



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



January/February 2017

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

Tha mi duilich gu bheil an iris miosail seo a' tighinn cho fadalach. Bha mi air cuairt-mhara fad a mhòr cuid dhe'n Fhaoilleach agus dh'fhas mi air deireadh na obrach agam. Ach chan eil mi duilich idir gun d'rinn mi an turas

I am terribly sorry that this newsletter is appearing this late. I was on a cruise along the coast of southern South America and Antarctica during most of January and have fallen very much behind schedule. I am in no way sorry that I made the cruise. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting again with Federico Marino MacDougall in Buenos Aires, an account of which is given below.

I would like to bring your attention to two articles in this issue, describing events in first half of this year. On April 8th we participate in the Tartan Day Parade in New York City for the first time. As noted earlier, the Society's Annual General Meeting of the Membership will be held Saturday evening May 27 during the Scottish Fest at Orange Country Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, California.

Activity at Dunollie continues at a high level in preparation to the April 1 start of a new season. I received, in the mail, a copy of the very impressive new guide book, *Dunollie Castle - Telling the Castle Story*, which our Society helped finance. Dunollie also reports that the "the yett has arrived", symbolically completing the work on Phase II of castle consolidation. My Scots dictionary explains that a yett is a gate or, archeologically speaking, "a kind of door made of interlacing iron". Wikipedia expands on this:

"a gate or grille of latticed wrought bars used for defensive purposes in castles and tower houses. Unlike a portcullis, which is raised and lowered vertically using mechanical means, yetts are hinged in the manner of a traditional gate or door and secured by bolts attached to the yett, or by long bars drawn out from the wall or gateway."

Dunollie's work with Oban High School is exciting. Twenty five years ago, Beacham McDougald, the Chair of our Youth Standing Committee, was instrumental in establishing an

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New Members

Michael Graham
Newport, WA

Wade McDougal
Montevideo, MN

Michael McCool
Huntington Beach, CA

Matthew Peritz
Simi Valley, CA

Donald Miller
Vermontville, MI

Tents at Highland Games

April

international student exchange program between Oban High School and Scotland High School in Laurinburg, NC. (Laurinburg is the county seat of Scotland County.) Beacham's suggestion of establishing this exchange was based on his experience of being an exchange student to the Universidad de las Americas in Mexico, D.F. in 1968, Beacham will be returning to Oban this June for a 25th anniversary event where many former exchange students and hosts will be present. If there are any MacDougalls in Oban on June 17, the annual exchange reunion will be held at Argyllshire Gathering Hall on Breadalbane Street starting at 6:00 pm and, be sure, Beacham will be there.

We continue to be rewarded by our scholarship winners. Gemma Briggs, a talented piper, writes in this issue expressing her appreciation for her award. Gemma piped at our tent at the Winter Springs FL games and we in turn express our appreciation for her substantial contribution to a very successful day as described in this issue.

Le meas // Respectfully

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

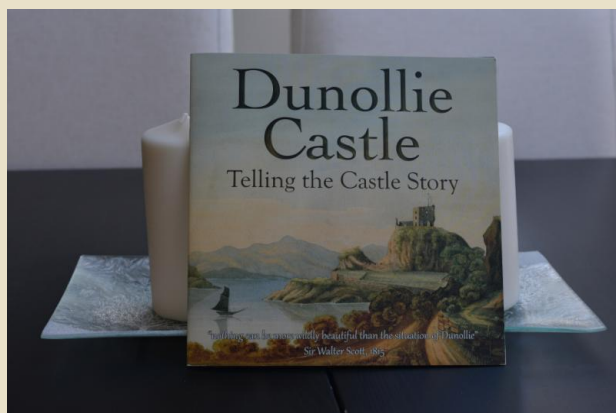
A Note from our VP for the Treasury

The membership renewal season is coming to a close. If you haven't renewed and still have the dues envelope sitting on your desk please write a check and mail it to the address below. If you do not have the envelope handy, you can send in your dues via PayPal on the Membership Section of our web site, MacDougall.org. We are close to our goal; your dues may put us over the top. Every dollar is important for the work we do.

