



The Tartan

A Greeting From Our Chief

Myself, my family and all at Dunollie would like to wish all our Clansfolk a very happy and successful New Year. By next summer we hope to have some of the older part of Dunollie House open to visitors. This is the 1745 house that was built when the family moved down from Dunollie Castle. Latterly it was used as the servants quarters in the 19th–20th century.

My husband Richard and I were able to have the pleasure of visiting your country for the first time last Autumn as guests of Walter and Judy MacDougall. We were amazed at the profusion of “fall” colours and the wilderness of forests and lakes.

When in Nova Scotia we attended part of the “Celtic Colours” Festival which was being celebrated on Cape Breton Island. The Scottish traditions were very much in evidence as a result of the emigration from Scotland, mainly in the 18th and 19th centuries. We were impressed by the town of Antigonish which has hosted Highland Games attended by MacDougalls. We were pleased to note that the Gaelic language is being kept up and supported by the Gaelic College at St Anns (Cape Breton Island). We were able to visit the grand MacDougall monument near Inverness,



MacDougall Monument Cape Breton Island Canada

Cape Breton Island, and I attach a picture of this (with our hosts and myself).

Greetings from

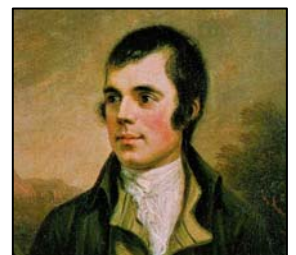
*Morag MacDougall
of MacDougall*

Birth of Robert Burns

This is hardly news, but it is surely worth noting once again that our great poet was born on January 25, 1759 in Alloway, just outside Ayr. Shortly after his death in 1796 there were several occasions that brought his friends together to remember him. In 1805 there was the first Burns Supper in Greenock, and in 1806 another Burns Supper in Paisley. Since then, the custom of holding a dinner in honor of the poet has spread in Scotland and all over the world.

In Scotland these entertainments are usually called Burns Suppers, but in other countries Burns Night is

the usual name, and among the excessively cute it is a Burns Nicht. Whatever called, they vary from the very formal to the very local and casual. In Washington DC and in Glasgow there will be a least one dinner in formal dress, with ceremonial haggis piped in and a long evening of toasts and tunes. It would be interesting to learn, and later to report, what Burns celebrations you might have attended this year.



A Guid New Year to Ane an 'A **From Our President**

Dear Fellow Clan Members,

What a wonderful and busy year this has been!

Our final get-together last year was our Society lunch following the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk. We had a fine time of great friendship and fellow feeling, just as we have had at so many meetings this year and for many years past. Seeing numerous MacDougall tartans in one place just lifts the heart. America is a great country we are proud to love and serve, but it's fine to be Scottish.

I'd like to thank the Regional Commissioners and State Representatives along with ALL members who volunteer their time and talent for the good of the Society. Also, a big thanks to those members who choose to receive their Tartan Newsletter by email. This streamlines the publishing process and saves the Society considerable mailing costs.

We encourage everyone to support and attend as many games and events as possible. Visit the web site www.macdougall.org for a list of upcoming games.

And... if you wish to volunteer or become more involved in Regional or National activities, please contact your State Representative or Regional Commissioner. These names are also listed on the web site.

Please note on your membership renewal notice that there are three areas highlighted for donations:

1. To help defray the costs of clan tents at games and festivals in my region
2. The Youth Scholarship Fund
3. The MacDougall Historic Preservation Trust

Hosting of tents at Games and Festivals is the most reliable way of attracting new members to the Clan MacDougall Society. Your donation to this category helps support these events in your Region.

Yours aye,

Sandra



Two Books We All Ought To Have

As a society we can take pride in the number of books of which we are the publisher. The two most recent books are well written, carefully edited, and nicely illustrated. As noted, they are conveniently available from our Clan store, where many other items are also worth your attention.



Journeying in MacDougall Country (Second Edition) by Walter M. Macdougall
Available now at the Clan MacDougall Bookstore (www.macdougall.org)
ISBN: 978-0-6151-7789-2 Retail price: \$24.95 USD



The MacDowalls by Fergus D. H. Macdowall and William L. MacDougall
Available now at the Clan MacDougall Bookstore (www.macdougall.org)
ISBN: 978-0-578-02679-4 Retail price: \$19.00 USD

Where We Are Now *Peter A. Clepper*

Our Society ended 2010 in good shape, in terms of membership and financial stability. We have stabilized our expenses. Our decision to develop and implement a budget has given us a helpful guide through the year. Wylie MacDougall's stewardship of our small foundation has carried us over the financial storms of the past few years. Membership has been somewhat problematic. The unfortunate loss of many of the records this past year left us the task of reconstructing our membership database from often questionable information.

