

PARLIAMENT FOR MACASKILLS



Clan MacLeod Parliament
WORLD GATHERING



2010

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MACASKILLS AND MACLEODS

We know there is a connection, but sometimes we aren't sure exactly how to express it!

But as one of the more prominent Septs of the Clan MacLeod, MacAskills have a long history of service to the Clan, in ancient deeds as well as contemporary spirit.

The connection probably involves boats... or swords... or the Isle of Man... maybe just hard work on a farm? Mostly likely, all of the above.



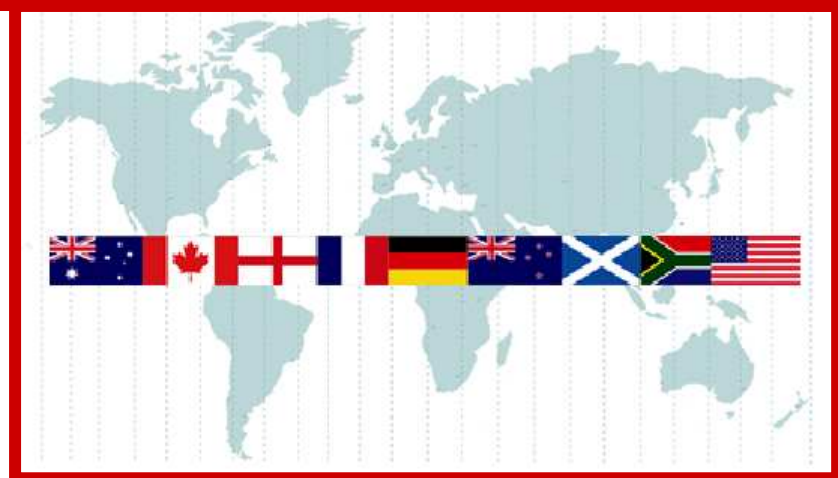


THE CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY

The Clan MacLeod Society is over 100 years old, one of the oldest organized Scottish Clan Societies.

The original Clan MacLeod society started in London in the 1800's, and after reconstituting itself several times now consists of National Societies in nine different countries on five continents.

You can buy a wonderful little booklet on the history of the Society, called "Tell Your Children About the Stones", by Nancy MacLeod Nicol, from the ACMS website <http://www.clanmacleod.org>.





THE ASSOCIATED CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES

The nine national Clan MacLeod Societies further belong to an umbrella international organization called the ACMS.

ACMS does *not* tell the member Societies what to do, but coordinates projects and resources in which all countries have an interest.

The Management Council of ACMS includes a convener representing each Nation (usually the National President), ACMS committee leaders, and its own four officers chosen by the nine member nations.

More information on the ACMS, its objectives, and its projects can be found at <http://www.clanmacleod.org>.



Arms of the ACMS



HOW THE CLAN MACLEOD PARLIAMENT WAS STARTED

Once upon a time, Dame Flora -- our great Chief of the MacLeods -- invited Clansfolk from all over the world to gather at Dunvegan for a “Parliament”, to talk about the Clan.

At first, Parliament was small and included only a speaker and a few country delegates. Later, attendance at Parliament grew to include hundreds of people and many social and educational activities.

Parliament is now held every four years in Dunvegan, with interim gatherings in North America and the Pacific.





A SUMMARY OF PARLIAMENTS OVER THE YEARS

1956	The first one. Just one day, but linked with John and Patrick's 21st birthday and the Royal visit.
1959	The decision to form the ACMS.
1962	Confirmed constitution of the ACMS constitution.
1965	Formation of NRG.
1968	The "Sunny Parliament".
1971	Parliament held in a Marquee in the Round Garden.
1974	The "Happy Parliament" (weren't the others?)
1978	232 delegates came despite the ferry strike.
1982	First Parliament attended by Torquil Roderick.
1986	Our French Society's first Parliament.
1990	South Africa CMS attended; Dame Flora Lounge opened in the Dunvegan Community Hall; Clan Centre discussions.
1994	Hugh Magnus' 21st birthday.
1998	"Wet-Wet-Wet" and Parliament sessions held in Dunvegan Church.
2002	Center of Parliament activity was Dunvegan Community Hall.
2006	Pre-Parliament trip to Lewis and Harris featured the first reunion in 400 years of the Chiefs of MacLeod.
2010	"Old and New Traditions", which included a pre-Parliament trip to Assynt.



PARLIAMENT 2010 CHALLENGES

John, the 29th Chief passed away in 2007, and Chief Hugh had significant business challenges and professional responsibilities. We were somewhat upstaged by the 2009 Scottish Homecoming, and the world economy was in the dumpster. AND for the first time, Parliament was entrusted to someone who wasn't a resident of Scotland. So... the most logical thing was to take everyone to the MacLeod homelands where Parliament had never been before.