Thank You
Don MacDougall

Send your checks to:
Clan MacDougall Society
PO Box 6596
Williamsburg, VA. 23195

Dunollie Events



1 - Dunedin Highland Games & Festival

Dunedin, FL

29 - Southern Maryland Celtic Festival

Saint, Leonard, MD

May

13 - Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival

Mount Airy, MD

20 - Fair Hill Scottish Games

Elkton, MD

20-22 - Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Victoria, BC

27-28 - Scottish Fest

Orange County Fairgrounds
Costa Mesa, CA

Contact Us

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Facebook Page

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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

Twitter

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

Dunollie Castle - Telling the Castle Story has been published. The 27 page booklet provides a framework for ongoing work on the consolidation, history, and both material and intellectual heritage of Dunollie Castle. The booklet develops the Castle's story in the context of two millennia of west coast Scotland history. Our Society financed printing of the booklet. It will be available through Dunollie's online bookshop for 5 pounds, when Dunollie's new website is shortly launched.. [Mailing costs have yet to be ascertained.] Proceeds from the sale of the booklet will be used to fund further conservation projects at Dunollie.

The work on Phase II of castle consolidation is truly complete. Dunollie tells us: "the yett arrived on 9th January and has been installed and looks as though it's been there for hundreds of years".



The Yett

A presentation, "Telling the Castle Story", based on investigations that were undertaken during Phase II of consolidation told the story of the Castle. The story was accompanied with pipe music and a light show created by Dunollie's Arts Awards Students aged 11-25. The event was originally scheduled for September but was canceled due to poor weather conditions. An extra day needed to be added to the rescheduled event in November to accommodate popular demand.

Engagement with Oban High School for a whole range of projects (archives blogging, behind the scenes tours, Arts Award etc.) has been exciting - there is now a waiting list for Pathways students (who do six weeks projects on subjects of their choice). Projects undertaken have included working in the archives with volunteers, developing an interactive information panel for a new outdoor activity shelter and creating a coloring book inspired by the items in Dunollie's Textile Collection.

There will be a second archaeology dig in May.

An application to Historic Environment Scotland for Phase III (the north east and north west walls + remedial works to allow the public to the first floor) has been made. Dunollie will need to start raising £127,000 to match fund the grant. It is hoped that the physical works will start in November and be completed for the opening of the 2018 season. Fund raising to develop the Stable Complex has begun.

The new Worldwide Clan newsletter has been sent out, which is free to those who enroll in the Worldwide Clan at

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

A MacDougall Clan Portal will be part of a new Dundlie website to be launched this month. The portal will provide access to information on MacDougall heritage such as found in stories and letters from the archives, research documents, and descriptions of ancient objects belonging to the Dundlie collection. There will be a children's corner and a forum to link up with MacDougalls from around the world. Access to the portal for members of the Worldwide Clan will be through an annual fee, which will be part of the fundraising for Phase III of Dundlie Castle Conservation.

Plans are being developed for identifying, recording, digitizing and safely storing the textile collections, as well as developing new exhibition space in the North Wing and 1745 House.

2017 Central Florida Scottish Highland Games

Winter Springs, FL

Bev Mundt Reporting

This was a wonderful year for MacDougalls/MacDowalls at the Winter Spring Games. We enjoyed the events and the action at the MacDougall tent. We were blessed with wonderful weather and the crowds came.

My son Brad and I attended the Sponsor's Reception again this year. Brad and I shared information and assisted visitors in discovering if they were a part of the MacDougall Clan. We marched in both Saturday and Sunday's parades with newly found MacDougalls along with our friend and clan member Carol Johnson who helps in hosting the Sponsor's Tent. Brad represented the MacDougall Clan in the Kirkin' of the Tartans.



The MacDougall Tent

The food this year was plentiful and varied. We continued to partake of the peat-smoked Haggis and scones covered with fresh Florida strawberries topped with homemade whipped cream. We were serenaded at the clan tent by our special

friend Gemma Briggs whose skillful piping drew a crowd. Our MacDougall tent also had a very marvelous visitor John MacPherson from Oban Scotland. John shared both current stories and historical notes of Dundlie Castle. He is so knowledgeable and brought the castle alive for us. He is connected to the castle as the manager of the Oban Museum. John took photos of the MacDougall Clan tent and will be sharing those photos with Dundlie. How marvelous!



Gemma

Saturday Night was spent on the hillside listening to the lively bands down by the lake and watching the dancers even as the night air chilled down.

