The descendants of M173 arrived in Europe around 35,000 years ago and immediately began to make their own dramatic mark upon the continent. Famous cave paintings, like those of Lascaux and Chauvet, signal the sudden arrival of humans with artistic skill. There are no artistic precedents or precursors to their appearance.

"Soon after this lineage's arrival in Europe, the era of the Neandertals came to a close. Genetic evidence proves that these hominids were not human ancestors but an evolutionary dead end. Smarter, more resourceful human descendants of M173 likely out-competed Neandertals for scarce

Ice Age resources and thus heralded their demise.

"The long journey of this lineage was further shaped by the preponderance of ice at this time. Humans were forced to southern refuges in Spain. Italy and the Balkans. Years later, as the ice retreated, they moved north out of these isolated refuges and left an enduring, concentrated trail of the M173 marker in their wake.

"Today, for example, the marker's frequency remains very high in northern France and the British Isles - where it was carried by M173 descendants who had weathered the Ice Age in Spain.

"Members of haplogroup R1b, defined by M343 are the direct descendants of Europe's first modern humans - known as the Cro-Magnon people.

"Cro-Magnons arrived in Europe some 35,000 years ago, during a time when Neandertals still lived in the region. M343-carrying peoples made woven clothing and constructed huts to withstand the frigid climes of the Upper Paleolithic era. They used relatively advanced tools of stone, bone and ivory. Jewelry, carvings and intricate, colourful cave paintings bear witness to the Cro-Magnons' surprisingly advanced culture during the last glacial age.

"When the ice retreated genetically homogenous groups recolonized the north, where they are still found in high frequencies. Some 70 percent of men in southern England are R1b. In parts of Spain and Ireland that number exceeds 90 percent.

"There are many sublineages within R1b that are yet to be defined. The Genographic Project hopes to bring future clarity to the disparate parts of this distinctive

European lineage."

While the foregoing was intended for me personally, explaining my own genetic heritage, nevertheless it probably applies to most Mackenzies. Indeed, of the results which have come in from our Mackenzie DNA Project to date 82 percent have an "R1b" result. A couple have an "R1a" reading and there are a few "I" results which suggest a northern European genetic ancestry - possibly Viking. There are a very few who have no specific haplogroup specified and there is one of Middle Eastern and possibly

Jewish origin.

I find it most interesting that within just 30,000 years most of us descend from a single male ancestor. Perhaps Scots should make peace with the English at last! We seem to be closely related and even more so with the Irish and the Spanish!

Up the Cro-Magnon Clan! Now think up a war cry for them!

GENEALOGY - CANADIAN CENSUS 1911

The Canadian Bill S-18, which allows public access to 20th-century census records, is finally



Here is Ann Ship with Commissioner Ian Stuart Mackenzie at the Victoria Games

about to become law. It is reported that the Library and Archives of Canada has already scanned images of the 1911 National Census of Canada and they should be available online almost immediately. Canadian genealogists may be able to spend the summer looking for ancestors in these 1911 records. Read more at:

<http://globalgenealogy.com/global-gazette/gazce/gazce117.htm>

See also: <http://globalgenealogy.com/Census/>

Congratulations to the Government of Canada for getting this right at last!

BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

You may have seen that Britain is celebrating the 200th anniversary of their huge victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

One tends to think of the British navy at that time being manned by English sailors. It therefore came as a big surprise to find that there are 14 McKenzie sailors listed as having taken part in this famous battle. The list with the details of these men can be found at the following web site.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors/results.asp>

Please let us know if any of these were your ancestors!

A person I knew well when I worked for Barclays Bank of Canada was Chris Collingwood from Newfoundland, who was a director of the bank. He was a direct descendant of Admiral Collingwood, who took over command of the British fleet on the death in the battle of Admiral Lord Nelson.

THE BRAHAN SEER

I have often been asked to put something in the magazines about the Brahan Seer. The historian, Alexander Mackenzie, wrote a well known book about this strange man, who was a Mackenzie, we are told. However, although I have read about him I have to admit that I get turned off hearing stories about characters living years ago who supposedly had second sight and could predict the future with uncanny accuracy. So I have stayed away from the subject. However he has cropped up again. Rob Stewart, our sometime printer and publisher, drew my attention to a website run by a well-known member of the Clan Mackenzie in Scotland. He is Brian Mackenzie-Hanson and his web page is at www.spiritualhumanism.org

I will let Brian speak for himself. He has kindly allowed us to reprint the Brahan Seer argument on his web page.

