

The Tartan

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America
VOLUME 50, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Reports of the Annual Meeting
- 50th Anniversary Celebration
- Impressions of the 2015 Gathering

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Greetings From Our Chief

All of our family would like to wish the Clan Members of North America a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and productive New Year for 2016. We are always pleased to meet you at Dunollie, where you can see the developments in progress regarding the Museum and Castle as we receive more help to expand our facilities.

We have just finished the week's Winter Festival activities in Oban (end of November). Dunollie was allocated one of the days, which turned out to be a great success, with over 300 visitors to the special attractions put on there. Carols (a Gaelic Choir), craft stalls, food and drink, a Santa Claus and plenty of activities for the Children.

The Museum is now closed until the end of March at Eastertime but work for future progress still goes on quietly through the winter.

Every Blessing ,

Morag MacDougall of MacDougall

President's Message

Gum be làithean-fèill àghmhor agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr dhuibh uile. // Joyful Holidays and a Happy New Year to you all.

This has been a good year for our Society. We participated in many important Scottish events, celebrated our fiftieth anniversary, and made advances in developing our online communications. I have been very pleased with the warm and informative contact, at highland games and online, that I have had both with members of the Society and with those interested in our history and traditions. The personal recollections shared at Scottish events were also important – returning to the Rockies for the Longs Peak Festival, it was nice to be able to discuss Wyoming's winter of '48 with someone who had been there as well.

The Grandfather Mountain Games were special this year. A remarkable number of our members, spurred by our Society's fiftieth anniversary celebration, attended the Games and our annual events. There are extensive articles in this issue of the Tartan describing the events of that weekend. I need to emphasize how much fun it was to be there. The greetings of our Chiefs, Morag MacDougall of MacDougall and Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, gave us a sense of belonging to our Clans, of their current vitality, and of their history. I encourage those who were not present to use the links provided in the article on the celebration to listen and view these messages for themselves.

President's Message (cont)

Although the celebration and meetings took place in the ambience of the Grandfather Mountain games, our celebration was entirely the creation of Society members and our scholarship winners. This reinforced, for many of us, the value of promoting as well as preserving our heritage.

Our members' commitment to our heritage was forcefully demonstrated in the speed with which we reached our fund raising goal for Dunollie Castle repairs. Members responded immediately to the Society's appeal for help and we reached our goal in less than half the time expected. We anticipate that these donations will be put to work supporting the Dunollie repair project early in the new year. I am grateful for the hard focused work of Past President Malcolm MacDougall who designed this special fund raising effort and successfully shepherded it through.

Le dùrachdan / With best wishes

Ashby McCown

Annual Board of Directors Meeting held on Our Fiftieth Anniversary

On the morning of July 10, 1965, the founders of the fledgling Clan MacDougall Society held a first Board of Directors meeting "under a gaily striped tent" at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina. They approved Articles of Incorporation, adopted Bylaws and elected officers.

Exactly 50 years later, the current Board of Directors convened at the historic Eseeola Lodge in Linville for the 50th annual Board meeting. The meeting marked the end of Malcolm MacDougall's term as President and the beginning of the terms of office for new President Ashby McCown and President Elect Scott MacDougald.

After approval of the previous year's minutes, Malcolm commented on the Society's progress over the past two years:

- Although we continue to gain new members, we also continue to experience turnover. We need to persuade people to remain active so we can support our mission.
- We've filled some important state and regional vacancies in both the U.S. and Canada, an important step in getting more members involved and assuring future leadership of the Society.
- Under the direction of John McDowall and Chris MacDougall, our internet site is beautifully designed and informative. Members are encouraged to visit it.
- As discussed later in the meeting, the generosity of our membership enabled us to exceed our 2015 Dunollie Castle fundraising goal.

