



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



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In This Issue:

Highland Games events	1 - 8
New Members	9
Death of Peadair Mackenzie.....	9
Family History Reports	10 - 13
Letters to the Editor	11
DNA matters	13 - 15
James Mackenzie's Gairloch Stories	15 - 16
Membership Dues	16
Simon Fraser Pipe Band	16 - 18
Mackenzies of Redcastle	18
Olympic Games	18
Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium	19
Some Interesting Photographs	20



HIGHLAND GAMES SEASON COMMENCES

GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO

JUNE 14, 2008

President Norman MacKenzie with a number of helpers launched the opening Highland Games in Ontario with the Clan's splendid new tent. Alan McKenzie was not on hand this year as he had to fly to England for the funeral of his brother, Stewart William McKenzie, who died on June 7th aged 82.

Norman says that the weather was fine and there were a good number of clan tents on display, though he was of the opinion that the numbers attending the Games were down. Nevertheless the crowds enjoyed some marvelous entertainment from the bands present, including three grade one pipe bands.

COBOURG, ONTARIO

JUNE 28, 2008

Norman, accompanied by his lady friend Robin were joined by Alan McKenzie and Kim McKenzie at Donegan Park, Cobourg for the Highland Games. This was to be a learning exercise on the erection of the new clan tent. Unfortunately the weather



*Cobourg - The only rain protection available to Clan President,
Norman MacKenzie*

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



Cobourg - Flooding in the clan tent



Embroid - The Mackenzie tent looking grand!

was just awful with heavy rain; after suffering occasional deluges of the wet stuff with the grass in the tent becoming like a small lake it was decided to call it a day and pack up at noon. Norman and Robin did stay around to see the Games and the weather brightened in the afternoon and had we been aware of the sudden reversal of the weather fortunes we might have had a reasonable day. See above for the photo showing the state of the ground in the early morning.

**EMBRO, ONTARIO
JULY 1, 2008**

The same foursome that attempted the Games in Cobourg three days earlier were at Embro for the Games there, which are always held on Canada Day. In addition we had the pleasure of further help from Commissioner Ken Mackenzie, whom I refer to as our Ambassador Extraordinaire because his wholehearted enthusiasm in talking to the many people who visit our tent.

Our new tent is much larger than the previous one. It measures 13' x 13' compared to the old one at 11' x 11'. Most clans have a 10' x 10' tent so the Mackenzie tent now dominates the scene with the large flags flying and the tent advertising the Clan Mackenzie's DNA project. That brings some interest from passers by who want to know more about the DNA project and how it might help them trace their ancestors.

What a contrast to Cobourg. The weather was very sunny and warm (I cannot recall anything other than warm sunny weather at Embro on Canada Day!). We



Ken Mackenzie in the foreground chats up a Canada Day visitor at the Embro Highland Games



Norman with Robin and Ken at Embro

signed on a new member, Gordon McKenzie, from London, Ontario and sales were excellent. The nice thing about having so many helpers at the tent is that we can all get a chance to disappear for a spell and see some of the Games, the Highland dancing and the tug-of-war, a favourite at Embro.

Present at the Games was the local M.P., David A. Mackenzie, an enthusiastic member of the Clan and our most valuable client on the day with his many purchases at the clan tent - Thanks David! Why hasn't Mr Harper put you in the Cabinet?

KINCARDINE, ONTARIO

JULY 5, 2008

Norman, Alan and Kim were at the pretty little town of Kincardine on Lake Huron for this attractive Scottish Festival. There were not many clans present but there were large crowds in attendance for the many fine pipe bands competing.

The weather was fine and sunny and our new clan tent dominated the small clan village once again. Two smaller clans that turned up left in a huff when they were refused by the officials to bring their vans into the site to unload their tent and possessions. What a pity. It was quiet and a quick unloading in the morning would have caused little disruption before the crowds arrived. We experienced a similar problem last year so we brought a trolley to cart our containers from the van to the clan village - just a few yards.

Sales were good and we saw a number of old friends including David MacKenzie a local real estate broker and long time member. He



Alan at KIncardine



James Kemler, our member from Michigan chats with Kim McKenzie

joined Norman and Alan in the parade with two other local members.

CHATHAM, ONTARIO,

JULY 12, 2008

One week after Kincardine Alan was joined by Commissioner Alistair MacKenzie from Burlington for the Chatham Games. In order to have time and space to get our large tent up Alan was kindly offered overnight accommodation with Alastair McIntyre who

lives in the city. Alastair runs the electricScotland website and if you have never searched this site do so. It is probably the largest Scottish website in the world with over 200,000 pages and that includes our own Clan Mackenzie Society of Canada website. Alastair filmed me at the grounds and interviewed me about the Clan Mackenzie and that film is on his website. It was not too bad considering it was totally unrehearsed and I was not prepared for it.

The morning was very sunny but until Alistair Mackenzie arrived I found it hard going putting up the new tent. (Alistair was not late, I was very early being at the grounds by 7.30 a.m.) Passers by gave me a hand but it was gone 10 a.m. before we were ready for business.

Unfortunately the weather which we feared would turn stormy met the forecast on time. At 12 noon the sky turned black and Alistair and I quickly moved our tables into the centre of the tent and almost immediately the rain came down in torrents. Luckily our new tent is so large that we escaped any problems, though it was noticed that the poor chap beside us running the Clan MacFarlane tent got totally drenched in his small 10x10 tent as he tried to get his supplies hurriedly into his van.

The consequence was that the rain drove away most of the crowds who departed en masse. We stuck it out until 2.30 p.m. when we decided to call it a day. We did get a couple of visits from our American member Jim Kemler and his friend Barbara (they were both at Kincardine too - see photo!). He spent a lot of money on clan merchandise which saved our bacon financially on the day.

After we had packed up and Alistair MacKenzie departed I was invited back to Alastair McIntyre's house to change from the kilt into driving clothes for the journey back to Oakville. While at his house he showed me the very impressive progress he has made with his powerful website. He reckons he was doing what Facebook and YouTube was doing years ago and he said he had been ahead of his time. Don't forget - have a look at his website: www.electricscotland.com and see what you can find.

ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL JULY 19, 2008

We have always liked Orillia. The park in which the events take place is situated on Lake Couchiching, a beautiful setting.

Commissioner Rad MacKenzie was present as always at this event and so too was our president Norman MacKenzie and his friend, Robin. I brought the tent and equipment in the clan van and was accompanied by my eldest granddaughter, Claire, aged 22.