Brian Mackenzie-Hansen

Hello fellow Spiritual Humanists! My name is Brian Mackenzie-Hanson and I am a new clergy member from East Yorkshire in Great Britain. In addition to being an Arianist I am also involved with the Clan Mackenzie Society in Scotland (a registered charity). I recently received a query from a Pastor in Canada (Rev. D. MacKenzie) asking if anyone with authority in the Clan had formally renounced the occultic activities of the Brahan Seer!

[Background: The Brahan Seer (Kenneth Odhar Mackenzie) lived in the Scottish Highlands between circa 1650 - 1677 and was a clairvoyant according to Clan Mackenzie legend (<http://www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk/klan/seer.html>). The Brahan Seer was burned in oil at Chanonry Point on the Black Isle in Scotland about 1677 on a charge of witchcraft; this however was at the demands of Lady Mackenzie because he had given her the answer to a question that she didn't want to hear! i.e. She basically asked why her husband was taking so long returning from France; the answer was that he was spending time with his mistress! Coinneach Odhar (Kenneth) Mackenzie apparently had the gift of second sight for both present and future. The alarming thing is that his prophecies have turned out to be extremely accurate, which also included a final prophecy of the tragic demise of the clan Chief's male blood line, made just before the Seer's execution! The Chief's four sons died without issue (*decessit sine prole*). A large rock stands as a monument to the Brahan Seer at the point where he was executed.

Quote from Rev. D. MacKenzie: "...Here's my theological question: Has anyone with authority within the Clan Mackenzie ever formally RENOUNCED the occultic activities of the Brahan Seer? Nowhere does any of your literature suggest that the activities of this man were done on behalf of (or to the glory of) Jesus Christ - in fact, the use of stones would imply quite the opposite. Now, I have little doubt as a Christian pastor of the veracity of several of the stories, but prophecy done in the name of one's self (whether accurate or inaccurate) does not honour God, and is rightfully called witchcraft. Demonic forces love to piggy-back off false prophecy; it allows them the opportunity to manipulate entire nations. That's the 'hook'.

"The problem with heathen sincerity is that it's still heathen. Prophecy misdirected is still an abomination before the Lord, as Scripture bears witness. Hence, has

any God-fearing leader in the Clan Mackenzie done anything about this, that you're aware?

"I would not see my broader family sold out to the curse of not serving the Lord God ... I've noticed that such gifts (and their demonic counterfeits) often crop up again and again within family lines..."

My [Brian's] response was as follows:

Kenneth Odhar Mackenzie is NOT viewed as a witch (warlock) by the clan but as an innocent clairvoyant who was wrongly accused and executed. As he was executed there is debate as to whether he predicted or manipulated the demise of the Earls of Seaforth in a final and potent prophecy. I would tend to believe that this was a premonition used in anger rather than a curse as being a clairvoyant wasn't his fault, if anything it would have been a curse to him or perhaps a God given gift for him to use wisely to serve God. During his life the Brahan Seer seems to have been encouraged to share his premonitions and was approached with questions; it's not clear if there were any selfish reasons for his prophesies and those around him did seem to have made use of him and exploited his legend! He was still only human at the end of the day and the sins were largely committed by those around him!

I remember a priest giving a blessing several years ago which pertained to the Brahan Seer at Chanonry Point, however the legendary curse of the Mackenzies pertained to the extinction of the line of succession of the then chiefs of the Clan, the Earls of Seaforth. This line did become extinct and is now carried by a cousin branch, the

Earls of Cromartie. There is an earlier branch of the Clan which also has a claim to the chiefship of the clan as their descent is from the main branch and has an unbroken male line of descent and according to Scottish Clan traditions are the rightful claimants to the chiefship as the present chief's descent has several maternal links (in Clan terms a deer rather than a stag!). The Seer's prophecy only seems to have affected or pertained to the Seaforths that wronged him and doesn't affect other branches.

While occultic activities would perhaps be viewed as something to renounce if it had occurred, I am not sure that there is anything to formally renounce! Being born clairvoyant isn't necessarily a sin and it doesn't automatically follow that a clairvoyant would engage in "occultic activities" even if he or she shared their experiences! Perhaps there is something to apologise to the Brahan Seer for?