In the Membership Secretary's report, Bill Leroy expanded on the importance of membership retention and renewals. Our bylaws specify that membership is to be terminated when members are two years in arrears, but we try to remain flexible. Treasurer Don MacDougall noted the increased online use of PayPal for contributions and donations, and briefed the Board on other administrative details. He added that the Society is in great financial shape, with the resources to fund deserving unanticipated projects if needed. Bill and Don presented a draft budget showing an operating surplus for the second consecutive year.

Next, Scott MacDougald, who also serves as V.P. for Canada, discussed some recent additions to Canadian regional leadership and the plans to make further use of social media and the internet. He has also been updating the Regional Commissioners Handbook with Malcolm and Ashby, and assisting in the development of the new Mac-

Annual Board of Directors Meeting (cont)

Dougall and MacDowall DVD presentations.

Scholarship Chair Sarah Hereford reported that Scholarships were awarded in varying amounts to all nine applicants in fiscal year 2015:

- Scott Morrison, past president of the Gaelic Society of America (ACGA)
- Emma Schiff, Highland Dancer
- Gemma Briggs, Piper
- Connor Civatte, Fiddler
- Kathryn MacDougall, Dancer
- Gwen McDaniel, Dancer
- Alex South and Ginger-Gabrielle South, Scottish Country Dancers
- Kayla Shute, Dancer

In a special report, Tartan Editor Peter Clepper spoke of the evolution of the Society's primary newsletter into a journal with more in-depth articles and features, and the cost savings resulting from greater efficiencies, and email distribution. Peter thanked John McDowall for his graphic design assistance. He said we need additional volunteers to contribute writing skills and to suggest articles. Volunteers may contact Peter at editor@macdougall.org.

Under old business, Malcolm noted that the Castle Fund Drive had so far raised \$28,000 (US). The Board approved the donation of \$25,000 to the MacDougall of Dunollie Trust. Malcolm expressed special thanks to the Board and all donors for their support. The funds will be disbursed in early 2016.

At the conclusion of old business, the Board congratulated Ashby for becoming the new president, as Malcolm passed along the President's Flag. In his Incoming President's Report, Ashby said he feels highly privileged to be president of the Society at this time. He then said that he believes we are members of the Society because we share interest in MacDougall, MacDowall, and more broadly, Scottish heritage. He noted that our scholarship program encourages the participation in and transmission of our heritage – its music, song, piping, dance, language and athletics.

Under new business, Ashby pointed out that the internet is one important way our contemporary clans share this heritage and other timely information. He mentioned the creation of a team to help identify, develop and oversee the content of our website and social media. We are currently seeking volunteers.

The focus on 21st century technology was a fitting close to the Society's first 50 years, and an appropriate starting point for future efforts to preserve and promote the heritage of Clans MacDougall and MacDowall. The next annual Meeting of the Board will be at Eseeola Lodge in July, 2016.

- Malcolm MacDougall

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MacDougall

The Garden Party and the Dinner

Our Annual General Meeting concluded just in time to adjourn for cocktails on the beautiful parklike lawn of the Eseeola Lodge. The late afternoon sun provided fine light and shadow for the numerous cameras in the hands of our many attending members. It was a great occasion for all of us to speak to old friends and to meet once again members whom we had not seen for several years. It was wonderful to see so many fine looking men and women wearing the MacDougall tartan.

Promptly on the dinner hour our piper Bill Caudill piped us in to the dining room, a joyous skirling for us and an astonishing noise for the Lodge's regular guests. The Lodge always gives us the large private dining room, and this year, for the first time in several years, we filled every table.

While we imagine the group sorting themselves out, a few words about Eseeola Lodge. In a way it is a tribute to America's success and prosperity following the First World War. North Carolina business and professional families sought some refuge from the broiling summer heat of the central plain. A mountain lodge with fishing, golf, and tennis, was just the thing. The Lodge was built as a rustic getaway, of chestnut wood and shingles, with a little community of private houses, also of chestnut. This historic group of buildings includes a small Episcopal church, also of chestnut.

Once everyone was seated, our chaplain, the Reverend Matthew MacDougall, offered grace, and following long tradition, Troy McDougal gave the Address to a Haggis. Everyone then received a serving of a haggis prepared by the Lodge kitchen staff. The dinner after that was unusually fine.