The weather was fabulous and the ever-present threats of thunderstorms, given the excessive heat, did not happen - at least, not until after the event was over.

Rad was able to experience the delights in putting

up the new tent and with so many of us there it went up in seconds!

President Norman was away for much of the day as he was also acting as the drum major for the Ontario Legion Massed Pipes and Drums. I managed to get some photo shots of Norman leading the large band past our clan tent and very smart he looked too.

Other than that we had an enjoyable and very warm



The clan tent at Orillia seen against the background of Lake Couchiching

day. Sales were light and once again no new members were forthcoming, though quite few Mackenzies came to the tent. However we tend to look on these appearance of ours at Highland Games as good public relations. Because of our tent quite a few people noticed that we have a DNA project and we got many enquiries about DNA testing. However, none of these people were Mackenzies but we were able to give them some advice on what to do.



Orillia - A view of the Massed Legion Pipes and Drums as they are about to pass the Clan MacKenzie tent.



Orillia - Clan Society President, Drum Major Norman MacKenzie, wears the Perthshire tartan leading the Massed Legion Pipes and Drums.

**BC HIGHLAND GAMES -
COQUITLAM
JUNE 28, 2008**

BY COMMISSIONER JOAN MACKENZIE

The MacKenzies had a day of play at the BC Highland Games in Coquitlam. I think winter finished one day before the games and then summer started. Great crowds attended the games but the heat (which we weren't used to) had us taking cover or shopping for water. The Clan MK tent provided shelter for many - some MacKenzies and some not. William MK brought a pull-out bench and some were seen in the reclining position, taking a break from the heat. Commissioners William, Ian and Joan set up the tent with the usual stuff which surprisingly always brings new people to see what we have. Much of the day was constant chat about all-things-Scottish - genealogy, military, Canadian

roots and imagined trips to the homeland. Kat Derksen's grandfather was Alexander MacKenzie whose family comes from Drumbeg, Assynt. Her other family names are Graham and MacLeod. Natalie Brox has a MacKensie connection. Ian

MacKenzie has a Alice MacKay and Hugh Fraser MacKenzie from Elgin, Scotland. If anyone matches up, let me know.

(jo.mac@telus.net)

We are proud of Commissioner Ian MK who competed and stayed to do the massed bands. To finish



Coquitlam - Kenneth MacKenzie

off the evening, Commissioner William MK and Jennifer invited the Clan MKs and other friends to their home for a fabulous BBQ. We had a lot of variety at the Clan MacKenzie: pot luck, everything from burgers and hot dogs to exotic homemade pizza, Greek salmon and scotch pies, lots of salads, wine, beer, fruit punch and scotch. A great time was had by all in the shade of our back garden after a very hot [32c] day at the Highland Games. Thanks to William & Jennifer; in all, it was a great day.



Joan, Ruth Rod and Heather MacKenzie partying after the Coquitlam Games - Rod MacKenzie is a clan commissioner in Washington State



Coquitlam - Two year-old Kolbin Bruce MacKenzie is a drummer of the future! Son of Robert and Koreen Mackenzie of Mission, B.C., and grandson of members Kenneth and Marlene MacKenzie of Delta, B.C.

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES, MAXVILLE, ONTARIO AUGUST 2, 2008

Commissioner Gary Mackenzie was joined by Alan and Kim for this big event in the Highland Games calendar. On the Friday night several thousand people attended their great tattoo, which is held here each year and there were

many bands present as well as a large variety of entertainment for the crowds.

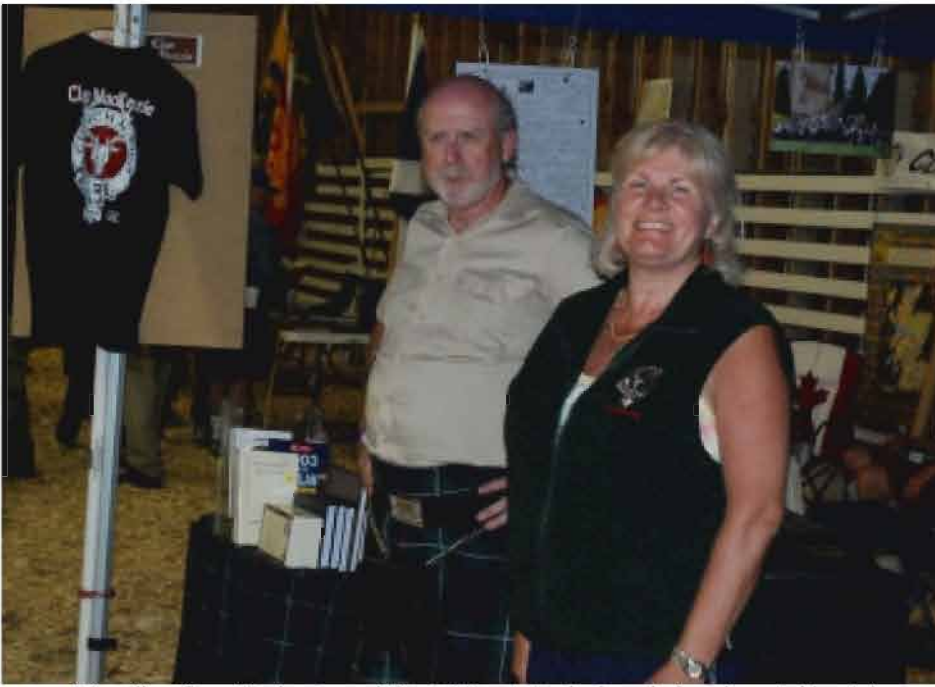
As usual we were set up in the barn and the weather started out hot and sunny. Sales were moderate and once again no new members were forthcoming. In this region the



Kenneth and William MacKenzie packing up the clan tent at Coquitlam

Macdonells of Glengarry dominate and this is one Highland Games where the Donald clan always makes an appearance.

Present and giving two presentation on the stage opposite our tent



Maxville - Gary Mackenzie and Kim McKenzie in the barn before the rain blew in!

in the barn was Professor Hannay, Chief of the Clan Hannay (also Hanna) who is on the Council of Highland Chiefs. He was selling the forthcoming "Homecoming" and also the "Gathering of the Clans" in Edinburgh in 2009.

We had a short opportunity to watch the massed bands in the early afternoon - over 1200 pipers and drummers and there was an announcement that the full massed bands at 6.30 p.m. would have over 1700 on parade. I am told there were 65 pipe bands present and that included a Mexican pipe band who wore their Mackenzie tartan kilts!