MID LIFE SKILLS YOU NEVER THINK YOU'LL NEED

In Assynt, Dorna drove this 16-seater minibus for 1,200 miles, on single track roads, in the dark and rain, patiently listening to complaining co-pilots, and using it as an office during the day. In Dunvegan, the “Birnin’ Bull” saw more conventional use!





THE NORTH ROOM GROUP

A small but outstanding team of young people in 2010!

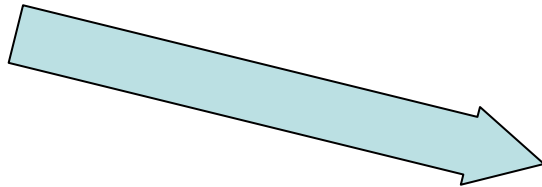
Since 1975, the North Room Group has met alongside Parliament. Typically they perform a service project during the week before, then participate in other Parliament activities during the week in Dunvegan.





INCHNADAMPH ACCOMMODATIONS

Inchnadamp
Lodge,
with Loch
Assynt in
the
backgroun
d and
the
Inchnada
mph Hotel
right
about here





INCHNADAMPH IN WINTER

During the Parliament “dry run” in February 2010, Dorna took this picture.

It was a deceptively tranquil morning, after a night of 60 MPH winds. All part of an 800 mile trip through the highlands in a rental car without snow tires.





STARTLING GEOLOGY AND SCENERY

The Assynt itinerary featured excursions through the community's past and present.

The scenery was punctuated by moments such as this sunset on the B869.





LOCHINVER – THE BIG CITY

Lochinver is the largest town in the area, with an active community and developing economy.

The hospitality business is thriving. This photo was taken from the front of the Inver Lodge, looking westward past the harbor to the Outer Hebrides.





STATESMAN CRUISES AND WILLIE WATSON AT KYLESKU

We were hoping to tour Kerrachar Gardens... first we couldn't, then we could, then we couldn't, then we could, then we just got on the boat...

We “settled” for a spectacular afternoon on the water with seals, humor, and views that included the largest waterfall in Great Britain.





OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Sunday's events included the Duirinish church service, our group luncheon, and the McLeod lecture. Chief Hugh addressed the Clan following opening ceremonies.





ORBOST VISIT ON MONDAY

Orbost, by Dunvegan, is a reborn community of specialty foods crofts and working artists, as well as traditional fishing and other trades.

During our visit, there were historical exhibits and stalls with local goods for sale.

In the evening, we were treated to a barbeque featuring Orbost venison steaks and fresh produce.





TUESDAY'S TRIP TO THE CLAN DONALD CENTRE

On Tuesday afternoon, we took a 90-minute bus ride to Armadale in the South of Skye, and visited the Clan Donald Centre and the Museum of the Isles.

We enjoyed the beautiful grounds and lovely hospitality.

(We had previously agreed to leave our claymores at home.)





WHISKY TASTING HOSTED BY CLAN MACLEOD GERMANY

The whisky tasting is one of several cultural and entertaining activities.

Albrecht Kurbjuhn hosted this popular event, which always sells out immediately!

The setting is in the Dame Flora Room of the Dunvegan Community Hall.





CEILIDH DANCING AT PARLIAMENT

We try to have at least three dance events during Parliament, plus a daily morning workshop to teach you how to dance.





OVER THE SEA TO RAASAY ON WEDNESDAY

We were piped onto the island after the ferry arrived.

Chief John of the MacLeods of Raasay, hosted the day.





TRADITIONAL VISIT TO BORRERAIG

Thursday's afternoon outing took us to the memorial piping cairn at Borreraig. We enjoyed an al fresco concert performed by Silver Chanter winner Euan Maccrimmon.





THE FUTURE OF THE CLAN

Parliament includes programs for ages 7-11 (“MacLeod Bheag”) and 12-17 (“MacLeod Mor”). These include outings to small local museums, pony trekking, and (sometimes) artistic endeavors.





CLAN BALL, FIREWORKS, AND THE CLOSE OF PARLIAMENT

Fireworks were displayed next to the Millennium Stone, in Dunvegan Village. The celebration honored the 10th anniversary of the Stone, the end of Parliament, and the start of the Dunvegan agricultural fair the next day.

Pipers led everyone out of the Hall during the Clan Ball, down the street for the viewing.





SEE YOU IN 2014!

The next Clan Parliament will be held in 2014. Those of us who attended in 2010 look forward to welcoming you!

2014 will be an exciting year in Scotland, as it is also the year of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and (tentatively) the next International Year of Homecoming!