Bearing in mind that the Clan Mackenzie reaches across the world it encompasses many faiths and, no doubt, there will also be a few pagans among its ranks. The Clan Mackenzie maintains that it is non-sectarian and non-denominational. Therefore, formally repenting and renouncing the Clan's connection with the Brahan Seer may come across as absurd to some and even offensive to others. Although the Clan Mackenzie would never condone occult activities, the Legend of the Brahan Seer is held out of interest and is a part of the history of our Clan.

Furthermore the gift of second sight, premonition and telepathy (sending/willing) is reputed to follow many branches of the

Mackenzies. But there is also the possibility that the legend of the Brahan Seer has been greatly and cleverly exaggerated through time, and Coinneach Odhar Mac Cainneach (Kenneth "the Dunn" Mackenzie) may have been convicted entirely on suspicion. The Clan Mackenzie has had many bloody episodes in its past sometimes being termed as the "Bluidich Mac Cainneach", as well as its heroic and romantic episodes; however we understand that this is all part of the history and legend of our Clan and in no way means that we are all going to make our neighbours shorter by their heads the next time there is a feud!

Although the Brahan Seer has never formally been renounced by the Clan Mackenzie since his execution, it is interesting to speculate that if the Earls of Seaforth had repented and begged God's forgiveness (perhaps they did!) that matters may not have unfolded as they did. In convicting the Seer for witchcraft it could be argued that they did renounce the Seer after-all!

Should the Clan Mackenzie formally renounce the Brahan Seer? In doing so could it remove a possible curse from the clan Chief (Although there is no evidence of this today)? Is the act of prophecy, whether or not accurate or with good intentions, witchcraft? Does prophecy dishonour God? Assuming that these were prophecies and not just lucky predictions, was the Brahan Seer an innocent clairvoyant or was he evil? Could the Brahan Seer have brought a curse onto the Clan Chief's family? Is the Clan correct in maintaining the monument at Chanonry Point and should the Clan Chief go further and formally pardon the Brahan Seer?

Regards,
Brian.

Arianist & Genealogist - www.mackenzie-hanson.co.uk

[Ed: If you go into the website where we extracted this piece you may notice that it starts a range of correspondence which gets quite excitable at times!

Perhaps I am wise to stay away from the subject after all!]

TWO FOR ONE WEEKEND - VICTORIA AND COURTNEY HIGHLAND GAMES

MAY 21 AND 22, 2005

by Commissioner Ian Stuart Mackenzie

My family (mother Jill, wife Lynn and two sons James and Charles) and I fancied a weekend away, so what better way to do it than to represent the Mackenzie Clan at the Highland games in Courtney and Victoria (21st and 22nd May).

We took the ferry to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island early on Friday and drove the scenic route to Courtney. The weather was cool and cloudy but we were hoping for better weather as we explored the town.

We awoke on Saturday morning to bright sunshine and set off in anticipation of a busy and enjoyable day. We'd just purchased a tent to use on these occasions but had only put it up once in our back yard to see if we could do it. Funny how it seems more difficult when there are lots of people around watching you struggle. We eventually got it all together with the help of our neighbours, the Campbells, sharing a few stories and a few laughs along the way.

Unfortunately, the day didn't turn out quite as we'd hoped. The wind got up and the rain came down. We'd fitted half walls on two sides of our tent and put up a back wall. We sat with our coffees watching the rain get blown into other tents, feeling very sorry for them. We soon found out why others hadn't put sides up. The wind gusted through the half open sides and our tent acted like a great sail. Imagining what might happen, Lynn and the boys had gone off to buy more tent pegs, I was competing in the piping and poor mother was left hanging on to the tent poles for all she was worth! There were very few visitors to the games and even less to our clan tent. The dancing competitions had to be abandoned due to the slippery, wet conditions. We felt very sorry for the organizers who'd obviously put in a lot of effort. Admitting defeat, we packed up the

tent and drove the two hours south to Victoria.

The weather was much better the next day and we impressed the Campbells by setting up our tent like pros. The sun was shining and there was only a slight breeze, causing no problems. We had quite a few Mackenzies stop by and sign our visitors book. I followed up on each one by sending them a back issue of the clan magazine, inviting them to join our Society. We were delighted when Ann Ship from Ontario joined us for a while, taking part in the parade at the opening ceremony and helping at the clan tent when I was competing in the piping. Being a member of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, I was doing double duty that day and changed kilts to act as guard when the cannon was fired at the opening of the Games. There were many visitors to the Games and my boys were tickled to see quite a few West Highland terriers, suitably dressed for the occasion in tartan coats. The stalls seemed to be very busy and the heavy events drew large crowds. All in all, a good time was had by all. (See photo page10).