We are already making plans for next year and looking forward to greeting old and new friends.



The Haggis



John

**2017 Annual General Meeting
ScotsFest at the Orange County Fairgrounds
Costa Mesa, CA**

Reported by Darleen Weisz
Southern California State Representative

Annual General Meeting Program

Date Saturday, May 27, 2017

Time 5:30 pm - social hour - no host bar
6:30 pm - dinner/ meeting/entertainment

First time on the west coast... and we have a weekend of plans during the Scottish Fest at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa.

Here's the plan: Join in the fun...

- The MacDougall/MacDowall clans hospitality tent each day.
- Clan march each day.
- A no-host dinner Friday night.
- The AGM meeting on Saturday:
Social hour/dinner/AGM meeting/entertainment

Host Hotel: Newport Mesa Inn (15% off for MacDougalls)
www.bwnewport.com.

For information and details, and for dinner reservations contact:

Darleen Weisz, So. California Representative
949-330-0351 or darleendel@cox.net.

For information on the festival & on-site camping:
Scottish Fest: <http://www.scottishfest.com/>.

New York City Tartan Day Parade

Clan MacDougall will be marching in the 19th annual New York Tartan Day Parade in New York City on April 8th. This is the first time the Clan MacDougall Society of North America will be participating. We are hoping to meet many MacDougalls there in an area in which we do not have many activities.

The Parade starts at 2:00 pm at West 45th Street and marches up 6th Avenue to 55th Street. Line-up is at 1:00 pm and will be on the side streets near 6th Avenue and West 45th street. About a week before the Parade, the Line of March will be released which will give the position of each unit in the parade and exactly where they are to line up. On the day of the parade, please report to the sign-In Desk situated outside the Algonquin Hotel at 44th Street. There we will confirm our position in the Line of March.

In addition to the parade there are many Scottish events that week -- for example a free preparade piping concert in Bryant Park. More information about the parade and the other events during the week can be found on the NYC Tartan Week website, nyctartanweek.org. From experience, if you want to do something that takes reservations, sign up quickly. Special events that weekend fill-up quickly.

Cathy and Bill McHoul, our Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioners are organizing the Society's participation in this event. They have set up an email account, tartenweek@juno.com, to send out announcements for the parade. If you are interested in attending, please let them know

by contacting them at this address.

A Letter from Gemma

January 15, 2017

Dear Esteemed Members of Clan MacDougall,

Thank you so much for your continual support in my piping endeavors! You make it possible for me to pursue my passion of bagpiping. I have used your scholarship this year at the College of Wooster, where I attend studying neuroscience and bagpiping. Unfortunately, the school tartan is the loud MacLeod and not MacDougall. Private Liberal arts colleges are ridiculously expensive, and your support allows me to continue taking private lessons as well as bagpipe classes that I would not otherwise be able to afford.

Once again, Thank you so much. Attending your gathering last year was an honor, and a fun event to play for at that. I am having an amazing time in my first year of college and making lots of friends.

I'll see you at the Games!

Gemma Briggs

A MacDougall Evening in Recoleta

Federico Marino MacDougall visited and gave a talk for those gathered at the Grandfather Mountain meetings over a decade ago. He came at the invitation of William MacDougall (the author of a body of important MacDougall and MacDowall literature such as *Kings In the West Beyond the Sea*.) He speaks warmly of the people and atmosphere he encountered there and asked me to send his best wishes to the Society.

Federico and his family are part of a group of MacDougalls in Argentina, who, though not creating a formal society, keep in regular contact with one another. Those who attend the international gatherings in Oban will have met some of this group as they are typically well represented at these events.

Federico took my wife and me to dinner at a fine restaurant, Piegari Carnes, in the very pleasant Recoleta neighborhood of Buenos Aires. Dinner included several courses of exquisitely prepared Argentine dishes and fine Argentinian wine, followed by a pleasant walk to an excellent Italian ice cream shop. Federico is very proud of his MacDougall heritage and over dinner we spoke at length of traditions, events at Dundellie, and activities of our Society. Federico and I are both economists so we also solved many of the world's problems over that dinner - although I found on the morrow that the world had not been listening as well as it might.

I think that I need to learn Spanish.

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.