During the dessert course, our president, Ashby McCown expressed gratification for our large attendance and for the success of Board and AGM meetings earlier in the day. He noted the close timing of our fiftieth anniversary with the past summer's Gathering at Dunollie House. He pointed out that his predecessor, Malcolm MacDougall, had labored successfully to modernize our procedures, to improve our methods of communication, and to attract new members. He called on Sandra MacDougall to announce two awards: the Society presented Malcolm MacDougall with the Society's Appreciation Award, and Judy MacDougall was presented with a special gratitude award in recognition of her contributions to the Society.

We are indebted to our first founders, among them John MacDougall who had been a guest here many years. This year, Patti Leonard, who as a seven year-old girl unknowingly sparked the creation of our Society when she introduced some tartan-clan adults to each other in the Lodge dining room years ago, returned to describe to us her memories of that event. For the organization of our dinners with the Lodge staff over the years we owe many thanks to Judy MacDougall.

Following another wonderful tradition, Richard Van Valkenburgh entertained with a selection of charming Scottish ballads. With a round of well deserved applause, and a rousing Auld Lang Syne, we adjourned until the following day on Grandfather Mountain.



In the Garden



Troy McDougal addresses the Haggis

-Peter Clepper

Impressions of Our 2015 Gathering at Grandfather Mountain

This year's sixtieth Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was very well attended and the Thursday Night Opening Ceremonies were no exception. For our Clan MacDougall Society this was our fiftieth year at Grandfather Mountain, an anniversary celebrated in the Games Brochure itself. There are no games or competitions held on the Thursday night. It is an evening to gather, socialize, watch and listen to the picturesque Opening Ceremonies. We arrived early at our clan tent on the games site at MacRae Meadow on Grandfather Mountain only to find our next President, Ashby McCown, was already there splendidly attired in his tartan finery to represent Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall in the coming ceremony. Though the Opening Ceremony does not start until dusk, the crowd was already much larger than usual with more arriving every minute. This year a little overhead drone filmed it all.

The Thursday evening ceremonial opening of the games revolves around two events: the arrival of the Torch Bearer, and the clans' ceremonial addresses to the crowd. Chosen representatives of each clan gather in the dusk in the area behind the viewing stand to await the arrival of the running Torch Bearer. As darkness falls the flaming torch descends from the mountain high above towards our meadow. As the runner bearing the fiery torch approaches, a speaker tells a tale of centuries ago when messengers bearing the Fiery Cross called their widespread clansmen to come together in times of peril. This year's fiery messenger entered MacRae meadow beside our Clan MacDougall tent and ran right past us towards the viewing stand where the four lines of clan representatives awaited his flame. Our own group of clansmen met and mingled at our clan tent on the edge of the meadow as we awaited the quickly falling darkness. Then the clan ceremony began as the first clan representatives took fire for their own torches and carried their flames to the microphone on the field. Hidden by the night, each representative shouted out the news of their clan's arrival. Their Battle Cries, their Slogans, and colorful wee stories however true, boldly proclaimed to the crowd that their clans had brought their own glorious histories and traditions with them to these games. Then as each left the microphone they placed their flaming torches onto racks which one by one grew up into pyre of fire on the field before us all. After the last clan torch was placed on the wall of flame the loudspeakers announced through the cool air of the mountain night that sixtieth Grandfather Mountain Highland Games were now officially declared to be open!

We had left the mountain meadow late in the evening but a few hours later our clan tent was soon busy again. It takes a lot of work and preparation to put on a good clan tent display. Our Society is fortunate to have members who do it well. At Grandfather Mountain in recent years this duty has fallen to our Past President Malcolm MacDougall and to Georgia State Representative Keith Place, who arrived at the meadow early on Friday morning with the many things needed to furnish and decorate our clan tent. They eagerly set to work to transform the bare empty tent into a welcoming haven decorated for our clansmen and our visitors. Everything must be ready when the crowds come to see the games seeking out the sight of their own clan's tent amidst a hundred others around the meadow. Our tent was ready and decorated for their arrival but as has happened on some other Fridays in past years we did not have enough volunteers present to operate it through that day. There are years when it is difficult to staff our Society tent on Friday while we hold our Society annual meetings, and this was one of those times.