We didn't realise that Victoria has a huge May parade on the holiday Monday and found out that 86 marching bands from across Canada and the US were taking part, along with many pipe bands. So next year, we'll know what to expect of this busy weekend and be a little better prepared! We had a few weekends to recover before setting up at the BC Highland Games in Coquitlam but that's another story

SMOKEY SMITH V.C.

BY RODDY MACKENZIE, VANCOUVER

This morning [August 13th], I cut short my Canadian prairie vacation and drove back from Calgary to Vancouver today to pay my respects to the most famous of the Seaforth Highlanders, Victoria Cross recipient Smokey Smith. Smokey's remains had been lying in state in Ottawa accompanied by two dozen Seaforths from Vancouver. However, his remains and his Seaforth Honour Guard returned home to lie in state today at the Seaforth Armoury here in Vancouver. When I arrived this evening, mourners were still waiting in line to sign Smokey's Book of Remembrance and to view his coffin covered by Canada's flag, and guarded by Seaforths. The Seaforth Honour Guard of four soldiers and an officer changes with military precision each 20 minutes all day long.

On display for those in line to view were one each of every class of medal Canadians have earned, com-



mening with the Victoria Cross. In addition, there was a picture and biography for each Canadian who has received the Victoria Cross since Queen Victoria created it in 1856. Pictures were also on display of an exuberant Smokey being greeted by a very young Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, and a very recent one of Smokey being warmly welcomed by the Prince of Wales.

An interesting point about funeral bouquets. At one end of the Armoury was a long line of official funeral bouquets. However, at Smokey's coffin there were only two bouquets. One was from the Government of Canada. The other was from HRH Princess Margriet, the younger sister of Dutch Queen Beatrix. Princess Margriet was born in Canada during the Dutch Royal Family's exile here in WWII. She most recently saw Smokey when we were all in The Netherlands in May for WWII's 60th Anniversary. It was at the Governor General of Canada's reception in Holland on the Dutch Day of Remembrance in May 2005 that my friend Eric de Ridder and I were seated for a few minutes with Smokey.

I had a pleasant surprise at the Seaforth Armoury this evening. A lawyer I was practicing law with, John Weston, was there. I asked him why. He told me he's

Smokey's nephew. John was there with his three young children so that they could see their Great-Uncle being honoured by Canada. As an aside, John will likely become West Vancouver's Member of Parliament in the next federal election.

August 14th:

Here in Vancouver we have now concluded Seaforth Highlander and Victoria Cross recipient Smokey Smith's full military funeral. It was Canada's biggest military funeral in the half a century since WWI flying ace and Victoria Cross recipient Billy Bishop died in 1956.

Thousands of Canadians lined Burrard Street from the Seaforth Armoury to St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church to respectfully watch the passage of Smokey's flag-draped coffin accompanied by the Seaforth pipes and drums, the Seaforth Honour Guard and a strong representation of Canada's Armed Forces and Canada's veterans. This included 400 regular force soldiers who came from Edmonton, Canada's army base closest to Vancouver. While Smokey's coffin was crossing the Burrard Bridge, CF-18 fighter jets of Canada's Air Force roared overhead in the Missing Man Manoeuvre to honour Smokey as a fallen comrade.

Official Announcement: It is with great sorrow that I must announce the death of Sgt (retd) Ernest Alvia "Smokey" Smith, Canada's last surviving Canadian Victoria Cross recipient. Smokey died August 3, 2005 in Vancouver B.C.

Smokey was born in New Westminster, B.C. on May 3, 1914. During the Second World War Mr Smith enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and served with that unit throughout its involvement in the Italian and Northwest European campaigns. It was in 1944 at the battle of Savio River, during the Italian campaign that he clearly distinguished himself from other soldiers. At the battle his actions of valour were recognized through him being awarded the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest award for valour. His war service ended with his de-activation from the permanent force on April 13, 1945.

FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

BY COMMISSIONER ALISTAIR D. MACKENZIE

We had quite a successful day at Fergus. The weather was very good, not too much sun. We were very busy, and had over \$700 of sales - and ran out of the small Tee Shirts. We got one new member, but several others were interested and said that they would follow up (One fellow who promised to contact us is from Oakville and his name is Alistair D. Mackenzie, so if he does follow up it should cause some confusion!!!).



Quebec Commissioner Jimmy McKenzie at the Montreal Highland Games with two of his grandchildren



Commissioner Jimmy with granddaughter Alessia.



