



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



July 2016

Welcome to our monthly report of events and activities of our Society. We are always looking for information to share with our members, so if you have a birth or wedding or know of a special event, please send a photo along with relevant information to president@macdougall.org.

Ashby's Reflections

Mo dheagh chairdean
My Good Friends

Chum Coinneamhan Bliadhnail a' Chomunn aig Paillean Loidse Eseedla anns an luchar mar s'abhast. Foillseachar aithris iomlan choinneamhan anns an Tartan agus faicear aithrisean mu cuspairean sònraichte anns a' chuairt-litir mìosail again ach bu toigh leam a-nis toirt iomradh air càraid cuspairean ann am faodadh a bhith uidh agaibh.

The Society's Annual Meetings were held at the pavilion of Eseedla Lodge in the vicinity of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, as is tradition. An overview of the Games, with some of our activities, is given in this newsletter. A complete report of the meetings will be published later this year in The Tartan and individual reports will appear in this newsletter over time, but I would like to touch on a couple of highlights that might be of some interest.

John McDowall and Chris MacDougall have, with assistance of other members, worked diligently to develop our website this year -- and a great deal more is in the pipeline. We have used a new website theme, that is a new overall website appearance with access paths to information, this year. We developed and published a new privacy policy. An online application form has been developed which allows information to be uploaded digitally into our membership database. We have begun to use our mapping software - locating, in Scotland, castles and places of interest to MacDougalls, MacDowalls and our associated families, while locating, in North America, game sites to complement our games calendar. We are actively working to increase content on the website including, but not limited to, such subjects as highland dance, piping, Gaelic language, Clan and Scottish history, etc.

In This Issue

[Ashby's Reflections](#)
[The Tower is Open](#)
[The World Wide Clan](#)
[Grandfather Mountain 2016](#)
[The Victoria Highland Games](#)
[Scholarships](#)
[New Members](#)
[Tents at Highland Games](#)

New Members

Janice Russell
Mountain City, TN

Michael Shotwell
Morganton, NC

Wade McDowell
Arden, NC

Wendy McDowell
Blowing Rock, NC

Robert Simms
Houston, TX

Larry Doyle
Burlington, ON

Tents at Highland Games

Please notify our webmaster if you've



Dundallie's New Face

Then there is Dundallie Castle. We are all aware that the state of the Castle was precarious. Ivy covering the structure was penetrating walls and loosening stones, which were falling away from the structure. It became dangerous to visit, and visitors were barred from approaching the tower. Further collapse of the structure was inevitable.

The Society launched a fund raising campaign to help in this consolidation work which was extraordinarily successful. This success was in large part due to the foresight, planning, energy and enthusiasm of our Past-President Malcolm MacDougall. This issue of the newsletter includes Malcolm's report to the Board on this campaign.

The project was executed flawlessly. On January 26, 2016 Dundallie Projects accepted Heritage Consolidation's offer to carry out the Phase II conservation works at Dundallie for £183,355, with a completion date of May 30, 2016. [The entire project, including Community engagement, was scheduled to cost £245,471.] On January 29, 2016 the Society transferred \$25,000 electronically to MacDougall of Dundallie Preservation Trust for our part of the Phase II Project. Work on Phase II of Dundallie Castle Consolidation was officially completed at the end of May, with an informal opening ceremony held May 27, 2016 as reported in the May newsletter.



The Stable

In the immediate future, a more modest Phase III program will remove ivy from the remaining walls around the courtyard, install a hand rail on the castle path and host a small archaeological dig to discover a little more about how life may have been lived in the castle. There is a report on such archaeology later in this edition of the newsletter.

Our Chief has given the stables next to Dundallie House to Dundallie Projects. These will be reconstructed to contain offices, archive and reading rooms, museum standard exhibition spaces, and a tea room. This is to accommodate the large collections of exhibition material currently, and prospectively,

signed up to host a tent at any games. We want as accurate a Games Calendar as possible. Games listed here are found on our website. We would be pleased to receive any report on a game, with photos of course.

September
3-4 Virginia Scottish Games
Great Meadow, VA

8-11 Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival
Estes Park, CO

10 - Mid Tennessee Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Nashville, TN

15-17 Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering
Mount Pleasant, SC

October

7-9 Seaside Highland Games
Ventura, CA

14-16 Stone Mountain Highland Games
Stone Mountain Park, GA

22-23 Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games
Richmond, VA

Contact Us

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America

<https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall/?fref=ts>

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available at Dunollie and to expand the resources for activities celebrating our heritage.

Phase IV, the next large phase of conservation at Dunollie, will consolidate the remaining two walls while securing the floor at the top of the tower to ensure that it is safe for visitors.

There is more going on in our Society, but reporting will need to await a future newsletter.

Tioraidh an-drasta

Tòmas MacCòmhghan // Thomas Ashby McCown
Ceann-suidhe // President

Small Archaeological Dig at Dunollie



Over the weekend of July 23-24, archaeologist Roddy Regan of Kilmartin Museum led a team of two volunteers in carrying out a small excavation in the Dunollie Castle Compound. The team discussed their interest in the location and findings with visitors to the site.

The team excavated a ditch which was believed could mark the site of a no-longer standing building. The team found a wall and floor/drain which may have belonged to the fortification of an older structure.