Enjoyment at this annual festival was cut short when a massive thunderstorm hit very suddenly around 3 p.m. One thundercrack hit just 50 yards away and the loud bang scared quite a few people. The rain came down very heavily and people poured into the barn to escape the rain. We were feeling quite smug being under cover but that soon dissipated when a fierce wind started blowing the rain into the barn and

soaking the tent and tables. We hastily packed everything away and that ended our involvement. The rain continued for the rest of the day.

I counted 25 clans present in the two barns and at least three other who were listed did not turn up. However, 25 is a good number for Maxville. Just a shame about the weather.

MONTREAL GAMES

These Games were scheduled for the Sunday following Maxville. Unfortunately the same storms that were ripping into the Maxville Games also affected the weather the following day in Montreal. The following is a report from Quebec Commissioner Jimmie McKenzie

"Due to the weather conditions at 7.00am and the forecast of thunderstorms for the early to mid-afternoon I decided to cancel our participation this year. We had planned a very interesting day. I rented a truck on the Saturday loaded up my big tent 15'x 20' and a smaller one 12'x 12' plus 24 chairs and all the rest of

the equipment.

"We (Pierre McKenzie and myself) had planned a bilingual presentation on the McKenzies in Quebec city. This was to include Pierre's family tree and the advantages of participating in the DNA project, followed by a Q&A session.

"I called Pierre at 7.00am and told him to stay home because of the weather, and not wanting him to travel from Quebec city to Montreal and experience the worst day ever of the games in Montreal. It would have been his first Highland Games. It was costly because of equipment and truck rental but hopefully we can do it next year. I am sure the enthusiasm will still be there."

Jimmy McKenzie

FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES & SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AUGUST 9, 2008

Well, what can we say about this, the most important Highland Games for the Clan in Canada?

It started off well enough with President Norman MacKenzie and Commissioner Alan McKenzie present with good help from Shawn MacKenzie, Kim McKenzie and Robin. The sun was shining and there were 38 Clans present in the Clan Village.

But, alas, the weather changed dramatically from about 11.30 a.m. To that point sales were going well, we picked up a new member, fully expecting several more, when the rain came. It steadily got worse and some thunder and lightning added to the excitement. We waited for some improvement but the rain started to come down in buckets. Once again we congratulated our-



Left: Shawn MacKenzie at Fergus - Shawn has been co-opted as Commissioner for Toronto. Right: Norman keeps cheerful despite the flooding.



Fergus - some activity at the clan tent during the early drizzle - apart from the visitor in the white trousers a brief glimpse can be seen of Robin, Norman, Kim and Shawn. Note the tables pushed into the centre of the tent to avoid the rain



Fergus - By the time the floor of our tent was looking like this we were obliged to pack up and leave. Very few people stayed and the clan village was deserted. Such a shame!

selves in having the large tent which enabled us to draw our tables into the centre and keep the rain off our inventory and books on display.

What then happened was the formation of small puddles in and around the tent - this got progressively worse until we had a virtual lake to contend with and in places the level of the water was above our ankles. A great sense of humour was maintained by all but after a while we decided that it was the end. The parades were cancelled and the dancers were able to continue their performances inside one of the large buildings on the site.

A number of clans started to pack up as there was no sign of the weather improving and so at 2.30 p.m. we attempted to load the van in appalling rain storms by carting our stuff through our lake and generally getting soaked.

It has been the wettest summer in Ontario ever and we have been washed out in four games this season. The consequence has been very few new members enrolled, which has been a great disappointment and year over year our membership has shown a decline.

**PEADAIR MACKENZIE'S DEATH
ANNOUNCED**

The following message was received from Scotland in late July. Peadair Mackenzie, as many of you will know, was the President of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland and the UK. He was a prime organizer of the Clan Gatherings in Scotland and will be greatly missed by the Clan.



Peadair - taken at the Clan Parliament in 1995

"Dear Alan

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Peadair. He died on the 14th July after a short illness at home with his family. He did not suffer any pain just a little discomfort which was a blessing.

Peadair's body, according to his wishes, was donated to medical science and went to the University of Glasgow who made all the arrangements

He also asked that there was absolutely no fuss after his death, there

will be no funeral or service and Min asks that no flowers, emails or phone calls please.

I am writing this on behalf of Min who wished me to get in touch with you personally, I will be sending emails out to all our members later on in the week from Ian on behalf of the Society in Scotland.

**Regards
Mary Mackenzie"**

*From Dr. Ian M-Blake,
Immediate Past President,
The Clan Mackenzie Society
for Scotland & The UK.
Sunday 27th July 2008 :*

Members of the Clan Mackenzie at home and world-wide will be greatly saddened to learn of the death of our President Peadair Mackenzie after a short, sudden illness.

His family have most particularly requested they should not receive emails, telephone calls, letters flowers, etc. and I am sure that they count on us all to respect their wishes. May I therefore suggest that any condolences, tributes etc., be sent instead C/o Mary Mackenzie our Treasurer & Membership Secretary. She has been the sole channel of communication between the Society and the family during these stressful days and will seek an appropriate

opportunity to pass on any such messages at some future moment, when the family have had time to come to terms with the loss a much loved husband and father.

I apologize for the brevity of this note but, having only just heard the news, I am as shocked as you will be. There will be a full and fitting obituary in the 2009 Magazine for Peadair who has done so much, not only for this Society but also to foster warm links with fraternal societies everywhere.

**Tulach Ard.
Ian**

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the previous newsletter was published:

Gordon McKenzie,
24 Bridlington Rd,
London ON N6E 1X4

Ian MacKenzie,
#201, 3680 Oak Street,
Vancouver, BC V6H 2M2

Nancy Mackenzie,
42 Marlborough St. E.,
Leamington, ON N8H 1W7

Christopher D. Williams,
300 SW 42nd St,
Loveland, CO 80537, USA

FAMILY HISTORY REPORT

BY RONALD IAN HECTOR MCKENZIE

We are seeking information about my great grandfather Hector McKenzie, his wife Janet McDonald and his father John McKenzie.

Hector was believed to be a sea captain. Sometime, probably in the 1820s or 1830s Hector had sailed with his family to Nova Scotia, Canada from Ullapool in Wester Ross. He became a farmer on Boularderie Island at Big Bras d'Or. Lucille Campey has written a book, 'After the Hector', on the Scottish settlement in Nova Scotia. She writes that by the 1830s the north shore of Boularderie Island was almost entirely settled at that time with people from Gairloch.