The games began on Friday morning at 9 a.m. and continued until Sunday afternoon on a grassy field ringed by an inside row of tents, then a walking track, then the outside row of tents. Over a hundred tents stand decorated in all manner of Scottish designs, banners and insignia of the more than one hundred clans and Scottish organi-



MacDougall

Impressions of Our 2015 Gathering (cont)

zations present. The quarter mile trackway circling the games field runs between our games side viewing tent and our outer row Clan MacDougall Society display tent. The trackway between our two tents was loud with the sounds of crowds and packed with their sights; many wore ancient or modern dress, some their own unique attire. Many people stopped to chat, to ask questions, to reminisce, or to learn more about our displays, our clans, and our Society. All were warmly welcomed by our Presidents and Past Presidents Malcolm MacDougall, Ashby McCown, Richard MacDougal and many others who volunteered to staff our fiftieth Clan Tent on MacRae Meadow. Some visitors admired the century old bottle of MacDougall Oil of Joy which was on display; others sampled a dram from the contents. With so many members coming back for our Jubilee Celebration many an old friendship was renewed at our clan tent and afterwards. We had several first time visitors too. Marilyn MacDougall came from Bracebridge, Ontario with her son Chris, our Regional Commissioner for Ontario.

She tells us ...

The mountain setting was wonderful, a great experience! Access was a tad difficult perhaps, but in such a location that is to be expected. Within our own clan, everybody I met was super: friendly, courteous and knowledgeable. The other clans were also quite friendly, and more than happy to share information.

I really liked the torchlight ceremony and thought it very impressive. It was unique to have all aspects of the venue centralized, and having our own viewing tent for our clan guests beside the games field made everything so inviting for each person in attendance. The Founders' Dinner and atmosphere surrounding it was superlative. Even better was the opportunity to experience the young people who have received scholarships from the Society.

One item to build on is having a tent/booth presence during the Friday afternoon of the Games, as several people in attendance stated that they missed checking in with the MacDougall/MacDowall booth during that time. While this may be a challenge at first, it will show fellow members like me how much of a cornerstone event this is to our Society.

After spending Saturday evening down the mountain in Linville at Eseeola Lodge celebrating our Society's fiftieth Anniversary many of us were back up on MacRae Meadow on Sunday morning to parade with our clan in the closing ceremonies.

On Sunday morning, prior to the noon start of the parade, the clans line up in alphabetical order. Each year our Georgia Representative, Keith Place, is in charge of organizing our own clan contingent four abreast, equipping us with our parade banners, and getting us into our place in the parade line. It is not as easy to do as it looks in the accompanying parade picture with Keith in the lead on the right beside our parade Banner! This year more than 20 of our clansmen marched and many of them are shown in the accompanying photos. The pipe bands were in formation in the center of the field playing their pipes and drums as our clan paraded along the trackway circling the field. After the clansmen had paraded they returned to the crowd to watch the spectacle continue. One designated member from each clan then walked into the center field to join the Massed Flags Formation of clan representatives in ranks four abreast on the field. This year our own representative was Keith Place with his Banner of MacDougall Heritage Tartan. The Massed Flags Formation made a splendid array in the center field before they began their march of clan banners around the field and past the reviewing stand as the pipers played for one final time to end the Closing Ceremony for another year.

Impressions of Our 2015 Gathering (cont)

In the photo our Clan MacDougall Society Banner leads our contingent in the 2015 parade with Georgia Representative Keith Place shown to the right of it carrying the MacDougall Heritage Tartan Banner.

