

A newsletter
by, for &
about
Canadian
Gregors,
their heritage
and their kin.

Maple Leaf MacGregors

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Greetings from the Chair



It gives me great pleasure to share another Maple Leaf MacGregor with you. In this issue you will find a number of stories and some news about your fellow Gregors here in Canada. We have been active and have much to share.

That said the first bit of news is sad. It was with a heavy heart that I report the untimely passing of one of our founding Chapter members, Judy Hoensbroek in December. Judy was a dear with a big heart and sincere enthusiasm for the work of the Clan Gregor Society. She served on Canada Chapter Council right from our beginnings in 2012. Ironically the evening of her passing we had a Council meeting scheduled and it was only when I called to

patch her in to the conference call that I learned the sad news from family gathered at her bedside. We will sure miss Judy.

You can learn more about our good friend Judy in the obituary included in this issue. You will also note that there is a second obituary for Edith Parent. Curiously, Judy had recently contacted me to say that her mother, Edith, had died in March and to enquire if it would be appropriate to include something about her MacGregor mum in the next newsletter. I said sure, never thinking that we would be writing obituaries for mother and daughter in the same issue. And so we say goodbye to both of them. May they rest in peace.

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Greetings from the Chair (con't)

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There are a number of upcoming events to draw to your attention. Here in Canada we are beginning another season of Highland Games and so have included a current listing of festivals as noted by Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada. You can go to their website www.cassoc.ca to verify the latest in your area. If at all possible, take in one of these festivals. They are rich cultural experiences. For those who want to venture abroad to Auld Scotia, the month of August will have the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo showcasing the Clans. Monday August 21st will be your chance to march into the historic castle behind our Chief. And for those who want to plan even farther ahead our North American Representative on Council, Keith MacGregor, has sent along advance notice about both the 2018 and 2022 Gatherings in Scotland being planned by Council. It is hoped that many from overseas will “come home” to one or both of these gatherings. They are wonderful experiences and well worth planning to attend.

Included in this issue we take a moment to fete the appointment of Lady MacGregor, Fiona Armstrong, who was selected by the Queen to serve in

the capacity of Lord Lieutenant in Dumfriesshire. While this appointment was announced last year, many have asked about it since and as it represents quite an honour for Lady MacGregor, we have included this news. In other good news we are pleased to present Anna Wood as the first recipient of the Chapter's new Scholarship Award. It was indeed a pleasure to meet Anna at the Rob Roy Pipe Band Burns Dinner where I had the honour of presenting this award on your behalf. She is a charming and talented young woman and a most worthy recipient of our tangible support of young people in pursuit of the highland arts.

In a delightful article titled Mike Uncorked, you will meet June MacGregor Jain, one of our special members. Mike Butler writes for a local newspaper in Nova Scotia and last fall published a very nice testimonial to his teacher, June, and the very positive impact she has made on his life and values. June spent her life in education and it is heartwarming to experience firsthand a student's perspective and gratitude for her work. As you read this, please note that June has graciously agreed to fill the vacancy on Chapter Council left after Judy's untimely departure. A more detailed

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bio on June will shared in time. For now please join me in welcoming June to Council.

Another founding Chapter member, Elizabeth Macdonald shares some of her renewed search for MacGregor roots. I encourage anyone interested in sharing their story or looking for family information to send it along as it is often through personal connections that missing pieces fall into place.

Lastly, I take a stab at answering the old question of why heritage matters. As you read this I challenge you to support these efforts in whatever ways you can. They are important and, together with our Society's considerable and growing expertise in understanding our DNA, have done more to bring into focus an understanding of just who we are; we descendants and affiliated septs of Gregor.

If you have not already done so, please send along your membership renewal (for those due this year). Reminders will be going out shortly to those who are in arrears. Your prompt attention to this will be much appreciated.

Yours, Aye.

Wayne

STORY OF THE BAGPIPER

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man.

He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around.

I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost....it's a man thing.

When you have stopped laughing be sure to forward this on to others who would enjoy a good story.

In Memory of Judy Heynsbroek

Born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, her interest in genealogy began the 1970's when she researched her paternal lineage (Parent). By the 1980's she became immersed in her Mother's ancestry, our much loved McGregor Highlanders.