Hector died in 1849 on Boularderie Island. The inscription on the tombstone in the St. James cemetery at Big Bras d'Or is as follows:

"In memory of Hector McKenzie who died January 17th 1849 aged 53 years. Also his wife Janet McDonald died Nov 19, 1858 aged 63 years. Likewise their children Catherine age 9 months, Ann 30 years, John Kenneth 17 years, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Erected by their affectionate son Donald McKenzie".

Donald was my grandfather and would have been 12 years old when his father died. So the tombstone was likely erected some time later. Perhaps it was erected 60 years later after Roderick, the last of his brothers, died in 1909.

We do not know when or where Hector married Janet McDonald. They are not the couple of the same names from Isle Ristol and Rieff Scotland who married on March 12th 1830. This was a time of great

hardship and some chaos in the Highlands, so much information may be lost.

My father John Hector McKenzie born in 1864, 15 years after Hector died might well have answered part or all of the questions. He grew up before radio, telephone or TV were invented when conversation was the main method of communication. He was a great story teller about his life and times. I remember him often mentioning Ullapool, Gairloch and Lochbroom. Hector sailed from Ullapool but the family has a connection to the other two places. When one is young, one doesn't always appreciate the significance of what one is told, so I may well have missed something. My father died May 25th 1955.

We are very interested in learning where and when Hector and his wife Janet were born. How is it he learned the navigation skills of a sea captain. He must have had some education. And a certain amount of money is needed to be master of a ship. He had a number of sons all born in Nova Scotia according to the census records and all were reasonably successful and had fairly large families. Roberta Fraser who lives on Boularderie Island was extremely helpful in locating information about Hector's family.

1. The eldest son was Duncan McKenzie born about 1824 and died March 27 1893. He married Isabella Beaton born about 1826 in Scotland. They had a farm near Dalem's Lake on Boularderie Island.

2. Murdoch "the Miller" McKenzie was born in 1828 or 1829 and operated a mill as well as farming near his brother. He died at Big Bras d'Or August 27 1890. He

married Isabella 'Bella' 'Og' McDonald March 25 1858 at Boularderie. She was born in 1838 at Boularderie and died in 1904.

3. Roderick 'Big Rory' McKenzie a shipbuilder and farmer born 1830 and died February 24th 1909 at Big Bras d'Or on Boularderie Island. He married Flora McDonald daughter of Roderick 'Og' McDonald and Jane MacAuley, August 19 1862. They also lived on Boularderie Island near the two older brothers.

4. My grandfather Donald 'the Crusher' McKenzie born February 8 1836 and died on May 3rd 1917. He was a blacksmith and farmer at Boularderie Centre. On March 20 1862 he married Mary McRae daughter of Donald 'the Brook' McRae and Margaret McDugald of Middle River NS.

5. Alexander H. McKenzie a carpenter and farmer was born March 21 1839. He married Jessy McLean Nov 27 1863. She was born at Dalem's Lake on Boularderie Island in 1837. After his wife died in 1874 Alexander moved to Selkirk Manitoba where he was a successful merchant and owner of several fishing boats on Lake Winnipeg. He died April 13 1892 and is buried in the Little Britain Cemetery near Selkirk, Manitoba.

6. We know nothing more about the birth dates of those children listed on the tombstone.

We have been looking for any birth, marriage and death records of Hector's parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, and what is known about them. Were they land owners, farmers, servants, fishermen, soldiers or businessmen? We believe Hector's father John is buried at Ullapool but unfortunately we do not know the name of

John's wife.

If anybody, particularly any of Hector's descendants, has more information I would appreciate hearing from them. We have no knowledge of the living descendants of my great uncles. Contact me at ggmckenz@mts.net or at 803-1660, Pembina, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, R3T2G2 and I will reply.

Ronald Ian Hector McKenzie

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Alan:

A number of Notre Dame track runners from the 1961-65 era are trying to locate Colin McKenzie who attended Notre Dame during our time frame (for purposes of a team reunion). He was a Canadian school boy champion in the 440 and 880 yard runs and hailed from Saskatoon. He got a Masters, we believe, from McGill University and should be around 65 years old (give or take a year). Any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Richard Fennelly

If anyone can shed any light on this enquiry please contact me Alan McKenzie at alan@mkz.com

AN IMMIGRANT'S JOURNEY: THE MACKENZIE FAMILY

Robert Gillan, Vancouver Sun

[We thank Robert for giving us permission to use this article and we give credit to the Vancouver Sun.]

Published: Monday, May 26, 2008

The MacKenzie family emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1911-12.

Hugh MacKenzie, a butcher and



Family home at 1051 Oliver Street with father Hugh MacKenzie and children

a prominent golfer and life member of St. Andrews Golf Club, was seeking better opportunities for his growing family. He arrived in 1911 and after a lengthy trip across Canada in search of the ideal location for his family, he chose Victoria, where he established his business and built the family home on Oliver Street in Oak Bay. The family joined him in 1912. The family home is still on Oliver Street.

Family stories include the attempt to book passage on the Titanic. Since it was overbooked, they travelled on an Allan Line vessel, the S.S. Hesperian. It sailed from Glasgow to Montreal. The Hesperian was torpedoed and sunk during World War I.

The passenger list has the eldest child 'Master Alexander MacKenzie' listed separately from "Mrs. MacKenzie and 4 children."

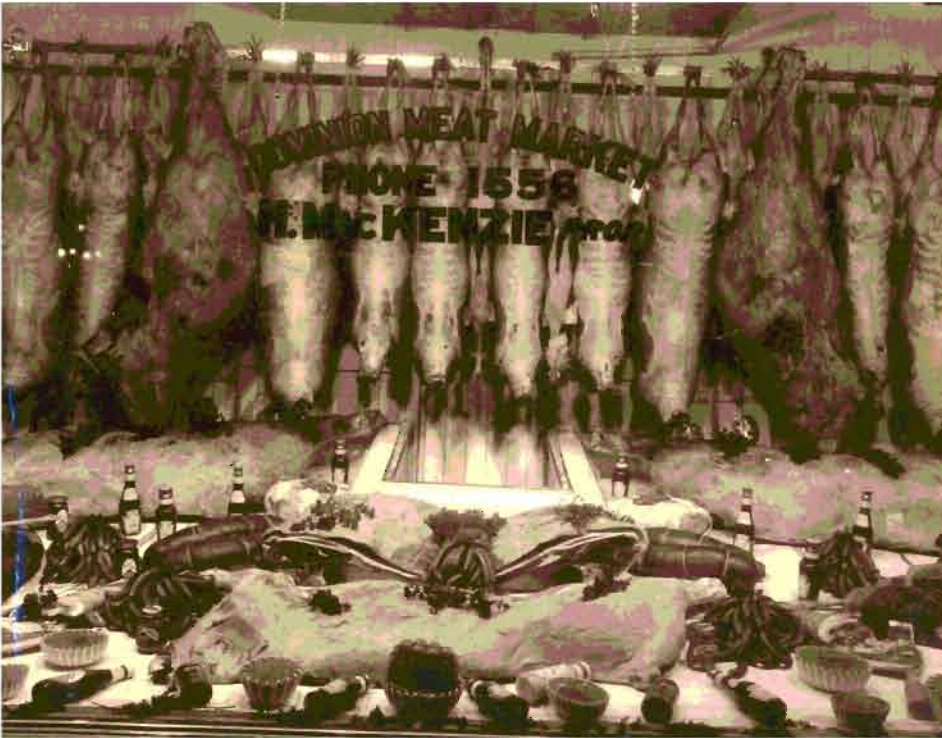
The family arrived in Montreal and crossed Canada by train to Vancouver and then took the CP ferry to their new home in Victoria.