-Scott MacDougald and Chris MacDougall



In the parade, Keith Place on the right



At the Clan MacDougall tent



MacDowall

Special Celebration of Our Society's Fiftieth Anniversary on Saturday Evening

The final Saturday event for us on MacRae Meadows was Beacham McDougald's annual North Carolina barbeque. Every year Beacham arranges a different eastern North Carolina recipe and cooking style. This year he had a close friend of his prepare the regular barbecue while Beacham himself cooked and seasoned his own "Heart Healthy" barbecue, for which many were grateful.

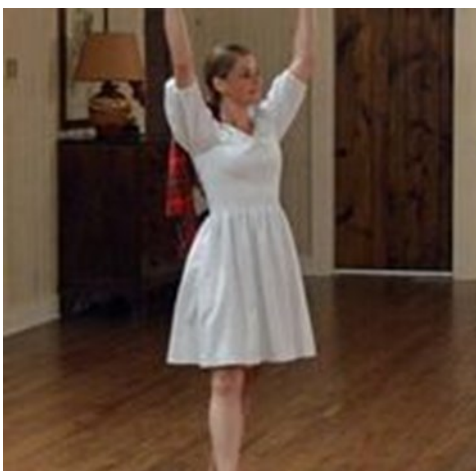
Descending the mountain, we took coffee and dessert at the Eseeola Pavilion at 7:30 while listening to Connor Civatte, a Society scholarship winner, brilliantly singing his fiddle as prelude to our celebration. Connor played two sets, here and later in the program: The first set started with "Dargai Pibroch", written in honor of a piper who piped during the charge at Dargai, was shot, but continued to pipe. The second tune was "Cock of the North," the tune that the piper is believed to have played. The third tune was "Heights of Dargai", written in honor of the bravery of the regiment.

Webmaster and Board Member, John McDowall, piped us to order with a medley of *Scotland the Brave* and *The Rowan Tree* and later piped us back from intermission with *When the Battle's O'er*. Ashby McCown welcomed our participants and described the extensive work to promote and preserve our heritage that the Society has carried out over history. He also, following the intermission, paid the piper with a quiaich of Oban 14 for duties well performed.

Our Chiefs, Morag MacDougall of MacDougall and Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, sent personal greetings to the gathering. Madam MacDougall's inspiring message was video projected at the celebration. Her message can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/132071216> (password = MacDougall). Professor MacDowall's insightful thoughts, emphasizing the shared history of our Clans and the joint efforts to promote our heritage, were read by Scott MacDougald. His message can be found at <http://bit.ly/1Zh5MhJ>.

We are members of clans that are eight and a half centuries old, and those clans are part of a heritage that is thousands of years old. Scott MacDougald and Chris MacDougall prepared narrated slide shows that place the early history of our clans in the context of the early development of the West Coast of Scotland. These were based on extracts of the DVD, *The MacDougalls of Lorn*, by Walter MacDougall and a new DVD of MacDowall history that Society members are preparing.

These two clans, the MacDougalls and the MacDowalls, who have been getting into trouble together for probably more than seven centuries, agreed to form a joint Society in North America in 1983. This was motivated by the awareness that the Society from the beginning had included people from two different though closely related heritages. Walter Macdougall, who was central to the discussions leading to this arrangement, prepared his written observations on the process of this merger. Peter Clepper summarized these observations in Walter's absence.



Erin Bartow

We enjoyed watching and listening to the highland dancing of multi-award winning Erin McDougal Bartow, the inspiring pipes of Gemma Briggs, and Conor's remarkable fiddling—all past and current recipients of scholarships. Erin, a many time award winning dancer, now running her own highland dance academy, charmed us as always – this time recruiting Conor on the spot to accompany one of her dances. Gemma upheld the MacDougall piping tradition splendidly. During the course of the evening she played the *Braes of Mellinish*, *Paddy's Leather Breeches*, *Sandy Thompson*, *Donald Maclellan of Rothesay*, *Reker*, *The Doune of Invernochty* and the *Blackberry Bush*.