As a past member of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) she served as Newsletter Editor for 2 years before moving to Calgary, Alberta where, with a husband and 2 children, she spent more than 20 years before returning home to Windsor in 2006 to retire.

As health issues became a part of her life in Alberta, a personal interest in the field of Natural Medicine led to several years of formal studies with the Wild Rose College of Natural Healing. She chaired the Fibromyalgia/CFS Support Group of Southern Alberta for more than 6 years then served as Director of Communications for the National ME/FM Action Network based in Ottawa for 4 years.

As a proud member of the Clan Gregor Society in Scotland for several years, McGregor genealogy became her great hobby. In her words, "I have become acquainted with other Clan members who are interested in their ancestral lineage and enjoy the research as much as I do. I am honored to have made a few wonderful Clan friends in the Society."

Judith Ann (nee Parent) peacefully passed into the spiritual world on November 27, 2016 at 68 years of age. She was a founding member of the Canada Chapter where she served on Council for the past five years. She will be sorely missed.

In Memory of Edith Parent

Edith Parent left this world quietly as she slept on March 06, 2016 just two weeks before her 90th Birthday.

4th Great granddaughter of Gregor Robert McGregor, first Sheriff at Fort Detroit, who rose to prominence as Commandant of the Fort in 1791-92 and appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Kent Militia on the Canadian side of the Detroit River at Sandwich in 1796.

Born in Perthshire, Gregor served the British military in North America for most of his adult life while also operating as a Merchant in the Fur Trade.

With pride in her McGregor heritage, Edith leaves a legacy of 7 children 17 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren to carry on her family branch of this renowned Highland Clan.

Edith's ashes have been interred in the Mausoleum at Windsor Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Windsor, Ontario.

What's happening in Scotland

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCOTLAND

On July 21, 2017, Clan Gregor will visit Abbotsford House, the Scottish Borders home of writer and poet Sir Walter Scott. Sir Walter Scott, one of Scotland's most celebrated authors. Sir Walter had a special affinity for the MacGregors. Rob Roy, published in 1817, became a best-selling popular novel across Europe and around the world - (we are alluded to, if not directly in Tales of a Grandfather, Waverly, and notably in The Lady of the Lake among other poems). He is the author of "MacGregor's Gathering", which has become an anthem for our clan. Scott's financial success with Rob Roy enabled him to build Abbotsford in 1817.

But there's more to the story. Sir Walter's friend and working partner in his mid-career was Sir John MacGregor-Murray, 1st Baronet and 18th Chief of the Clan. It is these two men, along with David Stewart of Garth, who conceive and put on what becomes the Great Celtic Revival of 1822. With Scott as popular frontman and financing by MacGregor-Murray, they actually succeed in bringing King George IV – the first time in nearly 200 years that a king comes to Scotland. As we approach the much anticipated International Gathering for 2022 (that's right, 2022!), there is already talk between the Scotts

and MacGregors on cooperation and collaboration for this, the 200th anniversary of the King's march down the Royal Mile! Who knows – maybe it happens again?

Sir Walter was an avid collector of all things MacGregor, especially Rob Roy's gear and weapons. There are two Andrea Ferrara swords known to have belonged to Rob on display at Abbotsford as well as pistols, dirks, and a great sporran which unfortunately was stolen a few years ago and has not been found. The swords were reputed to be the finest in Europe and would have cost the author a pretty penny, and we are in his debt that they are there for all to see.

For those of you coming to Scotland in 2018, there is an exciting trip planned to Iona, where Christianity was introduced to Scotland by St. Columba. Tours of the MacGregor homelands and special locations are offered by the Society every summer in July. If you do nothing else, start saving for 2022!

Keith MacGregor

Society Council North American Rep



Editor's note: This article is from the Grapevine, a local newspaper serving readers from Windsor to Digby in Nova Scotia. Mike Uncorked is a regular column published in October 2016.