Montreal - And here is the winning band with their McKenzie Trophy!

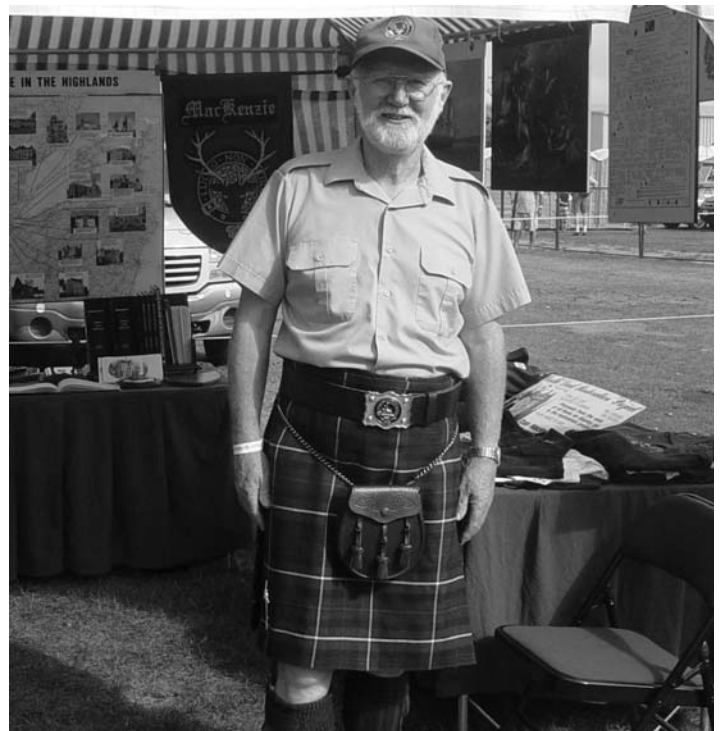


A bandsman accepts the Annual McKenzie Trophy awarded for best band in its grade at the Montreal Games.

Apart from myself, the tent was manned by Ken and Shawn Mackenzie and Jack Hirasawa. It was Ken, Jack and I, together with Jack's two children and a couple of their friends who were in the parade. Shawn did a lot of the sales whilst the rest of us were in the parade.

I assumed that we would be working on our usual arrangements at Fergus whereby we pick our own space and put up our own tent and as none of the tents that the organizers had erected for the Clans had our name on it, I did just that and commandeered the end spot (where we were last year).

We donated \$20 for John Campbell's retirement gift



Commissioner Alistair D. MacKenzie at Fergus

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Come and visit us in our 9,000 sq.ft. building featuring a large selection of Clan Tartans readily available, Highland Wear and accessories. We specialise in the art of Kilt Making and Military Tailoring, Ladies Kilted Skirts and Hostess Skirts. We carry a large selection of pipe band, piping and drumming accessories. Our store offers a large selection of Celtic jewellery, fine china, linens, glassware and knitwear. We offer Highland rentals for your Special Occasion. "A Little Bit of Scotland Right in the Heart of Barrie, Ontario, Canada". Clan MacKenzie members can also find **MacKenzie Clan Crest Mugs, Glasses and Baseball Caps all of which show the crest and the tartan.**

If you cannot visit us because of the distance involved and you can still go on line and order a kilt from us. There is a measuring form on our website. The web address is www.burnetts-struth.com

"Margaret Struth, who made HRH Prince Charles' kilt recently, made my kilt for the Mackenzie Gathering in Scotland in 1995. It is still as good as new despite constant wear. Alan MacKenzie"

from all the Clans.

We even had a visit from Graeme Mackenzie (Clan Genealogist - just back from Strathpeffer) albeit in his Macmillan attire!!

None of us had a camera but one of my engineer colleagues dropped by and took the photo (*page 15* sorry it's only me, I think the others were busy selling at the time!!)

**CLAN MACKENZIE GATHERING, STRATHPEFFER
AUGUST 6 - 14, 2005**

The third Gathering of the Clan in Strathpeffer was a great success yet again. There were 300 participants this year which is down on 2000 but well above the number in 1995.

There were groups from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States as well as some from South America and even a fine delegation from France who were all smartly turned out in Mackenzie kilts.