Hugh MacKenzie established Dominion Meats on Douglas Street, where he cured and smoked bacon, made sausages and chicken loaves. Slaughtering was done on site. The original sausage recipe, written on brown wrapping paper, remains in the family.

After several years of successfully operating his business at this location, he sold this property to the Hudson's Bay Company, which established its store at this corner.

There were eight children in the MacKenzie family; one child died of meningitis at the age of 13, the rest of the children grew up in Victoria, married and had children.

Family members from Scotland frequently visited the MacKenzie home in Victoria. The MacKenzie



Store front Dominion Meat Market.



Hugh MacKenzie and Johanna Simpson MacKenzie on their Golden wedding anniversary, 1949

clan kept a large vegetable garden and canned their own food. They also raised rabbits and chickens in their double lot sized yard. These animals were sold in the butcher shop. One grandson recalls being

given a pair of rabbits to start his own litter.

Grandmother Johanna MacKenzie was an industrious, hard-working woman who made every family member feel impor-

tant and loved and kept the family closely knit. Not until the eighth child was expected was a decision made to purchase a late-model washing machine.

Typical of their time, the women sewed or knitted most of their own clothes. Knitted baby clothes were made for the next two generations. The MacKenzie daughters maintained their interest in embroidery, sewing, crocheting and watercolour painting throughout their lives. Many of these handmade pieces and paintings are still cherished by grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family played Harry Lauder records on a hand-cranked Victrola. A grandson used sandpaper to sharpen the needles. Many of the records are still in the homes of MacKenzie descendants.

Hugh MacKenzie raised English setters that he named after his daughters. The bloodlines of these prized dogs can still be found in British Columbia. Walking the setters made a grandson feel very proud.

Grandchildren recall special days spent with Grandfather and Grandmother MacKenzie, with encouragement to 'bairns' to "finish your oatmeal" each morning and in the evening sipping grandfather's stout "to grow big."

The MacKenzie clan memories continue into this century, almost 100 years after the family emigrated to Canada. Three surviving MacKenzie children - the youngest, Ian, and his sisters Eleanor and Isobel - passed away in this century. These three were born in Canada. The MacKenzie family plot is located in historic Ross Bay cemetery. The ashes of the last survivor of the eight MacKenzie children, Isobel Simpson MacKenzie Gillan,

were placed in the family plot in 2006.

The MacKenzie descendants live in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Washington state and Holland. They include teachers, engineers, a surveyor, a Canadian Armed Forces officer, a firefighter, lawyers, a Miss Victoria, horse trainers, administrators and business managers, professional athletes (hockey and rodeo).

Grandmother MacKenzie always made haggis on Robbie Burns Day and the family waited for grandpa to arrive home, after closing the shop and stopping off at the Union Club for a wee dram. The MacKenzie grandchildren recall their Scottish roots when they gather, especially on Robbie Burns Day. Children and grandchildren heard Scottish toasts spoken in soft Scottish accents at family gatherings. They still recite the traditional toast:

Here's to you an' yours,
No forgettin' us an' oors;
An' whenever you an' yours
Comes to see us an' oors,
Us an' oors'll be as guid
To you an' yours,
As ever you an' yours
Was to us an' oors,
Whenever us an' oors
Cam to see you an' yours.

When he first heard this toast, spoken quickly in a Scottish accent by his grandmother, a MacKenzie daughter, a young grandson responded: "That's easy for you to say, Gramma!"

Robert Gillan
Surrey

WHAT THE DNA PROGRAMME HAS DONE FOR US SO FAR

I picked this article up from the Clan Mackenzie newsletter from New Zealand. It happens to mention me but I thought it was of general interest because of the successes this gentleman had from DNA. (Alan McKenzie)

For those that do not know me, a little about myself first. Unfortunately I cannot claim to have a long line of relations in NZ as I am the first of a new branch if you like. I was once referred to as a transplant.

I came out to NZ in 1964 for 2 years, which has got slightly extended by some 42 years. I was born in Dingwall in Ross & Cromarty and spent my early years on the family farms of Resolis Mains & Newmilns on the Black Isle. When I came to NZ first I spent one year in North Island at Masterton before heading South to the Gore area where I spent 18 years and then moved to Dunedin in 1973 and have been there since. Married to Linda, we have four sons and one daughter, eleven grandchildren including four MacKenzie grandsons so will keep the Clan alive for some time yet. In my younger days where my relations came from or went to was not something that interested me very much. In fact anything to do with history was not for me. My last year in high school I actually got 11% in the final history exam; I think that speaks for itself. However, as time goes on, one starts to think about the past. I am now the oldest male in our family line and I thought with my local knowledge of the Black Isle and surrounding districts it was time to get some of the gaps filled in before all was lost in the future. Before my father passed away, he and my younger sister Sheena talked quite a bit about the "family". It seems that my great grandfather had a brother Kenneth who went to Australia about 1850. They knew he went to the Lancefield area outside of Melbourne but that was all they knew. Nobody kept in touch so the Australian side of the family was lost. While at the Clan Gathering in Strathpeffer in 2005 I listened to a talk by Alan McKenzie of Canada on the use of Y-DNA being used for genealogy. I got a test kit from Alan and when I got back home completed the test. One thing that Alan did say was to beware it might bring out some unwanted skeletons from the closet. However this set me to thinking that if we could find a possible link in Australia DNA it might help us to verify some connections one way or the other. When I got back home I got in touch with Geraldine Fennessey, nee Mackenzie, one of the genealogists for the Clan Mackenzie in Melbourne, explained to her that I was looking for a Kenneth MacKenzie who went to the Lancefield area about 1850. Within a few days she e-mailed me back to say that the only Kenneth MacKenzie she could find was a direct ancestor of hers. On comparing notes it was looking very likely we were talking about the same Kenneth. I mentioned to her about the DNA programme that was being done by the Clan through Canada. She said she would talk to one of her brothers to see if he would be interested to do the test. [The Y-