Though perhaps a small step, this marks a welcome renewal of the effort to unearth the potentially enormous archaeological wealth of Dunollie.

Dunollie's World Wide Clan

Dunollie is, as explained on its website www.dunollie.org, currently developing a database of MacDougalls and others, entitled the World Wide Clan. Membership is open not only to MacDougalls and those belonging to an associated family but to anyone interested in the heritage of the Clan. Members will receive a quarterly newsletter with Clan News. Dunollie is also working on a couple of new projects to be shared with the World Wide Clan.

To join the World Wide Clan, download the linked [application form](#) from the Dunollie web site and email it completed to gillian@dunollie.org or post it to: Worldwide Clan MacDougall, Dunollie Projects Ltd, North Wing, Dunollie House, Oban,

twitter.com/Clan_MacDougall

Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December. Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years through Paypal at:

<http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>

Submissions

Persons wishing to submit articles, or photos, of interest to our newsletters may contact:

The Editor of The Tartan at
editor@macdougall.org

or

The Editor of the Monthly
Newsletter

at:

president@macdougall.org

Your Contact Information

Please send your email, telephone, or postal address changes to:

records@macdougall.org

At the 2016 Grandfather Mountain Games



Weather at the Grandfather Mountain Games was a bit quirky this year but the Games were grand. Winds on Thursday dimmed the torchlight ceremony and created a bit of destruction on Friday night. But by Saturday, the weather was warm, dry and breezy - some of our southern members found it a bit cool, dry and breezy.



Keith's Appreciation Award

Our Founders Dinner on Friday evening drew but

sixteen people this year, down from our record of more than seventy last year, but it was fine. We caught up on events of the past year, were uplifted by the piping of Bill Caudill, enjoyed an excellent dinner, shared interesting tales from our family histories - tales that are part of the fabric of our heritage - and inspired by Richard Van Valkenburgh's ballads. Our Appreciation Award was presented to Keith

Place, for all his support in hosting and helping to host games in the South East, particularly his work at Grandfather Mountain. The Somerled Award was presented to Richard Van Valkenburgh, whose ballads have lifted our spirits for so many years. All this inside a cozy Eseeola Lodge while a violent storm raged on MacRae Meadow. It was violent enough to prompt Keith to leave the dinner early to check on his gear in our MacDougall Society tents - it was intact for he had secured it well but at least one vender was not as fortunate.



Richard's Somerled Award.



The Feast

On Saturday and Sunday, we talked with many old friends and visitors, of which four joined as members, at our two tents. Beyond our tents, we exchanged views, tales, and experiences with Scots in other tents and enjoyed the competitions and entertainment. On Saturday, Beacham's traditional BBQ, the Feast of Porky Campbell, drew twenty five to the shelter at the Sugar Mountain Baptist Church. The company was good, the weather was great, and Beacham's barbecued pork and chicken was fantastically prepared - tasting divine as well as being healthy. Late Sunday afternoon one of the Games performers, a MacDougall we had just met from Oregon, led what seemed to be an impromptu, and certainly energetic, musicians march around the track and into the center of the field for some kind of a closing ceremony.



Malcolm MacDougall
Past President

The Society's 2014-2015 Dunollie Castle Conservation Campaign ended as a huge success, surpassing our \$25,000 goal by raising \$29,810. In our first-ever major fundraising effort, a special committee structured a comprehensive campaign using postal mailings, our website, Constant Contact bulletins, the electronic newsletter, a special internet video and the Tartan.

Contributors represented a complete cross-section of our Society. Nearly 140 donors responded to the appeal to contribute amounts "as their means allowed," ranging from \$5 to \$2,500. Donors represented more than 30 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces, Life Members and some of our newest members. We even received some support from a few kinfolk in Australia and Scotland.

In early 2016, following the campaign the Board transferred \$25,000 electronically to the Dunollie Preservation Trust, a contribution greatly appreciated by them and our Chief Madam Morag. The remaining balance is designated for follow-up castle funding.

Some highlights of the campaign:

- The Committee, with support from the Board of Directors, decided at the outset to set our goal \$5,000 higher than the \$20,000 requested by the Dunollie Trust, believing that our members would respond generously to the call to help preserve our most cherished heritage site.
- Some donors took advantage of the opportunity to donate in memory or honor of a loved one.
- Both of our Chiefs had a significant influence on the campaign. Chief Morag provided a heartfelt, handwritten appeal to launch the fund drive. Chief Fergus joined in with an impassioned letter of support and financial contribution.
- The fund drive was scheduled to run for nine months. We exceeded the \$25,000 goal approximately half-way through the campaign.

Our Society can take great pride in the campaign and its impact. Our funding helped consolidate the ancient structure, facilitate the removal of Castle safety fencing and scaffolding to allow visitor access to the undercroft of the tower, and updating of cairns with interpretation boards. The preservation of Dunollie Castle is well underway. This remarkable fund drive demonstrated that Clan MacDougall Society of North America continues to live up to its commitment to help preserve our heritage for future generations.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

Our Scholarship Program supports one of the key purposes of our Society. Access our website for the procedures for applying for a scholarship. Donations to our Scholarship Fund help defray the costs, are accepted year-round and are greatly appreciated by the Society and recipients. The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions to its endeavors may

be tax deductible in the U.S.