Special Celebration (cont)

Walter prepared a special narrated slide show for our gathering to portray the development of the Society in its early and middle years. He described how the Society was early infused with the warm personality of John W. McDougall and chronicled a few of the events in its history, among which were:

- The Chief and her husband were the distinguished guests at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 1969.
- The Society organized its first trip to Scotland in 1970 where Madam MacDougall appointed John W. High Commissioner of the Clan.
- Madam Coline MacDougall of Macdougall visited Nova Scotia in 1979.
- The Society created a formal regional structure in the 1990s. The Chief had sent the Society a flag early in its history, showing the Chief's colors of blue and gold with the Clan badge in the center, and the Society, with the Chief's permission, used this flag with distinctive cantons to create flags for each of the newly established regions. A resource book for use of the Regional Commissioners and their helpers at Scottish events was designed and distributed.
- Several workshops on our Scottish heritage were held modeled on one put on in 1994 by the Society's Antigonish Chapter.
- The Society sponsored a tour of MacDougall country in 1994 which ended with a splendid celebration given by the Chief at Dunollie.
- In 1995, the Chief's son, Robin, was the guest of the Society at the Grandfather Mountain and at the Antigonish Highland Games.
- Clan members returned to Oban for International Gatherings in 2009 and 2014. The Society presented the Chief with a copy of her official Standard which first rose above Dunollie Castle at the 2009 Gathering.

Four past Presidents, A. Wylie McDougall, Jack Kent Kane, Dick MacDougal, and Bill Leroy, provided a remarkable collection of insights into the life of the society over the past half century. (Some of their recollections will be provided in greater detail in the future.) Wylie and Jack sent regrets that they could not physically attend the gathering but also sent good wishes along with written recollections, which were read by Malcolm MacDougall and Matt MacDougall.

Wylie noted that his memories of the Society began with his dad and uncle, John and Wylie McDougall -- identical twins, born in 1900 of Canadian parents. His grandparents were one generation out of Scotland and very proud of their roots. When he was a boy, he visited Scotland with his family—his Dad, Mom, Uncle Wylie, Aunt Mary, his brother and sister. They traveled to Oban and had tea in Dunollie House with Madam MacDougall, our present chief's aunt. He recalled the Society meetings at the Grandfather

Mountain Games. His father and Uncle Wylie brought the tent -- one of three clan tents on the meadow in those days. Wylie and his brother John were in charge of putting folding chairs in the tent each morning -- most incredibly, they had trouble with other Scots making off with chairs overnight.

Dick spoke of the strong relationship between the Society and the Chiefs of Clan MacDougall over the years. He provided a warm picture of the visit of our 30th Chief, Coline MacDougall of MacDougall, to Nova Scotia in 1979. He brought photos, among which were photos of Chief Coline and the kilted choir that sang at the church service. Dick, never a mere observer, was asked and delightfully agreed to sing



Gemma Briggs



MacDougall

Special Celebration (cont)

with the choir. He also recalled his experiences with the MacDougalls, or “white witches” as he called them because of their power to draw you back repeatedly, of Antigonish.

Jack recalled the years in which the Eseeola lodge was filled with MacDougalls participating in the Games. A Tartan Ball was held at the Grandfather Mountain Club where the MacDougall’s filled several large tables under the leadership of John W. MacDougall. It was during Jack’s service as Society Genealogist that our records were turned over to the Ellen Payne Odom Library in Moultrie, GA, as our official record repository. The presentation of our records was quite a production. It was attended by John A. McDougall, George MacDougall, John MacDowell Moore, and Nancy and Jack Kane, who gave a talk on the History of Clan MacDougall to an audience of about 50 people. We were presented a chair upholstered with the MacDougall tartan, one of the last clans depositing records at the Library to get a such a chair.

Bill described many of the early acts of the Society and his role, in particular, in founding the John A. McDougall Scholarship program. We were enjoying the benefits of this program that evening with our scholarship fiddle, pipes, and dance. He also reminded us of the singular character Mad Max, who was a fixture in the early and middle years of our Society. You will need to get those stories directly from Bill.