DNA can only be done on the male side.] He agreed to go ahead and have the tests and the first results came back on 12 markers and we were an exact match 12/12. The tests can be extended out to 37 markers which refines the results even further. The fact that we were 12/12 was enough to get us quite excited about finding one of the lost branches of the family tree. Branch might not be the correct word I think forest might be nearer as I have seen some of the family trees from Australia and they are quite large. Since I talked about this in Invercargill we have had the results of the 37 markers and we have come up as a 100% match, 37 out of 37. [Ed: 37 out of 37 is a near certainty of a very close relationship!] We also have a paper trail to show the links. We have been to Australia and met up with Geraldine and been to Lancefield and seen the area where Kenneth went to in 1852. Another interesting side that came up as I was browsing on the internet one night I found somebody looking for information on John Mackenzie & Ann Mackay married in Fodderty, Ross & Cromarty in 1808. John Mackenzie was my g/g/grandfather, the father of Kenneth who went to Australia. The person looking was a Ron Mackenzie from Brisbane who was actually born in Invercargill and has relations in New Zealand, maybe some are even here today. He is also a descendant of Kenneth Mackenzie. I put him in touch with Geraldine Fennessey whom he did not know as they were down different lines of the same Mackenzie family so they have been able to compare their notes and family trees. My father also used to talk about his cousins in Garve, which is west of Strathpeffer, who had the local grocery shop in Garve. When we were in Scotland last year I did some more researching on the MacKenzie family tree. As none of the male cousins married I went back another generation and found that a MacKenzie married a MacKenzie I have been able to trace a male relative who was quite happy to do a DNA test (which I paid for) to confirm my thoughts that I was on the correct family. The results came through early last month and we are 36 out of 37 markers which confirmed my theory of our connections.

The other interesting side that has come out of the DNA results is that we have found to be getting a lot of positive results from the Canadians who have done the DNA trials as well. The closest result we have so far is 35/37 Markers which gives us the probability of myself and this person in Canada of having a Common

ancestor in the last 250 yrs (about 1760) which is about the time a lot of Mackenzies migrated to Canada. Somewhere in the past, it is quite obvious that one of my forebears went to Canada. Maybe in the future someone will want to know about the Mackenzie that went from the Black Isle to New Zealand in 1964 and started another branch of the Clan. We are going back to Scotland next month to miss the NZ winter so I will be doing some more researching; who knows we might find another branch for our family tree. In closing I think that as we get older it is very important that the gaps are filled in while we can still remember, whether we use computers, or write it in long hand or even use DNA, because if we do not things will get lost for ever.

Ian Mackenzie [Clan member in New Zealand]

DNA ALERT

There has been a sudden surge of members expanding their DNA tests following bargain low prices offered for a short time by Family Tree DNA.

What was noticeable was the number of DNA members who did not get the message because they had failed to advise Family Tree DNA of their changed e-mail address. So, if you are enrolled on the DNA program go into the website (www.familytreedna.com) and check your personal page to see what your e-mail address is and if it is not up to date then change your page accordingly.

Following on from this comment, we have just received the following message from Family Tree DNA extending reduced prices for one month. This is a great opportunity to jump on the DNA bandwagon!

Due to popular demand Family Tree DNA is extending its Sizzling Summer Sale until September 30th! This promotion is geared toward bringing new members to your projects by offering the following big incentives:

Y-DNA12	Free mtDNA	\$189 sale price \$99
Y-DNA25	Free mtDNA	\$238 sale price \$148
Y-DNA37		\$189 sale price \$119
Y-DNA37+mtDNA		\$339 sale price \$189
Y-DNA67		\$269 sale price \$218
Y-DNA67+mtDNAplus		\$409 sale price \$288
mtDNAplus		\$189 sale price \$149

The purpose of this sale is to grow our database and at the same time help our Group Administrators encourage those "fence sitters" to climb off the fence and join your project.

To date, the reaction has been very strong and we feel

the benefit to the database and to your projects justifies the extension of this promotion. We would also like to thank all of our Group Administrators who have sent details of this promotion out by email or by postings to blogs and lists. It is clearly working, and we ask that you continue your efforts to make this promotion a growth vehicle for your projects.

IMPORTANT: This promotion requires that payment is either made by credit card or received by the conclusion of the sale on September 30th, 2008.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Bennett Greenspan
President

To take advantage of these reduced prices (including upgrades for more markers) go to www.familytreedna.com and register. Family Tree DNA runs the Clan Mackenzie DNA Project. The Mackenzies now have almost 200 members on this project from around the world.

JAMES MACKENZIE'S GAIRLOCH STORIES

Here is another of James Mackenzie's stories of life in Gairloch. He was born in 1808.

CASES OF DROWNING IN LOCH MAREE.

It would be before 1810 that Hector Mackenzie of Sand was living in a house at Cliff, on the west side of the burn at Cliff House. Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch had given him lands at Inverasdale. He went up Loch Maree in a boat to fetch wood to build a house close to the shore at Inverasdale. He took for a crew his son Sandy, a young lad, and also William M'Rae from Cove, and William Urquhart, called William Og, and his son, who lived at Bac Dubh. They reached Kenlochewe and loaded the boat. Just before they started back, Kenneth Mackenzie, a married man, and Rorie Mackenzie, a young man, who were returning to Gairloch with hemp for nets, asked for a passage down the loch. Hector said there was too much in the boat already. He was not for them to go in the boat, so they went off; but William Og said to Hector, "You had better call the men back; you don't know where they will meet you again." William Og called for them to come back. Kenneth Mackenzie came back, but Rorie would not return; he had taken the refusal amiss, and it was good for him that he had done so. The boat with the six of them started from the head of Loch Maree. Opposite Letterewe she was swamped, from being so heavy. All hands were lost except William M'Rae and Sandy the

son of Hector, they were picked up by a boat from Letterewe.