To Learn or Not to Learn **Mike Butler**

It's October and school is officially underway. I hope everyone had a summer filled with terrific adventures and experiences. Acadia University and the town of Wolfville are buzzing with the returning students asking directions; chatting at the coffee shops; forming lines at the liquor store, drug store, grocery store, and the bank; and hopefully embracing this wonderful town and what it has to offer – including their education! I follow many guidelines in my life, like; always be polite, think positive thoughts, give of yourself when you can, make time for the important things, life should be fun and not work (to name a few). But one of the most important guidelines I follow is to learn something new everyday! I'm 37 years old, and I still thrive on learning new things. Do you?

I kept busy this summer with community theatre projects, working lots, and I took a special camping trip with my sisters, nephews, and my niece. I also went on a long overdue 'reunion' excursion with one of my favourite people, and I'd like to share that with you.

Mrs. June MacGregor-Jain, who I'm sure many of you know, as she's been an educator and friend to many generations of Valley residents. Mrs. Jain taught me in Grade 5 at KCA and we developed quite a bond that has lasted almost 30 years. Mrs. Jain was the first teacher to encourage my strengths, help develop my weaknesses, and open my mind to things outside of a standard, humdrum, ABA education- including Music, Art, Architecture, Earth Sciences, Politics and Global History. In Mrs. Jain's class, I wasn't just guaranteed to learn ONE new thing everyday, but instead, topics and tidbits of information ran rampant in her class. Even almost 30 years after being her student, I continue to "be taught" by her and learn new things from her whenever we meet up for tea and chats.

When I was 13, in the summer of 1992, Mrs. Jain and I took a 16-day tour of Italy. It was, and remains to this day, one of the most incredible experiences of my life. Mrs. Jain was the perfect travelling companion because I learned and absorbed so much more than what the tour guide was teaching us. She went the extra mile again and again to make sure the trip was educational and also fun. And every August 17, we meet and have a reunion lunch at the Blomidon Inn to reminisce about our European jaunt.

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Well, this past summer, it was time to take another trip! I have always dreamed of visiting Stratford, Ontario and watching authentic Shakespeare play at the Stratford Festival. I've heard Mrs. Jain tell hundreds of stories about her early days visiting the theatre, becoming friends with many of the actors, and watching countless performances. Those stories include her very early days as the theatre "Call Girl", who was responsible for giving the actors their "Two Minutes To Curtain" warning.

The Festival was presenting Macbeth and I was overjoyed. We also picked up tickets for a few other productions but Macbeth was the highlight for me. And besides going to the theatre, we walked for miles around the beautiful town (gardens, swans, coffee shops) and shopped at all the unique boutiques. If you get the opportunity, I highly recommend this treasure of a town and what it has to offer.

Has anything changed since Italy, 1992? Not really. Mrs. Jain and I are a little older, a little chattier, and both a little wiser to the ways of the world. Though I am no longer a teenager but (yikes) nearing 40, I will always be a willing student to this very special teacher and friend of mine. I wanted to hear all about the history of Stratford and the theatre. I wanted to know about the churches, bridges, gardens, rivers, and timeless surrounding towns. We visited London, Ontario as well, and I learned about Mrs. Jain's early years teaching (visiting her schools and homestead). We even took a side trip to the homestead and to museum commemorating the tragedy of the Black Donnelly's. It was such a rewarding trip!

Did you (or do you) have a teacher like Mrs. Jain in your life? I think I can speak for many people (I know I can speak for a lot of her students) when I say that Mrs. Jain was so much more than a teacher for us. She introduced us to grand subjects like world events, classic literature, and theatre – right down to proper grammar, manners, public speaking, and more. She taught ME that a teacher makes other professions possible and I completely agree, for I am still using many of her lessons each day of my life.

This article is for my favorite teacher and for all teachers who make a difference. It is for those who take the time, and the EXTRA time, to mould their student beyond basic education. And it's for the students who appreciate those teachers who helped them understand how important it is to learn something new everyday, and applied it to making themselves and their world a better place. Thank you Mrs. Jain!

Why Clan Heritage Matters

Why Clan Heritage Matters and Why We Should Support These Efforts.

Recently a member of the Society asked me, "Why so much emphasis on history and why is the clan spending time digging up our past?"

Taken aback, I responded with a pat, "because it's important," or something equally lacking in depth. My dismissive reply led to the termination of an otherwise useful conversation with a fellow Gregor who was trying to understand its relevance to our membership in today's world. Opportunity lost. But perhaps this person's question is shared by others of our membership, so I will re-open the discussion.

In the time since I have thought long and hard in search of better answers to similar inquiries in the future. This has helped to crystallize my thinking and resolve to better support the Clan Gregor Society's efforts to uncover and make sense of our history and heritage. We are fortunate and indeed blessed as beneficiaries of the tireless (and often thankless) efforts of the small army of volunteers, supporters, donors and Council leaders that have been actively digging up our past over the last few years and sharing what they have learned along the way. Let's take a look at what has been achieved.

Beginning with uncovering the Dalmally

Stones, exploration of the Stronmilchan site, discovering the remains of early iron forges found at Tigh Mohr and now on to the much anticipated future dig at Rob Roys's home at Inversnaid, we are

learning about our Gregors ancestors at an unprecedented rate. As a result, together with historic inquiry, DNA research, and even through our gatherings together, we now know more than ever before about our origins and early activities. This knowledge is precious and is helping to build on the foundation of archival materials already in our possession. But it comes at a cost – time, expertise and money must be committed. To date only small handful of donors have funded this seminal research. As a result of their dedication we are building our historical data base, challenging previous assumptions and helping to develop a clearer understanding of our emerging story. It is a truly a work in process and more will be revealed as we proceed down this road.

I am grateful for their work, and so I say "Good Job" to those dedicated to this important endeavor by offering my support.

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While I can't readily jump on a plane and begin shoveling hard Scottish dirt, I can financially support these efforts. We all can. My challenge to the Canadian Chapter, and indeed to all Chapters, is to find ways to individually and collectively raise funds needed to ensure that this important work continues.

And so I conclude with my answer the next time I'm asked why history and why spend time digging up the past? In my mind the answer should be somewhat theoretical, passionate and even romantic. I'd like to say.....

History is like a landscape. An archaeological landscape that is a cultural construct in which our sense of place is transformed and changed by an understanding of history as revealed through preserved and discovered materials. What we see today is not the site as it once was. A desire to read the story of this landscape of ruins as suggested by the historical record will lead to better understandings – and future discoveries. Archaeology serves to document the past before its traces are completely lost or removed. Nowhere is emptiness more agreeable than in the case of architectural ruins where the appreciation of the effects of the passage of time is accompanied by a certain sense of abandonment and

melancholy where the human activity of our Gregor ancestors is imagined and now long gone. What we see today is different but no less intriguing- a visual character that has become complex and diffuse because it evolved as a result of historical circumstances. It comprises fragments from different eras that, taken together, show patterns and emerging pictures from the past. And so an archaeological sensibility that includes research, observation and analysis is needed to look beyond deterioration to appreciate the story of what happened here in the past and its implications to those who follow behind.

A man is truly poor who has no sense of his past, of his ancestor's feats, strife, and accomplishments. Who they were in a sense defines who we are today, and knowing that lends richness to our lives. That's why history matters and why we should support these efforts. Please join me.

Wayne MacGregor Parker



"You'll be in charge of the music down here."

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

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The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo unveils clan attendance for 2017 show

2017 is Scotland's 'Year of Heritage, History and Archaeology', and The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will be taking a vibrant and exciting journey through the theme 'Splash of Tartan', playing host to a stunning array of performers from all points of the compass .



THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will be celebrating the heritage, colour and diversity of Scotland's global family both near and far to ignite a renewed interest in Scotland's national fabric while encouraging people in communities across the world to explore their potential links with Scotland.

As part of the programme the Tattoo have invited the Scottish Clans to take part. Clan Chiefs will lead their clansmen to Edinburgh Castle, on their own special designated evenings, and to take part in the opening ceremony of the Tattoo which runs between 4–26 August 2017. There are 57 Clans already committed to participate.

In addition, everyone who attends the Tattoo - whether they have a clan connection or not - is invited to dress for the part; a rich mixture of tartan clothes, headgear and accoutrements of all forms. It is hoped Edinburgh will be awash with tartan through August.

For general sale enquiries or for those clan members happy to sit in any section of the audience, contact the Tattoo directly. This can be done at Tattoo Ticket Sales Office at 1 Cockburn Street in Edinburgh, by calling +44 (0)131 225 1188 or via the official website on www.edintattoo.co.uk.

To find more about specific clan night dates, visit: www.edintattoo.co.uk/tickets.

Clan Dates for The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2017

Saturday	19-Aug	10.30 pm	MacLea (Livingstone)	Currie	
Monday	21-Aug	9pm	MacGregor	Hannay	Buchanan
Tuesday	22-Aug	9pm	Kincaid	MacLaine	
Wednesday	23-Aug	9pm	Eliott	Agnew	
Thursday	24-Aug	9pm	Carmichael	MacThomas	
Friday	25-Aug	9pm	Bruce	Durie	
Saturday	26-Aug	7.30 pm	MacIntyre	Jardine	MacLennan
Saturday	26-Aug	10.30 pm	Cameron	Clan Ranald	MacLaren

Appointment of Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady Fiona MacGregor was appointed, and recently installed as the Lord Lieutenant of Dumfriesshire.

Fiona Armstrong, Lady MacGregor of MacGregor, is a broadcaster and writer. She has worked as a presenter and reporter for both ITN and BBC news, and made films on subjects ranging from clans, cooking to fishing. She currently presents ITV Border's Border Life, and writes columns for a newspaper and magazine.



Above, Fiona Armstrong, Lady MacGregor and Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Chief of Clan Gregor

Fiona is a patron of Cumbria's Woman of the Year, and of the Blairgowrie Book Festival. She is also a judge on the Lakeland Book of the Year, and is Chairwoman of the Clan Armstrong Trust. She has worked with children's charities and cancer charities, both in Scotland and Cumbria, and is on the board of the University of Central Lancashire.

Her interests include fishing (she has written 2 angling books), cooking and swimming. She has 1 daughter, 2 dogs, and is married to our Chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

"I am delighted and honoured to be representing the Crown in such a wonderful part of Scotland"

We enjoyed a great summer at our Highland Games
and Celtic Festivals across Canada!



Upcoming Dates

Celtic Colours in Cape Breton, Sydney, Nova Scotia
October 6—14, 2017

Come meet other Gregors and join us for fun at the Games!

Wear Your Clan Proudly with MacGregor T-Shirts!

We now have T-Shirts for sale. Men's are a substantial and high quality 100% cotton, tan with red crest, and are available in medium, large and extra-large. Women's are a fitted V-neck, high quality 100% cotton, white with red crest, and are available in small, medium and large. Both are available for \$25.00, including shipping. Please send cheque to Clan Gregor, PO Box 232, Dorset, ON P0A 1E0. All proceeds go towards helping your Chapter and Society further its aims and objectives.



CLAN GREGOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Canada Chapter of the Clan Gregor Society has established a partnership with the Rob Roy Pipe Band named after our most famous clansman. Founded in Scotland in 1822, The Clan Gregor Society is one of the oldest Clan societies. One of its primary purposes was to help to educate the disadvantaged youth of the time. Today we honour this tradition by providing financial assistance to young persons studying piping, drumming or highland dancing. This scholarship is awarded in keeping with our founding principles.

A list of candidate students recommended by the Pipe Major and Band Executive was presented to the Society for review. After careful consideration and by majority vote, it was awarded to Anna Wood.

Anna Wood started highland dancing 7 years ago after moving to Canada from Scotland. She quickly progressed through the dances developing her technique and confidence. After a few short years she joined the Rob Roy Pipe Band's performing group. It wasn't until a trip to Scotland with the Band that Anna decided that she might like to give competitive



dancing a try. She has now been competing for the past 4 years and has been extremely successful. She is particularly proud of her overall first place finish in her category at a Highland Games this summer in her homeland, Scotland. Each year Anna has successfully completed annual medal exams, receiving top marks for her dance skills. She is looking

forward to participating in a Choreography competition this February in the Duet and small group categories.

Congratulations Anna!

Dear Wayne and the Clan MacGregor,

I was extremely pleased when I found out that I was the first recipient to receive this Scholarship Award.

After my hard work and training it was nice to be recognized for my efforts and it gives me great pride to be honored and appreciated by your Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and Clan MacGregor for the generous support it has given me. This will encourage and maintain the traditions of our Scottish heritage for our future generations.

With kind regards,

Anna Wood