As an organization, we continue to build on previous year's accomplishments. Our excellent web page is a case in point. Our scholarship program joins us to young persons in Scottish endeavors. It has been difficult to keep an accurate count of the various games and related Scottish events where we have a booth or tent, or some other form of representation. But the impression is that the Clan MacDougall was

present in more of these events in 2010 than in past years. As the number of regional and state commissioners has grown, it is likely that there will be even more representation in the coming season. We have a strong, active, and congenial Board. We begin 2011, then, with a small surplus carried over from last year and approximately nine hundred fifty members.

Our newsletter, it must be admitted, has its experimental aspects, but we look forward to a design and method more consistent with publishing electronically. Those who prefer, of course, will continue to receive copies by US Post, as in the past. For this particular issue, we continue to use the regular post, so that we can accompany it with a second dues notice.

Please send pictures and articles for future issues to editor@macdougall.org

Stepping Out at the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk



Photo by Ashby McCown

For nearly forty years the first Saturday in December has been the occasion for a parade in Virginia, the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk. This year the day dawned clear and cold, but no wind and a bright sun. There were one hundred fifteen units including a dozen fine bands, numerous civic leaders, and historic cars, including a 1949 MG police special. A dozen or so MacDougalls rallied around our sign carriers, Don and Sandra MacDougall, looking good.

Following the Walk we adjourned to Suzanne McDougal's apartment club room for a lunch and regional meeting. Hot coffee and Dennis McDowell's fine chili warmed us up. Ashby McCown gave us a report on the Antigonish Games in Nova Scotia where we were the honored clan.

Raffle Winner for 2010

The winner of the "MacDougall" wood carving (in picture above) donated by James McDowell was Dawn and Ryan Torres of Gaithersburg, MD (Donna and Dennis McDowell's daughter and son-in-law).

Flowers of the Forest



A life member of our Society, **Arthur J. McDougall**, passed away on November 15, 2010, following a long series of illnesses. He was born on August 10, 1928, in Liverpool and came to this country with his parents as a young child. He served in the U.S Navy and attended Georgia Institute of Technology, majoring in electrical engineering. He worked for the Federal

Government in the space program and in the Customs Service. He is survived by his wife Janet, three sons, five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Burns in Winter

In spite of events like Hogmanay and Burns Suppers, winter is still winter. In 1788, Robert Burns felt the Scottish winter severely, what with cold and rain and some personal hardship. Here are some lines from a winter dirge he composed.

The wintry wind extends his blast
And hail and rain does blaw:
Or the stormy north sends driving forth
The blinding sleet and snaw:
Wild-tumbling brown, the burn comes down,
And roars frae bank to brae:
And bird and beast in covert rest,
And pass the heartless day.

Gaelic Proverbs

Claidhidh foighdinn mhah na clachan.—Patience will wear out stones.

Is dà thrìan tionnsgnadh.—Begun is two-thirds done.

MacDougall Society Welcomes Russian, Vitaliy Negoda *William L. MacDougall*

Vitaliy Negoda of Krasnodar, Russia, was guest speaker at the Clan MacDougall Society lunch at the Meadows Highland Games in Doswell, Virginia, on October 23.

Negoda, a 28-year-old lawyer and member of the Clan MacDougall Society, told how his ancestors emigrated from Ireland to Russia in the early 18th century and how their descendants maintain their Scots-Irish traditions—including the nurturing of a still-thriving shamrock plant brought with them. He has expanded those traditions many times over by establishing a Gaelic martial arts school, participating in Gaelic activities in Krasnodar and Moscow, and writing poems and essays in Russian, English, and Gaelic. The study of Gaelic is rare in Russia.

Negoda's works have appeared in journals and books on two continents—including the recent publication, *The MacDowalls*. He recently was appointed Ambassador for Russia of the Robert Burns Club, an international organization celebrating the poetry of Robert Burns and others.

During his recent trip to America, Negoda participated in Gaelic activities in Florida and Maine, where he won a number of bouts in Gaelic martial arts. He was awarded the Cateran Society's award, Mentor of the First, Second, and Third Degrees.

"According to our family tradition," Negoda said, "my Scottish ancestors on my mother's side were the MacDowells that came from Ireland to Russia at the beginning of the 18th century. Our Clan spirit is still alive, and it is important."