Two sons of Lewis M'Iver, of Stornoway, came to Kenlochewe on their way back from college. It was before the road was made from Gairloch to Poolewe. They took a boat down Loch Maree. Four Kenlochewe men came with them; they were all ignorant of sailing. Between Ardlair and the islands there was a breeze, and they put the sail up. One of the Kenlochewe men stretched himself upon the middle thwart of the boat; a squall came, and he went overboard head foremost and was drowned.

Kenneth Mackenzie from Eilean Horrisdale and Grigor M'Gregor from Achtercairn were employed sawing at Letterewe. They were put across to Aird na h'eighaimh, the promontory that runs out from the west shore of Loch Maree to near Isle Maree, by a boat from Letterewe. One of them had a whip saw on his shoulder. On landing they started to walk to Gairloch. There was then no bridge over the river at Talladale. The stream was swollen by rain; they tried to wade it, but were carried off their legs and taken down to the loch, where they were drowned. Their bodies were never recovered. This was more than eighty years ago.

Donald Maclean from Poolewe and John M'Iver, called John M'Ryrie, and often known as Bonaparte, from his bravery, were in a sailing boat in Tagan bay at the head of Loch Maree, when a squall upset the boat. John M'Ryrie went down, and was drowned. Donald Maclean got on the keel of the boat. Rorie Mackenzie had a boat on the stocks at Athnaceann. She had only seven strokes in her, but there was no other boat, so they took her down to the loch, and Donald Maclean was saved by means of her. John M'Ryrie's body was recovered, and buried in the Inverewe churchyard.

It would be about 1840 that Duncan and Kenneth Urquhart, two brothers from Croft, sons of Kenneth Urquhart the miller, were coming down Loch Maree one Saturday evening after dark. There was smuggling going on in the islands at that time. It was a very dark night, and there was a stiff breeze blowing down the loch and helping to propel the boat. Duncan was rowing the bow oar, and Kenneth the other. Duncan called to his brother to go to the stern and steer the boat with his oar. Kenneth jumped on the seat in the stern, and from the way that was on the boat, and his own spring, he went over the stern. He called to Duncan, but he had only the one oar left, and with the wind so strong he

continued on page 16

CANADIAN AND US MEMBERS JOIN FORCES AT THE HIGHLAND GAMES IN SEATTLE

This happy photo sent to us by our Clan folks in British Columbia was taken in Enumclaw, Washington at the Seattle Highland Games.

On the left are Canadian members Marlene and Kenneth Mackenzie while in the centre are Alexander and Victoria MacKenzie, US Commissioners of the Clan. On the right are Rod and Ruth Mackenzie, who are also US Commissioners as well as being long time and well known members of the Canadian Society.



continued from page 15

could do nothing for his brother, so Kenneth was drowned. His body was found nine days afterwards in the middle of Loch Maree; the oar came ashore at a spot called An Fhrìdhhorch, or 'the dark forest,' where the scrubby wood now is near a mile to the north of Ardlair. Duncan came ashore with the boat on the beach in Tollie bay.

When Seaforth bought the Kernsary estate some forty years ago Mrs M'Intyre was living at Inveran. It was after Duncan Fadach had lived there. Two years after Seaforth made the purchase he sent two lads to repair the house at Inveran. One of them was Sandy Mackenzie from Stornoway. The two lads went to bathe at the rock called Craig an t' Shabhail, or 'the rock of the barn,' where the river Ewe begins; there was a barn long ago on the top of this rock. Immediately Sandy entered the water he went down, and was drowned. The other lad hastened to the house, and a sort of drag was made with a long stick and a crook at the end of it, and with this the body was lifted. Sandy was of the stock of George Mackenzie, second laird of Gruinard, who had thirty-three children. Sandy's brother is the present Free Church minister of Kilmorack.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Reminders are included with this newsletter that Annual dues of \$20 become payable on October 1st for the 2008/09 year. Additional donations are welcome and tax receipts will be given for such donations.

If you do elect to add a donation it is helpful if you can specify whether the donation is for general Clan MacKenzie funds or for the Castle Leod Project. The latter donations will be forwarded to the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust in Scotland for the old castle renovations.

WORLD PIPING CHAMPIONS FOR THE FIFTH TIME

For the fifth time in 11 years the **Simon Fraser Pipe Band** has won the World's Piping Championship. On Saturday, August 16th, 2008 the Band competed against the world's best Pipe Bands at Glasgow, Scotland, and came away the winner.

Pipe Major Terry Lee and his brother Pipe Sergeant Jack Lee founded the Band with Simon Fraser University as their primary sponsor. They proudly wear the ancient Clan Fraser Tartan. Lead Drummer Reid Maxwell later joined the Band to provide top professional direction for the drum section. In 1982, the Band began to shine on the international stage when it



On the left is the famed actress Tilda Swinton, who organized a film festival in the little town of Nairn in Scotland, where she comes from. With her is my 4th cousin Carole Lohar, who has helped with the organization of the festival in August and it was a great success! Cousin Carole traces her ancestry to the Mackenzies on the Findon Tables - unfortunately she and I only connect from a common MacLennan ancestor. Why the Australian flag? Well, Carole, a genealogist, comes from Australia and emigrated back to the lands of her forefathers!

continued from page 16

won the North American Piping Championship. In 1995, the Band won its first World Piping Championship in Scotland. Competing and winning in Scotland against the world's best bands fired up the Lee brothers and the lads and lassies in the Band. They won again in 1996, 1999, 2001 and now in 2008. In the intervening years, the Band was always a formidable contender, for the most part earning 2nd or 3rd place rankings. The Band is probably better known in Scotland, the ancient home of Clan Fraser, than in Canada.

In 1998 the Band played in concert at Carnegie Hall, New York City, to a packed house. They have

played with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Ogden, Utah, and put on piping and drumming seminars at Brigham Young University. They have thrilled audiences in concert at the Sydney Opera House, Australia. They have performed before enthusiastic audiences in Melbourne, Australia, and Christchurch, New Zealand. They have given recitals in 13 Canadian cities from Halifax to Victoria and in 17 American States. The Band has been one of Canada's top goodwill ambassadors over the past two decades.

The Simon Fraser Pipe Band is not just a single Band. A core of 30 pipers and drummers form the nucleus of the senior Band. In all, there are six levels of bands, ranging from raw beginners to the senior Band. The Band's pipers and drummers teach 150 or

more children year in and year out. Their ethic is work, work, work, learn, learn, learn. Their purpose is to refine skills and to develop the discipline it takes to produce a harmonious band. One of the SFU Juvenile Pipe Bands, the Robert Malcolm, has won their division in Scotland four times.