Richard Van Valkenburgh, as is traditional at our gatherings, led us in closing with *These are my Mountains* and *Auld Lang Syne*.

-Ashby McCown



Connor Civate

A Note from Your Editor

These past two years have been wonderful ones for our clan. The international gathering in Oban was one of our great reunions, and we commemorated it appropriately in this publication. This summer, our fiftieth AGM was also a major, well supported event that surely deserves commemoration in this issue. Our organizers for this event clearly outdid themselves. Besides the authors noted above, we are indebted to Chris MacDougall for the photographs, and to John McDowall for our layout. Malcolm MacDougall as always took care of distribution arrangements with our press. Let me speak for all of the above in expressing our wishes to all our members for a fine and prosperous new year.

-Peter Clepper

The Last Chapter

When the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States, as it was then known, was founded in 1965 there were not many Highland Games in the US at which to gather together. In those days Grandfather Mountain was operating one of the larger Highland Games and that is why the Society met there every year. In its first year our Society operated one of only five clan tents there. Then over the next decade the interest in Scots music, heritage, and games began to increase, creating many new Highland Games and Scottish events. It became easier for groups of our clansmen to gather at local events instead of travelling to Grandfather Mountain to once per year. By 1979 our Society was encouraging members to create local Chapters of the Society with their own Chapter officers, known as Regional Chapters where members could socialize frequently at their own local events. Our clansmen could join the Society, or a Chapter, or both.

The Fall 1979 edition of The Tartan newsletter described the visit of Coline MacDougall of MacDougall, 30th Chief of Clan MacDougall, to Nova Scotia. It also reported on Charles MacDougall's formation of the Society's first Regional Chapter at Antigonish, Nova Scotia in September. This was followed in 1980 by the new Ontario Regional Chapter in the Toronto, Ontario area founded by Society Director John R. McDougall and his wife Dianna. At its first meeting in July 1980 50 people in attended. By 1981 The Tartan began to carry a column called *Chapter News* to report their activities of barbeques, Ceilidhs, cairn building, clan tents, meetings and parades. Chapter Officers wrote newsletters, managed local finances, and organized gatherings of Chapter members. By autumn 1981 the National Capital Chapter in Washington D.C. was in existence and became very active. It even held its own Tartan Ball and Scottish Country Dance evenings. Its members paraded in the annual December Christmas Walk at Alexandria, Virginia, a tradition that continues to this day.

Chapters provided local strongpoints for the Society but they were never enough of them to reach everyone. The Society needed to reach out across the continent to an area roughly 245 times the area of Scotland. By the Fall of 1991 The Tartan reported that the Society had organized North America into 14 Regions (now 15) and had appointed nine of the new Regional Commissioners. They would be responsible for outreach and clan representation within their Regions. The three Regional Chapters carried on but in time were affected by the overlap of the new Regional structure and by the passing of their original leaders. The National Capital Chapter in Washington D.C. was succeeded by the Mid-Atlantic Region. The original Chapter no longer exists in Antigonish. Now there is a Clan MacDougall Society of Antigonish which operates independently of the Society. Its members always extend a warm welcome to clansmen visiting Antigonish.

And so the Society's original Chapters were fading away - all but one - leaving the Ontario Chapter to carry on under the leadership of Regional Commissioner Maxwell MacDougall. For many the years the Ontario Chapter kept going after the others had closed. But by 2015 the Ontario membership had diminished to the point that the remaining members decided it was time to close as well. In September 2015 Chapter Secretary Treasurer and Secretary, Dianne Love, performed her last official act by closing the Chapter's bank account. The members had agreed that the Chapter's remaining funds were to be donated to the Society's Dunollie Preservation Fund Drive. This donation marks the closing of our Society's last Regional Chapter.

The Officers of all of our Regional Chapters deserve our Society's sincere thanks for their service to our members during a long period of our evolution and growth.

-Scott MacDougall



MacDowall