Aside from the usual tours of the castle and music



This is John Campbell receiving a gift from all the Clans at Fergus for all his good work organizing the Clan Village for many years. John has now retired and he will be missed.

event in the state rooms in the castle, a dinner and a ball, there was a wide selection of coach tours some of which were fully booked. Most popular were the trips to Eilean Donan Castle as well as Loch Ness to see Nessy! I visited Fort George to see the upgraded Highlanders Regiment Museum with lots of exhibits of the Seaforths and portraits of Mackenzies. Trips to Gairloch and Applecross were also very popular and the coach trip across the Cattle Pass over Applecross was as good as any excitement one would get on rides at the CNE. We did wonder at times if the coach was too big to get around those frightfully narrow roads on the edge of plunging drops. It was even more exciting



At the Gathering. The Ball - Toronto Commissioner Norman S. MacKenzie, Lieutenants to Cabarfeidh: Sonia Mackenzie (New Zealand), Alan McKenzie (Canada) and (Canadian Clan Secretary) Mary-Lou Oyler



The Gathering - Angus MacKenzie (with the sign) and his Mackenzie Holidays coach party. The man kneeling on the right is Donald McKenzie - to be the next US Clan President.

when we met cars coming in the opposite direction.

We made our presentation to Cabarfeidh of our clan's gift of £5,000. He was delighted. He told us that urgent repairs were needed to one of the chimney blocks and the cost was £10,000. So Canada's donation was very timely. The gift, from both clan and individual members, got a big round of applause at the opening ceremonies, with hundreds present.

There are big plans to try and convert the old castle tower to a time share project. The cost would approach three million pounds and would be financed from the time share project itself. The marketing worldwide of

such a scheme would be vital, of course. The great advantage of the scheme is that if successful the old castle would be brought up to a fully habitable state. There are severe building restrictions on such a development by Historic Scotland and other bureaucratic bodies and these include things like installing fire sprinklers. All the stone work and windows would need massive major work. We shall wait with interest to see how this develops. Meanwhile at a meeting of the commissioners and presidents of the worldwide societies it was agreed that all the Clan MacKenzie Societies should make an effort to raise funds to deal

with the most urgent repairs to the castle.

It is our intention to put as many photos of the Gathering on the website as we can get and we are including some in this issue of Cabar Feidh.

I gave a talk on DNA to about 30 people and we signed up seven new members to the DNA Project. We now have 86 Mac/McKenzies in the Project and many of them are starting to upgrade from 12 markers to 37 markers as they find a number of matches with other clansmen. If any male Mac/McKenzie would like to join the DNA Project then send me an email at alan@mkz.com and we will sort it out for you.

I was pleased to make a reacquaintance with a 4th

cousin from New Zealand and we are each going to go for 37 markers to test our relationship further. I was also introduced to another 4th cousin from Australia who descends from the New Zealand Branch of that vast family. It was our first ever meeting, and he was present at my DNA talk and came up and introduced himself afterwards. Such are the unexpected pleasures that a Clan Gathering can produce.

One of the things we learned at the Gathering was that Cabarfeidh and Lady Cromartie are to be the special guests at Stone Mountain in October 2006. Norman MacKenzie and I immediately thought this would be a great opportunity for a coach trip to Stone



The Gathering - A part of the Canadian contingent on the steps in front of Castle Leod. Front row heidvins are Cabarfeidh, Alan McKenzie and Norman S. MacKenzie. Alan's son-in-law holds the youngest attendee, Alan's youngest grandchild, Delia McKenzie Jansen.

Mountain - one of the finest Highland Games resorts in the world. So watch out for future reports on this subject. Stone Mountain is near Atlanta, Georgia and is well worth visiting.



Gathering - Torchlight Procession from Castle Leod ended with a huge bonfire



Didier Bauland, President of the Clan MacKenzie in France and his wife.



Lady Julia Mackenzie. By her side is our new Commissioner for Nova Scotia, James Malcolm MacKenzie.



A shieling at Newtonmore Highland Museum



Some leading Mackenzies in the USA invited Alan to dinner at the Coul House Hotel, the former home of the Mackenzies of Coul.



Janet, Lady Cromartie with Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh Ron McKenzie



Driving to Applecross - approaching Loch Marie



At the Applecross Museum



Returning from Applecross down the tortuous "Pass of the Cattle"



And of course - a visit to Eilean Donan Castle was not to be missed!



The New Zealanders in the March Past the Chief at the Strathpeffer Highland Games



And here are the Canadians. Despite the raincoats, the rain kindly held off during the march.

For more photos in colour from the Clan Mackenzie Gathering go to our website:
www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie