
The Cairngorm Echo

The Newsletter of the Clan Farquharson Association of Canada

Clan Chief - Captain Alwyne A.C. Farquharson of Invercauld, M.C.

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Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Edited By David R. Porter

Ciad Mille Failte.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our Chief, Captain Alwyne A. C. Farquharson of Invercauld, has called a gathering of Clan Farquharson to take place next summer, as part of the 2007 International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia, Canada. The Clan Farquharson Association of Canada will be the official host and a committee has been struck that has been working tirelessly to put together a superb program of events (see details on later pages).

I wish to encourage all clan members, but in particular those of the Clan Farquharson Association of Canada to strongly consider a trip to Nova Scotia to partake in what I am sure will be one of the best gatherings that we have had.

I look forward to seeing you in 2007. Cheers.

**Sean Christie, President
Clan Farquharson Association of Canada.**

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The Executive Council would like to take this opportunity

to extend to all members of

Clan Farquharson Association of Canada,

their families and friends a very

*Merry Christmas
and a pleasant and
Happy New Year.*

Annual General Meeting Information.

Our annual general meeting was delayed for a month this year. We usually try to hold the meeting at the end of September after our summer season is over. This year, however, our President Robert Findlay unfortunately had to resign his position suddenly. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert Findlay for his many years of service to Clan Farquharson Association of Canada and wish him well in future years. Our Vice-President Dr. Sean Christie stepped in and did a commendable job of organising and scheduling the annual general meeting for the 28th of October. This was an excellent meeting held at the Christie boathouse on the shore of Bedford Basin. The results of the election of officers saw Dr. Sean Christie move into the position of President and new member Scott Christie take on both the Vice-President's position and the duties of Secretary. Ross Finlay will continue as Treasurer and David Porter will continue as Membership Chairman. We offer our congratulations to our new Executive Council and wish them all the best in the year to come.

GATHERING OF THE CLAN INFORMATION.

The Gathering of the Clan Committee has done considerable work in planning for our participation in the International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia in 2007. Presented here is the schedule of daily activities. There may be some changes if necessary to accommodate changes in activities, times or locations. Activities written in italics will take place if sufficient interest is shown by members and they are prepared to pay any additional costs where necessary.

- Wednesday 4th July Meet and Greet Day - to be held at the Cambridge Library in the Royal Artillery Park, or at the Officers Mess from 2 pm to 6 pm.
- Thursday 5th July Attend opening ceremonies of the Nova Scotia International Gathering of the Clans and flag raising on the Grand Parade at 11 a.m. Tattoo pipe band performance. Mayor will host a light lunch in City Hall. In the afternoon (time to be designated) a walking tour of historic downtown Halifax conducted by member John Patterson. *Visit to Nova Scotian Crystal showrooms.*
- Friday 6th July Morning/Afternoon on the waterfront. Visit H.M.C.S. Sackville and C.G.S Acadia, then the Maritime Museum. In the evening, designated VIP's attend Mayor's pre-tattoo reception. Clan group attend Pre-Tattoo Performance Dinner Buffet in the World Trade and Convention Centre. At 7 p.m., piped into seats in Metro Centre for the evening performance of the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.
- Saturday 7th July Halifax Highland Games and Festival from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Noon opening ceremonies, clans parade (all members join in) massed bands. Many activities and vendors. Closing, awards and massed bands. Socialise at beer tent.
- Sunday 8th July Kirkin' o' the Tartan church service. Clan group attend, *then lunch. Afternoon – 1000 piper parade or Harbour Hopper tour or both. (more information in next newsletter).* Evening - Celtic Church service (7 p.m.) at Port Wallis United Church, 263 Waverley Road, Dartmouth.
- Monday 9th July Day at the Citadel – Fort George. Gather in the citadel at 10:30 am. Watch preparations for noon gun firing. Lunch. Meet again after lunch, attend, "Tides of History", movie, guided tour of the fortress, additional tour of other areas. View drills and band performances. Retire to designated casemate to socialise *or movie, or concert by the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson.* Proceed to dinner in the soldiers library. Raffle draw.
- Monday 9th July Kilted golf tournament at Hartland Point.

To help with your planning to visit Nova Scotia and the Halifax area the following information is also offered. To start, with here is a list of sites with internet addresses that will get you started:-

Primary Activities List: and web site addresses.

1. Greater Halifax Visitor Guide www.halifax.ca/visitors
Menu for everything. Accommodations, buses & ferries, festivals & events, etc.
2. Information & Reservations www.checkinnovascotia.com
Or telephone 1-800-565-0000
3. Nova Scotia Tourist Department www.novascotia.com
Order free Doers & Dreamers Guide and Festivals & Events Guide, etc.
4. Parks Canada- Halifax Citadel www.pc.gc.ca
Menu & links to many sites.
5. Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo www.nstattoo
6. Halifax Highland Games www.halifaxhighlandgames.com

Supplimentary Activities List: and web site addresses.

1. Harbour Hopper www.harbourhopper.com
2. Theodore Too www.theodoretugboat.ca
3. Nova Scotian Crystal www.NovaScotianCrystal.ca
4. H.M.C.S. Sackville www.hmcssackville-cnmt.ns.ca
5. Maritime Museum maritime.museum.gov.ns.ca
6. Museum of Natural History nature.museum.gov.ns.ca
7. Discovery Centre www.discoverycentre.ns.ca
8. Saint Matthew's United Church www.stmatts.ns.ca
9. Saint Paul's Anglican Church www.stpaulshalifax.org
10. Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica www.stmarysbasilica.ns.ca
11. Saint George's Round Church www.roundchurch.ca

12. Halifax Public Gardens see programme in Halifax Visitor's Guide.
13. Art Gallery of Nova Scotia www.agns.gov.ns.ca/halifax
14. Many other attractions - see tourist guide books, etc.

Additional Tourist Attractions List: and web site addresses. (Provincial)

1. Canada Day Celebrations, (Halifax), parade, fireworks, etc, etc.
2. Port Royal National Historic Site –
Habitation and Fort Anne www.pc.gc.ca
3. Fortress Louisbourg www.pc.gc.ca
4. Tall Ships – July 14th to 16th 2007 - Halifax Waterfront
5. Antigonish Highland Games www.antigonishhighlandgames.com
6. Museum of Industry (Stellarton) industry.museum.gov.ns.ca
7. Balmoral Grist Mill (Balmoral Mill) gristmill.museum.gov.ns.ca
8. Sutherland Steam Mill (Denmark) steammill.museum.gov.ns.ca
9. Sherbrooke Village (Sherbrooke) sherbrookevillage.museum.gov.ns.ca
10. Ross Farm (New Ross) rossfarm.museum.gov.ns.ca
11. Town of Pictou www.townofpictou.com
12. Many more tourist attractions – see tourist guide books, etc.

Note: It is recommended that you order the Greater Halifax Visitor Guide 2007, the 2007 Nova Scotia Doers' & Dreamers' Guide and the 2007 Festivals & Events Guide for Nova Scotia which will help with planning your visit.

To order a copy of the Greater Halifax Visitor Guide go on line and call up www.halifax.ca/visitors . Click on - Halifax Regional Municipality – Visitor Information. See menu on left of screen. Scroll down to and click on, “Request Information”. The page will come up giving an explanation of how to obtain the guide book. You can select 2006 or 2007. The 2006 guide will be sent to you right away. The 2007 guide will be sent to you after the middle of February next year.

To order a copy of both the 2007 Doers' & Dreamers' Guide and the 2007 Festivals & Events Guide telephone (toll free) 1-800-565-0000. This telephone line can give you all sorts of information as well as make reservations for accommodations.

These guide books will give you a great amount of information that will help you plan for your vacation trip to Nova Scotia.

Final information about our gathering will be sent out with membership renewal notices at the end of February 2007. As well, a registration form will be sent listing all of the activities and the cost where appropriate for members to check off. It will be necessary at that time to submit payment for those activities that must be pre-paid. As well, a cut-off date will be set for the 15th of April 2007.

A man goes to an exotic tropical island for a vacation. As the boat nears the island, he notices the constant sound of drumming. As he gets off the boat, he asks the first native he sees how long the drumming will go on. The native casts about nervously and says, 'Very bad when the drumming stops!'

At the end of the day, the drumming is still going on and is starting to get on his nerves. So, he asks another native when the drumming will stop. The native looks as if he had just been reminded of something very unpleasant. 'Very bad when drumming stops!' he says and hurries off.

After a couple of days with little sleep, our traveller is finally fed up, grabs the nearest native, slams him up against a tree and shouts, 'What happens when the drumming stops!?'

'Bag Pipe solo.'

Provincial Representatives Summer Activities.

Nova Scotia: David Porter.

This year our planned summer activities were limited to three events. Tartan Day was the first event on our calendar and covered two days. The Tartan Day Celebrations took place on Thursday the 6th of April at Province House for all clans. There was a most enjoyable programme of entertainment by both individuals and groups. The Honourable Judy Streach, Minister of Tourism and Culture, read the proclamation. The Honourable Angus MacIsaac spoke on the upcoming Gaelic Language programmes. The Kilted Choir from St. Andrew's Church sang a number of songs. The Halifax Dancing Association and the Grade 6 class from LeMarchant – St. Thomas School presented a programme of Scottish songs and dance and Anthony Rissesco provided excellent fiddle music during the luncheon reception. On Friday the 7th of April the Clan Stewart Society hosted a dinner and entertainment at St Margaret of Scotland Church. It was a most enjoyable evening.

The Halifax Highland Games and Festival was held on Saturday the 8th of July at the Garrison Grounds. Our canopy was set up on Friday afternoon by Ross Christie and David Porter. On Saturday our display items and equipment were brought on site and set up. Again Ross Christie was there to take care of our Clan Association's interests as well as represent the band and try to recruit new members. Ross was there all day by himself and did a commendable job of representing both the band and the Clan Association. Many thanks to Ross for his dedication. During the day a letter was delivered to all clan tents/canopies from the Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency Services informing everyone that we are to adhere to their safety standards for next year or we will not be allowed on site. This problem will, hopefully, be resolved before next summer.

The Antigonish Highland Games were held on the weekend of the 15-16 July. It was up at 4 a.m., load the car and drive to Antigonish for 8 a.m. to set up our gear. The day was sunny and warm. We had many visitors at our canopy and were able to help a goodly number of people who had questions. We also took part in the Parade of Clans carrying our banner. After the massed bands and closing we struck camp and went home.

New Brunswick: John P. Patterson.

Once again the New Brunswick Highland Games were held on the grounds of Old Government House in Fredericton.

For the first time in many years my wife was able to accompany me to the opening night reception at Government House. This year the reception was followed by a tattoo instead of the usual opening night concert and was, by all accounts, a successful change.

The organizers of the games worked very hard last year raising the interest of different clan organizations, with the result that the Avenue of the Clans had the largest participation since I started attending the games. Our latest addition to the clan tent was two posters prepared by my wife, one of which provided information on the Invercauld estate and the second which provided a brief history of the clan with suitable illustrations. The guest of honour at this year's games was the Very Reverend Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Chieftan of Clan Maclean of Dochgarroch and his family. Clan Farquharson was able to help out by providing a playmate for his eight year old son Lauchy. Everett and another friend Marco had Lauchy join them in some light events and took him with them to other sites at the games. This year Everett won one medal for throwing the haggis (actually a water balloon).

We learned from visiting American clan groups that they often arrange to give out "passports" to children at the gate and then the children can have them stamped at each tent that they visit. Everyone seemed to think that this was a great idea and it will likely become a feature of the Avenue of the Clans next year. It was noted that this will mean many families that would normally just walk by a tent will now have to stop in while their children get their passports stamped.

Eastern Ontario: Barry MacKeracher.

The Celtic Festival and Highland Games started on June 3rd at Callander just outside of North Bay on the shores of Lake Nipissing. This was my third time here and people were interested in finding out about their heritage. I think that I talked for eight hours straight. A good games but no Farquharsons.

I am sorry to have missed a planned outing at Brockville, due to misinformation by a new co-ordinator, no clans showed up. (We were to be put in a parking lot to make room for vendors). They assured me that we would be front and centre next year, that was June 10th /06.

On June 16th we had rain and the Veterans Memorial Games on the 17th were WET and MUD everywhere. The crowd was very small but good spirits prevailed and the 2007 plans are going ahead (it can't rain three years in a row).

August 4th and 5th was the Maxville Highland Games. This is always an event that you can plan on. Bill Miller was there to meet me at the gate, so drove the Roadtrek in and began setting up tables with Bill's help. Bill informed me that he would like me to take over the Maxville Games as well. That is OK but I would need some help.

The North Lanark Highland Games were held on August 26th at Almont, Ontario. It is a joy to be part of such well organized and well run games. Member Dennis Denison has been with me at these game these past three years and I give him my thanks for his support and help. Between 18 and 20 Clan Farquharson kits were given out to potential new members.

Ontario: Kenneth Porter.

Although this year was not as busy as the past few years, it was, never the less, a very good year.

We were able to attend only two events, the Georgetown Highland Games and the Durham Highland Games. The weather was good for both of them.

One of the highlights of the Georgetown Highland Games was when John Tory (Leader of the Opposition) visited our booth. We had the opportunity to say hello and shake hands but missed the opportunity to ask him to sign our guest book.

We were certainly glad to wear our jackets when we went to the Durham Highland Games at Uxbridge, Ontario. The weather was cool with brilliant sunshine. The games have steadily improved and gotten bigger and better over the years. There are several children's activities and a demonstration of how to build a dry stone wall. As an added bonus there was a tattoo after the massed bands and closing ceremonies - - - absolutely free.

This is the eleventh year that we have attended these games and it has been the eleventh year that Ron Dempsey has been the Clans Co-ordinator. This was Ron's last year as he is stepping down from that position with the games. We extend our sincere thanks to him for all of his efforts over the years. He has looked after the Clans very well, so thank you again Ron.

Here is a suggestion. Have you thought of Christmas yet? An invitation to a Burn's Supper (at the end of January) might be one idea to break the monotony of a long cold winter.

The following was sent in by member Jean Watson of Nova Scotia.

The Emigrants Farewell

By Alexander Stewart

The wind whipped the canvas. The tall-masted vessel strained
Sail to the west in its voyage of sorrow;
Fast faded Cantryee: the sad flight from the Highlands was
Bitter today and uncertain tomorrow,
Red gold on the ocean the sunset before them.
But the sea lanes in storms had no terrors for Dugald:
His eyes stung with tears for farewell to his home.
He stood in the stern with his gaze on the mountains
Dusk-dark in the distance, the peaks of Argyll:
Such peaks as looked down on his forefathers' dwelling
"O, land of my heart", were the words of his grieving
"Damned by the tyrants, the faithless and grasping,
They have driven us out like the mists of the morning
Dispelled by the glare of the gathering day".
The deer and the moor cock claim crofts long grown silent:
"The blood-ties that bound us, once stronger than iron,
corrupt Chiefs have broken, like Judas, for gain;
Fat sheep from the south graze the land that was our land:
Woe, wealth without honour, estates without men!

Its In The Genes.

Hector was constantly being harassed by his parents to do better in school. His parents pointed out the high marks his friend Sandy was getting. Hector replied glumly, "Yes, but he has clever parents."

Submitted by member Jean Watson

**Something For Christmas -
Lemon Snowballs.**

Ingredients:-

¼ cup of shortening	¼ cup of butter
2/3 cup of granulated sugar	2 teaspoons of grate lemon zest
1 egg	3 tablespoons of lemon juice
1 tablespoon of water	1¾ cups of sifted all purpose flour
¼ teaspoon of soda	¼ teaspoon of Cream of Tartar
½ teaspoon of salt	½ cup finely chopped pecans
1 cup of sifted confectioners sugar	

Method:- Cream butter, shortening and sugar until light; beat in lemon zest and egg. Stir in lemon juice and water. Sift together the flour, soda, cream of tartar and salt. Stir into the first mixture. Stir in chopped pecans. Flour hands and shape dough into small balls. Place balls about 1 inch apart on an ungreased sheet. Bake for about 10 to 15 minutes in a preheated 350F oven.

The cookies should brown on the bottom but not on top.

Immediately remove cookies from the backing sheet and roll in confectioners sugar.

Makes about three or four dozen cookies, depending on size.

Thought for the Day:

Time by minutes slip away,
first the hour, then the day.
Small the daily loss appears,
yet it soon amounts to years.

Did You Ever Wonder....

why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

what disease did a cured ham actually have?

if Jimmy cracked corn and no one cares why is there a song about him?

why is a 'bra' singular and panties plural?

does the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Report from the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson.

Ross Christie – President of the Band.

The band has completed its twenty-fifth year in existence and its twenty-third year under the name, ‘The Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson’.

The band has had its ups and downs over the years. In the late 1990’s, there were some twenty-five members and they were competing on a regular basis. When I joined, five seasons ago, we had not paraded in a couple of years. There were six pipers and the drum corps consisted of a base drummer and a tenor drummer. We have since added two snare drummers, trained by the band, and have another student that might parade with us in the fall. We are also up to ten pipers and expect a couple more to join this winter.

We again have a busy schedule starting in November when we have three engagements. These are all annual events, which should continue into the future; Remembrance Day, including concerts at three Legion Halls, the Bedford Parade of Lights and the Truro Santa Claus Parade. We start our summer season with the Apple Blossom Festival Parade and perform in parades in Elmsdale/Enfield, Musquodoboit Harbour, Windsor, Hubbards and Waverley. We also perform at the Cancer Society’s Relay for Life event in Sackville and during Bedford Days at the Scott Manor House. We do not go into competitions but do have a presence at the Clan tent during the Halifax Highland Games.

The band has been invited to the Ballater Highland Games in Scotland in 2008. These games host the annual gathering of Clan Farquharson UK. We plan to go but anticipate that it will be 2009, allowing us more time to raise money.

I would urge all Clan members to check the band section of the website to learn more about us, follow our schedule, come out to see us and find out how to join us.

Looking to the Future.

Our next issue of the Cairngorm Echo will be published by Jean Watson who has very kindly agreed to take on the task of ‘Editor’. It is Jean Watson who, many years ago, started our newsletter and did a commendable job of it for so many years. We take this opportunity to welcome Jean back into this position and to wish her well with her endeavours on our behalf.

The following poem was sent in by member Barry MacKeracher of Ontario.

Little Towns.

**Little towns are lovely places,
Cool wide streets and friendly faces,
Neighbours running in and out,
Women middle aged and stout,
Grandmas with old silver hair,
Like a halo shining there.**

**In little towns there seems
Time for happiness and dreams,
Time to visit folks – to grow
Into ways that people know.
Life all bound with tender strands,
Woven by their friendly hands.**

**I like little towns, for here
People grow so close and dear,
Funerals, weddings, death and birth.
All the good and bad of earth,
Cloudy skies and days that shine,
Shared like sacramental wine.**

News about Braemar Castle.

Received by e-mail, 18th July 2006

I am the secretary for Braemar Community Ltd. We are taking the lease of Braemar Castle from Envercauld Estate to restore the castle and open it to the public again.

Through the help of a sponsor I have been able to purchase the contents of the castle on behalf of BCL for £53,000.

We are completing a feasibility study and fabric study of the castle to determine the work that has to be done. At the moment it looks like £1.3 million over the next few years.

We are going to form a charitable trust to care for the building and other associate historic structure. It would be great to involve the Clan Farquharson Society.

I am meeting with Alwyne Farquharson in August. Would the society be interested? If so I would be happy to supply you with further information.

Bill Marshall
Mountain Cottage, Chapel Brae, Braemar, Aberdeenshire, AB35 5YT.

The following was sent in by member Jean Watson of Nova Scotia.

The Cairngorm Mountain Range.

Our newsletter is named The Cairngorm Echo after the huge mountain range that runs along through Clan Farquharson lands. This mountain range is one of the highest in Scotland, Ben Macdhui reaching 4,296 feet. There is a large plateau in the Cairngorms mostly above 4,000 feet.

I have driven over the mountain and I can assure you at one point the bonnet of the car was pointing straight skyward and we did not know when we tipped over the top if there was a road there or not.....thankfully there was. It was something not to be forgotten.

The grand travelling Queen, Queen Victoria, actually climbed up Ben Macdhui and she wrote in her journal that.... "I had a little whisky and water as the people declared pure water would be too chilling" ... What a trooper she was ...

In Gaelic the mount summit called "Cairn Gorm" means "Blue Hills", while the other hills and land about it is called the Red Hills, due to the colour of the stone there.

From the high plateau the land sweeps steeply down to the River Spey in the west and the River Dee in the east. It is here on the Dee that the Royal Family own Balmoral Estate and the Queen Mum and Prince Charles both loved to fish in the river.

The Cairngorms are noted as the "highest, coldest and snowiest" in the British Isles. So never let it be said our mountain is not famous! It is home to four of the five highest mountains in Scotland.

Part of the old Caledonian primeval forest still exists on the mountain range in the park area. Here you have lots of wild life. Grouse, eagles, ptarmigan, snow buntings, crossbills, deer, hare, martin, squirrels wild cat and other animals.

For many years there was a restaurant at the top called the Ptarmigan and this drew many visitors to the site to look at the view and wonder about. So much so that it was effecting the fragile environment of the mountain. In 2001 the restaurant was torn down. Many discussions were held on what to do and a railway was built up the mountain instead of the ski lift. You may now go up in comfort and view the wonderful scenery from the visitors centre at the top. It is much larger than the previous building. There is also an exhibition centre for you to enjoy as well.

A Cairngorm civilian Mountain Rescue Team consisting of all volunteers, approximately 43 mountaineers (all unpaid) keep their training up for emergencies. They have been called out for adults who have wandered off, lost children, people stuck in snowdrifts on the dangerous pass roads and many other extreme weather conditions on the mountain roads and elsewhere.

At the top of the Cairn Gorm there is a weather station on the very summit which provides temperature and wind data every half hour. A much needed assistance in the winter months.

Skiing is very popular on this mountain and people come from many countries. Come summer the mountain streams pour down into the lovely glens below. A lovely drive to take is from Aberdeen to Braemar. When you get there please go into Braemar Castle and get one of those cute furry rabbits for a souvenir then go to the village, find the inn and have a dram for me.