Every two years, the Band presents a Highland Arts Festival at Simon Fraser University. Instruction is given in piping drumming and Highland dancing. As part of the 1988 Festival the Band piped for the world's largest Scottish Country dance where 256 danced their way into the Guinness Book of World Records.

In 1999, Pipe Major Terry and brother Jack Lee were each awarded Canada's Meritorious Service Award. Jack Lee, one of the piping world's great soloists, was further honoured in 2004 when he was among the first British Columbians to be presented with the B.C. Community Achievement Award by Premier Campbell. This award recognizes "those exceptional individuals whose personal contributions to the good of their communities has the effect of enriching all of us as citizens of this fortunate province".

The Simon Fraser University Pipe Band is more than just another band. It is both a community and an international role model.

The SFU Pipe Band's website is www.sfupeband.com

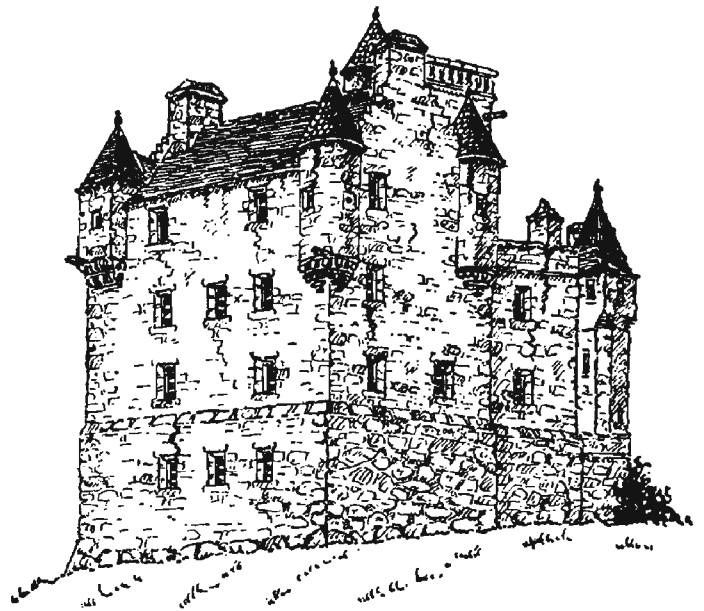
An interesting video clip:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15NoXr0Q_D8

THE MACKENZIES OF REDCASTLE

This important branch of the Mackenzie clan is well researched and many genealogical details are recorded in Alexander Mackenzie's large volume, *History of the Mackenzies with Genealogies of the Principal Families of the Name*, which was published in 1894. Copies of this book are still available from the Clan Society in Canada at a cost of \$80. (See bottom of page one for the address to write for a copy). The book lists the family record on pages 536-543. The 1st Mackenzie of Redcastle is listed as Roderick Mor Mackenzie and he was the third son of Kenneth Mackenzie, X of Kintail, by Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of John, second Earl of Athole. He was a frequent warrior in the ongoing battles between the Mackenzies and the Macdonalds of Glengarry.

The Family of Redcastle is often recognised from



Redcastle

the splendid castle - Redcastle, which lost its roof at one time and now is crumbling into a ruin.

The reason I have raised the issue of the Mackenzies of Redcastle is due to the fact that Graham Clark has researched this family extensively and submitted a talk to the Highland Family History Society in February, 2008. His talk was published in the Society's Journal in May 2008. I was quite astonished at the huge amount of information the writer had acquired. So I wrote to him and asked him if we could publish his report in future newsletters of the Clan Mackenzie in Canada. He has agreed to this. Since the article is very long we shall need to spread it over a number of issues and we hope to include some photos and illustrations to go with it. We shall also include a biography of the writer.

The first part of "The Mackenzies of Redcastle" will be included in the December issue of Cabar Feidh - and it is well worth reading!

OLYMPIC GAMES 2008

How many of our members were as entranced as I was by the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Olympic Games held in Beijing in August?

I found it astonishing and at the same time very amusing to hear a constant refrain of bagpipes in the background and among the many tunes played over and over again was "Scotland the Brave"!

Scottish cyclist Chris Hoy made history by winning three gold medals for Great Britain!



SCOTTISH STUDIES 40TH ANNIVERSARY FALL COLLOQUIUM



SATURDAY
27 SEPTEMBER 2008

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UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH



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Scotland's Registrar General.
*'Scottish genealogy, the census,
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"Ossian - Fragments of Ancient Poetry"

Stunning Art Exhibition by **Calum Colvin**. Previously exhibited at UNESCO in Paris, 'Scotland House' in Brussels and the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

SEE THE EXHIBITION, MEET THE ARTIST

40th Anniversary Events, Birthday Cake, Book Sales,
Piping, Raffle and Awards Ceremony
LUNCH INCLUDED

• **Dr Tom Normand** (St Andrews), 'Vigorous Imagination' - an exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 1987.

• **Ms Kim Sullivan** (Otago), 'A Tale of Two Scotlands: The Endurance of the 'Highland Line' in Early Australia and New Zealand'.

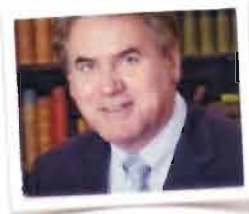
• **Dr Graeme Morton** (Guelph), '40 years of Scottish Studies in Canada'.

Registration: 9.30am

Talks begin: 10am

\$40 (SSF members & advance registration); \$45 (Non-members); \$15 (Students).

• **Professor Cairns Craig**, FBA, FRSE, OBE, Glucksman Professor & Director of the Research Institute for Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen:



'Philosophy, Physics and Fantasy in late 19th-century Scotland'.

The 2nd Annual Jill McKenzie Memorial Lecture



A minor gathering of Mackenzies took place on the "Empire Sandy", a four-masted schooner, organized by the Scottish Studies Foundation. Left to right: Elizabeth MacKenzie, holding her daughter Ava MacKenzie (four-years-old), and her other daughter Emma Jean MacKenzie (aged 8). Behind Emma stand Alan and Kim McKenzie and on the right is the husband of Elizabeth and daddy of the two children, Robert Dean MacKenzie of Toronto. The Scottish cruises on Labour Day attracted 500 passengers on two sailings - glorious weather, lots of piping, dancing and singing.



This lovely lady is 23 year-old Elicia Mackenzie of Vancouver. She won the contest to be Maria in The Sound of Music at the Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto on October 15th!



President Norman MacKenzie was at the Canmore Games on August 31!!! running a drum major workshop. His comment: "I don't know which is worse three inches of snow at Canmore Highland Games or four inches of water at Fergus."